



The Tracy's
2023 at
Arches Nat'l
Park
Grand County,
Utah



The Tracy's
2019 Long
Beach Red
Stingray at
The Fork in
the Road
Franklin, KY

Club Sponsors



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Membership Director	<i>Jim Mattar</i>
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Contact information for Board Members and Committee Leaders can be found on our **Club Website** [here](#)

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>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	

President's Message



It's a good thing it's a Leap Year because for a 29-day month we certainly kept busy!

Some of us attended the Lemon Bay High School car show on the 3rd. Congratulations to Al Royal for getting a trophy for his C1!

A group of us went to Sage Auto Studio to learn how to get our cars "show ready." It was an interesting day seeing how just a few changes to your car could make it stand out from the rest. Thank you to Alex and his crew for the informative presentation.

I understand there were a several ladies in their flamingos attire that enjoyed the luncheon at Deep Lagoon. The men drove to EGGs-TRAordinary in Nokomis for their monthly breakfast.

On the 17th we held our 2nd members only car show at Ideal in Venice. There were around 47 cars in attendance. Venice High School Band Boosters offered **coffee** and breakfast goodies. 15 door prize gift bags were given to lucky members. We were able to walk around and talk with each other in a casual environment. Thank you, Kathy Tracy for the VFC mugs you provided for the gift bags. John Vidas donated some Corvette items for a silent auction. We also had items donated from a former member for the auction. The money raised is going toward the Christmas party as per John and Rosellen & George Russell's request.

I hope those of you that attended the presentation of the sink hole at the Corvette Museum found it interesting and entertaining. I was happy to see so many of you there. Those of you that have gone there can appreciate the work that was done to bring the display back to where it was. We're looking forward to our first visit there in August.

The last thing on the long list of things we did this month was the baseball game at Cool Today Park. The weather was perfect, the food was good, the members and friends in attendance enjoyed themselves AND the Red Sox won!!

Our Vette Together is days away. Let's hope for good weather this year. It was a bit chilly last year.

Our social committee works hard to offer so many opportunities to enjoy each other and our cars. I hope you take advantage of some of these events.

Thank you all in advance for volunteering for the show!

Save the wave!



Remember to "Save the Wave!"

Linda Gomes

Board Member Messages

Vice President's Message

Our monthly Men's Breakfast was held on Feb. 15th at EGGs-TRAordinary Café in Nokomis. Eighteen members attended and enjoyed fellowship and some great food. Service was excellent and there was plenty of room despite this being the busy season for restaurants. The next Men's Breakfast will be on March 21st at 9 am at Metro Diner. Please check our Event Calendar to sign up and check to be sure of the correct location.

If any members know of possible locations for our breakfasts, please get me the name and address of the restaurant and a contact person so I can assess the potential for us to try out a new place.

Our Car Show Committee (Al Royal and John Vidas) are looking for member input on car shows that we might attend and support in the coming months. The committee needs your help to identify shows and arrange for an event captain and caravan leader for those shows. Member involvement is needed. If you are interested in our Club participating in shows as a group, the Committee needs your help. Many of you may not remember that the constitutional revisions that were approved in 2022 changed the responsibility of this job to a committee, rather than it being the sole responsibility of the Vice President.

Please contact Al or John with your suggestions or volunteer to participate in the committee. One of my responsibilities is to assist our President in organizing the April Farewell Picnic. It is time to sign up for this on the Event Calendar. The cost is \$15 per person with the Club subsidizing the balance of the expense. It is at Maxine Barritt Pavilion on April 2nd. Try to arrive by 5 pm to find your spot to sit and to make any new members comfortable by asking them to join you. Our meeting will begin at 5:30 pm and the meal will be served at 6 pm. The meal is being catered by Gold Rush BBQ and the menu includes BBQ Chicken, pulled pork, coleslaw, mac and cheese, baked beans, and cornbread. Dessert will be cupcakes. Drinks are NOT included so bring your beverage of choice, remembering that glass containers of any kind are not allowed. Alcoholic beverages are likewise not permitted at the park or on the beach. Following the meeting and helping with cleanup, many members enjoy watching the sunset. You may wish to bring a beach chair if you wish to join others on the beach.



Lewis Stogner, VP

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



Start Your Engines

For weekly updates of VFC events

Quartermaster's Corner



Our **"Online Store"** is currently active and in full operation! 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.

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 \$20.00 each.

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

Quartermasters: Bob Bortolot and Sandra Lewis



2024 Show Shirt

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.

Letter from the Editors

Starting with this issue, we would like to resurrect Steve Bieglecki's "Member's Corvette Story." Along with the member's story, we would like to feature your car in the heading of the Gazette. We think this would be much more interesting than a stock photo of a Corvette or some other Corvette scene. If you have a photo of your Corvette in an unusual or scenic setting, that would be even better. We have featured our 2023 and 2019 Corvettes in this issue. Two years ago, we took our 2019 Vette to Bowling Green. On the way we stopped in Franklin, KY to see the Fork in the Road. They have since added a knife! We're keeping an eye out for the spoon. In June of last year, we took our 2023 to Watkins Glen, then went to Bowling Green and finally did a trip out to Las Vegas and back. The car was a joy to drive. We loved the winding mountain roads and some isolated straight aways (you know what we mean!). It was a great trip, and our Vette was awesome!

