



JUNE 2022, VOL 6-6

NEXT MEETING JULY 14, 2022

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**

**A**t our upcoming meeting on Thursday, we will have the distinction of having the Marine Corps League, Phillip C. DeLong Detachment #1267 Color Guard to present the colors. This will be followed by a pin presentation to all veterans who served between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975. It applies to all active duty personnel without distinction of those who served in-country, in-theater, or stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War. Come and receive the thanks that you rightly deserve.



On May 29<sup>th</sup> the club was escorted by the Sheriff's Office to the National Cemetery in Bushnell for *Flags Across America*. This was another event that I was hoping would have a large turnout of members. Well, my expectations were met as we had twenty-four Corvettes in the procession. It took less than one hour to place the flags.

the *Honor Flight* from the Walgreens in Leesburg to the American Legion in Lady Lake. This was the first all-female veteran flight. Their departure from Sanford airport was reported on "Good Morning Orlando" on Tuesday. At the last flight we had 22 Corvettes participate and were hopefully anticipating exceeding that number for this flight. Well, we fell short of my expectations but still had a respectable 19 Vettes in the procession.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> the club once again participated with the Villages Nomad Club to escort



On July 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be conducting our third annual *Driving the Squares*. Participants will have the choice to start at either Eisenhower Recreation Center or Savannah Center. From those locations we will then caravan through the three squares waving an American Flag. The event will end at the Baker House on Route 44A where we will partake of hotdogs, chips and a beverage. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and this will be a tops down event. Last year we had 88 members participate and I am hoping we can match or exceed that number this year. The net proceeds will be donated to a charity. Come out and show your patriotic pride in our great country. The Board has diligently worked on modifying the method in which we will control members that sign up for an event and then fail to show up. Originally, we were going to impose a \$10 advance fee to all events, which would then be refunded when you attended. This plan has been set aside. The details of the new methodology will be explained at the meeting.

*Rich Rose - President*



## 109 FIRST ALL-FEMALE VETERANS HONOR FLIGHT



There were 109 women veterans (66 Honor Flight and 43 Guardian who were also veterans) a total of 153 including staff and other guardians.

Three buses pulled into the Walmart parking lot on RT 441 in Leesburg and were met by the Village Vettes Corvette Club (23 Vettes), the Village Nomads (66 Motorcycles) and the Villages Miata MX-5 Club (4 Miata's). The Lady Lake and Fruitland Park Police Departments then escorted the caravan to the American Legion on Rolling Acres Road.





## Thank you from a Veteran

A thank you note that went to Bob Kerfin.

Bob- Your Nomads and Corvette Club members hit it out of the park Wednesday night. Everyone on my bus went absolutely nuts when they saw all of your beautiful cars and cycles in the Walmart parking lot and couldn't believe that you were all waiting to escort us when Al Arnold announced that you were. We were fortunate to have the lead bus and most everyone was either out of their seats or straining to look down the middle aisle to see your tail lights strung out just as far as the eye can see, what a sight ! And then as we approached the American Legion Post on Hwy 466, I'm told that everyone down below to welcome us were absolutely beside themselves when they saw the procession of vehicles leading the buses. Then when we had our mission debrief on Thursday the other bus captains were asking if there is anything that can be done on future missions to afford everyone the opportunity to see the beautiful procession of vehicles.

Bob, I can't properly express the impression your group made on our Veterans and Guardians, it was truly a wonderful conclusion to their day and something they will never forget. Please extend our sincere thanks to all the members of the Nomads and the Corvette Club for volunteering their time to honor our Veterans.

Mike Murphy

**Tail lights as far  
as you could see**



**Group picture, waiting for the Buses at the  
Walmart Parking Lot at 11:15 PM**

## Village Vettes Upcoming Events for June, July and Upcoming Dates for 2022

### **JUNE 9 (Thursday)**

**General Meeting & VVCC Parking Lot Cruise In**  
Weather Permitting (rain, excessive HEAT, excessive COLD, high WINDS etc) we will continue our pre-meeting "VVCC PARKING LOT CRUISE IN's" prior to the meeting at Eisenhower. Bring chairs, adult beverages, snacks (to share if you'd like).

