

VENICE VETTE GAZETTE



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VFC Car Show	Mike Heiner & Terry Tracy
Web Master	Don Kerndt
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Contact information for Board Members and Committee Leaders can be found on our **Club Website** [here](#)

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The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the Tuesday before the next scheduled club meeting

President's Message



Happy New Year! I hope the Holidays were filled with joy and fond memories with friends and family.

As your President for 2023 I thought I would say a few words about our club and about me.

The club was formed in 2002 having its first meeting in October that year with eight founding members including John & Gerry Vidas and Red & Sandi Appleby. Charter members that joined in 2003 were Susie Hale, Al & JoAnn Royal, John & Kathy Brunt, Glen & Christine Kirtley and Curt & Carolyn Norton.

So, from these people that owned Corvettes and loved to drive them, Venice Florida Corvettes was born! And how we have grown! Over 200 members and cars.

Ray and I have been members in VFC for almost ten years. We retired and bought our first Corvette. It was red and a convertible, is there any other? We joined the club and haven't regretted it for a moment! We've gone places we never knew about, won lots of trophies over the years, ate great food but most of all made good friends. You are our Corvette family! We may have our differences as many families do, but I believe working together, we can resolve those differences and move on.

My hope for this New Year is that we can all come together and continue to make this the best corvette club in Florida. There are so many places we can see and things we can do together. This club was formed as a social club so owners of corvettes could get in their cars and DRIVE!

Linda Gomes



A Message from our Outgoing President

Hello members, as my roller coaster ride is coming to an end, a new year will bring new ideas with Linda Gomes as our incoming President. As I look back, this has been a year of transition. We finally got to host our annual Corvette show for the first time in two years. It was an outstanding success with perfect weather, lots of great cars and members sharing the fruits of their efforts. Then in May we transitioned to a new website and dumped Constant Contact. We picked up on a variety of events this year with some autocross events and three plus road rallies. Kathy Tracy and the social gang kicked up the events to offer a WIDE variety of events from Karaoke Night to Day Tripping to a clown museum to the Holiday Parade here in Venice. We have done some driving across town, across the state and across the country. Of course, you can always find a spot to dine with the ladies for lunch, the men for breakfast or member meals. It seems we have done a lot in a year and yet as I reflect on the events, I missed a lot of them.

We had two hurricanes, some lingering COVID issues, inflation, and a surge on car prices due to a lack of supply. I know we will lose many members this year. For some, because they sold their car, the price was too good to pass. For others, their interests have changed, or the club didn't fulfill their need. For others, their driving days are limited, or a member passed away. Regardless of how it happens we typically lose a significant number of members each year and new people join the club. We had 97 new members join the club this year bringing new ideas and new interest to our variety of events.

As we move forward, I appreciate the hard work of the Board of Directors. We have worked as a team and had some challenging times. Our Vice President, Dave Nilsen, kicked off the year with bringing autocross to the membership. Our Secretary, Pat Nevius, documented our meetings, kept us current with "Start Your Engines" and chaired the Constitution Review Committee. Our Treasurer, Bill Jereb, kept our finances in order and passed an audit with flying colors. Our Membership Chair, Allan Eckle, gave us humor and tried to inspire new ideas. I am especially thankful to Kathy Tracy and the Social Committee for the numerous events they have brought to the members. Finally, I want to thank our car show chairs, Al Royal and Pete Schwan for a successful show in 2022. I know our 2023 car show chairs, Terry Tracy and Mike Hiener are already working hard planning for the annual show this coming March.

My best suggestion for a new year's resolution is to sign up, get involved, and I promise you will make new friends in the club. This club is a great bunch of people and 2023 will be even better.

See you at the next event,

Rita Raimor

Board Member Messages

Vice President's Message

As Kathy and I return from our European trip to visit Christmas Markets and a sojourn to the frozen tundra of the Arctic Circle to visit Santa's Village and the the long bearded world traveler who spreads Joy throughout the land. I assume the position of Vice President for our club. Kathy has many exciting social events in the works and I look forward to many car events. Please check our website often for the Event Calendar and the drop down menu for Car Shows. Other Car Shows will soon be populated with a large variety of Corvette Events, both locally and afar. I hope to see you soon at our Members Meetings and other exciting events throughout the coming year.

