

# Corvette Cruisers of Greater Daytona The Talepipe Newsletter



April, 2015

President: John Doria, Vice President/Treasurer: Richard Wetherby, Secretary: Jean Doyle,  
Directors: Arthur Armstrong, Bob Fritz, David Huber, Jim Quinn  
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.



Remember when the first thing you did to your chocolate bunny was bite off the ears?

**Happy  
Easter,  
Everybody!!**

**NO DOTR FOR APRIL:** April is a very busy month. With Easter on the first Sunday of the month, the miniature golf tournament, the Cape Canaveral Car Show, our meeting, and the club picnic, the Board of Directors decided to eliminate the April Dining on the Run. Perhaps it won't hurt us too badly to have one less meal out.

**READY, SET, PLAY.....**April means it's time for our annual miniature golf tournament. Come on out, enjoy the ocean breezes, and have a little fun. Round 1 begins on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at Congo River, 2100 S. Atlantic (A1A) in Daytona Beach Shores. Meet at the course at 7:00 p.m.



Remember, you do not have to be a good golfer (few of us are) to compete in a friendly little rivalry on the golf course. The rules and the complete schedule can be linked from our Home Page. And the best part of the evening just might be the trip to the ice cream parlor after the game. Even if you feel you can't commit to all 6 rounds (only 4 are needed to compete), play what you can, even if it's just a game or two. We play for fun.....the competition is just an added bonus. Round 2 will take place on

Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at Pirates Cove on A1A in Ormond Beach, and Round 3 will be played on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at Hawaiian Falls on A1A in Daytona Beach Shores. Some courses give us group rates, but watch local publications for coupons. You may wear your club shirt if desired, but it is not mandatory. However a Corvette shirt of some type should be worn.

**AGAIN, WE MOURN:** We were very sad to learn that Carolyn Horchler lost her brave battle with cancer on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The Horchlers joined our club in December of 2012 and have been active members ever since, even through the ups and downs of Carolyn's illness. Please keep Harry in your thoughts through this difficult time.



**VETTES AT THE PORT:** Mark your calendar for our first ever attendance at the Cape Kennedy Corvette Club car show at the Port of Cape Canaveral on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Registration must be done online at [www.ckcc.com](http://www.ckcc.com) (scroll to the bottom). Cost is \$31.20 per car, (\$30 registration plus a Pay Pal fee of \$1.20), and includes the t-shirt shown on their website. Meet at Kohl's in Port Orange at 8:30 a.m. for the 66-mile trip to the Cape. Located at the waterside dining, shopping and recreation area, the show raises funds for the National Kidney Foundation® (NKF), Make-a-Wish® and projects

sponsored by the Cape Canaveral Fire and Rescue Unit. It is expected to draw more than 200 participants from all over the Southeast U.S. in addition to hundreds of spectators. Trophies will be awarded for the best Corvettes in ten classes. There will be rock-n-roll DJ music, a silent auction, a 50/50 drawing, door prizes, vendors selling everything from jewellery to automotive products, and many of the restaurants will be featuring special discounts. The Exploration Tower located inside the Port will also be offering discount tickets where you can enjoy spectacular views from the 7th floor observation deck. The Port is a popular venue for the show because of its backdrop of beautiful cruise ships and the waterside dining establishments. This sounds like a fun time and offers a change of pace from regular car shows. Please let John D. know by email at [www.jpdoria@bellsouth.net](mailto:www.jpdoria@bellsouth.net) by April 10<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend this unique adventure.

**BAR-B-QUE TIME:** MMMMM, I can smell it already, can't you? Dustin's Bar-B-Q will again be catering our annual club picnic, which will be held on Saturday, April, 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 to 2:00. All year long, you give to the club by your participation at meetings and various other events. Now, the club gives back to you. Come on out



to Reed Canal Park off of Nova Road in South Daytona to enjoy this FREE dinner. How often do you hear "free" and "dinner" in the same sentence? (Directions: If you are coming from the south, enter the parking lot off of Nova Road on the right just **PAST** the lake. If you are coming from the north, drive **PAST** Reed Canal Road and make a U-turn on Nova, since Nova is a divided road at this point. (DO NOT turn onto Reed Canal Rd.) Enter the parking lot on the right PAST the lake. Pavilion #1 is at the end of the parking lot on the left. Club shirts are NOT required at the picnic.

