

Corvette Cruisers of Greater Daytona The "Talepipe" Newsletter



JUNE 2020

President: John Doria; Vice President: Gary Swanson; Treasurer: William Simmons;
Secretary: Jamie Hawes; Directors: Arthur Armstrong, William Geize, Linda Wolff;
Newsletter Editor: Jean Doyle

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



THE DINING ON THE RUN (DOTR) and the MEETING will be canceled for June. TGIF cannot comply with social distancing for a group, and most restaurants have the same issue. However....

Coming Up...

On Tuesday, JUNE 16TH, the date of our regularly scheduled meeting, the Board of Directors have planned a Corvette "cruise". Those wishing to get out and enjoy a little R&R, will meet at Bealls in Ormond Beach, for a little drive in our 'Vettes on a planned excursion, probably lasting not more than an hour or so. Social distancing will be exercised as we will not be getting out of our cars. It would be fun to have everybody join in. What

a big procession that would be!! We will leave from Bealls at 6:00 p.m. Eat an early dinner at home, and let's get that Corvette out of the garage for a little fresh air.

Reviews

Hey, guess what? We have our first review!! (Now if I can just make it four pages long.)

Saturday, May 2, the Corvette Cruisers got together for the first time since the February meeting, and the DOTR on March 1st at Port Canaveral. Meeting in Kohl's empty parking lot, Bill Geize, the Byrne sisters, Rick and Sheila Minor, Brenda Johnson, Tom Bellavia and Diane McCoy, John and Sally Doria, Bill and Evelyn Neway, John and Rose Pona, Gary and Cindy Swanson, Vin and Tracy Giglio, and Ed and Jean Doyle were happy to see each other, but all certainly from a safe distance. Some donned masks, some didn't. Check out Bill Geize's recycling trick. We

got together for the purpose of donating to the Daytona Beach nonprofit Healthy Souls International, a food drive sponsored by News 6 and the Volusia County Sheriff's Office to collect food and essential supplies amid the coronavirus pandemic. Of course Channel 6 was filming, and if you happened to catch the 7:00 pm and/or the 11:00 pm news that evening, we were featured for about a 4-5 second clip complete with a shout out by the Newscaster that a Corvette Club had come by to donate. We were given a "Pinpoint" weather pen with a ball that lit up (and a cap that wouldn't come off), and were greeted by Sheriff Mike Chitwood himself.

Since we couldn't go out to lunch following the dropoff, John led us on a little cruise down to Ponce Inlet and around the lighthouse, ending an all-too-short Corvette Day. You will see in the Gallery, that Vin and Tracy decided to include lunch after their cruise. It was great to see each other, and especially great to see that everyone was healthy and not-as-yet stir crazy from staying home.

This and That

H A P P Y NEWS

Sheri Lekan, the "crafty" member in our club, has been busy making masks in many colors and patterns. Sheri has offered them to anyone in the club who wishes to have one. I

can attest to the fact they are very well made and creatively designed. Contact Sheri if you need one.

Our Birthday Bunch who will be celebrating this month include: Vin Giglio on the 14th, George Weissgerber on the 16th and Ken Hawes on the 30th. Many more to come.



Congratulations to the following couples who will be celebrating wedding anniversaries in June: Vin and Tracy Giglio, Rick and Sheila Minor, Bill Simmons and Bonita Richardson, and Bob and Linda Wolff.



Bob and Linda Wolff have a new addition to their household. Be sure to read Bob's account at the end of the Newsletter to find out all about it.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Get well wishes go to Herb Gerstel, who has undergone gall bladder surgery. Herb has had a rough time with health issues, but hopefully will now be on the road to complete recovery. We miss you, Herb, (and Shirley, too!).

Edie Byrne says she is back to feeling like herself again after some recent surgery. Always good to hear a great report.

Gary Swanson will be undergoing some upcoming treatments to get ahead of a medical

issue. We wish him well and a speedy recovery.

FOR SALE:

Looking for a drive-on lift to work on your 'Vette? A friend of the Byrne sisters has a Kwik-Lift for sale. See it at www.kwik-lift.com or call 386-313-1412 for more information.

Jim Quinn, a former member, has a bunch of plastic drive-on garage tiles for sale at a very reasonable price. If you think you might be interested, give Jim a call or text at 386-547-1681 for the details.

REMINDER

As Florida begins to open up to activities to bring us back to some sense of normalcy, remember to patronize the locals. Restaurants, in particular, have suffered greatly, so as you begin to venture out, think local!!

REFLECTING ON THE PRESENT

Okay, Last month I was silly with all the Corona Virus humor, but this month, I found something that really got my attention. Sheila Minor sent it to me from a Facebook post she received, from someone who sent it her, from someone who sent it to them, and so on. It struck a chord with me as most of us sit at home knowing our pension and social security check will be coming to us without interruption. The author is unknown, but I

think he or she was very inciteful. It is not political (thank heavens), but it looks at things from a different perspective about what to do or not do as we fight this virus.

WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME BOAT...some people like to say that, but it's not like that at all. We are in the same storm, but NOT in the same boat. Your ship could be shipwrecked, and mine might not be,,,or visa versa.

For some, Quarantine is optional...perhaps a moment of reflection, of reconnection, a chance to stay in flip-flops, enjoying a cocktail or some coffee. For others, quarantine is a desperate financial and family crisis. For some, it is peace, rest and time to spend with their mother, father, sons and daughters, even pets. For others who live alone, they are facing endless loneliness.

