



DECEMBER, 2022, VOL 6-12

NEXT MEETING JANUARY 12, 2023

WWW.VILLAGEVETTES.COM

Visit our website at [www.villagevettes.com](http://www.villagevettes.com) for changes and updates to the schedule

# VILLAGE VETTES CORVETTE CLUB 2022

## ***PRESIDENTS MESSAGE***

I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. I'm sure some of you travelled back north to be with family while others stayed and celebrated with friends. Personally, Ann Marie and I drove up to just north of Atlanta to be with family and I hate driving Route 75 in that area. That said, it was a good time to be with family.

In a few days we will be having our annual Christmas Dinner at Eisenhower Recreation Center. We have what we believe will be a great night of food and entertainment. Everyone in attendance will be given a ticket for a drawing on some bottles of wine. Dinner will be preceded by a VERY short meeting with food being served at 6:45.



On November 8<sup>th</sup> twenty-two of us went to North Carolina to drive the *Tail of the Dragon*. We drove halfway there and spent one night in Dublin, GA. While there we had a pizza party at the hotel where participants had an opportunity to socialize and get acquainted. The next day we arrived in Cherokee, NC where we met up with six others who drove straight through in one day. Harrah's Casino Hotel was right across the street from the hotel where several groups went for dinner. On Thursday the club drove the *Tail of the Dragon* and *The Wolf*, which were not as difficult as I had thought they would be (as long as you kept to the speed limit). Friday and some of us ventured onto other locals while the remainder returned to Dublin for the trip halfway home.

On November 30<sup>th</sup> sixty-one Corvettes and thirty-five Motorcycles caravanned from George Nahas Chevrolet to the Toys for Tots distribution center in Fruitland Park. This year the club was able to donate 1589 toys and \$32,773 in monetary donations.

On December 1<sup>st</sup> the club was once again invited to participate in the annual new car expo at the Orange County Convention Center for. Eleven of our Vettes were showcased on the floor of the convention center in a roped off area. I think they may have been the highlight of the show.

I hope to see you at the Christmas Dinner.

*Rich Rose - President*

**REMEMBER OUR  
\*\*\* CHRISTMAS DINNER/PARTY \*\*\*  
THURSDAY DECEMBER 8, 2022**



***AT THE  
EISENHOWER REC CENTER,  
OMAR BRADLEY ROOM  
OUR PARTY  
STARTS AT 6:30 P.M.***



Congratulations – the new Board Of Directors was installed by the membership at the 22 November '21 General Membership Meeting. The newly elected members will serve a one (1) year term of office extending from 01 January '23 thru 31 December '23. Additional congratulation to Mike GRINDER, who will continue with his responsibility as our NCM Ambassador.

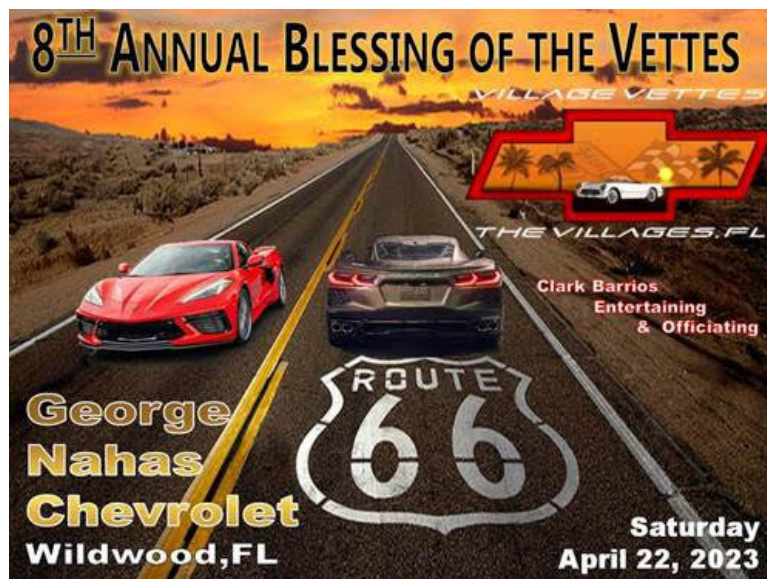
<b><u>2023 Board Of Directors</u></b>	
Office	Candidate
President	Rich ROSE
Vice President	Art DONNELLY
Secretary	Stan COHEN
Treasurer	Al LUTHI
Activities	Wayne JOHNSON
NCM Ambassador	Mike GRINDER



The 8th Annual “Blessing Of The Vettes” event will be occurring on Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the George Nahas Chevrolet dealership. The non-denominational blessing will be officiated by Clark Barrios, Universal Life Church. The event will include a commemorative dash plaque to the first 200 Vettes, an auction of auto related items, a 50-50 raffle, door prizes, and refreshments.

