

# Corvette Cruisers of Greater Daytona The Talepipe Newsletter



February, 2015

President: John Doria, Vice President/Treasurer: Richard Wetherby, Secretary: Jean Doyle,  
Directors: Skip Crowder, Arthur Armstrong, Jim Quinn, David Huber  
Newsletter Editor: Jean Doyle (with a little help from Ed)

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at T.G.I. FRIDAYS, located on the corner of Granada Avenue and A1A in Ormond Beach. We invite you to dine with us (Dutch treat) at 5:30 PM, and stay for the meeting, which begins at 7:00.

welcome!

The Corvette Cruisers extends a great big welcome to our newest members: Bill Geize, Dan and Karen Niswander, and Gary and Cindy Swanson. Bill resides in Port Orange and drives a beautiful black on black 2014 Z51 coupe. Dan and Karen hail from Port Orange as well and are the proud owners of a 2005 machine silver convertible. Gary and Cindy are our first members from New Smyrna Beach and drive a sharp 2007 black coupe. Welcome to all of you.

## LET'S DO LUNCH.....



on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at Corky Bell's in Palatka. Remember that a "Run" is part of the DOTR experience, so have your gas tank full to make the drive to Palatka, about 55 miles away. Let's meet at Bealls in Ormond (corner of Williamson and Granada) at 9:45 a.m. and plan to pull out no later than 10:00 a.m. Although the emphasis at

Corky Bells is seafood, they offer a little bit of everything, from burgers to chicken to steak. They even have a senior citizen menu. Now that's a place after our own hearts....or perhaps our own stomachs...with our wallets in mind! Let's keep our fingers crossed for a pretty day to take a scenic drive. And yes, you Super Bowl fans will be home in plenty of time to get in on all the pregame action.

.....**AND DINNER:** Take a walk down a vine covered arbor, enter a garden lush with lit trees and flowering greenery, and enjoy an authentic taste of the Tuscan countryside. That's the experience you will get when you join us for our semi-annual Dinner Night Out at The Garlic in New Smyrna Beach. Let's meet at Kohl's in Port Orange at 5:00 p.m. so we can all arrive at the restaurant at the same time. Club shirts are NOT required. *Buon Appetito!* (Those living farther south may wish to meet us at the restaurant.....just make sure John knows you are coming to be included in the reservation count.)

### **ARE YOU READY FOR SOME RACIN'?**

As the Daytona 500 is gearing up for its start, the Quinns are also gearing up for their annual Daytona 500 race party. If you don't have tickets to the race, why not do the next best thing. Join Jim and Ginny on Feb. 22 to watch the race, indulge on Jim's "famous" (wink, wink) sloppy joes, make a little wager on the race outcome, and enjoy a good time. Come around noon, bring an appetizer or snack to share and BYOB (but only if you're 21).

**SAD NEWS:** It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of Ray Gatz, husband of Sandra and a member of our club for several years. Ray lost his hard-fought battle with cancer with his family by his side. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sandra and all of Ray's family as we mourn his loss.

**A GOOD BEGINNING:** The New Year was welcomed in with a great turnout for our first Dining on the Run for 2015. Everyone seemed ready for a little R & R after all of the holiday hubbub. That may have been one reason that the Corvettes kept pouring into the Bealls parking lot, including a grand entrance by John Reis in his brand new 2015 Z51. Another reason may have been the glorious 83° temperature on a January day in Florida. (Read it and weep, all you to the north!) The Armstrongs led the way to The Pub at Pine Lakes Golf Club via the scenic route, plus a surprise, unplanned tour of Whiteview Parkway in Palm Coast. (Ooops!!) Following behind Art and Leslie were Ken Crick, Trish Ardler, Ed and Amy Anderson, John Doria, Sally Clutter, Richard Wetherby, Dave Huber, Maya Branden, John Reis, Jack Kiember, Yvonne Mandley, (with her friends Billy and