#### **VETTES AT THE LIGHT:**

I know that the Ponce Inlet Corvette show is not until May 16<sup>th</sup>, but registration is limited to 125 cars. Last year was our first year participating and we only had about 5 cars registered. Let's improve that number this year and let Ponce Inlet know that there really IS a Greater Daytona Corvette Club. Cost is \$30 per car and includes a t-shirt, discount tickets to the Lighthouse, and door prize tickets. Proceeds go to the "Speediatrics" unit of the Halifax Hospital. Entries may be picked up at the meeting or from John Doria. There is also a club participation award. Let's keep our streak going.



**NEW BOARD MEMBER:** Bob Fritz has been selected by the Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of Skip Crowder, who recently sold his Corvette and resigned his membership. Bob, as many of you know, was one of the founding fathers of the Corvette Cruisers before he and Mickey moved to TN. We are happy to have both of them back with us in FL and are very happy to have Bob's input as a Board member.

**A NEW IDEA:** John D. has come up with an idea that would make our club stand out above all others. He is proposing that the club adopt shorts for men and capris for women in a color similar to our club shirts. He will bring the catalog to the next meeting to show various designs and get feedback from our members.

**DOTR REVIEW:** Well, did March come in like a lion or a lamb? Nobody was quite sure on our March 1<sup>st</sup> Dining on the Run. It was overcast and gloomy with a sprinkle of rain in the air, but no blustery winds, and slightly warmer than it had been. My guess is March came in like an angry lamb or a very gentle lion.....take your pick. Either way, Jim, Ginny, Bill G., John D., Sally, Ed, Jean, Bill S., Bonita, Bob W., Linda, newest members Bill N. and Evelyn, Mike, and Mike's brother Pete, met up with Steve, Anita, Leslie, Gary, and Cindy at the Koffee Kup Restaurant for a little

early morning breakfast. The restaurant was prepared for this gang of twenty with two tables ready and waiting. The place was homey, though smaller than it had been when we were there in 2010, the food was good, and the service was excellent. What more can anyone ask?



**500 RACE PARTY REVIEW:** It was a beautiful day for the race, but for those not going to the track, the best place to be was at the Quinn's 500 Race Party. Jim had his Sloppy Joe hot, ready and waiting. Richard was the first one to take the green flag. He brought a spinach dip in a bread bowl with nacho's and salsa. Then the pack crossed the stripe with Bill & Bonita, Dan & Karen, Dave & Maya, Skip & Joan, Bill G., and John R. all juggling for position. They entered the pits with deviled eggs, killer brownies, and a wonderful cake. Right behind them came delicacies like Couscous. Sliding into the pits were a pasta salad, baked beans, a cheese cake and a fruit pie. Next came the Race Pool. Tickets were sold setting a new qualifying lap speed. With beverages in hand we cheered the start of the race. Everyone was checking their Race Pool tickets to see where their driver was running. About 18 laps into the race Landon Cassill brought out the first yellow flag when he blew an engine giving John R. the prize for having the first car out. The race

motored on and the race-watchers made regular pit stops filling their plates with all the goodies. The guests socialized while watching the race keeping track of their drivers. A late race caution set things up for Joey Logano to win the race and making the host and hostess winners of the race pool.

*Reported by Jim Quinn*

Jim and Ginny would like to thank all those that attended and for the goodies they brought to share. (Photos by Jim)

**TOM GIBBS SHOW REVIEW:** A chill in the air, a few black clouds on the horizon, and a brisk wind from the north didn't deter John D. and Sally, Jean and Ed, Leslie, Bob W., Dan and Karen, Will, Bill and Evelyn, Gary, Jim and Ginny (with friends Brian and Donette), John R., Bill and Bonita, Dave, Herb and Shirley, and prospective member Vin from meeting at Bealls in 14 shined-up, spiffy-looking, show-worthy Corvettes for the annual Tom Gibbs Corvette, Camaro, SSR Display on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Along the way we met up with Pat and Sandy, who came with some guests, Mickey, Bob F., and Art, making a total of 18 Corvettes. Sandy Gatz was there displaying Ray's SSR, and Jack, who had recently sold his Corvette, stopped by to take in the sights. Although the sun broke out briefly on a few occasions, it didn't seem to help the overall temperature. We staked out our

territory under the eaves of the dealership to block the wind and proceeded to set up "camp." Lucky (or unlucky) for us, we were right next to the donuts and pastries, so we didn't have to walk far to get the goodies. After looking at all the beautiful Vettes on the lot, (and a few glances at the Camaros and the SSR's), we enjoyed getting to know each other a little better as we sat around chewing the fat (and I just don't mean the hot dogs served up by the Flagler High School tennis club). Door prize winners were Bob Wolff, who won a large bottle of car wash; Bill Neway, who won a black hat; Leslie, who won a sippy cup; and Jean, who won an assortment of bungee cords. No 50/50 winner from our club this year, but we all ended up winners as the Corvette Cruisers of Greater Daytona took home the Best Club Participation Award for the second straight year. Thanks to all who made this award possible. (Photos by Dan, Bill S. and John D.)

