



*Corvette Flag
at Carlisle
from the
Corvette Guys*

Club Sponsors:



Executive Board

President	<i>Linda Gomes</i>
Vice President	<i>Lewis Stogner</i>
Treasurer	<i>Bill Jereb</i>
Secretary	<i>Kathie Dowell</i>
Membership Director	<i>Jim Mattar</i>
Past President	<i>Rita Raimer</i>

Committee Leaders

Sponsor Committee	<i>Rita Raimer</i>
Club Photographer	<i>Scott Eckman</i>
NCM Ambassador	<i>Mike Walsh</i>
New Member Orientation	<i>Jim Mattar</i>
Newsletter Editors	<i>Terry & Kathy Tracy</i>
Quartermasters	<i>Bob Bortolot & Sandra Lewis</i>
Social Committee	<i>Open</i>
Sunshine Celebrations	<i>JoAnn Royal</i>
VFC Car Show	<i>Mike Heiner</i>
Web Master	<i>Don Kerndt</i>
Technical Advisor	<i>Jim Mattar</i>

Contact information for Board Members and Committee Leaders can be found on our **Club Website** [here](#)

President's Message



Our Welcome back brunch earlier this month gave us the opportunity to get together with our "snowbirds." It was nice to see so many members in a casual setting with time to mingle.

I thought Florida was supposed to be warm! There were several days when jeans and jackets were the uniform of the day. One of those days was the second anniversary of our sponsor Full Blown Chaos. The morning was a bit chilly, but it

did warm up when the sun decided to stay out.

We had a good turnout for the celebration. The work Mike and his team are doing is amazing! We saw cars in different stages of rebuilding. The addition of the new section of the shop allowed for a paint booth. The whole shop looks like you're walking through the set of the shows you watch on TV. Congratulations Mike and Full Blown Chaos!

We had about 15 brave members who attended the Rotary Art Show at the Venice airport on Sunday the 21st. Talk about a blustery day!! We did find the coffee booth before most of the vendors were open so that was a good thing. We visited the art and craft booths, and I heard a rumor that members did some early Christmas shopping.

We're looking forward to February with our members only show on the 17th.

I hear the cold weather is coming back this week so get those jackets out!

Save the wave!



Remember to "Save the Wave!"

Linda Gomes

Board Member Messages

Vice President's Message

During the month of January our Club received the news that Larry Dudley, owner of Premier Productions (Premium

Car Shows) had passed away unexpectedly, and that all further shows had been cancelled. Our members have enjoyed the Premier Shows in the past and will miss those events. Our Car Show Committee (Al Royal and John Vidas) will be looking for a monthly show for our Club to support and attend as a group. Watch Start Your Engines for more information as they develop their plans. Don't forget to sign up for our Members Only Car Show on Feb. 17th at Ideal Classic Cars.

Also, in January we enjoyed a great turnout at Skilletts in Venice for our monthly Men's Breakfast. There were 28 people there and the staff at Skilletts did a great job accommodating us in a room that normally holds just 25 guests. Conversation was lively as our members met up with returning seasonal members, and everyone enjoyed recounting their recent Corvette activities and adventures.

Our Club was well represented at the Rotary Club's Arts & Crafts Festival on Jan. 21st. 15 cars caravanned from the Community Center and displayed their cars at the Venice Festival Grounds. Thanks to Event Captain, Al Royal, for leading our group; and thanks to the members who came out on a particularly cold January day.

For the Men's Breakfast on Feb. 15th, we will be meeting at EGGS-TRAordinary Café in Nokomis. The room there will accommodate up to 40 people. I must confirm with the Café a week in advance so please remember to register on our Event Calendar by Feb 8th.

I hope that many of you enjoyed the event at Sage Auto on Feb. 3rd or the Lemon Bay High School Car Show on that same date. Looking ahead, Geoffrey Card will be holding Judging Clinics in preparation for our March 17th Car Show. Those clinics will

be held for our Judging Volunteers on Feb.9th and on Feb 28th. Sign up on the event Calendar. Anyone else who would like to learn to judge our Clean & Shine Show should contact Geoffrey Card to join the Judging Team.

Save the Wave!

Lewis Stogner, VP

Quartermaster's Corner



Our "Online Store" is currently active and in full operation! Be sure to check it out!

