



This our 1968 Corvette on the Alaska Highway in August, 1971, with the front wheels on pavement in Alaska and the rear wheels on the dirt road in the Yukon Territory, Canada. We had just driven about 1500 miles from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, Canada on that dirt road. It was part of our 4600-mile return trip from West Virginia. We were heading to Fairbanks, Alaska where Janet taught school at Main Junior High and Allan was finishing college at the University of Alaska, after his discharge from the US Army (Fort Wainwright, Alaska) earlier that same year.

Allan and Janet Eckle

## 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>

## 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 &amp; Kathy Tracy</i>
Quartermasters	<i>Bob Bortolot &amp; Sandra Lewis</i>
Social Committee	<i>Agnes Hiener &amp; Connie Poynter</i>
Co-Chairs	<i>Al Royal &amp; John Vidas</i>
Car Show Committee	<i>JoAnn Royal</i>
Sunshine Celebrations	

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



March has been a busy month for our club! The ladies had a great lunch at Carrabba's in Venice and the men's breakfast at the Metro Diner, also in Venice, was a big hit. The only complaint from both venues was that, like most restaurants, the lack of enough staff. But we were all able to use the wait time to talk with each other, which is the whole idea of these events.

The day before our car show we had the Welcome Dinner at the Venice Gardens. There were over 100 attendees! This dinner gives us the opportunity to welcome the show participants in a relaxed atmosphere.

Sunday was SHOW time! I want to thank all our members who made our Vette Together a great show! I had so many participants tell me how much they love our show and how friendly and helpful you all are. It takes a small army of people to put on a show of this quality. Congratulations to all our members who continue to make our show the best around!

The new food vendors were a big hit. The BBQ offerings and the Philly steaks were great! It was difficult to choose between the two.

I had a participant come over to me after the Venice High School ROTC presented colors and say he thought it was a wonderful way to open the show and how touched he felt with the presentation. It's these little things that make our show great.

We will be saying goodbye to some of our members at our Farewell Picnic. It seems like we just said hello! I hope you have all enjoyed your time with us and took advantage of the many events we had this season. I wish you safe travels and look forward to

seeing you soon. For those of us staying, see you at the various events planned for the next few months. Let the fun continue!



Remember to "Save the Wave!"

**Linda Gomes, President**

## Board Member Messages

### Vice President's Message

March was a very busy month with our car show and preparing for the April picnic. We had an outstanding attendance at both, and we could not have asked for better weather. I wish all our members traveling back to their summer homes a safe trip.

On March 21 we held a Men's Breakfast, for the first time, at Metro Diner. We enjoyed a turnout of 23 members and guests. As many of us have experienced at local restaurants there was a shortage of wait staff, but we found the food to be good. The restaurant rewarded the club with some 20% off coupons to be used later. Perhaps we can return in the spring and summer months when our attendance will be more manageable.

Upcoming we have scheduled the Men's breakfast for Skillet's on April 18 beginning at 9am. The details to sign up have been posted on the Clubs calendar and we look forward to going back there.

There are still a shortage of car shows for us to attend so please reach out to us if you know of anything of interest in the coming months. Save the wave!



**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.

Thankfully all the green shirts were sold, even my

display shirt! 🙌

We have a limited inventory of **GOLD 2023** Show Shirts for \$10.00 each and a sizable inventory of men's and ladies 2024 Show Shirts in both blue and gold. Please see our VFC website for available sizes, shipping options and payment.

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*. We will also bring "freebie" items and specials but will not bring boxes of inventory stock as was previously done. We created our Online Store to help streamline this process and manage inventory control.