Shirley), Bob and Linda Wolff, Bob and Mickey Fritz, Steve Terrell and Joanna Oswald (who drove up in a different Corvette), Ray and Sandy Gatz, and Ed and Jean Doyle. Guests included Bill Geize and Dan Niswander, both of whom have completed their third event and should be new members by the time you read this, and first-time guests Bill and Evelyn Neway, who just moved to Florida from PA in October. Everyone was hungry by the time we were seated and the coffee was served. Now, as a special perk to being the Newsletter Editor, I get to be the self-proclaimed food critic as well. While the omelets and other breakfast items served were delicious, the number of selections seemed to be lacking from previous visits to The Pub. No blueberries, no scones, no scrambled eggs on the self-serve bar. Where was the chicken for the waffles, the French toast, or that scrumptious strawberry banana bread pudding? Also, the price had increased from \$10.99 last May to \$13.99. Hmmmm... these are the facts....you be the judge!! BUT, that being said, the drive was delightful (including the surprise detour), the dining was delicious, the friendship was fantastic, and the turnout, tremendous. Let's keep up the good attendance in 2015. (It was especially nice to have Ray and Sandy Gatz join us again.) Photos by John D.

### **SOME TIMELY REMINDERS:**

(1) Club Shirts: Since we have several new members (and several old ones who forget), questions may come up as to when to wear the club shirt. The official club shirt is the tangerine golf shirt embroidered with the club logo, and perhaps your name, which is optional. The club shirt is



to be worn to official club events, with the exception of the monthly meeting. Of course you are always welcome to wear your club shirt to the meeting, but it is not required. Some events, such as those at a member's house (i.e. pool party, cook-out, Halloween party, race party), the Christmas Banquet, Dinner Night Out, and some special outing such as the club picnic do not require the club shirt. At events where we represent the club in public (i.e. DOTR's, car shows), we wear the official shirt. Official shirts are purchased only from the official catalog through Chuck Konopsky, our official shirt master, or Leslie Armstrong, our official shirt mistress. (?) Continuing members are encouraged to take a personal inventory to ensure that your shirts are not so faded that the color is questionable. ☺ These shirts are still a bargain at \$22 + \$1 for your name (if desired). Remember, too, that other shirts and others colors may be ordered with the Corvette Cruisers logo, but ONLY from the official catalog. Order forms may be picked up from Leslie or Chuck.

(2) Smoking: If you (or your guest) is a smoker, we wholeheartedly support your (their) right to smoke. However, please know that we do have members who have COPD, asthma, allergies, some who are cancer survivors, some who fear second-hand smoke, and some who just can't stand the smell. So please be considerate and refrain from smoking around other members, and inform your guests of this request as well.

(3) Politics: Please note that our club is made up of Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Tea-Partiers, those who have no party affiliation, Liberals, Conservatives, Moderates, and those who just don't give a hoot. Please don't assume everybody thinks the way you do.

Politics, like religion, is a dangerous topic and can cause strong feelings. So let's talk about something we all know, love, and agree on - Corvettes (and food), but of course.

**WHO'S WHO - MORE THAN PHOTOS AND CARS:** In the Who's Who section accessed from the Home Page, you will find everyone's photo along with their Corvette(s). This can be helpful in matching names with faces and cars with names, but it's not enough. We need to know more about you. We might have members who lived in the same town, attended the same college, worked in the same field or cheer for the same teams. We may never know this information if we don't have some way to find it out. The best way to find it out is with a simple biographical sketch, which Jean will be handing out shortly. Please watch for it, complete it, and return it promptly. This info will then be added to your personal information in the password protected section of our website. Only then can we really get to know each other. Watch for Jean to be hounding you about it soon. (If you don't like filling out forms, Jean will obtain the information from you via a personal interview.)

**GIVE ME MORE STRIPES:** Did you know you can get free food from Fridays? Log onto their website at [www.TGIFridays.com](http://www.TGIFridays.com) and sign in under "Give Me More Stripes."