St. Patrick's Day is close at hand, and we have a supply of the 2023 Show Shirts in a lovely Hunter Green that would be a great fit for the holiday and our car show. They are on sale for \$10 each while supplies last.

We also have an inventory of the new 2024 Show Shirts in Blue and our Club Gold in men and ladies sizes at pre-show member price of \$20.00 each.

Stop by our table at the monthly meetings to pick up these treasures.

Quartermasters: Bob Bortolot and Sandra Lewis

Don't forget to check your email for....



Start Your Engines

For weekly updates of VFC events

Using your Credit Card for VFC Events

When making payment for a club event with your credit card, the charge on your credit card statement will read: VENICEFLCORVETTECLUB

If you have any questions about payments, please contact Bill Jereb.

Suggestion Box

Wish the club would do something you enjoy? Did your old club have an activity that we don't do that you really enjoy? Let us hear from you. Send your ideas to us and we will distribute them to the proper people for consideration. Terry Tracy – tptracy111@gmail.com or Kathy Tracy – kjtracy216@gmail.com

Food Bank Donations

We collect non-perishable food items at each month's members meeting. Cash or check donations will be given to the designated food pantry for this month. You may also donate by presenting a check to Bill Jereb, our Treasurer, made payable to the "Louis and Gloria Flanzer Trust" rather than VFC. The "Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust" will gift match to South County Food Pantry, our designated food pantry.



Toiletries Collection for Homeless Children

Please keep the homeless children in mind as you enjoy your travels. Any **travel size** items will be appreciated. Collect the amenities in hotel rooms or, if you are not traveling, browse the travel size items at your local Walmart or Target and add a few items to your cart. Items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, and skin friendly wipes are always in demand. Of course, any items are welcomed.

North Port Coalition for Homeless/Needy Children, Inc.



If you don't have time to shop, cash donations are great and fully accepted. As always, **I will be collecting items at the monthly meetings.** Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sue Jakob

Membership News



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Randy & Debi Decker
LJ & Anne Marie Goldstock
Steven Meillier & Janie Roak
Robert & Jocelyn Angelone

Celebrations



- 2/1 Sue Kujawa
- 2/3 Jill van Brero
- 2/7 Raymond Gomes
- 2/9 Lane R Brown
- 2/11 Ronald Patch
- 2/14 Tonya Sauppe
- 2/15 Mike A Pascarella
- 2/16 Kathy Tracy
- 2/16 Scott A Brundrett
- 2/16 Joanne Walsh
- 2/18 Janet Eckle
- 2/20 Cindy Laughlin Uber
- 2/22 Bill StClair
- 2/24 Linda Friends
- 2/27 Ron K Wencil



- 2/1 Steve Meillier & Janie Roak
- 2/7 Jan & Leslie Hahn
- 2/10 Randy & Debi Decker

Click [here](#) to log into our website for an up-to-date list of club member's **Birthdays and Anniversaries** for the next 90 days

SPECIAL EVENT

Full Blown Chaos 2nd Anniversary Party

On Sunday, January 20th around 60+ members and at least 40 plus Corvettes visited our sponsor Full Blown Chaos Performance & Restoration for an open house. If you missed it, you missed a REALLY good event!!!! Members got to see the huge expansion of the shop and all the new stuff Mike is doing with Corvettes. His shop now does anything from oil changes to major engine repairs or replacements predominantly on Corvettes of all years. They have a paint booth and can-do body work from small stuff to complete restorations. Mike Lemek, the owner, had a food truck on site and provided lunch for everyone compliments of the shop. Lunch was delicious!! We saw lots of Corvettes “in process” and met many of his staff. A great time was had by all who attended. Mike is open to members stopping by if they make an appointment. He said he can order tires, parts or anything members need for their Corvette. He is our trophy sponsor for our Annual Car Show in March, so send him your business and help us give back for his support.



Social Events

Friday Night Music

On Friday, January 5, several club members, and their friends visited Troll Music in Venice to enjoy the original blues music of JB Stone.



Reporter: Joe Showers



The venue – Venezia

Welcome Back Brunch

Another successful Welcome Back Brunch was held at the Venezia Restaurant in Venice on January 7th. It was great to see longtime friends and make new ones. How wonderful to welcome 8 new VFC members to this annual event! The food and service were excellent. A great way to start off 2024!



