

Corvette Cruisers of Greater Daytona The Talepipe Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2017

President: John Doria; Vice President: Arthur Armstrong; Treasurer: Richard Wetherby;
Secretary: Mickey Fritz; Directors: Bob Fritz, David Huber, & William Geize;
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.

DINING ON THE RUN: Brunch is on tap for February 5th at the Victoria Hills Golf Club in DeLand. Mulligan's Tavern and Grille offers a variety of breakfast choices for the very reasonable price of



shutterstock-132023240

\$10 per person, which includes a complimentary Bloody Mary or



Mimosa. We will leave from Kohl's in Port Orange at 9:15 a.m. A nice ride followed by a nice meal is the recipe for a nice day.

BOARD MEETING: If you have anything you wish to discuss with the Board of Directors, come to their meeting at the Daytona Ale House (ISB) on Thursday, February 2nd. Join the Board for the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and stay for lunch. I can't think of a better way to spend Groundhog's Day, can you?

BOWLING FOR DOLLARS.....well, not



exactly. How about Bowling for Fun?

That's what we plan to do on Sunday, February 12th. Those who went in

October, be it to bowl or to watch, all had a good time. The beer was cold and the pizza was hot. For those of you who didn't make it the last time, you will discover that bowling has come a long way. Lights, music, action....electronics have hit the alleys hard. Come on out and see for yourselves. You don't even need to know how to keep score anymore. We will leave from Bealls in Ormond at 4:45 p.m. Cost is about \$9.25 per person for 2 hours, shoes included. Really cheap entertainment when you think about it--- besides, the beer is cold and the pizza is hot. Wear your tangerine club shirt, and we will really look like a team who knows what we're doing.

FRIDAY's ON TUESDAY: TGIF's in Ormond Beach will again be host for our February 21st meeting. The January meeting at Mellow Mushroom was attended by a record number of 39 members and 1 guest. Kinda fun to have a change of scenery and a little bit more elbow room every once in a while.

CAR SHOW: Annual Day of the Duels: On Thursday, February 23, a car show helping to prevent homelessness in Volusia County will be held at the Drive-In Christian Church on A1A in Daytona Beach Shores. Backyard Boys BBQ, Door prizes, DJ music, 50/50 drawing, and 40 Best in Show trophies will be awarded. Entry fee if you pre-register by 2/12 is \$12 (\$20 at gate) plus a donation of non-perishable food item(s). (Pre-register with John Doria for \$10.) Proceeds will go to the Drive-In Christian Church and the Halifax Urban Ministries. See the flyer and entry form at www.driveinchurch/carshow.net. We will leave from the Daytona Beach Shores Publix parking lot on A1A at 10:00 a.m. Show is from 11-4 with awards at 3.

GENTLEMEN (AND LADIES), START YOUR ENGINES....and get fired up for the annual Daytona 500 party at the home of Jim and Ginny Quinn on Sunday, February 26th. Bring your own booze (er, drinks), a snack



to share, a few bucks for the driver pool, and come to Katherine Street in South Daytona around 12:30 p.m. If you are not lucky enough to have tickets to the race, this is the next best thing to being there.....some might say better than being there. No weather worries, no long line for the bathroom, and being able to hear the commentary from the announcers as well as all the "expert" racers in the room. We can watch and hear the Thunderbirds and maybe see the Blimp overhead while Jim prepares his famous Sloppy Joes. So come on over to the Quinn's, let your hair down, and cheer on your favorite driver (especially the one you drew in the pool). Email Jim if you are coming so he can prepare enough Sloppy Joe. (jquinn4@cfl.rr.com) Let him know also what you plan to bring so there will be no duplicates.

FIRST DOTR OF 2017: It was truly great to see everybody after the holidays and spread a little new year cheer. Even though the temperature dipped below the comfort mark (especially for us Floridians), quite a few members came out to take the drive north to the Flagler County Airport to a rustic little eating spot called High Jackers for lunch. The first question asked before departing was whether or not we would be eating outside, based on some past January events (Brrrrrrr). Luckily, the answer was no, although no one dared take off their jackets or coats in the dining room. The menu was certainly extensive:

all categories named with air travel in mind, i.e., First Class, Coach, Crop Dusters, Taxi Outs, etc. The food was good and plentiful, and the service was good as well.

