

Corvette Cruisers of Greater Daytona The "Talepipe" Newsletter



DECEMBER 2023

**President: John Doria; Vice President: Gary Swanson; Treasurer: William Simmons
Secretary: Jamie Hawes; Directors: Keith Hardin, John Pona, Robert Wolff:
Newsletter Editor/Membership: Jean Doyle**

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster Restaurant, 2625 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach. We invite you to dine with us (Dutch treat) around 5:30 p.m. and stay for the meeting at 6:30.

Coming Up



Christmas Tour of the Casements

Come see the many Christmas trees displayed at the Casements in Ormond Beach, the winter home of oil magnate John D. Rockefeller, located at 25 Riverside Drive. Meet in the Casements parking lot on Tuesday, December 5th, at 10:30 a.m. A guided tour is scheduled for 11:00. Enjoy the spirit of the season in this 1913 mansion. A \$1.00 donation per person is suggested. The tour lasts about 75 minutes. Lunch is at the discretion of the group attending. Club shirts are optional.

It's Party Time

The annual Christmas Banquet will be held on Thursday evening, December 7th at the Cranes Roost Restaurant in Crane Lakes, Port Orange.

Happy half-hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with a cash bar. Dinner will be served beginning around 6:00 p.m. By now you have made your entrée selection and sent your check to our Treasurer. So, the only thing left is to make sure you can find your way to the banquet site. From Kohl's Department Store on Taylor Road in Port Orange, drive approximately 9/10 mile west to Crane Lakes Blvd. and take a right at the traffic light. At the entrance gate, you will say you are going to the restaurant with the Corvette group. The guard may or may not ask to see your driver's license. Proceed to the parking lot on your right. The dress attire is Business Casual, so put away those orange or blue shirts and let's have a party!!

Corvette Christmas New Smyrna Beach Chevy

Shine up those Vettes and start your engines for the 3rd Annual Corvette Christmas Saturday, December 9th, at New Smyrna Chevrolet! Join in from 9am to 11am, hosted by New Smyrna Beach Chevrolet, located at 2375 State Road 44, New Smyrna Beach, FL. This car show will benefit the local Gifts of Love and NSB PAL to collect toys for families in our community. Registration opens at 8am and during the show there will be music, breakfast beverages and pastries, and a vehicle holiday photo spot!

Registration is free with a \$20+ unwrapped toy to be brought the day of the event. Cash donations will be accepted as well. Club members wishing to attend are to go directly to the dealership. Wear your blue shirts with NSB Chevy patch.

Dues are Due

Not only is December 31st New Year's Eve, it is also the magic date when your club dues are due for the upcoming year. If you have not paid your dues by this date, you will no longer be a member of the club. No reminders will be sent, no phone calls will be made. If you haven't already done so, please mail your check made out to CCGD for \$50.00 (includes 2 people) to William Simmons, 2305 Yule Tree Drive, Edgewater, FL 32141



Reviews

Trunk or Treat

Halloween was in full force at New Smyrna Chevy even though Halloween didn't officially occur for a few days. Starting the evening off with a great treat for us was the delicious food spread provided by Don Giovanni's in Port Orange. Plenty of pizzas, chicken parmesan, pasta salads, tossed salad, garlic bread and who knows what else were provided a hungry bunch before the main event. That, of course, was the kids, and there were plenty of them. At least 400-500 trick-or-treaters wove their way through the cars. Our club had thirteen Corvettes present. There were several from Ponce Inlet and some hot rods from the East Coast Cruisers; a good showing, none-the-less. The wind was a little wild that evening and made decorating the cars a

bit tricky, but the trick-or-treaters stole the show anyway. The amount of candy provided by Jeremy and the crew was unbelievable as there truly was no end. Some of those handing out the treats were accused of eating more than was handed out, but that was just a rumor. Some very creative costumes passed through to some spooky tunes like "The Monster Mash", "Ghostbusters" and "Somebody's Watching Me" interspersed, of course, with some tunes about hot cars. Handing out treats rather than tricks were John Pona, Arnie Ligi, Bob and Debbie Dutcher, Bill and Jane Rowe, Bob and Linda Cornyn, Bill Simmons and Bonita Richardson, Khalid Akkari and Vicki Anderson, John and Sally Doria, Shirley Gerstel, Vin Giglio, Keith Hardin, Julius Frittelli and Brenda Johnson, Emery Simkulak and Fran Alderson, Edie Byrne, and Jean Doyle. Please check out some of the cool costumes in the Photo Gallery.

