

# Venice Vette Gazette



## September 2011 Venice Florida Corvettes Club Newsletter

Sponsored by Bill Buck Chevrolet

### Club Web Site:

[www.venicefloridacorvettes.com](http://www.venicefloridacorvettes.com)

Newsletter Editor: [Bill Sabatino](#)

Deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the Tuesday before the club meeting.

## Executive Board

|                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| President                | <i>John Wessel</i>    |
| Vice President           | <i>Jim Vautrin</i>    |
| Treasurer                | <i>Tony Berta</i>     |
| Secretary                | <i>Sue Marchiando</i> |
| Membership Director      | <i>Ron Wencil</i>     |
| Immediate Past President | <i>George Buday</i>   |

## Committees Chair Sub-Chair

|                        |                       |                        |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 2012 VFC Car Show      | <i>Jim Vautrin</i>    | <i>Vice President</i>  |
| Corvette Clubs Liaison | <i>President</i>      | <i>Vice President</i>  |
| Membership             | <i>Ron Wencil</i>     |                        |
| Newsletter Editor      | <i>Bill Sabatino</i>  |                        |
| Quartermaster          | <i>Al Royal</i>       | <i>John Marchiando</i> |
| Secretary/Admin.       | <i>Sue Marchiando</i> | <i>Diana Mitchell</i>  |
| Social Activities      | <i>Barb Sabatino</i>  | <i>Chris Maurer</i>    |
|                        |                       | <i>Chris Schmehl</i>   |
|                        |                       | <i>President</i>       |
| Sponsor Liaison        | <i>John Vidas</i>     |                        |
| Sunshine Celebrations  | <i>JoAnn Royal</i>    |                        |
| Technical Committee    | <i>Jim Vautrin</i>    |                        |
| Treasurer/Finance      | <i>Tony Berta</i>     |                        |
| Web Master             | <i>Don Kerndt</i>     |                        |

## President's Message

We are into the last half and almost the last quarter of the year 2011. Hard to imagine where all the time went which means, if you are like me, you have kept busy. This being September means we have several things going on in the VFC Club that I want to remind you of.

### September 6<sup>th</sup> Submittal of any proposed changes to VFC Club Constitution & By-laws:

Any club member may propose an amendment to our constitution & by-laws. Proposed amendments shall be in writing and presented to the Executive Board, not later than the regular general meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Board has already appointed a Constitution & By-law Committee to evaluate such proposed amendment(s). Any amendments approved by the Constitution & By-law Committee will be presented to club members for review and consideration not later than the regular general meeting in October. Voting by club members on proposed changes will take place at the same time as election of club officers in November.

### September 7<sup>th</sup> Ballot regarding club cash-on-hand:

On September 7<sup>th</sup> you will receive a ballot by email that you will complete and email back to the club secretary Sue Marchiando. The VFC Executive Board has determined 3 separate options for members to vote on regarding our cash on hand situation. You will vote for only one of the three options. The option with the most votes, based on those members who vote, will be implemented. You must have your ballot filled out and emailed back no later than September 12<sup>th</sup> for it to be counted.

### November election of VFC Club Officers for year 2012:

For 2012 we will be electing the following four (4) open VFC

club officer positions:

1. Vice President
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Membership Director

*Any member* who wishes to be nominated, or self nominates, shall appear on the ballot (note: all candidates must be a member for a minimum of one year). Voting will take place in writing or via email to the Secretary by November 20<sup>th</sup>, with results announced at the December membership meeting.

**Now is the time for you to announce your intentions to run for VFC office**

*John Wessel – VFC President*

## Vice President's Message

Many of us have chosen this great state of Florida to be our new permanent home. We have relocated from every state in the union. Why, because we discovered that in spite of a few hot days in the summer and an occasional hurricane, life here is almost perfect. We all travel back to our former home state to visit family and friends and what happens? The weather is scorchingly hot, temperatures above 100 dg. and very rainy and we are happy to get back home. Our northern friends and snowbirds feel that Florida is too hot. We rarely get temperatures above 96 dg. and every now and then a rough storm. As of this writing, the entire east coast of the United States is under a severe watch from hurricane Irene. Please don't blame my wife Irene for that. As of this writing, Saturday, New York City is in a lock down in preparation of being blown away. Life here is not so bad after all.