President Linda Gomes with Tom Christie and his Best of Show Trophy from Harbor Holiday Happening.

Reporter: Agnes Hiener

Ladies Lunch – Farlow’s

The ladies had a great lunch at Farlow’s on the Water while several husbands/partners enjoyed lunch at Lickity Split. This was the biggest turnout ever thanks to Event Captain Susie Hale. She arranged a surprise “Thank You” lunch for Kathy Tracy which contributed to the record turnout. Cards, kind words and a trinket box were given as Kathy expressed her appreciation and thoughtfulness.



Adorable crystal and resin trinket box made by Bobin Coons with a lucky turtle on top!



THE



LADIES!

While the ladies enjoyed fine dining at Farlow’s in Englewood for their monthly luncheon the chauffeurs were off to the Lickity Split Cafe. We had 13 men who enjoyed some good food and ice cream at this favorite VFC eatery.



The guys awaiting their orders



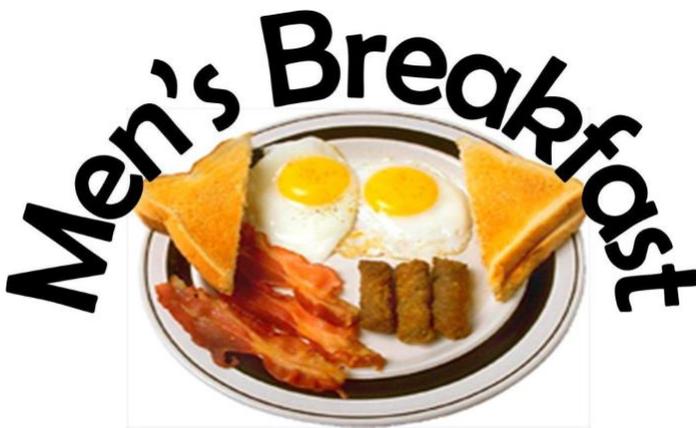
The highlight of the luncheon was George Poynter licking his “Manatee Poop” cone.

Rotary Club Art and Craft Festival

Sunday, January 21 was the coldest day of the winter so far and the wind was blowing too. It didn't keep VFC members from lining up their 15 Corvettes at the Venice Community Center for the short caravan to the Venice Airport.

We parked in a line on the grass just inside the show entry. About an equal number of cars from the British Sports Car Club parked facing us on the other side of the field. As we walked around the vendors, the most popular one was the coffee for \$3 with a free doughnut.

Spectators were slow in arriving when the show opened at 10. As the day slowly warmed and the wind died down, they started coming. When the last of our club Corvettes left at 1:00 there was a steady stream of cars pulling into the parking area.



The Men's Breakfast returned to Skilletts with a record-breaking turnout. It was hosted by VP Lewis Stogner, and he shared that this gathering is too big for Skilletts. He is looking at returning to EGGS-TRAordinary in February.

Reporter: Terry Tracy



Reporter: Al Royal

Car Shows

On January 13th Bell Tower and Corvettes on the Gulf held their 23rd "Welcome New Year" Corvettes and Open Car Show. VFC member Gene Bilak brought home this beautiful Clock Trophy. Gene entered his awesome 2022 C8R Corvette with the Lambo doors.



Tech Events, News & Workshops

Corvette Racing News

Corvette Racing at the Rolex 24 in Daytona Beach
The Corvette Z06 GT3-R showed promise. Pratt Miller Motorsports entered two Corvettes in the GTD PRO Class. The #3 car suffered a cracked oil tank, and the #4 car had the power steering pump fail. Corvettes finished 5th and 8th in Class. Corvettes led in over 100 laps.

AWA Racing also entered two Corvettes in the in the GTD Class, however they faired even worse as the #13 car also had a power steering problem and the #17 car retired early with an electrical issue. Corvettes finished 18th and 21st in Class.

VFC Classifieds & Member Businesses

VFC Classifieds

Click [here](#) to go to our club classified section of our new website

Member Businesses

If you have a business and would like to see it displayed in the newsletter, please e-mail your business card to kitracy216@gmail.com or tptracy111@gmail.com

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