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

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



Membership News



Ben Portillo
Mark & Nora Clark
John & Patricia Primavera
Stanley Busch & Evelyn Berry



3/7 Lex & Jill van Brero
3/9 Kam & Karen Jeffries
3/15 Lou & Tonya Sauppe
3/18 Myron & Sue Kujawa
3/29 Robert Bortolot & Sandra Lewis

Celebrations



3/4 Michelle StClair
3/6 Jim H Turner
3/6 Sue Militello
3/11 Amy Zehms
3/15 Allan Eckle
3/17 Melba Watts
3/20 Michael Hiener
3/21 William Roberts
3/24 Charles Pastva
3/25 Ray Wirtz
3/27 Carol Spreter
3/29 John Reisinger
3/29 Chris Tritschler
3/31 Howard Kaplan
3/31 John M Vidas



Bob and Genell Marshal received their 5 year pin and Wanda Dallman accepted a 10 year pin for herself and her husband from Jim Mattar at the February membership meeting. Congratulations to all of you!



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



Trophy Winning Boot Camp Seminar At Sage Auto Studios

On Saturday, February 3, 2024, several VFC members attended a boot camp seminar to learn about services available at Sage Auto Studios at their Lakewood Ranch facility. Twelve cars met at the Shell station on Laurel Rd to caravan to the Sage facility where they met two additional cars. The seminar included discussions and demonstrations about ceramic coating, clear bras, custom vinyl accents, glowing/reflective calipers, ceramic window tint, and detailing and polishing. The clinic was free to attend and included a lunch of delicious pizza.

Several of our cars were selected by Sage staff and brought inside the shop to demonstrate the different ways their techniques could be used to improve on each car. Other members were invited outside to evaluate concerns about their cars and explain solutions available to remedy their issues, and what the costs might be for those services.

Our sponsor provided us with a valuable clinic that gave us ways to enhance or improve our cars' appearances. For those who love winning trophies at shows, Sage had much to offer both in educating our members and in offering their services. Thanks to Sage Auto Studios for a great experience.



Car Shows

Lemon Bay High School Band Boosters

Back in October, members of the Lemon Bay High School Band Boosters reached out to VFC for input on how to put a car show together. Not only had they never chaired a car show, but they had also never attended one! Four from our club met three of the band member's mothers and filled their pads with suggestions.

The Benefit Car and Truck Show Saturday, February 3rd at the Lemon Bay High School was the result. The show was well organized and attracted about 60 vehicles. They ranged from pickups to Jeeps to hot rods and customs to a bunch of Corvettes, 8 from VFC. A surprisingly number of high dollar cars, including a Ferrari, three resto-mod C2s and a beautiful stock spilt window '63 were displayed.

Eight awards, 5 Participant's Choice, plus Student's Choice, Band Director's Award and Principal's Award were presented. We were very surprised and honored our driver quality '56 was chosen for the Principal's Award.

Expect an even better show in 2025. Most of their show committee will return. We were assured that VFC would receive earlier notification. Hopefully we will provide overwhelming support to one of our local high schools.

Reporter - Al Royal



SVRA and Hagerty at Sebring

It was a sunny but windy day at Sebring this year. The Corvette Coral was packed. The Sportscar Vintage Racing Association (SVRA) RACES were awesome, and it's always an enjoyable drive to the track.



ZR1 C7 in the Corvette Coral



A beautiful 1954 Corvette in the Hagerty Car Show



A split window took the checked flag in its class, unbelievable.



A large water main break nearly flooded the track, prevented pedestrian traffic, and almost swamped the Corvettes in the Corvette Corral!



Genell giving us Fun Flamingo Facts

Social Events

Ladies' Lunch – Flamingos Flying in February

If I have to say so myself, this luncheon was over-the-top. We met at Deep Lagoon and had their private area to ourselves. The ladies came dressed in Flamingo attire and were given Flamingo leis. The tables were decorated with Flamingos and Corvettes. Everyone enjoyed the great people, games, prizes, and giveaways. This luncheon had it all and for me, it was GREAT fun. Thank you to all the ladies who came – 29 of us! I hope all of you continue to support the ladies' luncheon. It's always a great time.

Reporter – Kathy Tracy



Attentively listening to the Fun Flamingo Facts.



Agnes, Michelle and JoAnn got the memo!





The Men's Breakfast returned to EGGS-TRAordinary with another great turnout.

National Corvette Museum Sinkhole Presentation

Those members and guests who attended the NCM Sinkhole Presentation on Feb. 20 by Mike Marasa, left better informed, in awe of the professionals and WKU students who developed plans to ensure the museum could be repaired and visitors could return. Mike also shared personal stories and recaps of the repair process. We never thought that we'd laugh about the situation, but there is humor in everything. Even C students can become important members of a solution team. I still don't think any of us would have the courage to go down into that pit. Lesson learned, don't build without having a geologist inspect the ground if you're in cave county. If you're going on the NCM Caravan this summer, check out the surviving cars, the repaired cars, the cars that couldn't be repaired, and the replacement cars.