Early Sunset DOTR

Luckily, we beat the crowd that usually fills JB's Fish Camp to capacity by going to an early evening sunset dinner. With the time changing back to Eastern Standard, it was a bit tricky, but Bob and Linda Cornyn, John and Sally Doria, Jean Doyle, Bob and Debbie Dutcher, Del and Patty Fot, Keith and Cindy Hardin, Arnie Ligi and AJ, Bill Neway, John and Rose Pona, Emery Simkulak and Fran Alderson managed to overcome the time change to meet up with Bill Simmons and Bonita Richardson, Gary and Cindy Swanson, and Patrick and Aliah Wall at the restaurant. Dinner was excellent, as was the service at this offbeat hour. Some of us were so busy chatting, we forgot about the sunset, but thankfully, Bill Simmons was able to capture the moment as you can see in the Photo Gallery. Following dinner, the majority made their way to the Swanson's home in Bethune Beach, after a little snafu with directions from Jean. Luckily, those who got the wrong directions did make it to

the final destination. Lesson here is never take directions from a dyslexic person, who can't tell their left from their right. Word has it that the cookies and fudge were delicious. Thank you, Gary and Cindy, for your hospitality.

Sunrise/Sunset Cruise Across Florida

Mother Nature sure played a trick on us. Of all the beautiful days and evenings prior to our sunrise/sunset tour, and all the beautiful days and evenings following our sunrise/sunset tour, we had to pick the two absolute worst days there could have been to travel. First off, we did manage to see the sunrise, but only inside the AM Cafe. (Only those in attendance will understand,) Twenty-eight were signed up to go, but six had to cancel for various reasons, leaving twenty-two making the journey; three took cars other than a Corvette, but we are so happy to report that everyone made it safely there and back in spite of the rain. We started out with a great breakfast of 5 menu items for \$5.00, with the wait staff getting us in and out in good time. Though it hadn't begun to rain, the sky was overcast, and the forecast was not promising. Two groups set out to travel the backroads of Florida; one being led by John and Sally, the other by Vin and Tracy who were somewhat familiar with that part of the state. Everyone managed to stay together, even after our first pitstop and the second, which was at Register Chevrolet in Brooksville, the staff of which were happy to see all the Corvettes pull into their dealership. Right next door was our lunch stop at Glory Days, a restaurant that got us in and out in record time, and with good food to boot. Then on to our destination, which was a Best Western Hotel located right on the Gulf. Our group had their own wing of the hotel, all with water views. Unfortunately, we were more concerned with the water that was coming out of the sky, which remained only a drizzle at this point. Luckily, however, the clouds broke briefly, just in time to catch a photo of the sunset as seen

in the shot taken by Tracy Giglio. (See in Photo Gallery) Still, we were pretty lucky as we walked the four or five blocks to the Lucky Lobster, our dinner location for the evening. Everyone was quite pleased with their entrée. On the return walk, we passed several ice-cream shops, but we had to give in on the last one to enjoy a little dessert after that big meal. The next morning, several opted to return home, while others traversed the streets of the little town, touring the Dunedin History Museum, the Beatles' Museum, and the many quaint little shops that dot the charming town of Dunedin. The trip home was a lot less than perfect as the heavy rain came as promised. During the entire trip home, the wipers were going full blast... Suffice it to say, not a fun return by any stretch of the imagination. But all's well that ends well, and everyone returned home safely. Ooohhh, if John could only access that crystal ball next time. Making the trip were Gary and Cindy, Patrick and Aliah, Bob and Debbie, Keith and Cindy, Jean and her friend Evelyn, Julius and Brenda, Emery and Fran, Bill and Joan, Vin and Tracy, John and Sally, and Bob and Linda C,



This & That

SEMA Show Review By Gary Swanson

On Friday the 3rd of November, Bob Wolff and I were able to attend the 56th annual SEMA (Specialty Equipment Market Association) show at the huge (2.5 million Sq. Ft. of exhibit space) Las Vegas Convention Center. With five halls full

of every imaginable automotive tool, accessory, or car care product one could imagine, it was quite overwhelming. In addition to all of that, custom car and truck builds from the finest builders in the country were on display too, and the competition for the Mother's Battle of the Builders Award was strong. The eventual winner was a beautiful 1960 Buick.