The talented and personable Clark Barrios will be providing a high energy musical performance as well.

#### 8th Blessing of the Vettes DASH PLAQUE 2023 FINAL



An entry fee is a recommended donation of \$5.00/vehicle. All proceeds to benefit our club’s designated charities (Wildwood Soup Kitchen, Village Honor Flight, Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranch, and Operation Shoebox)

Membership is encouraged to register for the event via the club web site  
(<https://villagevettes.clubexpress.com>)



## 8-hour race Bahrain of the World Endurance Championship Season



A little luck combined with a great strategy gave our team a solid second place in the last race of the 2022 World Endurance Championship season. The 8-hour race was on Nov 16 in Bahrain, a territory very familiar to two of our competitors, Porsche and Ferrari, both who have raced there for many years. It was our first time. Nonetheless we came out on the podium.

We did poorly in the qualifying and practice rounds leading us to a last place starting position when the official race started. But the strategy of staying on the track for an additional lap beyond all competitors for the first pit stop paid off. Then luck came into play when a caution flag came out just after we pitted and we were able to gain nearly 30 seconds and go to second place. After the pit stop Tandy took over and held the position to the end of the race.

Great Job, guys!!

But now onto the 2023 season when some things are going to change. First, Nick Tandy is moving on to other ventures and Ben Keating (a bronze rated driver) will be joining the team. The bronze rating is significant since Corvette Racing has decided to move to the far more competitive (i.e. about twice as many entrants) GTE Am class after previously being in the GTE Pro class. The only difference in the classes is that in the “amateur” class at least one driver must be a bronze rated driver – in our case Ben Keating.

The 2023 season starts right here in Florida (Sebring) on March 17. Should be exciting.





# Loves Landing Fly-In

*Photos by Keith E. Jacobson*

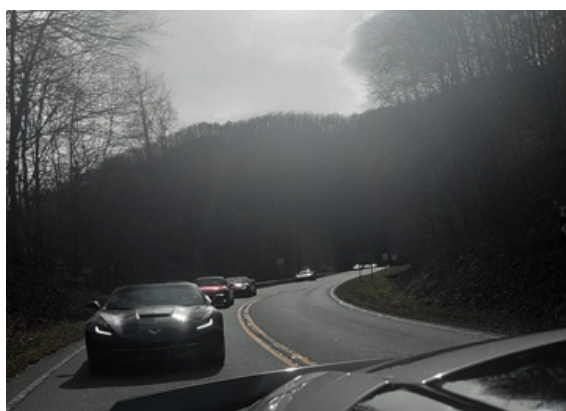




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# Tail of the Dragon

*Photos by Pam Townsend*



# Village Vettes Upcoming Events for Dec. and Upcoming Dates for 2023

## LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

November Club trips started out 11/1 with a D&D to the popular Disney Springs area at the Boathouse Restaurant. 8 cars caravanned down to the Orlando area for an early evening festive dinner followed by a casual stroll around the Disney Springs grounds taking in the Holiday decorations and some special Disney holiday gifts.

Saturday the 5th saw a nice sized group of Corvettes cruise just outside The Villages to Love Field, a private residential airfield located in Weirsdale. Love Field is a private residential community like any other in The Villages area with the exception that each residence also has an airplane hanger attached or nearby. Local pilot John Carlile invited the VVCC to join him and nearly 100 private pilots for his annual fly in and BBQ. John's private hanger was the center of activity for the day as airplanes from all over FL landed and taxied to the parking/display area. Pictures of this unusual outing are posted on the website. Thanks to Tim and Terri Berthiaume for coordinating this event.