Reporter: Kathie Dowell



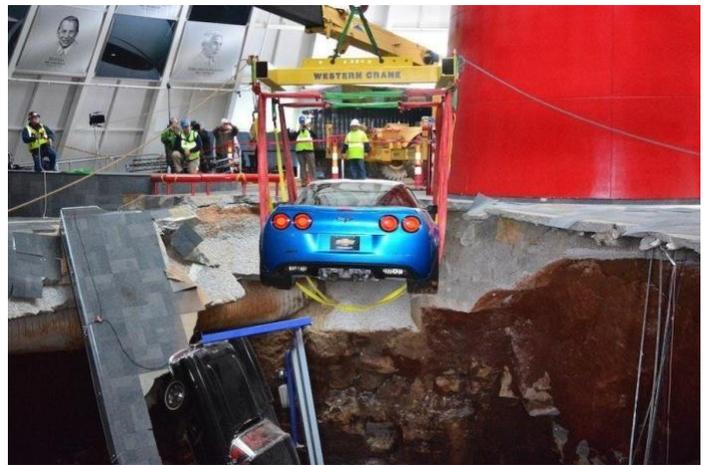
1993 ruby red "40th Anniversary Corvette



2009 white "1.5 Millionth Corvette



2009 ZR1 "Blue Devil



2009 ZR1 "Blue Devil being extracted.

Spring Training – Braves vs Red Sox

It was an absolutely gorgeous day for a ball game. The Sun was out, the temperature warmed and the cool winds that we have been having died down. VFC members were joined by 12 Peace River Corvette Club members to enjoy some camaraderie. After a spectacular opening with a fly over by a Sarasota air group, we lunched on an all-you-can-eat buffet of grilled chicken, sausage and peppers, chips and some oh so delicious cookies. Water and lemonade were included but just down the hall was a full bar. Most locals cheered for the Braves while a lot of northeasterners whooped and hollered for the Red Sox. In the end, the Sox won but no matter. It was a wonderful outing that will be repeated next year.

Reporter: Kathy Tracy





Phil Niekro's retired number was very appropriate as we enjoyed lunch in the Niekro's Nook.

Tech Events, News & Workshops

Corvette Racing News

Corvette Racing at the FIA WEC QATAR AIRWAYS RACE

The Corvettes TF Sport LMGT3.R Z06 Cars #81 & 82 finished 9th & 10th respectively in their class.

Members' Corvette Story

The Tracy's Corvette Story

We are relatively new Corvette owners, but we have been admirers for many years. My brother had three Corvettes over time and my sister has two. Multiples seem to be a necessity as currently we have three and had four at one time. We bought our first Corvette in November 2018. It was a 2009 coupe, 1LT, manual transmission. We bought it from a friend in Ohio and drove it to Florida. We had never been in a Corvette before, much less driven one. We made it to Florida without a hitch and enjoyed it for one year and one month. Terry fell in love with Long Beach Red, so when another friend was selling hers, we checked it out. Unfortunately, she and her husband were smokers and, yes, they apparently smoked in the car, but we liked the car! No, we didn't buy hers, we bought a new one – 2019 Long Beach Red Coupe, 2LT. As we attended car shows and saw all these beautiful Corvettes, we got the bug to buy another one. This time we drove to Pompano Beach and

bought a 2013 Grand Sport, Night Race Blue convertible. The first time driving it, we thought we made a big mistake – it rode hard and rough, but we grew to love that car and it became a real favorite. Then, Kathy was browsing the Internet and found an Indy Pace car. Hmmm. This might be something to check out. It was in Texas, had only 10,000 miles and one owner. We were headed west anyway, so we checked it out and bought it – a 2007 Atomic Orange convertible. We drove back to Florida. Next up, a 1995 coupe decked out for speed. We wanted to go auto crossing and didn't want to use one of the three we had, so why not buy one just for autocross! Oh goodness. This car does not want to sit still at a light, and it can go! Unfortunately, we only took it to autocross once as Ian and other circumstances interrupted the autocross season. When the C8's came out we were not that crazy about the styling, but it soon grew on us. We sold the 2019 so we would have a nice downpayment and got on the waitlist for a C8. After months of waiting and fearing we wouldn't get a 2023 (anniversary year), the search began. First, we wanted Red Mist, but everyone was getting Red Mist. Then it was Black – it would look like the Bat Mobile (how cool is that?). But then, Kathy happened upon a video of Caffeine Metallic. Wow! Now that's a beautiful color, especially in the sun. The search began – 2023, Caffeine Metallic, Natural Interior, Convertible 2LT or 3LT. And what do you know – that car was in Naples! And now, that car is in our garage, and we absolutely love it. Will there be a C9 in our future or even another Corvette? That remains to be seen. Never say never! Be sure to wave to other Corvette owners you see on the road and "Save the Wave."

Terry and Kathy Tracy



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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The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 2nd of each month.