Print out your membership card, present it when you pay, and you will receive points for every dollar you spend. Since we have our monthly meeting at Fridays and you are spending money on your meals anyway, why not start collecting points for free

entrées and desserts. Thanks to so many Give Me More Stripes members, the whole club is enjoying another perk of the program.....the free chips and salsa usually provided before each meeting. REMINDER: NO DOUBLE DIPPING! Please break your chip before dipping in the salsa the second time around.

### THIS & THAT:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our February babies and their celebrity counterparts. Born on the 8<sup>th</sup> were new member Dan Niswander and James Dean (rebel Dan, perhaps?), on the 13<sup>th</sup> were John Doria and Jerry Springer (need I say more?), and on the 20<sup>th</sup> were Joan Crowder and Cindy Crawford (should be worth a discount on Cindy's furniture line).



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to Steve and Anita Slaton and new members Gary and Cindy Swanson. Congrats to all.

CONGRATULATIONS to John Reis on his brand-spanking new 2015, Z51 Laguna Blue Corvette Coupe. John becomes our first official member to have a C7. (Darn, I should have placed that bet!!!).

A NEW ADDITION for Joanna Oswald and Steve Terrell is a 2002 Electron Blue Corvette Coupe to add to their fleet. What a deal Steve got on this Vette! He claims it may not be around too long as he has it up For Sale, but it may be awfully hard to part with this beauty.

A THANK YOU TO US: A nice "Thank You" note was received by the club from the Look Good, Feel Better program of the American Cancer Society. Our donation to them of \$260

was earned through the 50/50 drawings during 2014. There will be a whole new group of charities from which to choose at the end of 2015, so keep buying those tickets for a chance to win a few extra bucks. Just ask Bob Fritz..... read on....

THE BIG MONEY WINNER at the January meeting was Bob Fritz, who picked up a cool 28 bucks. Who says there's no such thing as a free lunch? Bob also won a beautiful coffee table book of Corvettes from 1953 through the C7 donated by Bill Geize, who somehow ended up with two of the same edition. Thank you, Bill! One never knows what surprises a winning ticket holds.

A SPEEDY RECOVERY to Frank Fedele as he recuperates from recent surgery. Get well soon, Frank, we miss you (and Leanne, too).

A GOOD LOOK BACK: Last month several members attended the Open Hangar show at the New Smyrna Beach Airport and had lunch at the Lost Lagoon. At the time of reporting the story in the Newsletter, photos taken at the event were not available. Please check out the Photo Gallery now for some great shots taken by Dan Niswander and John Doria.

NEW ID AND PASSWORD: In early January an email was sent with the new ID and Password to enter the Members Only section of our website. Please check the Membership Roster and the Printable Membership List to make sure your information is accurate and complete.

THIS CAN'T GO UNMENTIONED: The January meeting happened to coincide with a scheduled rocket take-off from the Cape. Following the meeting, several members hung around Friday's

parking lot watching for the take-off. First someone called out, "There it is!" but it was just an airplane. Then someone cried out, "There it is!" but this time it was a streetlight that flickered on. Finally, when someone yelled "There it is!" only to be confused by a bright star, most of us decided it was time to go home. So much for our resident rocket watchers.

(Photo by John D.)

## **CORVETTE CHATTER:**

**CORVETTE WINS AGAIN:** With 2014 over, *TopSpeed* Magazine thought it was time to take inventory of the past 12 months' worth of vehicles and pick a few for top billing. The publication identified three categories for its 2014 awards: Performance Car of the Year, Best Car of the Year, and Best Truck of the Year. General Motors, Chevrolet, and Corvette fans will be pleased with the choice of the former. Almost unanimously, the 2015 Corvette Z06 was chosen as *TopSpeed's* 2014 Performance Car of the Year over the Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat, the Jaguar F-Type R Coupe and even Corvette's little brother, the Camaro Z/28. The 2015 Z06 received praise for its supercar-like performance and much-improved interior. It's also the second Corvette to win an award from *TopSpeed*. Just last year, the publication selected the 2014 Corvette Stingray as its 2013 *TopSpeed* Car of the Year.