One of the interesting aspects of the convention center is the underground LVCC (Las Vegas Convention Center) loop. "The Boring Company", owned by Elon Musk, started construction of this loop in 2019, and it opened in 2021. It consists of a system of tunnels that run from hall to hall, and you ride free of charge in Teslas to get to your destination. The future plan is to expand the loop to include various stops along the Las Vegas Strip, as well as to the airport, with the goal of reducing traffic congestion.

The SEMA show has always been closed to the general public, as it isn't a consumer show where one can actually purchase things. It is intended for those in the automotive trades to make contact with suppliers and manufacturers. This year however, tickets were made available for the last and least populated day of the show to those who purchased a combination SEMAFEST ticket. SEMAFEST is an after-show party that starts at 4pm Friday and continues through all day Saturday. Bob and I skipped the party though, after being on our mid 70's legs all day and walking over a mile to catch the shuttle to our condo, we were ready for a rest!

(Be sure to check out some of Gary's pics from the show in the Photo Gallery.)

Big Money Winner

Chalk another win for Arnie in the 50/50 department. Yep, number 3 in a row grossed Arnie another \$42.50 in the drawing. Add this to his September win of \$51 and his October win of \$62.50 for a total of \$156.00. Who says it doesn't

pay to be a member of the Corvette Cruisers? I sure hope Arnie is buying a lottery ticket with some of those winnings.

Happy Birthday

Bob Dutcher on the 3rd, Tina Ericsson on the 21st, Arnie Ligi on the 27th, and Keith Hardin and Alan Segal on the 29th. May you enjoy many more.

Happy Anniversary

Keith and Cindy Hardin and John Bayliss and Susan MacCracken are celebrating more than Christmas. Happy Anniversary to both couples.

*** A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR ***

May your holiday be rich with love, warm with friendship, happy with good health, and blessed with the joys of the Season. I have enjoyed bringing you the news of the Corvette Cruisers this past year and look forward to another year of recording Corvette Club memories. Here's wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a happy, healthy, 2024.

Jean



Our Celebrity Couple

While cleaning up some files, I happened to run into this clip of Keith and Cindy Hardin talking to a reporter as to why they chose Margaritaville as their home. Hope you enjoy it. They did an excellent job.

<https://www.news-journalonline.com/story/money/business.2021/12/03/margaritaville-jimmy-buffett-hotels-retirement-communities-worldwide-lifestyle-brand/8852977002/>

Corvette Clips

#1: A fleet of roughly 100 brand-new 2024 Corvette units were recently spotted stored at a parking lot in Pontiac, Michigan. The exact reason why all these new mid-engine sports cars were stored there is unclear at this time, and GM has not responded. Why the 2024 Corvette units are in Michigan, rather than in Kentucky near the GM Bowling Green facility, remains a mystery.

#2: There were no Chevy Corvette discount offers during the month of November, and no special financing or lease incentives either. This tells you that Corvette is selling on its own merit. No monetary coaxing required.

#3: Two-time Heavyweight Champion of the World, Olympic Gold Medalist, famed purveyor of fat-wicking grills, Christian minister, and father of a lot of sons (all named George), George Foreman is one of the most interesting and charismatic public figures in American history. What few people know about the guy is that he is a car fanatic with a soft spot for American iron. Like any true car enthusiast, Foreman has put a great deal of his money into his four-wheeled toys. Now, at the age of 74, he has decided to

partner with Hagerty and its new online vehicle marketplace to list more than 50 of his prized rides for auction between now and December 21st, 2023. These start with a stunning Tuxedo Black 1961 with Sateen Silver coves and red interior. Under the hood lurks the most powerful non-fuelie available: the mighty 270-horse twin four-barrel carb 283, which is mated to a four-speed manual transmission. True mileage is unknown, but the odometer reads only 9,808. Offered at no reserve with 27 days on the clock, Foreman's C1 is sitting at just \$32,000 as of this writing. Next up, is arguably the most desirable car under Foreman's guardianship – a 1963 Split-Window Coupe. Gleaming in Sebring Silver over red, this '63 features the four-speed manual transmission and powers its rear wheels with the famed fuel-injected 327. If you're interested to see what these cars bring, or if you wish to place a bid, go to www.Hagerty.com and scroll to George Foreman.

#4: One new Corvette color for 2024 seems to be causing a lot of interest, and that is the Cacti Green. One either hates it or loves it. Though production of this color has yet to materialize, it can be seen in other GM cars, a fact that has created a sore spot for many Corvette owners.