## THIS & THAT

**Happy Birthday** to our members born in



April (and to the celebrities that share their special day): Bill Geize on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with funny guy Eddie Murphy; Carole Connelly on the 5<sup>th</sup> with Colin Powell (and this year the Easter

Bunny); Gary Swanson on the 7<sup>th</sup> with actor Jackie Chan; Bill Simmons on the 21<sup>st</sup> with royalty, Queen Elizabeth; and Jack Kiember on the 25<sup>th</sup> with acting royalty Al Pacino. Does anyone notice any similarities?

**On a sad note**, we found out at the Tom Gibbs Show that King Bowen, former Flagler County Corvette Club President and friend of our club, passed away in early January in Illinois. Our condolences to his wife Pat, and to all the members of the Flagler County Corvette Club. His presence will be greatly missed by all.

**And the Winner of the 50/50 Drawing Is**.....Drum roll please.....Joanna Oswald. Now where have we heard THAT name before? Oh I know.... she is the one who won 3 months out of 4 in 2014. Congratulations Joanna. You are one lucky gal to win a big take of \$35.

**Filled to Capacity** --- that might very well describe the Corvette Cruisers at this time. We have 29 active memberships and 1 on track to become an active member. Presently, there are 2 more on the waiting list. The Board voted to increase the membership from 25 to 30 for the 2014-2015 year, and, as you can see, it didn't take long to fill these additional spots. So let's all make an effort to participate in some events throughout the year. After all, isn't that why you joined?

**April Fool:** Somewhere in this Newsletter is an April Fool joke. Can you pick it out? Orange may be the new black, but orange pants AND an orange shirt?--- APRIL FOOL!!

**Help Wanted:** The Corvette Cruisers is looking for a Social Director. Duties would include planning and coordinating 3 or 4 (non-Corvette) events throughout the year. (Suggestions are plentiful.) If you think you might be interested, or have questions about what the position would entail, please contact Jean.

**Car Sales and Swaps:** A number of our members have either sold their Vettes or traded for others. Jack Kiember sold his '07, Steve Terrell sold his '02, and Amy Anderson sold her '12. Dave Huber traded his '88 for a silver '99 convertible.

**T-shirts, anyone?** If you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt with the club logo like the one seen here, please contact John D. or Jean.



These shirts can be ordered in any color you wish (except red, navy or black due to the front and back screen print design). You can't beat the cost of \$7 for a quality tee that washes well, doesn't shrink, and is made of a 50/50 blend. We will need to

have an order of 24 shirts, so if you are interested let either John or Jean know.

## CORVETTE CHATTER

**A \$17,160 Fire Extinguisher??** A Corvette Z06 is a pretty good deal for what it is, but it's not exactly cheap. It starts at about \$80 grand, and as you can imagine, there's some pricey options: racing stripes are \$950, a carbon fiber ground effects package is \$3995, and a fire extinguisher is as much as a Chevy Cruze. What, what? As much as a Chevy Cruze?

According to Chevy's "Build Your Own Vehicle" site for the Corvette Z06, one of the options listed under "Accessories" is a Fire Extinguisher. Okay, that's probably a smart thing to have around. Maybe you have one in your car. The difference here is that the price of the fire Extinguisher is listed at \$17,160. That must be one heck of a fire extinguisher. For that kind of money, I would expect it to do a lot more than put out a fire! However, if you roll over the 'Fire Extinguisher' entry, you see the detailed description states that this item contains "432 pcs." So, let's see, 432 fire extinguishers at a total of \$17,160 comes to about, uh, \$39.72 per extinguisher. Of course, this is just an online configuration, and nobody *really* knows how those work, so mistakes like this happen from time to time. Hopefully Chevy won't notice this (probable) mistake until some buyer committed to having the *best*, most fully-optioned Corvette orders the Fire Extinguisher package, and several

palettes of fire extinguishers show up at the dealer.