Bob Kerfin and Rich/Anne Marie Rose led a group of 14 Corvettes off the reservation and up to North Carolina to the town of Robbinsville NC and home of the infamous Tail of the Dragon mountain trail. Details of the event are still coming in but I did learn the trip was almost called off due to a 30 acre fire on the mountain as a result of a motorcycle crash that started the fire. Thanks to Bob and Rich for doing all the leg work on this long awaited multi day trip. This is one of those events that actually requires a good deal of work up front to make it come off smoothly. Talk to some of this year's participants to see if you don't want to schedule yourself for our next "Tail of the Dragon" trip.

Our final November outing was led by Tony DiSalvo to the Lakeridge Winery in Clermont on Saturday 11/12. Along with the wine tasting and vineyard tour, the group settled in to the excellent little Italian eatery Rodelo's near Arlington Ridge.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 12/8 (Thursday) 28 Spots Available

Dress up in all your Holiday finery for the VVCC Holiday Party at Eisenhower Rec Center with a catered buffet put on by FMK Restaurant Group (as in Chop House, Bluefin and Harvest). You'll be entertained by Steve Robinson known as Jazzman Steve before, during and for your dancing delight after dinner. Mike White is heading up this annual event. Please go to the website to register for this fantastic event.

Welcome to Don DiBartolomeo and Dylan Todd for stepping up and volunteering to work on Club Activities and D&D Events in 2023. They will be valuable additions to the Activities Group as we look to expand the opportunities for you to expose FL and the local area to America's Sportscar while sharing the experience with old and new friends from VVCC. I'll be continuing to be involved in VVCC Events and D&Ds in a support role but I want to take just a line or two to thank all the members who have volunteered over the last 18 months to help plan and execute some of the club's best outings ever and I want to encourage you all to get more involved in making this the best car club in The Villages. We've learned a lot and have enjoyed a number of great get-togethers. Please remember, we need volunteers to be **Group Leaders** so we can add even more exciting and unusual VVCC outings. See Dylan, Don or myself now to volunteer as Group Leader and you can choose the event to lead. It's easy and we will walk you through the process.

If we cannot attract enough GL volunteers, it will become necessary to amend the calendar and cut back on events and Drive/Dines. Don't let that happen!

## Village Vettes Upcoming Events for Dec. and Upcoming Dates for 2023

### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

1/17/23 (Tuesday)  
D&D TBD

1/26/23 (Thursday)  
D&D TBD

1/31/23 (Tuesday)  
Cooper's Hawk Winery Orlando

2/5/23  
Duck's Dam Diner Ocklawaha

2/9/23  
D&D TBD

2/25/23  
Inn On the Gulf New Port Richie

### WE NEED YOUR INPUT

The Activities Committee is discussing a couple of projects we would like some input on from you.

The first, is a VVCC Casino Night probably in the September/October time period to raise funds for our charity efforts here in The Villages area. It would be closed to non Club participants although guests would be allowed. We would hold the Casino Night in one of the Regional Rec Centers (hopefully Eisenhower) with games provided by an outside vendor. Participants would purchase chips or script for cash and would play for prizes not cash per state law. Dealers and/or table managers would be made up of VVCC volunteers. We would hope entertainment would also be provided with food/beverages supplied by participants. Please

consider if you'd be interested and likely support such an event and we'll discuss at the November General Membership meeting on 11/10. There's a good deal of front work planning involved in pulling this off so we want a comfortable feeling before we invest the time and resources. We're looking for a fun evening with something unique for the Club.

Secondly we are considering developing a 2023 VillageVettes poster made up of posed pictures of members and their rides including name and model/year. We will work to keep costs at a bare minimum and will have a "ballpark figure" before we proceed. Participating members will share those costs. Again this is going to require a good deal of planning and front work but I'm including a copy of such a poster developed by Sunshine State Cougar Club which I saw at the NPD tour last week in Ocala. Due to lead times I'm guessing we'd do a couple of photo days early Fall for completion in time for snowbirds to take their copy home with them in the Spring. Please think about your willingness to participate and support. To be discussed on 11/10 meeting.

Thanks  
Please call with any questions  
Wayne Johnson  
Activities Director  
(586)-612-6991

***For more information about our  
events go to [www.villagevettes.com](http://www.villagevettes.com)  
and click on the Calendar.***





## AMBASSADOR

Michael Grinder, VVCC Ambassador; Email: [socratesjac@aol.com](mailto:socratesjac@aol.com) ;  
Cell: (703) 282-3083



This month, I will concentrate on something we all need and some of us despise dealing with: automobile insurance. Specifically the insurance offered by the National Corvette Museum (NCM) insurance office. And, yes, my wife and I have both our Corvette and our vintage 1975 Bricklin insured with them. We changed from a well known and well respected National carrier principally because of the agreed value feature. So, here goes.