Think about it, we have car shows twelve months a year and several every weekend. Speaking of car shows, I am in the process of finalizing our 2012 car show flyer. This year we may have a new car class added to our show. A request to add a "modified class" has been made and we are working out the final details to determine if this will fly. If so, this could possibly add additional cars attending the 2012 show and in this economy we need all of the cars that we can get. A perfect example is the annual "Corvettes @ the Pier" show over Labor Day weekend. This show is always a sellout. This year they struggled until last week to get 100 vettes to attend the show. We are striving to make our show a success in spite of a declining economy. We are trying a different approach this year to cut expenses but not the quality that all other clubs have come to know in the past.

As I have mentioned previously, we cannot handle a car show of this magnitude without our loyal members helping out and I thank you in advance for your support and loyalty.

*James F. Vautrin, Vice President*

## Upcoming Activities & Events

Venice Florida Corvettes monthly meeting is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Venice Community Center.

- Sept. 3\* **Corvettes @ the Pier – St. Petersburg -contact John Marchiando**
- Sept. 6 **VFC Meeting – Left Coast Seafood Restaurant – contact John Wessel**
- Sept. 17 **Vettes @ the Beach – Pensacola Beach – contact Jim Vautrin**
- Sept. 18 **Lunch at BrewBerger's Pub & Grill – Venice - contact Barb Sabatino**
- Sept. 23-25\* **Key West trip W/Naples Club – contact Jim Vautrin**
- Sept. 29 **VFC Board Meeting – Venice Community Center – contact – John Wessel**
- Oct. 4 **VFC Meeting – Venice Community Center – contact John Wessel**
- Oct. 9 **Corvettes @ the Beach – Flagler Beach – contact Jim Vautrin**
- Oct. 22 **Dimmitt Corvette Show – Clearwater – contact Jim Vautrin**
- Oct. 22\* **Vettes on the Ave. – Melbourne – contact John Wessel**

\* Caravan planned

## Quartermaster Corner

*Look for John Marchiando at the September meeting with the Quartermaster suitcase. He'll have all the essentials, the Club tees, Henleys, caps, visors, decals and patches. The full Quartermaster team will return for the October meeting. We'll set up a display of all the items we have available! Visit us then to see samples of the new Club jackets and golf type polos that you can use for sizing. Cool weather is just ahead. We'll have samples of the Club long sleeve tees and sweat shirts. Not too early to think about Christmas we have a couple of pairs of the sterling silver Club earrings and a few pendants. Because of minimum order quantities they will not be re-ordered any time soon. Many other items too! And as always, we are open to suggestions for new items to add.*

*Quartermaster Al Royal*

## Board Meeting

If you would like to bring up a topic for discussion or you're just interested in what goes on at the executive board meeting come join us. The meeting is open to all members. The meetings are at the Venice Community Center at 7pm (see calendar for date).

## 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 me and I will distribute them to the proper people for consideration. [Bill Sabatino](#)

Happy Anniversary September

# Corvette Trivia

1968 to 1982 - Did you know?

- Pontiac almost beat Chevrolet to the Coke bottle design body, with their 1965 Bashee, a two seater convertible sports car that would have been heft competition for the Corvette. GM stopped it, and the Pontiac president John DeLorean later became president of Chevrolet.
- T-top does not refer to the shape of the roof, but rather it is short for Targa Top. The original design was a pure Targa but body flex demanded the center bar, discovered late in the design.
- Due to policy changes in Chevrolet, Corvette was treated like all other car lines for the first time, and quality dropped drastically. With bad publicity in most magazines, policy was re-thought and Chevrolet quickly restored independence and quality to Corvette within a few months, but all 1968s carry the stigma of being "the worse quality" of all Corvettes.