BULLETIN: Ed Doyle was NOT the last one served - 2017 is going to be a good year! Those enjoying the good company, the cool weather, and the "new" dining location were John and Sally Doria, Art and Leslie Armstrong, Bob and Linda Wolff, Bob and Mickey Fritz, Bill Geize, Mike Mills, Liz and Edie Byrne, Herb and Shirley Gerstel, Rick and Sheila Minor, Lars Connelly and Evie Swarthout, Rich Wetherby, Bill and Evelyn Neway, John Reis, Rick Demichina and guest Kim (from Key West, who was chilled to the bone), Bill Simmons and Bonita Richardson, Dave Huber and Maya Branden, Gary and Cindy Swanson, and Ed and Jean Doyle. What a large crowd to begin the year off right. Let's keep the good participation going.

****Just a footnote to the day: When we pulled out of the parking lot on our way home, the temperature had "warmed up" to 46°. Call them adventurous or just plain crazy, Bob and Linda Wolff proceeded to remove the top on their coupe and drive the Interstate home "topless" while the rest of us were cranking up the heater. What a diverse crowd we are!**

(Photos not available at press time.)

ECKLER'S REUNION: Saturday, January 21st was the date that the Eckler's Reunion FINALLY took place. Hurricane Matthew's presence mandated the date be changed.

It was then changed again, for reasons unknown, but the final decision on January 21st proved to be a good one. The weather couldn't have been better with a breezy 78 degrees. Eight Corvettes made their way to the new Eckler's Corvette Warehouse and Showroom in Titusville. The facility was very nice and the car show was very well organized and attended, in spite of the rescheduling. However, since it is located in a rural area, places to eat were quite limited. The local boy scout troupe took care of the void as they cooked up some good hot dogs and burgers. Judging was intense as the judges checked every little nook and cranny of every car, sometimes taking as long as 35-40 minutes on each car. Bill Neway learned quickly what the judges were looking for as he and Evelyn again won First Place in the C6-B class (2010-2013) with their 2013 60th Anniversary Arctic White Convertible. (The Neways also won at the Ocala Show.) Congratulations, Bill and Evelyn. Your trophy case is expanding. Enjoying the day along with Bill and Evelyn were Vin and Tracy, Bill G., Richard, Bob W., Wayne and Tina, John R., and Ed and Jean.

(Photos by John Reis and Jean)

STATUS REPORT: Our annual status



report is always a very interesting mix. As of January 1, 2017, we have 29 memberships made up of 53 active members from the "Greater Daytona" area: 2 from Palm Coast; 17 from

Ormond Beach; 1 from Holly Hill; 9 from Daytona Beach; 4 from South Daytona, 2 from Daytona Beach Shores, 10 from Port Orange; 4 from New Smyrna Beach; 2 from Edgewater; 1 from Lake Mary and 1 from Melbourne. At this time, our club members own 34 Corvettes: 11 Reds; 6 Yellows; Blues and Silvers are tied at 5 each; 3 Blacks; 2 Greens and 2 Whites. Twenty are coupes and 14 are convertibles. The generational spread is as follows: 3 (C-2); 4 (C-3); 1 (C4); 6 (C-5); 11 (C-6), and 9 (C-7). of which 16 are manual transmissions and 18 are automatic. Don't ya just love statistics? Can you tell I do? (This information does not include the one remaining membership which will be filled soon.)

THIS & THAT

Goodbye to past members Arne and Sherry Ellgard, who decided not to renew their membership with the Corvette Cruisers. They will return to the Ponce Inlet Club to which their hearts belong. We are sure to see the Ellgards at Corvette functions in the future and wish them well.

Happy February Birthday to Dan Niswander on the 8th and John Doria on the 13th.

February was certainly a popular month for weddings in our club. Those celebrating are John and Sally Doria, Will Masotta and Donna Bly, Steve and Anita Slaton, and Gary and Cindy Swanson. Happy Anniversary to all.

Get well wishes are extended to Bob Wolff who will be undergoing surgery this month. Get well soon, Bob! That Lime Rock Green beauty needs you back real soon.

It's great to see Mike Mills back with us, complete with his new knee. Come to find out that Mike is not new to this surgery. It's the third time for the same knee AND he still drives a manual transmission Corvette. What a guy!!!

Sad news for Bill Simmons whose sister passed away after a long illness. Our condolences to Bill and Bonita.

A very nice thank-you letter was received by the club from Gloria Max, director of the Jerry Dolinger Food Bank in Ormond Beach. Jamie Hawes delivered the generous donations of food items collected at the Christmas Party from our members. Thank you, Jamie, for delivering them.

The big winner - and I do mean BIG - in the 50/50 drawing was \$52. We will send you the 1099 form immediately. Wow, it pays to come to the meeting AND to buy a ticket.

Looks like Bob Wolff has passed his facial hair on to John Reis.