Terry Tracy

Upcoming Activities & Events

Venice Florida Corvettes monthly membership meeting is the 1ST Tuesday of the month at **6:00 pm** at the Venice Community Center.



Click [here](#) to log into our website for a real time up-to-date list of upcoming events

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



Start Your Engines

For weekly updates of VFC events

Food Bank Donations

We will be collecting non-perishable food items at this month's members meeting. Cash or check donations will be given to the designated food pantry for this month. You may also make a donation, 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 fully accepted. As always, **I will be collecting items at the monthly meetings.** Thank you in advance for your generosity.

JoAnn Royal

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 or VFCVenice

If you have any questions on payments, please contact Bill Jereb.

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. Steve Bieglecki sbieglecki@gmail.com

Quartermaster's Corner

We have many **new** VFC items for sale on our club website. Please visit the VFC online store at: <https://venicefloridacorvettes.org/clubstore>

Orders available for pick-up will be brought to each monthly VFC Meeting. Stop by the Quartermaster table to pick up your order, ask a question, look at our inventory of SALE items or just to say hello!

If any member has an idea for items that they might like to see for sale ... please don't hesitate to contact us! quartermaster@venicefloridacorvettes.org

Club shirts and name badges will be ordered for new members from our vendor and available for pick up, typically at the next monthly meeting.

Quartermasters: Bob Bortolot and Sandra Lewis

Celebrations



1/2 Victor Desruisseaux
1/2 Della M Rogers
1/2 Valerie Miller
1/2 Mike Miller
1/5 Joan Brinton
1/9 Alan Keil
1/11 Scot Deagan
1/14 Steve Bieglecki
1/15 Gayle Jereb
1/15 Bill Jereb
1/16 Lynn Hammis
1/16 Russ Hartley
1/17 Dennis Sliepen
1/17 Michael J Walsh
1/17 Theresa Buckman
1/18 Lewis Stogner
1/18 Pat Nevius
1/19 Frank Vassallo
1/19 Steve G Rockow
1/19 Debi Dobies
1/19 Pamela Worcester
1/20 Robert Miller
1/21 Jack Babich
1/23 Peter J Schwan
1/23 Walter Isom
1/23 Jim Kavalieratos
1/25 Cheryl Jennings
1/25 Cindy Dolan
1/25 Jim R Jennings
1/26 DOMINIC J MAZZA
1/26 Ron Coleman
1/27 Terry P Tracy
1/28 Mark J Tryba
1/29 Cindy Miller



- 1/21 Jack & Jodie Babich
 1/23 Jim & Coleen Kavalieratos
 1/27 Terry & Kathy Tracy

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

Membership Corner

Total Members – 457
 Total Memberships – 246
 New Memberships this period (Last 30 days) – 2

Welcome:

Orest Bystriany
Trish Kellermann

(Membership stats are as of the publication of this edition)

Click [here](#) to log into website anytime for a real time up-to-date list of **new members**

Our Corvettes



Generation		Model		Type		Color	
C1	14	Stingray	152	Convertibles	159	White	32
C2	20	Grand Sport	38	Coupes	147	Red	126
C3	17	Z51	49	Total	306	Black	20
C4	8	Anniversary	12			Silver	30
C5	38	Z06	26			Gray	21
C6	72	ZR1	1			Maroon	3
C7	95	Other	28			Yellow	12
C8	42	Total	306			Blue	46
Total	306					Green	3
						Orange	9
						Tan	1
						Purple	1
						Burgundy	1
						Mahogany	1
						Total	306

From the Museum



Corvette Campus Connection

Artifact of the Month: The Biederman Collection



This month we present The Biederman Collection. This extensive, carefully curated collection of newspaper ads, sales materials, magazines, and toys, spanning the history of Corvette going back to the 1950s, was built and donated by founding Museum member, George Biederman.

MORE INFORMATION

Click [here](#) for **all** the latest news from the museum



Our 2022 Banner at NCM

Car Shows & Competitions

Harbor Corvettes Show

12/10

At 8:00 AM on Saturday, December 10, fourteen VFC Corvettes departed from the McDonald's on Laurel Road for the 45-minute trip to the Harbor Corvettes show at the former Muscle Car City facility in Punta Gorda.