Guy & Terri Candido 1st  
 Bill & Sandra Fagin 3rd  
 John & Rosemarie Graig 5th  
 Brad & Lynn Fales 5th  
 Roland & Mona Saindon 14th  
 Steve & Rosemary Adiletto 15th  
 Ron & Linda Wencil 18th  
 Dave & Rosann Dunham 30th

# Membership Corner

Welcome - Steve and Cindy Brown to VFC  
 Steve and Cindy reside in Punta Gorda, FL  
 Driving a 2005 Red Coupe  
 Occupation - Retired TVA Project Eng.  
 Originally from Chattanooga, TN

*Ron Wencil - Membership*

# September Celebrations

Happy Birthday September



|                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Patricia Mihai 3 <sup>rd</sup>   | Shirley Brown 17 <sup>th</sup>     |
| Blake Brown 5 <sup>th</sup>      | Guy Candido 17 <sup>th</sup>       |
| Gretchen Brooks 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Randy Hanson 17 <sup>th</sup>      |
| Bob Schmehl 8 <sup>th</sup>      | Charlie Zuberer 21 <sup>st</sup>   |
| Rosemarie Graig 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Robert Cox 23 <sup>rd</sup>        |
| Sheryl Halpern 10 <sup>th</sup>  | Kathy Brunt 26 <sup>th</sup>       |
| Donna Estle 11 <sup>th</sup>     | Kent Mitchell 26 <sup>th</sup>     |
| Donna Hazeltine 15 <sup>th</sup> | Sandra Fagin 27 <sup>th</sup>      |
| Curt Norton 16 <sup>th</sup>     | Angela Mason 28 <sup>th</sup>      |
| Trish Kranz 16 <sup>th</sup>     | Christine Kirtley 28 <sup>th</sup> |

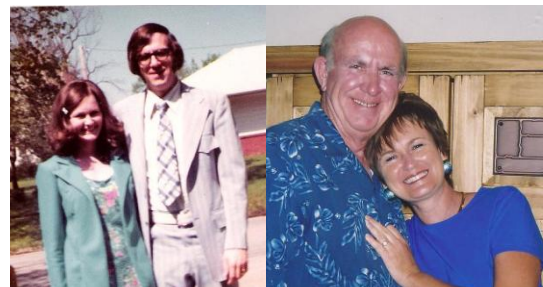
# Guess Who

Do you recognize the members in the following picture???



The answer will be in next month's newsletter.

Last month's answer:



Curt & Carolyn Norton

If you would like to stump the viewers send your pictures to [sabatino.fl@gmail.com](mailto:sabatino.fl@gmail.com)

## Ponderisms

- Healthy is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
- Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

## Warning!!!

Here is INFO worth the price of your car....

What will the car thieves think of next?

The car thieves peer through the windshield of your car or vehicle, write down the VIN # from the label on the dash, go to the local car dealership and request a duplicate key based on the VIN #.

I didn't believe this e-mail, so I called a dealer and pretended I had lost my keys. They told me to just bring in the VIN #, and they would cut me one on the spot, and I could order the keyless device if I wanted.

The Car Dealer's Parts Department will make a duplicate key from the VIN #, and collect payment from the thief who will return to your car.

He doesn't have to break in, do any damage to the vehicle, or draw attention to himself. All he has to do is walk up to your car, insert the key and off he goes to a local chop shop with your vehicle.

It is that easy.

To avoid this from happening to you, simply put some dark tape (electrical tape, duct tape or medical tape) across the VIN Number Metal Label located on the dashboard.

By law, you cannot remove the VIN, but you CAN cover it so it can't be viewed through the windshield by a car thief. I slipped a 3x5 card over my VIN NUMBER.