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

**Quartermasters: Bob Bortolot and Sandra Lewis**



2024 Show Shirt

## 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.

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....**

## **Membership News**





***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 or Bobin Coons.



Jim Chanko & Maureen Jordan  
Kirk Moyer  
Brian Werner

## **Celebrations**

### **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 liked? 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](mailto:tptracy111@gmail.com)

Kathy Tracy – [kjtracy216@gmail.com](mailto:kjtracy216@gmail.com)



- 4/3 Paul Novosel
- 4/5 David Cummings
- 4/8 Robert Spreter
- 4/11 Genell Marshall
- 4/15 Paul Malyszek
- 4/16 Joe Showers
- 4/17 Bob Collins
- 4/20 Teri Berkes
- 4/23 Thomas Carey
- 4/26 Jeff McCartney
- 5/1 Jackie Ebel  
David Cox
- 5/4 Mark Clark



- 4/1 Timothy & Jackie Ebel
- 4/1 Kenny & Deborah Rogers
- 4/18 Dennis & Maureen Mitchell
- 4/18 Mike & Joanne Walsh
- 4/26 Jake & Sue Jakob
- 4/28 Jack & Terry Dell'Amico
- 5/3 Lonny Ensign & Della Rogers

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

## Car Shows

### A Vette Together, March 17, 2024 Message from Car Show Chair

I would like to thank each and every one of you for the hard work and dedication to our show. Your hard work really paid off. The weather was ideal, and the show was well attended. Food trucks were a big hit.

We had 101 people attend the welcome party catered by Gold Rush. Nobody went hungry. The leftovers were taken to a local firehouse on Englewood Road/776.

The 50/50 was a big success, the Basket Raffle was very popular, Door Prizes were well received, and the Silent Auction went well also. All went well from Registration, Judging, Entrant Parking, Member Parking, PC to Drivers Photography. The Information Booth, NCM items tent, and Galli Shirts tent were very busy all day. FBC display had a lot of interest along with Sage and their display cars. Generation

Display, and Photo OP area were also very popular. Scott Eckman did a great job taking pictures during the show.

Setup, Takedown, Sponsor Communication did a wonderful job. I would like to thank our Technical Advisor, Webmaster, and Signage Chair for a job well done. Kudos to the T Shirt team for selling all of the last year's green shirts and sales of 2024 shirts. Our Trophy Chair, Ron Kubala, was able to come to the show and it was wonderful to see him. Al and the Trophy Team stepped up building the trophies; they did a great job. Comfort Cart was busy all day - great job. Refuse Cart delivered water to our show workers and kept the place clean. We also had great publicity this year.

A big thanks to Tommy Traveling Toons, Caddy Carts, and Jr ROTC for the flag ceremony.

I hope everyone had a wonderful time. I'm looking forward to another wonderful show next year and hope everyone will be supporting that show.

To those Snowbirds, have a safe trip home and a wonderful summer. Those of you staying in Florida, hope you and your Vette enjoy wonderful rides and take part in the club's summer activities.

Mike Hiener, 2024 Car Show Chair



All set to serve!

## Antique Automobile Car Association

Sunday the 24th of March was a beautiful day for a car show in Venice. The local chapter of the AACA put on a wonderful show at Centennial Park with over 300 vehicles in attendance, ranging from 1909 to 1999. There were beautiful VW buses, Corvettes, Mustangs, Model As, rat rods, trucks, motorcycles, even the Batmobile was there.

Bill StClair represented VFC and took home 3rd place in the 1953-1999 Corvette modified class. Many spectators stopped by to reminisce about their C3 Corvettes. There was a lot of interest from young car fans as well. One teen was amazed that he could see the ground in the engine compartment (he was accustomed to new cars where everything is covered, and you can't see the engine).

It was a very good day and show.

*Reporter – Bill StClair*



# Social Events

## Ladies' Lunch – Carrabba's

The ladies' lunch was a success with twenty ladies attending. Lunch was at Carrabba's Italian Grill in Venice. The food was excellent. The sauces were outstanding. The menu had a wonderful, fixed price under \$14 including a trio offering made up of (1) choice of several soups to start, (2) choice of several salads for next course, and (3) multiple choices of small plate items plus fresh bread baskets.

