



The September 2021 VFC road trip took members to many exciting places including the The Greenbrier, Finger Lakes, and Niagara Falls. On the way back to Florida, we stopped along a length of the Blue Ridge Parkway so we could take in the spectacular view.

Club Sponsors



Executive Board

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

Quartermasters	<i>Bob Bortolot & Sandra Lewis</i>
Social Committee	<i>Agnes Hiener & Connie Poynter</i>
Co-Chairs	<i>Al Royal & John Vidas</i>
Car Show Committee	<i>JoAnn Royal</i>
Sunshine Celebrations	<i>Mike Heiner</i>
VFC Car Show	<i>Don Kerndt</i>
Web Master	<i>Jim Mattar</i>
Technical Advisor	

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>

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

President's Message



As usual our Farewell Picnic was a success! Ok, there was the incident with some of the cupcakes. They weren't pretty but they still tasted good! The Executive Board did a great job serving the food and as usual Gold Rush BBQ was delicious. It was nice to see so many members and have time to visit with each other. The weather was perfect and some of our members got to enjoy a beautiful sunset.

We gave a formal goodbye to Bill Jereb who served our club as treasurer for the past 5 years. He will certainly be missed but we wish him and Gayle well as they begin a new chapter in their lives in Orlando.

The ladies enjoyed lunch at Farlow's a few weeks ago. As usual, it did not disappoint. The men enjoyed breakfast at Metro Diner in Venice. There was discussion about a planned fishing trip in October.

Some of the members of the Executive Board welcomed a few new members to our club at a luncheon at Valenti's Restaurant in Venice. We welcomed Steven Meillier and Janie Rock, John and Pat Primavera along with Brian Werner. We hope they will join in the events that our club provides and become part of our Corvette family.

As the summer months arrive, many of our members will be or have already headed back to spend time with family and friends and to get away from the warmer weather here in Florida. Our social committee, however, has plans for those of us who remain here. Watch for the ladies' luncheons and men's breakfasts to continue throughout the summer months on the event calendar.

Until next month stay safe in your travels here and away!



Remember to "Save the Wave!"

Linda Gomes, President

Board Member Messages

Vice President's Message

On April 18, the monthly Men's breakfast was held at Skilletts in Venice. We had 16 members in attendance. Topics that were discussed included the upcoming fishing trip in October that has been added to the Events calendar. Members who are interested in attending are encouraged to sign up through the website.

We also discussed the possibility of having a pool tournament this summer. The social committee would like to know if our members are interested in that. Please contact our social committee co-chair, Connie Pointer, to show your interest.

Several members attended the Kimal Lumber show and won trophies. Congratulations to Ray Gomes, Jim Vautrin and Al Royal. Look up our Facebook page for pictures.

Our next Men's breakfast will be held at Skilletts on Thursday, May 16th at 9 a.m. There are many other events happening in the coming summer months, just check out the Events calendar for information and consider joining us. Remember to



Lewis Stogner, Vice President

Quartermaster's Corner

Our “**Online Store**” is fully operational. You can order T Shirts, name badges and our newly available VFC apparel and accessories through our Store. Also, don't forget that the cutoff date to submit new orders is the *15th of the month* preceding our member meetings. This will give our suppliers and vendor adequate time to acquire and prepare the items for delivery. Remember, you can have your shirts shipped directly to your home for a nominal charge. The Quartermasters will continue to bring all new member T-shirts, name badges and online purchased items to our monthly meetings when requested at *No Charge*.

There will be a **display only** of “close out” items and sample shirts. We will also bring “freebie” items and specials but will **not** bring boxes of inventory stock as was previously done. The Online Store was created to help streamline this process and manage inventory control.

We have a limited inventory of **GOLD and BLUE 2024** Show Shirts. Please see our VFC website for available sizes, shipping options and payment.

Thank you for your continued support as we work toward providing a better service for you. Happy cruising!

Quartermasters: Bob Bortolot and Sandra Lewis



2024 Show Shirt

Charity Donations

We collect non-perishable food items at each month's members meeting. If you forgot your food item, cash donations are given to the designated food pantry for the month.

If you want to make a donation by check, make payable to the “*Louis and Gloria Flanzer Trust*” rather than VFC. The “*Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust*” will gift match your donation to the South County Food Pantry.

Our monthly 50/50 raffle proceeds will be split between the South County Food Pantry and the Humane Society.

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.

AKA



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

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

- 5/24 John Conley
- 5/25 Susan Jakob
- 5/30 Charlie C Kline
- 5/30 Rita Raimer



Membership News



- 5/3 Lonney Ensign & Della Rogers
- 5/12 Ron & Phyllis Casciato
- 5/18 Bill & Gayle Jereb
- 5/20 Hank & Joan Hajdas
- 5/20 Jim & Terri Mattar

Celebrations

[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



- 5/1 Jackie Ebel
- 5/2 David G Cox
- 5/4 Mark G Clark
- 5/5 Myron C Kujawa
- 5/6 Bob Fair
- 5/9 James F Vautrin
- 5/10 Walter Tanner
- 5/12 David Tomer
- 5/13 Richard S Zwiebel
- 5/14 Kenny L Rogers
- 5/15 Paul M Vant Hof
- 5/16 Cheryl Winstel
- 5/20 Kenneth F Brinton
- 5/21 Joe Krahulec
- 5/22 Benjamin W DuBois
- 5/23 Leslie Reisinger



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 Bobin Coons.