## August Dinner Meeting

There were approx. 60 people who attended the August meeting at the Olde World Restaurant and enjoyed a good dinner.



We welcomed potentially four new members from the Charlotte County Corvette Club and hope that they join us asap.

*Reporter Jim Vautrin*

## Florida

**YOU KNOW YOU ARE IN FLORIDA IN JULY WHEN. . . .**

- The birds have to use potholders to pull worms out of the ground.
- The trees are whistling for the dogs...
- The best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance.
- Hot water now comes out of both taps.
- You can make sun tea instantly.
- You learn that a seat belt buckle makes a pretty good branding iron.
- The temperature drops below 95 and you feel a little chilly.
- You discover that in July it only takes 2 fingers to steer your car.
- You discover that you can get sunburned through your car window.
- You actually burn your hand opening the car door.
- You break into a sweat the instant you step outside at 7:30 a.m.
- Your biggest bicycle wreck fear is, 'What if I get knocked out and end up lying on the pavement and cook to death?'
- You realize that asphalt has a liquid state.
- The potatoes cook underground, so all you have to do is pull one out and add butter, salt and pepper.
- Farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying boiled eggs.
- The cows are giving evaporated milk.

Ah, what a place to call home. ..God Bless The State of FLORIDA!!!

# Muscle Car City

It was your typical August hot humid SW Florida day but nothing slows down Corvette enthusiasts when it comes time to hit the road.



VFC Club was invited to join Bay Area Corvette Club (Clearwater, FL) for a day trip to the Muscle Car City museum in Punta Gorda. Sixteen (16) Corvettes from BACC pulled off I-75 at exit 195 and joined up eight (8) VFC Corvettes for the caravan to Punta Gorda. We picked up three (3) additional Corvettes along I-75 at exit #170 + one (1) additional VFC Corvette at the museum.



Twenty seven (27) Corvettes pulling into Muscle Car City museum was a beautiful sight. Many of us had not been to this museum before to see all the GM products including Corvettes from 1954 through 2010, along with a few other manufactures brands. You could hear multiple conversations throughout the museum about the cars many of us had back in the 60's that looked like some of those on display. Charlie Zuberer is a verbal encyclopedia regarding technical and mechanical features or options on just about anything built from 1955 going forward. It was interesting just following Charlie around the museum and taking advantage of his knowledge.



Some of us had lunch at the museum but wished we had waited until we arrived at Benedetto's Steakhouse & Martini Bar on the water in downtown Punta Gorda.



About twenty five (25) people from both Corvette Clubs found their way to this pit stop. If ever in doubt about where to go in Punta Gorda contact Jim & Irene Vautrin. They know all the places whether by foot, by boat or by car – amazing. It was relaxing and good fellowship sitting on the water of Charlotte Harbor talking about Corvettes.

*Reporter John & Jane Wessel*

# Old Florida



It was a brilliant August, Sunday afternoon and 41 of the finest members of our club met to take a casual drive North on I-75 to a secluded camp ground restaurant named Linger Lodge.



Upon entering the restaurant you stepped back in time to yester year. There were stuffed animals in glass cages, hanging from the ceiling and a tribute to our armed forces hanging on the wall directly in front of us.





The service and food was equal to other fine restaurants that we have frequented in the past. After a long and energetic dinner we all headed our separate ways home. Oh, did I mention that as soon as we were on the interstate, the rain was so intense that you had a hard time seeing the roadway.



Three quarters of the way home the rain lightened up and a beautiful rainbow emerged from behind the dark clouds that almost made up for the wet trip home. Naturally I stopped several times to do what I do best, I took several pictures of the amazing seven shades of the rainbow that God had put together for everyone to gander at during the completion of their safe trip home.

A good time was had by all.

Reporter Jim Vautrin

## Member Businesses

If you have a business and would like to see it displayed in the newsletter, please e-mail your business card to Bill Sabatino.


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