### **JUNE 15 (Wednesday)**

#### **LAKE HARRIS HIDEAWAY**

Meeting at Rohan Rec Center at 10:45 AM depart at 11:00 AM

A short drive to the secluded LAKE HARRIS HIDEAWAY situated on the beautiful HARRIS CHAIN OF LAKES here in central Florida. The GOLD STANDARD for elegant outdoor dining (Just Kidding). A really fun place to go for lunch.

### **JUNE 17-18 (Sunday - Monday)**

#### **21st. Anniversary "VETTES at the VILLAGE"**

Annual Peoples Choice ALL CORVETTE SHOW at the spectacular WORLD GOLF VILLAGE, St. Augustine, FL

### **JULY 3 (Sunday)**

Cruise the Squares/Hot Dogs at Baker House

Registration is Open

Group Leaders Don Chaney/Rich Rose

Meet up at 4:00 at either Eisenhower or Savannah Center for a 5:00 pm departure. Convertible tops down or coupe panels stowed, let's cruise the 3 town squares to not only celebrate our nation's birthday but also the anniversary of the first Corvette rolling off the production line in Flint, MI way back in '53. Following your tour of the squares, meet up at the Baker House in Wildwood for a tradition 4th of July favorite-Hot Dogs. Join fellow members in celebrating "Corvette Style". \$12.50 fee collected at registration to defer costs and make a donation to support Baker House.

### **JULY 13 (Wednesday)**

#### **Jeremiah's of Mt Dora Lunch**

Registration opens 6/13

Group Leader John Perrott (302) 379-2512

Meet at Eisenhower Rec Center at 10:30 for a 10:45 Departure. Approximately 1 hour drive to Mt Dora for lunch followed by a casual stroll through the quaint lakeside shops of Mt Dora.

### **JULY 20 (Wednesday)**

#### **Stumpknockers on the River Dunnellon**

Registration is currently open with 13 spots remaining

Group Leader Bob Navigato (847) 385-8789

Meet at Mulberry Rec Center at 4:00 for 4:15 departure. Approximately 1 hour drive through rural Marion County to this unique location on Rt 200. If you've been don't miss the opportunity. Don't confuse the Stumpknockers inverness. This is back country Florida cookin'.

### **JULY 27 (Wednesday)**

#### **Brooksville Bistro, Brooksville**

Registration opens 6/26

Group Leader Wayne Johnson (586) 612-6991

Meet at Eisenhower Rec Center at 4:00 for a 4:30 departure. Approximately a 1 hour drive through rural Citrus and Sumter counties to historic Downtown Brooksville. Enjoy a menu of varied menu to choose on of their Artisan Woodfired Pizza's from the beautiful imported copper oven. Following dinner feel free to enjoy a leisurely walk through historic Brooksville.

### **Upcoming Dates to Remember**

#### **10/18//20 Fall 2022 Color Run**

Registration opens July 8 limited availability

#### **10/25 NPD Tour Ocala**

Registration opens 9/25

#### **11/3-7 Tail of the Dragon NC Tour (Reg TBA)**

Wayne JOHNSON - ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

(586) 612-6991

[wayneoc5@gmail.com](mailto:wayneoc5@gmail.com)

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



Save The Dates - The 11th Annual Village Vettes Toys-For-Tots Campaign Kick-Off event will occur on Saturday, 8 October '22. (11:00 AM – 03:00 PM) Venue will be the Nahas Chevrolet dealership. There will be music, food, games, prizes, auction items, and a 50-50 raffle. Price of admission is a cash donation and/or unwrapped toy. Stay tuned to the Village Vettes web site, <https://villagevettes.clubexpress.com>, for further details.



The Village Vettes 11th Annual Toys-For-Tots Caravan will occur on Wednesday, 30 November '22 at George Nahas Chevrolet dealership (10:00 AM). The event will cap-off our 2022 campaign effort. Always a fun event, the membership will members are invited to tour the facility, observe the process for toy distribution, and meet the staff.



## Corvette WEC Racing in Belgium

### It's Hard to Win when Luck and Mother Nature Are Against You

By: Ron Cullum



Misfortune and Mother Nature worked against Corvette Racing on May 7 as an early-race advantage turned into a fourth-place class finish for our dearly beloved No. 64 Corvette C8.R at the Six Hours of Spa.