Car Shows

VFC presented a check to Salvation Army and The Twig. The donations represented proceeds from our Vette Together car show held on March 17th. Thank you to everyone who made these donations possible to support these two charities that help families in their time of need.

Linda Gomes, Reporter via Facebook



Kimal Lumber Classic Car Show

VFC had a nice showing at the Kimal Lumber Classic Car Show. Jim Vautrin's 1982 Vette took 1st place and Ray Gome's 1981 Corvette took 3rd. Although he wasn't showing a classic Vette, Al Royal won for his 1929 Model A. Congratulations to the winners!

Linda Gomes, Reporter via Facebook



Jim & Irene Vautrin and Ray Gome



Al Royal receiving his trophy.

Social Events

April was a fun month for VFC social activities. The VFC Ladies had lunch at Farlow's on the water. There were about 30 in attendance. The seafood plates and salad choices are always among the favorite dishes to choose from.

There were more than 50 members attending the all-member dinner at the Twisted Fork. This restaurant is also one of the VFC favorites.

There are a few new items from the Social Committee you should all be aware of. Starting in May you will notice a **greeter** at the door as you come into the monthly meeting. Susie Hale has volunteered to kick-off this new welcome to VFC monthly meeting. This effort has been added due to an experience Al Royal had at another club meeting recently. As he entered their meeting he was greeted at the door. It gave him a welcoming feeling and he really liked this experience. So, we have agreed to incorporate it into the social networking of our club. All members are welcome to be volunteer welcomers. Just contact Connie Poynter or Agnes Hiener to get on the schedule.

In June we will start the kick-off for a **Meet & Greet happy hour** once a month. This will take place during the summer months June to September and replace all-member dinners. Stop by for a beverage and an appetizer while chatting with other club members. Club shirts would be welcome so we can recognize our members. Cathy Gilgenbach is the June Event Captain. The happy hour will take place on Wednesday, June 19 at 4:00 p.m. at Bonefish restaurant. It helps if you register online so we can give the restaurant a heads up on how many to expect. Give Cathy a big hi-five when you see her at the meeting to get us started on this new event.

May will be a busy month also. Jody Forman-Fall is event coordinator for the ladies' lunch at Landy's Restaurant in Englewood on Friday, May 10. If you have not seen the newly decorated Landy's I encourage ladies to attend the lunch. They also have an excellent menu.

On Thursday, May 23 we are excited that the all-member dinner May event coordinator, Art Jennerich, has arranged for our club to dine with the Distinguished Award-winning Chef, Jimmy Nadell. Chef Nadell is the new owner of Mama Leone's. Chef Nadel has also been a private chef to such stars as Robert DeNiro and Jon Bon Jovi.

To wrap up May we have a section of seats reserved for your purchase at the Patriotic Pops Concert and Fireworks in Cool Today Park. Dining before the concert will be inside the park at the Tiki Bar & Grill at your leisure. This is a great way to end spring and jump into summer.

See the event calendar to sign up for all the above events while there is still space.

Reporter - Connie Poynter



The Men's Breakfast was at Skilletts as mentioned in the VP message. Great turnout!

Tech Events, News & Workshops

Corvette Racing News

AWA (Andrew Wojtecczko Autosport) raced their #13 Corvette in the GTD Class at the Long Beach Grand Prix and finished 6th in their class after starting in the 15 position with drivers Matthew Bell and Orey Fidani.

TF (Tom Ferrier) Sport raced in the FIA WEC 6 hour race at Imola, Italy.

Upcoming Races:

DXDT in the GT America Series will be competing in their #8 Corvette on 3-5 May at Sebring and 17-19 May at the Circuit on the Americas DXDT.

Pratt Miller will be competing in the IMSA Series in the GTD PRO and GTD event at Laguna Seca.

Reporter - Terry Tracy



AWA Racing's Corvette Z06, car #13

Members' Corvette Story

Ray and Linda Gome's Corvette Story

Our corvette life began in 2012. Ray was nearing retirement and for us to continue married bliss one of us needed to have a hobby. Since Ray was not a sports guy and he had liked Corvettes I thought that would be a perfect retirement.

A friend of mine needed a ride to get her car at a local GM dealer in Rhode Island. The showroom had a few Corvettes so I asked the salesman some questions since I knew nothing about them. Anyway, when I got home later that day I told Ray I wanted to

show him something he might like. When we got to the dealership he got a bit nervous that I might have bought one without him. (I had been known to have bought a car while he was traveling.) I told him since retirement was near, now would be the time to get serious about a hobby.

Well Ray did some research and bought a 2012 Grand Sport on eBay. We brought the car to Florida and shortly thereafter met Jim Vautrin who was President of VFC at the time and joined the club. It was the best thing we could have done.

Since that time, we bought a 1981 Corvette which kept Ray busy for weeks and months at a time. He replaced many engine parts as well as the seats and carpeting. Through Ray's hard work we have received over 30 trophies over the years.

We also needed to replace a car in Rhode Island so why not a Corvette? We found a 1998 Black on black convertible with just 50,000 miles on it and in great condition. I really love driving a C5! I can actually see where the front is! When we're not in R.I. our son and daughter make sure the tires are rotated, that means a road trip somewhere with the top down.

Linda Gomes
President

[Gomes Cars Shown Below]





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 kjtracy216@gmail.com or tpracy111@gmail.com

Click on the card for more info about this business.