### **Museum Membership Requirement and Contact Information**

You do not have to be a NCM member in order to be covered by NCM Insurance although you would qualify for some sort of discount if you are an NCM member. Also, the insured car does not have to be a Corvette. The Insurance office had been located on the initial fairway of the Museum where the new cars are delivered. They have been temporarily moved off site pending office renovations. However, they can be reached by phone (877-678-7626), the internet at <https://www.ncminsurance.com> or by e-mail at [info@ncminsurance.com](mailto:info@ncminsurance.com)

### **Agreed Value**

For us, one of the very important features of NCM insurance is the agreed value. This was especially important for our vintage car although we insured both it and our 2021 C8 using agreed value. For older cars, like our 1975 Bricklin, you may find other insurance companies depreciate the value of the car due to age. We were afraid that if something totaled our vintage car we would be given a meager amount based on the 47 year old age of the car. We have a LOT more invested in the car with a modern drive train (high performance nonetheless) than we would expect from our National carrier. So, we decided to take advantage of the agreed value and avoid depreciation of both the 1975 Bricklin and the 2021 Corvette.

### **Mileage Option/Limitation**

The NCM Insurance is not meant for your daily driver and they will tell you that almost immediately. You can choose from multiple mileage limits such as 1000, 3000, or 6,000 miles and the unused miles rollover for the new year. Additionally, you can opt for other features such as "Occasional Commuting to Work" which gives you the option of using your covered car to get to work twice a week --- for those of us who still do that sort of silly thing. Another option is coverage for "High Performance Driver Education – HPDE" which is track coverage. One of the HPDE options is Single Event Coverage which insures you for up to five times a year.

Buying insurance and protecting our "toys" is a very personal activity and the NCM Insurance plans may not be for everyone. They do, in my opinion, deserve a look to see if they meet your needs at a good price with excellent service. My experience in calling the office and arranging the appropriate insurance was very straight forward. The only thing I had not expected was the need to provide images of all four views of the vehicles. Gave me the excuse to go out for a while, find a nice location, and take "beauty" shots of the cars.

My contact information is at the beginning of the article and I am more than willing to help in any way I can. Although, I will say that the quickest way to get answers to your questions is to contact the Insurance office directly.

**Interested in supporting the National Corvette Museum by joining or renewing your membership? The easiest way to accomplish that is to go to the Museum website at [CorvetteMuseum.org](http://CorvetteMuseum.org).**

# The Horrific Case Of The Death Of Mickey Thompson

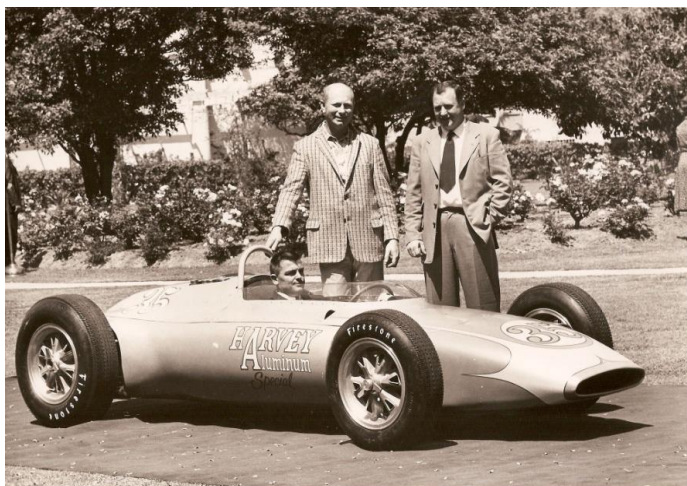
**This is the story of how an automotive rivalry turned into a scene straight out of the Godfather.**



If you're a car enthusiast, then you know the name Mickey Thompson exceptionally well because of his incredible reputation for high-quality racing tires and penchant for breaking and making more speed records than practically any other racing icon in history. Whether we're sending our Hellcat's tires screaming down the dragstrip at hundreds of miles per hour, taking our built-to-handle vehicles to autocross, or simply browsing an automotive catalog, that famous name will almost certainly surface at one point or another. However, many people are unaware of the tragic fate that he and his loving wife Trudy would experience and the incredible mystery that followed. So what is this terrifying tale that has plagued the automotive community for over 34 years?