Six more member's Corvettes, led by Dave Nilson, joined the caravan at the I-75 entrance ramp from King's Highway. We arrived at the show field at 8:45, in plenty of time to prepare our cars for the judging that began at 10:30.



Many members took their chances at the basket raffle and 50/50 and several were successful at the silent auction. There was a door prize for every registered vehicle.

By the time the trophies were awarded, about 2:00PM, VFC had 29 Corvettes present, enough for President Rita Raimer to accept the Club Participation Award of \$100. That will be donated back to one of the show's charities, the Charlotte Technical College.



There were a lot of Santa Clause themed trophies, and they were quickly presented. If our count is correct, VFC members earned eight of them. Bob Bortolot, John Brunt,

Don Buckman, Ray Gomes, Russ Hartley, Dave Nilson, Bob Spreter, and Jim Vautrin took one home in their beautiful Corvettes.

December is a great time of year for a car show. Not too hot, not too cold. Let's try for 50 VFC Corvettes at the 2023 Harbor Corvettes show.

Reporters: Al & JoAnnn Royal

The Spirit of the Season at the Harbor Corvettes Show

The Harbor Car Show was held on the 10th of December at the Stringray Cafe in Punta Gorda. I spent most of the morning trying to make my 2013, 60 Anniversary Grand Sport presentable. The weather cooperated, but I ran out of time and didn't finish in the money. I must of somehow left an accessory on because at the end of the day after finally having lunch with a close friend (Stingray Cafe was packed all day), the battery was dead. Frantic set in as a lot of participants had already left I tried to jumpstart the car with the help of Ray Gomes, no luck. Then Rita Raimer coaching me to be patient and let the battery cables be in place for a few minutes with all accessories off. Her many years of helping stranded motorists in dire need paid off, and the car finally started. Many thanks to our members who offered help and prevent a call for help. It is truly nice to have such good people in our club.

Reporter: Terry Tracy

Upcoming CAR SHOWS



A VETTE TOGETHER: March 19, 2023

Message from Committee Chairs Recruiting Volunteers for our Car Show

We are seeking volunteers for our car Show on March 19, 2023. **Volunteer opportunities are listed on our website**, and you can sign up for the area in which you

want to work. From the Home page, look for Membership Info (on the top menu bar), then choose Volunteering from the drop-down list. Look though the various opportunities and sign up for one that fits your time and your interests.

We need people to **assist with directing parking** for Registered Cars, the Show Vendors, and Special Member parking. Most of this work is early in the day so you can enjoy seeing the rest of the show.

Our **Photographer needs two assistants to stop cars for a photo op after they enter**, to help him keep list of the cars and to hand out information about how they can get their photos. This is from 8-10 am. Contact **Scott Eckman** if you can help.

Our new Quartermasters, Bob Bartolot and Sandra Lewis need **help at at the t-shirt sales table**. They will devise a shift schedule for their volunteers. **Email them** or volunteer on the website (Home/Membership information/Volunteering/T-shirt sales - it is on the second page of the volunteering opportunities.)

Bill St Clair needs help early in the morning of the Show to **set up tables, tents, etc.** Sign up on the website.

50/50 sales needs people to sell tickets at the 50/50 sales table and to walk around the Show promoting the sale of 50/50 tickets.

There are other volunteering opportunities... check them out - then step up to help.

The annual VFC Show is always well attended and we have a well deserved reputation for the professionalism of our organization and the friendliness of our Club members. We hope you will join our team.

Competition/Behind the Wheel Events

- **Peace River Corvettes Club is having a Photo Rallye on Sunday, January 8, 2023.** This is to benefit Special Olympics. It starts at 10:30 am and finishes at the Eagles Club with lunch. See the flyer and link on our event calendar for more information.
- **Autocross** has been cancelled for the remainder of 2022. The site is in use for Hurricane recovery crews. They hope to resume in January.

Social Events, Special Interest

Additional Holiday Parade Photos

These photos came in after publication of the December Gazette.



VFC Christmas Party

12/3

The annual Christmas Dinner and Dance was, once again, held at Plantation Golf and Country Club. The date was Saturday, December 3. After gathering at the bar for a bit of Christmas cheer, members headed to their table where they enjoyed salad, their choice of dinner entrees and dessert. Guests were entertained by DJ Jim Dandy who got many up and dancing. Kathy Tracy has been making party favors and this year's favor was a decorated charger plate. All had a great time and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.