There was a lot of food and many took home what they couldn't eat at lunch. Our waitress, Kathy, worked very hard to take care of all the orders. Can you imagine serving three courses for lunch rather than the normal one? We rewarded her with a gift as a special thank you for the service. Needless to say, she was overwhelmed and very thankful for the recognition of her hard work and kindness from VFC ladies. Since it took so long to get through the food courses, the ladies had a relaxing time sitting and talking to each other. This was not your typical rushed lunch in and out in an hour.

**Reporter - Connie Poynter**



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

# Tech Events, News & Workshops

## Corvette Racing News - IMSA Weathertech Championship

*Corvette Racing at the 2024 Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring*

Pratt Miller Racing – the Corvette Z06 GT3.R #3 car finished 10th and the #4 car finished 11th in the GTD PRO division.

AWA Racing also ran the Corvette Z06 GT3.R #13 car and finished 9th. The #17 car finished 22nd in the GTD division.

Overall Sebring 2024 was not a good race for Corvettes as mishaps and mechanical problems plagued the two teams. Let's hope for better results at the Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach on April 20th.

**Reporter - Terry Tracy**



AWA Racing's Corvette Z06, car #17

## Members' Corvette Story

### Rita Raimer's Corvette Story

In 2014, I dated a fellow who had a beautiful convertible Corvette. We went our separate ways, but I knew from that point on that I loved the Corvette and needed to buy one.

2019 was the last year for the C7 model and I loved that style. I decided I wanted an Elkhart Lake Blue with a Kalahari convertible top. A friend of mine told me about Costco offering discounts on vehicles. The closest Costco Chevy dealer was in Lakeland, Florida. I drove up there in late April and was told the discount did not apply to Corvettes, but the dealer gave me a good price on the Corvette I wanted. We placed the order, and I gave them a \$2,000 deposit. They said it would take 6 to 8 weeks to arrive. When I didn't hear from them by mid-June I got nervous. I heard production had stopped for the 2019 Corvette convertibles. I called them but it seemed they forgot to order my car or some other nonsense story.

I decided to drive up there to get things clarified. I tried to get an explanation but no one talked to me. Finally, the manager came out and said your car did not get ordered and it is too late to order a convertible. He told me to pick one on the lot. I was extremely unhappy with them and I said that was not acceptable/ They needed to find *my* car somewhere in the USA. After much searching, the manager found a Stingray with my color choices in Virginia.

As the manager called Casey Chevrolet dealership in Newport News Virginia, I listened intently. During the phone call I heard that Casey needed to check with someone who was on vacation before they could trade the vehicle. Fortunately, I happened to notice the other dealer's name and contact information. I stuck that information in the back of my head. My dealer hung up the phone and said this should all be worked out in the coming days. I was extremely nervous because in three days I was leaving for an extended trip through Europe. The dealer assured me all would be fine and to have a nice vacation.

While traveling I saw "My Car" was still listed for sale on the Casey. It should be on its way to Florida. I called my dealer to get an update but I only got voicemail. Frustrated, I called the dealership in Virginia and told them I was the girl in Florida attempting to buy that car. I was told that the Florida dealership was not willing to trade a vehicle, so the deal was off. I was shocked! I was so in love with that car and it was the only Corvette for sale in the entire USA with my color scheme. I wanted that car!!!! I told him I was in Switzerland and wouldn't be home for three weeks. Knowing how badly I wanted the car, he was able to negotiate "his" price and I paid dearly for the car. I put down a deposit and he put a sold sign in the window. He sent me a photograph of the car on the showroom floor with a sold sign on the windshield with my name on it. They would pick me up at the airport and take me to the dealership.

So, one month later when I arrived, I was never so happy to see the car in person. They let me drive it off the showroom floor and treated me like a queen. I drove the car from Virginia to Florida with the top down and the music playing. It was a dream come true. I love the car and all the friendships I have gained from owning it. It will be with me for a long time.

Rita Raimer  
Past President





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## 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](mailto:kjtracy216@gmail.com) or [tptracy111@gmail.com](mailto:tptracy111@gmail.com)

Click on the card for more info about this business.

**The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of each month.**