With the \$600 weekly increase in unemployment, some are bringing in more money to their households than when they were working. Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales.

Some families of 4 received \$3,400 from the stimulus. Other families of 4 received nothing.

Some were concerned about getting a certain kind of candy for Easter, while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk, and eggs for the weekend.

Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money. Others want to punish those who break the stay-at-home rule.

Some are home spending 2-3 hours/day helping their child with online schooling, while others are spending that 2-3 hours trying to educate their children on top of a 10-12 hour workday.

Some have experienced the death or near death of a loved one, or the fear that the virus will strike. Others don't believe it is that big of a deal.

Some have faith and expect miracles during 2020. Others say the worst is yet to come.

So friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different. Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm. It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, but actually seeing. We are all on different ships during this terrible storm, each experiencing a very different journey. Realize that, and be kind.

Author Unknown



Member Input

Last month, Gary Swanson helped me fill the pages of a Newsletter without news, with his tale of visiting some pretty interesting places and meeting some very interesting people. This month, we have Bob Wolff taking pen in hand to write an interesting account

BACK TO THE FUTURE

At the last meeting, which seems like a year ago, our President made an announcement that a “friend of a friend” was selling her 1964 Corvette. As John started to describe the car, a Riverside Red roadster with red interior and a black soft top, with a 327-365 hp four speed AND side pipes. Linda and I looked at each and said: “OMG, that is identical to your old car that you and your sister drove as teenagers in the late 60’s.” Linda’s dad had bought the car in 1967 or 1968 for the family in Akron, Ohio. We talked all the way home and decided wouldn’t it be nice to get her old car back. We knew it was not really

her old car because her dad had offered the car to Linda and me in 1977 as it had been sitting in their barn since the girls had left the farm in 1972.

As a married graduate student living in Columbus, OH, we had no money and more importantly no garage, so we told him to sell it. It was sold the next week to her dad’s mechanic, resold shortly after and given to a 16-year-old for his first car. Two weeks later, the ‘Vette was totaled (16-year-old kid...hmmm!). We have second-guessed the decision not to take the car for 43 years.

At the meeting Pat Cassella threw some cold-water on the thought of buying the car as he had looked at the car some time ago, and said: “it was a New Jersey car, had a lot of rust, been sitting in storage for four or five years and not running.”

When we arrived home, I immediately called my old Vietnam buddy in OH who has done five mid-year frame-off restorations. Like Pat, he advised me against even looking at it. His last restoration was a rusty 1963 split window. It took two years. Just in case I wasn’t willing to take his advice, the old friend told me what to look for if I decided to look at the car. Well, I called and set up an “inspection.” I took Linda and her sister with me to look at “their” old car.

Inspection: Paint good, not great. It had a matching color hard top, block numbers matched the serial numbers, as did the carb, the alternator the side pipe covers looked great (not original of course, not available till mid 1965) and hubcaps looked great. Then I got on the ground,...RUST and I wondered about the bird cage. Went home ordered a restoration book and called the old friend again, again, and again.

Then COVID-19 hit. Called the owner and cancelled any more inspections and told her good luck selling the car, too much work for an old mid 70’s guy. A month into self-quarantine watching too much TV, I started thinking I could have had that ‘64 running by now. Called the owner back, talked her into letting me flatbed the car to Reilly’s Auto Repair to do a lift inspection and get it running for a test drive. We agreed on a price if all went reasonably well at Reilly’s. It certainly had problems, but “how hard could it be?” I fondly remembered rebuilding a Mercury 390 and a Corvette 327 that I blew up in the 60’s.

After the Reilly’s inspection, we bought it. I drove the car toward my garage with Linda following close behind. Almost home, when my phone started ringing, it was Linda telling me I better pull over

because smoke was pouring out of the wheel wells. My first thought: "OH NO, I don't have a fire extinguisher." Turns out both front brakes were locked up. We waited a while for the brakes to cool down, but the car would not budge. Linda left me on the highway, went home, came back with lunch. Two hours later, we were able to complete the journey home.

Good news: numbers also match on the four-speed Muncie, the 4.11 differential and frame while rusty, someone had welded up the "kick-up" area with rest of the frame solid. Bad news: New Jersey weather and years in storage has taken its toll. As to remembering fondly about the 1960' rebuilds, guess I forgot I was in my twenties and now every time I roll under the car, I am reminded I'm not twenty anymore.

The funniest moment came last week. I remember the previous owner saying "we almost never drove it in the rain and certainly never in snow." As I dropped the spare tire hatch, a snow tire dropped out, I couldn't stop laughing. Somebody drove it in the snow, assuming the original owners.

I'll end here hoping we will be ready to roll with all the minor/major repairs completed as the Corvette Cruisers of Greater Daytona schedule the first DOTR and Linda can drive her "new" car. By The Way, anybody want to buy a show ready 1996 Silver with Red Stripe Collector Edition and/or a 54 Willys.

Bob Wolff

Thanks, Bob, for sharing your story with us. Anybody else who has a story they wish to share during this "no news" time, please send it to me at jeandoyle@cfl.rr.com.



Happy Fathers' Day to all the Dads out there. (Who wears ties anymore???)