**Put the Rumor to Rest:** During his appearance on *Autoline, After Hours*, Tadge Juechter, the Chief Engineer for the Corvette, was asked by the hosts about the recent speculation concerning a new mid-engine Corvette dubbed the Zora. Juechter said of this: "I'll have to check that out, because I know of no such car. Frankly, if such a car exists, it belongs to another division is my best speculation."

On the show Juechter also laid out a quite compelling case as to why he and his team decided to stick with front-engine, rear wheel drive for the current seventh generation car: "People ask me all the time, 'Why didn't you go mid-engine?'"

"We looked at mid-engine as an alternative for the seventh-generation car, and we've always said that when the whole car gets better as a mid-engine architecture, we would do it. "Mid-engine requires a lot of compromises. You look at the elite race programs around the world. They're all mid-engine. So ... if all you care about is purely performance, then it makes sense to put the engine in the back.

"If you're still talking about a car that can be used as a daily driver, a long distance tourer, as well as handle benignly on the track, and have accessible performance, then there's a whole lot of other things that come into what is the optimum.

One of the hosts then countered that maybe Corvette could spawn a multi model range or a

competitor to the mid-engine Ford GT, to which Juechter responded: "If someone wants to throw billions of dollars at me, I'll do multiple models. We'll cover the whole range."

When asked later about specifics for the eighth-generation Z06 model, Juechter cautioned that speaking on-the-record without authorization about future products is a fireable offense.

Perhaps these comments from the Chief Engineer will finally put to rest the rumors of a possible mid-engine Corvette. Or was he just keeping secrets??

**The Blame Game:** The 2015 Chevrolet Corvette Z06 comes with high performance Michelin Pilot Super Sport Cup 2 tires that are intended strictly for summer use, but those owners who are receiving their super-Vettes during the cold months are finding that the tires are cracking very badly - and Michelin's only advice is to not move the car in temperatures under 20 degrees.

Over the past few months, new owners of the 2015 Chevrolet Corvette Z06 from up north are getting their new supercar with the knowledge that they will be tucking it away until the snow has cleared, while those in warmer climates are getting to enjoy their new Corvette right away. At least, those folks thought that they would be getting to enjoy their new Z06 right away, until they also found massive cracks where the sidewall of the Michelin Pilot Super Sport Cup 2 tires meets the soft, sticky tread.

Discussions have been popping up all over the internet with owners complaining that they are finding a substantial number of very large cracks that run from the sidewall to the tread area of the Michelin Pilot Super Sport Cup 2 tires that are included in the optional Z07 performance package. These occurrences were posted on the Corvette Forum by a member who recently took delivery in San Diego California. Another from Las Vegas experienced the same problem. The dealerships involved claim that many other new Corvettes - including the "entry level" Stingray with the Z51 handling package and the same Michelin tires - are experiencing this cracking issue.

The owners of these cars have been led to believe that this is a tire manufacturing problem, so rather than complaining to General Motors or the local Chevrolet dealership, the owners with the troublesome tires should be complaining to Michelin. However, Michelin insists that this problem isn't their fault, as owners should know that they shouldn't be driving their Corvette with summer performance tires in weather under 20 degrees Fahrenheit, or they are likely to encounter cracks on the sidewalls. **Michelin went so far as to instruct owners not to move their Corvettes when equipped with these tires and if the vehicle cannot be stored in a heated garage, owners should consider removing the tires and bringing them into the house. Huh??**

But if the cold is causing the cracks, then why are people in San Diego, Las Vegas and other warm climates running into this problem?

Keep in mind that all new Corvettes are built at GM's plant in Bowling Green, Kentucky. It has been plenty cold in Kentucky this winter and there is a good chance that when these new Corvettes rolled off of the assembly line and out of the building, they spent at least some time moving around in temperatures well below 20 degrees. They are then loaded onto transport trailers and strapped down, also often in temperatures below 20 degrees. Based on this, Michelin would like to put the blame on General Motors, but in the meantime, the tire company is suggesting that owners of new Corvettes with cracked tires avoid driving the cars at all.

We are certain to hear more about this problem in the coming weeks, as either GM or Michelin will surely have to end up replacing the cracked tires on brand new cars. In the meantime, it seems that some of these owners are left with no real advice on what to do -- not driving the car on failing tires, or, if they want to drive the car in the cold, buy all-season tires. Some dilemma this is!!

**PHOTO OF THE MONTH (as seen on the Home Page):** I wonder how many Corvette owners from the north had Vettes that looked like this. Oh aren't we glad we live in the Sunshine State? I bet our cars are glad we do, too. 'Nuff said!!