CORVETTE CHATTER

Some fascinating data about Corvettes and where they are:

The top 10 US States in terms of Corvette Population are:

1. Texas
2. Florida
3. California
4. New York
5. Illinois
6. Pennsylvania
7. Ohio
8. Michigan
9. North Carolina
10. Tennessee

The darker the color blue, the higher the density of Corvettes. Interestingly enough, Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Michigan have the most Corvettes per population. But what about outside of the country? Could you guess which country is second to the US in Corvette ownership? If you guessed Canada, you would be wrong. Brazil is second, followed by Mexico and Germany, then comes Canada at #5. At #6 is France, #7 Puerto Rico, #8 United Arab Emirates, Bermuda is #9, and shockingly, #10 is Iraq.

CORVETTE PLANT SHUTTING DOWN:

The Bowling Green Corvette Assembly Plant will be shutting down the production line for several months this summer and fall as the plant undergoes upgrades to its assembly line building process. The closure will come at the end of the 2017 model year expected to be in June. The shut-down is expected to last about three months but the exact time frame remains unknown. GM announced a \$290 million investment for the Corvette assembly plant in June 2016 that would "upgrade and modify the plant's vehicle assembly operations with new technologies and processes", according to the official press release issued by GM. Multiple sources say the plant will operate at maximum capacity until the end of the 2017 model year to produce a supply of Corvettes to be sold while production is halted. The assembly plant will then shut down to undergo a massive upgrade of the assembly line,



which has been planned since the start of the C5 in 1997. Following the completion of the plant upgrades, the 2018 model year production will begin. Once the upgrades are complete, the plant will continue building the C7 Corvettes as 2018 models. Widely expected is a new addition to the C7 line-up, the 2018 Corvette ZR1, which has been under development for the last year. The work on the assembly plant comes as the \$439 million paint shop is due to be completed in the spring. Plant officials have publicly stated that the first customer cars to be painted in the new facility will happen in the fall of 2017. A quick visit to schedule a plant tour at the NCM website shows the last regularly scheduled tours end on June 16th. There are three dates in August available, from Monday, August 21st through Wednesday, August 23rd, but after that the plant tours are closed through the end of the year.

SOME NEWS ON THE LT5:

The following article was submitted by Liz and Edie Byrne:

Here is some exciting news about a new engine GM is introducing in 2018. It is called the LT5. The LT5 may sound familiar, as it was also the name of the motor in the C4 ZR1's. Not much is known about the new LT5, but here is what IS known:

- ◆ The new LT5 is slated for just the Corvette at this time. No sharing.

- ◆ Both the old LT5 and the new LT5 are Dual Overhead Cam configuration.
- ◆ The new LT5 is 6.2L vs. 5.7L in the C4's.
- ◆ The new LT5 is normally aspirated. No supercharger or turbos.
- ◆ The new LT5 is Direct Injection vs. Multi-Point Fuel Injection.
- ◆ The new TL5 has Variable Value Timing.

The rumor mill has it that this new LT5 will go in the upcoming 2018 ZR1 under development, but that would be a hard trick to do, as the ZR1 will surely have more horse power than the current supercharged Z06's 650hp. It would be hard for the new normally-aspirated LT5 to match this, let alone beat it. With the announcement that the plant is closing for three months, just maybe this engine could be a replacement for the LT4 or an upgrade to the current line????



We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and are anticipating an equally wonderful 2017. However, I wish to share an experience with all of you about drinking and driving. After all, it's never too late to heed good advice.

As you know, some of us have been known to have brushes with the authorities from

time to time, often on the way home after a "social session" with family or friends. Well, on New Year's Eve, this happened to me. I was out for an evening with friends and had more than several beers followed by red wine and single malt shots, and champagne at midnight. Although relaxed, I still had the common sense to know I was slightly over my limit. That's when I did something I had never done before - I took a taxi home. Sure enough, on the way home there was a police roadblock, but since it was a taxi they waved it past and I arrived home safely without incident. This was a real surprise to me, because I had never driven a taxi before. I don't know where I got it, and now that it's in my garage, I don't know what to do with it. So, anyway, if you want to borrow it, give me a call.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

(as seen on the Home Page):

These are good times for Corvettes - and good times for the National Corvette Museum, too. Officials at the NCM reported this week that attendance climbed 3.5 percent in 2016, with 228,363 visitors making their way to the Bowling Green attraction. That attendance number was second only to the sinkhole-aided 2014 figures.

If you've never been to the Museum or the Motorsports Park, we urge you to consider a trip to the beautiful countryside of Bowling Green and take in this great attraction soon.