First, a little background surrounding the events leading up to the event. Mickey Thompson had spent his career breaking land speed records and racing around the globe in road racing and drag racing. One particular record set by the famously innovative Mickey was a speed of 406.6 mph in his four-engine "Challenger 1" car, which made him the first American ever to hit 400 mph on land. Eventually, he wanted to get involved more with the business side of things by selling custom parts and tires. This led him to Mike Goodwin, who was said to have been a ruthless businessman and a bit of an arrogant jerk. Mickey struck up a deal with him which soon fell apart due to Goodwin's inability to abide by the terms of the agreement, which resulted in a massive \$800,000 lawsuit.





Verbal threats were made on Goodwin's part, which was not uncommon when dealing with Mike. Many colleagues testified that he would regularly make threats and become physically violent with anyone who wouldn't follow his selfish plans. This was confirmed on March 16, 1988, when Mickey and Trudy walked out of their garage only to be met by two thugs who promptly shot the two dead in cold blood.

Mickey was the first to be shot but clung to life for as long as he could after Trudy died. It is rumored that the attackers forced Mickey to watch his wife die as a show of force to anyone unwilling to comply with Mike Goodwin's demands in the future. This was essentially a St. Valentine's Day Massacre situation in which everyone knew who did it but couldn't prove anything for sure.



However, just like the infamous Al Capone, Mike Goodwin was eventually brought to justice over 19 years later after being on the run from the law for ten years in the Caribbean islands. This was accomplished because of a witness who was inspired by a television documentary about the slaughtering of Mickey and Trudy to come forward with new information. Mike had spent the last few weeks leading up to the murders surveying the Thompson house with binoculars. Mike will never see the light of day after being sentenced to life in prison in 2007.





# *Toys For Tots Run*

*Photos by Keith E. Jacobson*

On Wednesday, 30 November '22, The Village Vettes 11th Annual Toys-For-Tots Campaign came to another successful conclusion.

Sixty-one member Vettes along with 35 motorcycles from the Village Nomads rallied at our caravan event partner, George Nahas Chevrolet, to drop-off donations collect, segregate, bag the toys collected, and enjoy coffee and breakfast pastries. Fruitland Park Police Chief, Erik LUCE, and the Wildwood PD graciously provided the needed escort for the caravan's trek to the Marine Corps storage warehouse in Fruitland Park.



Overall, the club's membership was able to collect 1,589 toys and provided a cash donation of \$ 33,861.00 to supplement the Marine Corps League, Colonel Phillip C. DeLong – Detachment 1267's overall effort. Post Caravan, cash donations continue to stream in and the "final" campaign donation figure will be recorded accordingly.



Nahas Corvette Sales Rep, Jon COHAN and General Sales Manager, Rick COLLINS, continued with their support of our club activities in the manner of facilities, staff, refreshments, and a generous cash donation. Roger STOKES and Cindy JAUDON repeated with their enduring, selfless donation of time and effort for the segregating, tallying, bagging the collected toys.

Finally, a heartfelt appreciation goes to membership who continue to support the club's campaign that will offer a significant boost to the tri-county's less fortunate children to enjoy the heartfelt

message of hope and joy that is the Christmas season.





# *Toys For Tots Run*

*Photos by Keith E. Jacobson*





## 11th Annual Toys-For-Tots Campaign

Background – The Village Vettes Corvette Club partnered with the local Marine Corps League, Colonel Phillip C. DeLong – Detachment 1267, in 2012. The initial idea was conceived by former Club President, Pat McDonald. This is the club's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Campaign effort.

This year the Marine Corps League “Toys-For-Tots” program celebrates 75-years (1947) of delivering hope and the Christmas spirit to children. To date, 627 million toys have been distributed to 281 million children.