Reporter: Kathy Tracy

Tech Events, News & Workshops

Tune into the Corvette Blogger for the latest Corvette news



Click on the link below to find out about everything Corvette - America's Sports Car! Join Steve Garrett, as he talks about what's going on in the world of Corvette. Hear guests from the industry along with the latest news and information about the Corvette.

<http://www.anchor.fm/steve-garrett>

Corvette sub-brand and SUV on the horizon?

By: Don Sherman, Hagerty Media



Thanks to the astute engineering and fetching design GM invested in the long-awaited, mid-engine, eighth-generation Corvette, it has become the automaker's hottest property. New Stingrays are sold out. Used C8s command over-sticker prices. For a spot on the 670-horsepower Z06's waiting list, passionate fans are begging dealers.

Credible rumors and top management projections point to even more excitement on the horizon. Half-a-dozen additions to the C8 family before the clock strikes 2030 will rouse unprecedented interest in America's only sports car. GM President Mark Reuss recently mentioned two new editions without providing much detail. He differentiated them by referring to one as "electrified" and the other as "full electric" while touting GM's goal of adding 30 new BEVs to its roster by 2025.

E-Ray

Some of this should sound familiar, especially if you read my [deep-dive article from last May on the future Corvettes](#). "Electrified" is code for the Corvette E-Ray hybrid due in a year or so. A battery pack inside the Stingray's hollow center spine, coupled with a 100-horsepower AC drive motor propelling each front wheel and a motor-generator within the eight-speed dual-clutch transaxle will provide improved performance and slippery road poise. Critically, it will also add the ability to drive into European urban centers that prohibit tailpipe emissions. While the 495-horsepower LT2 V-8 is the most likely engine to be tapped for the E-Ray, there's nothing stopping GM from also adding a 670-horsepower LT6 version to the Corvette lineup for those with a thirst for additional speed.



Corvette EV

While Reuss won't expound on any details concerning the "full-electric" Corvette(s) heading our way, we and others have been busy speculating and poking around for answers. The first most likely possibility is a five-door hatchback BEV constructed atop the company's [Ultium skateboard platform](#). The role model here is the [Porsche Taycan](#) Sport Turismo. If the GMC Hummer is the platinum brick in GM's BEV family, this as-yet-unnamed all-electric Corvette will be the company's .50-caliber bullet. GM designers will have their work cut out combining sleekness and reasonable rear-seat access with a credible exterior appearance.

ZR1

To balance out all of these dancing electrons, the coming Corvette ZR1 will be powered by a 5.5-liter LT7 V-8 consisting of the Z06's LT6 engine augmented by two turbochargers. Expect a monstrous 850 horsepower, 825-850 lb-ft of torque, and enough raw speed to make Ferrari engineers weep. While this Corvette's timing is unknown,

we'd expect it to serve as the meat in the coming BEV sandwich. Pencil the ZR1 in on your 2025 calendar.



Corvette crossover

To continue Corvette's growth spurt, there are rumblings (from [Car and Driver](#), among others) that a larger BEV crossover will bow later in the decade under a more formalized sub-brand. Imagine a fully electric Porsche Macan or Cayenne. This brief for this vehicle: ample room and comfort for five adults with sufficient cargo space to support cross-country voyages. GM's hope, one imagines, is that America will be outfitted with conveniently spaced fast charging stations by the time this [Corvette SUV](#) hits our highways.

Zora

To close out the eighth-generation Corvette's lifetime, a remarkable model to be called "Zora" awaits. Picture the union of E-Ray and ZR1 technology, combining forces into a mega C8 good for 1000 horsepower and torque targets GM engineers are striving to meet between coffee breaks. In case you're behind on your Corvette lore, Zora Arkus-Duntov was the Vette's patron saint from the mid-1950s through the mid-1970s and the engineer who identified [the need for a mid-engine powertrain layout](#). For those who can't afford the \$200,000 price tag likely for the Corvette Zora, GM has an appropriate consolation prize in mind: the next-generation Corvette, nicknamed C9. It's not a stretch to imagine the C9 Vette will be a more affordable BEV two-seater with no internal combustion engine in the mix. (To read our comprehensive design and engineering forecast [click here](#).)