**NASCAR-CORVETTE CONNECTION:** For this year's SEMA show, Chevrolet collaborated with racer Jimmie Johnson to personalize a classic 1971 Corvette which would feature a new LT1

crate engine from Chevy Performance and updates to the interior and exterior. The '71 was at the Chevy Design Studios in Michigan when Johnson first saw the unrestored Stingray. "The '71....I just love older cars," says the 6-time NASCAR Champion, "Just the stance of that car, sitting behind the wheel, looking up and seeing the big front fenders. That whole look is something that stands out to me." The LT1 engine was a tight fit into the '71's engine bay and the build team had to do some custom modifications to make it fit. "I like to let the originality of the car kinda show through..that's just my style," said Johnson. The exterior was painted a unique silver-blue with two-tone dark silver trim accents and satin dark graphic accents. On the inside, Johnson kept the original look of the car by selecting original-style bucket seats in black leather with swede inserts. He also selected a suede-wrapped three-spoke steering wheel with carbon fiber accents. Jimmie's signature is also featured on the floor console, door panels and seat backs. A plaque on the center console lists the specs of the 450-hp LT1. Jimmie Johnson is an enthusiast who has restored several classic Chevrolets, and apparently, he knew exactly what he wanted - classic design supported by modern performance.

## **SUPER BOWL-CORVETTE CONNECTION I**



was hoping to use this picture as the Photo of the Month if my Pittsburgh Steelers made it to the Super Bowl, but alas, it was not to be. But fans will never forget the thrill of watching their beloved team beat the Dallas Cowboys 21-17 to

win their second straight Super Bowl championship in 1975, and what better way to commemorate it than with a Corvette. With its custom team-color paint scheme, sleek body style and gleaming chrome-colored accents, this Pittsburgh Steelers Corvette sculpture is the perfect power car tribute to a true powerhouse team. Oh well, there's always next year....

**CAPITALISM OR GREED?** ...You be the judge. It's no secret that when the highly anticipated Z06 emerged, salesmen started the process of figuring out how much of a markup they could add to the vehicle and still get away with it. Take for example, John D. Sullivan Chevrolet, a California-based dealership who had taken one of its Z06's and tacked on an additional \$49,995 to the MSRP of \$93,965 giving it a grand total of \$143,960. If this isn't a severe case of sticker shock, then what is? The documentation attributes the massive chunk of change to "market value adjustment." Either from public shame or a case of conscience, this particular car has been removed from their on-line inventory.....or just maybe, heaven forbid, somebody bought it!

**PHOTO OF THE MONTH (as seen on the Home Page):** The AstroVettes: In last month's Newsletter, I told you I would let you know what happened to the Corvettes owned by the Astronauts, but guess what? After an extensive and exhausting search, I haven't been able to find them. However, I did locate some interesting follow-up on the story. Navy pilot Alan Shepherd, one of the original Mercury 7, was on his second Corvette, a '57, when he joined the space program in 1959. Shepherd loved fast cars, and his affinity for Corvettes did not go unnoticed by Chief Engineer Zora

Arkus Duntov, who brought Shepherd to Detroit to test drive pre-production models. Soon after Shepherd's first suborbital flight, the president of General Motors presented him with a brand new '62 with a deluxe Bill Mitchell interior. Astronauts were forbidden to make product endorsements, so Shepherd's deal was a one-time only affair. That's when the GM dealer in Melbourne got involved and set up the astronauts with an executive lease program, and the link between astronaut and Corvette was born. Though it wasn't uncommon for astronauts to drive Corvettes, the Apollo 12 crew was the first to have matching cars. They were a close knit group who remained friends after those NASA days. "We liked the idea of matching cars. It was one of the ways to be a team, to build esprit de corps," recalled Alan Bean, Lunar Module Pilot for Apollo 12 and the fourth man to walk on the moon. Black wings were added to the Riverside gold '69 coupes.



And the distinctive red, white and blue logos were also added.

Unfortunately all good things must end, and so did that year's lease. In fact, this was the last year of the leasing program. Complaints from the public about the road antics of the astronauts lead to the discontinuation of the program....and sadly, one of the most visible affiliations of man and machine.