The overall “numbers” for our club are as follows:

<b><u>Village Vettes</u></b> <b><u>Annual Toys-For Tots Campaign</u></b>			
<b><u>Campaign Year</u></b>	<b><u>Cash Donations</u></b>	<b><u>Toy Donations</u></b>	<b><u>Participating Vettes</u></b> <b><u>(Kick-Off Event)</u></b>
2012	\$ 3, 954.00	780	45 Vettes
2013	\$ 6,040.00	1,028	63 Vettes
2014	\$ 7,215.00	1,127	45 Vettes
2015	\$ 10,070.00	1,860	40 Vettes
2016	\$ 6,040.00	1,170	25 Vettes
2017	\$ 11,219.50	1,473	45 Vettes
2018	\$ 13,352.66	1,684	48 Vettes
2019	\$ 20,345.00	1,548	40 Vettes/ 23 Motorbikes*
2020	\$ 25,600.00	1,400	28 Vettes/ 10 Motorbikes/2 Camaro's**
2021	\$54,403.00	1,246	40 Vettes/ 15 Motorbikes
<b><u>Totals</u></b>	<b>\$158,239.16</b>	<b>13,316</b>	<b>419; 33 Motorbikes; 2 Camaro's</b>



## Welcome New Members

List of New Members as of November 2022

### Klpp and Paula Parker

They live in the Village of Osceola Hills.  
They are from Limon, Colorado and they  
have a 2019 C7, Sebring Orange, Targa

### Phil and Carole Anne Barbaro

They live in the Village of Polo Ridge. They  
are from New Jersey and they have a 2021  
C8, Silver Flare, Targa

### Ernie and Dawn Anderson

They live in the Village of Collier. They are  
from Baltimore, MD and they have a 1974  
C3, White, Vert

*Let's give a warm welcome  
to our newest members!*

## Have your Corvette Featured in Daily Sun

"The Village Vettes Corvette Club has an opportunity to have a car from our club featured in a Daily Sun article in the near future. If you are interested in having your car featured, and it has not been featured in the past, contact Jim Loguidice via email, [jlog323@hotmail.com](mailto:jlog323@hotmail.com), to discuss it in more detail. The club prefers featuring cars that have not had the opportunity in the past but wil consider all owners/cars who are interested."

## CALLING ALL VETERANS

If you served in 1975 or earlier and are interested in participating in an Honor Flight trip to Washington D.C. please contact our President, Rich Rose at [ra\\_rose@hotmail.com](mailto:ra_rose@hotmail.com)

## CLUB HISTORY

We are hoping to archive important information about our clubs begining and growth over the years. If you possess any information or material that you believe belongs in a club archive please contact Paul Bova at [bovapaul@gmail.com](mailto:bovapaul@gmail.com) or call 352-205-2242.

<b>TOTAL MEMBERS 585</b>		
<b>FAMILIES</b>	<b>253</b>	
<b>SINGLES</b>	<b>83</b>	
<b>GEN</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>% Tot</b>
<b>C8</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>C7</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>C6</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>C5</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>C4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>C3</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>C2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>C1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Tot.Vettes=</b>	<b>381</b>	



## VVCC BOARD MEMBERS

### Rich ROSE - PRESIDENT

(908) 752-8788

[ra\\_rose@hotmail.com](mailto:ra_rose@hotmail.com)

### Art DONNELLY - VICE PRESIDENT

(631) 792-2203

[apd.vette@gmail.com](mailto:apd.vette@gmail.com)

### Stan COHEN - SECRETARY

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[marshstan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marshstan@sbcglobal.net)

### Alan LUTHI - TREASURER

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### Wayne JOHNSON - ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

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### Mike GRINDER - NCM AMBASSADOR

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### George BORKE - WEBMASTER

(407) 758-5298

(352) 205-7167

[borkg2006@gmail.com](mailto:borkg2006@gmail.com)

		<b>Body</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>% Tot</b>
		<b>RagTop</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>NCM MEMBERSHIP</b>		<b>Targa</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>NCM FAMILIES</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>T-Top</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>INDIVIDUAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Coupe</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>LIFETIME</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>HTC</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>SENIOR INDIV</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>FRC</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3%</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>381</b>	
		<b>WHEN ARE WE HERE?</b>		
		<b>FULL-TIME</b>	<b>226</b>	
		<b>PART TIME</b>	<b>65</b>	

12/02/22

<b>TOP 10 VILLAGES</b>	
<b>VILLAGE</b>	<b>#</b>
<b>PINE HILLS</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>COLLIER</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>GILCHRIST</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>PENNECAMP</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>LABELLE</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>MCCLURE</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>PINE RIDGE</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>CHARLOTTE</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>FEENEY</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>FERNANDINA</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TOP 10 =</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>ALL OTHERS</b>	<b>217</b>