Shedding the bowtie?

The potential flurry of coming Corvettes begs one additional question—is this sporting champion about to snip its Chevy apron strings? Given the fact that today's C8 already carries crossed flags inside and out, with

absolutely no Chevrolet or bowtie identification, one could argue that ditching the "Chevrolet" in "Chevrolet Corvette" would be something of a formality at this juncture. Three considerations are almost definitely floating around GM headquarters concerning this subject. The first is fear about rocking the Corvette boat with any break from the Chevy fleet. The second is the strategy of mimicking Genesis' split from Hyundai dealerships, complete with its own distinct (and more high-end) sales and service facilities. The third alternative is Tesla's successful circumvention of the entire traditional sales and service model. Instead, the seller-to-customer dialogue would be all digital, via website and cellphones the way Polestar operates. If service is required, the vehicle is hauled off to a facility for work and a loaner if provided to avoid inconvenience.

While GM would show unprecedented courage with such a dramatic expansion of the Corvette product line, we don't expect the automaker follow Tesla into a fully digital sales and service interface. We'd wager you'll still purchase the next Corvette in person, perhaps in at a stand-alone showroom in which Le Mans victory décor lines the walls in place of Silverado pickup and Suburban banners.

The Man Who Blew Four C8 Transmissions in 10K Miles

By: *Brett Foote, Corvette Forum*

We've seen some blown C8 transmissions out there, but four in one car certainly has to be a record.

While the C8 Corvette has thus far proven to be [a mostly reliable vehicle](#) – with [some exceptions](#) – there is one particular problem area that we've seen pop up a few times among *Corvette Forum* owners – its [dual-clutch transmission](#). Some members have had to get a replacement after just a few thousand miles, which is obviously not ideal. But *Corvette Forum* member [Red Pill](#) seems to hold the unofficial record for blowing C8 transmissions after he just grenaded his fourth after passing the 10k mile mark, as he explains in [this thread](#).

"I wonder if I hold the record for most blown C8 transmissions," he said. "Well, today while making an emergency run to the store, my 2021 2LT C8 dropped its **4th TRANSMISSION** in 10,781 miles. The first two they pawned off as bad valve bodies caused by clogged solenoids. The third one was a new 2022 unit. It only lasted 3,000 miles. After I raised hell over losing three transmissions, they installed a transaxle from the 2023 MY cars and said they had a fix for the earlier issues and I shouldn't have any problems. It went 4,800 miles or so until today. The car made a loud bang and a shudder at about 30 mph and the A8 won't shift higher than 3rd gear."



"I'm starting to seriously reconsider the 3LT HTC I have on order (due to arrive between April and August '23). Never in my life have I had a car that completely bricks transmissions like this. It's just insane. FWIW, I have followed the break-in procedures to the letter each time they've replaced them. In fact, the majority of my ownership has been in some form of break-in or another due to the frequency of failures. I don't track the car, it's bone stock. I live in a rural area and the car rarely sees any stop and go traffic... altogether very easy miles. I'm just at a total loss."

Regardless of how he drives a car, this development is still pretty shocking, to say the least. We see transmissions get used and abused all the time, taking that punishment like a champ. But what is it that makes this particular car eat gearboxes more than most? Well, at least one of the owner's fellow members has a solid theory.



"To me it sounds like there's something wrong with the drivetrain itself that's killing the transmissions," said **Korbek**. "Even if the DCTs as a whole have a 10% failure rate (highly unlikely) his odds of getting four failed units would be one in ten thousand. Not impossible but highly improbable. As it is, I can't imagine more than a 3% failure rate if that, which means millions to one odds of getting four duds in one car. GM should buy the car back and go over every millimeter of the engine and drivetrain with a fine tooth comb. Something in that car is eating transmissions, I'll bet."

One thing's for certain – this is an extremely unusual case. We've seen a handful of blown C8 transmissions out there, but never one car that's exploded three of them thus far. We certainly understand the OP's frustration with this issue, and we're also interested to hear how things ultimately pan out, as well as what you think might be causing this unique issue. So be sure and head over [here](#) to join this fascinating conversation!

Photos: Chevrolet

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 Steve Bieglecki (sbieglecki@gmail.com)

Click on the card for more info about this business