Tommy Milner and Nick Tandy had hopes for a great race since they had done so well in the timing trials. Unfortunately, they finished a lap down in the FIA World Endurance Championship's GTE Pro class.

The race was a disjointed one, to say the least, with a mix of 11 full-course yellow or safety-car periods, plus three red-flag stoppages. All totaled, there were less than three hours of green-flag time in the race.

Tandy started third in class and was in a position to gain track position and potentially the lead by going a lap longer than the rest of the GTE Pro field before his first stop for fuel and tires. An untimely safety-car period for a heavy prototype crash and a subsequent red flag closed the pit entry and exit just before the Corvette could make it into pitlane, which meant Tandy had to stop for a five-second emergency service for fuel.

Not only did that cost Corvette Racing a shot at the lead, it also meant a loss of more than a lap of track position. Due to the sporting regulations, Tandy wasn't allowed to leave the pitlane until the field made a full lap past the pit exit after race officials lifted the red flag. Ouch!

Continuing rain delays and caution flags prevented our car from getting back into the lead lap.



## Meeting your Vice President Art Donnelly

Art Donnelly and his wife Sylvia moved here in 2015 after snow birding for several years. They consider it ironic because they originally met and began their life together in a New York tavern named, THE VILLAGER and now look forward to their final years here in THE VILLAGES.

Growing up in the late 50's and 60's Art has always been a car guy. He spent several years crewing and driving in Demolition Derby's , Figure Eight races and even drove and had a NASCAR Modified license for a while. His first Corvette was a wrecked 1958 that he made into a drag car in 1965. But then he quickly switched to Mopar spending countless hours and money, street racing in and around the New York metropolitan area. In typical fashion, cars took a back seat after marriage but in 1986 Art once again joined our ranks by purchasing a 1985 C4 coupe. In 1988 he added a 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary C4 that quickly became Syl's daily driver. Art has also owned 1965, 1968 and 1972 big block coupes and a 1999 C5 Roadster. His current ride is a 2021 C8 Rapid Blue HTC.

Art was introduced to our club by their friends and fellow VVCC members, Doug and Linda Conti and in August 2015 he and Syl became members. Since then, Art has been our NCM Ambassador, Treasurer and currently serves as our Vice President. Art and Syl have many friends that they have had the opportunity and pleasure to meet within the Corvette Community both here and around the country. They have always considered the friendships and camaraderie that evolved from their many years as Corvette club members as the true treasure of owning a Vette and are eagerly looking forward to meeting new members and continuing their relationships within the Village Vettes Corvette Club.

In March 2023, Syl and Art look forward to celebrating their 46th wedding anniversary and their 25 years in the Corvette Community. They encourage each of you to become more active within the Village Vettes Corvette Club by attending our meetings, club events and parties so that you too can experience the "true treasure" of owning a Corvette.



## AMBASSADOR

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



Well, visitors are gone; travels over at least for awhile, so now perhaps I can actually focus on being your National Corvette Museum ambassador and talk about Museum things. Speaking of which, please find in the following paragraphs words about Hot Wheels display, benefits of Museum membership and, I hope, useful information on automobile bra installation on the C8 generation.

### **Hot Wheels Display**

Mattel has been making Hot Wheels vehicles since 1968 producing 800 models and 11,000 variations and selling four billion (with a “B”). The Hot Wheels display opened May 27<sup>th</sup> and will run until September 25, 2022. Attendees can participate in a variety of events. “This family learning experience provides hands-on opportunities for parents to explain complex physics concepts in fun ways utilizing the popular Hot Wheels toy cars as they experiment with different principles to see which makes a car go fastest,” said Jennifer Pace Robinson, president and CEO of the museum that produced the exhibit: The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis.

“Children and families will love the Pit Stop Challenge in which they can race the clock – and their family and friends – to change tires and refuel cars. A 6-lane downhill speed track, booster power track, adjustable angles track, and timing track are just a few of the ways visitors will be able to test their theories regarding the science of racing and cause and effect. Real race car parts, authentic artifacts, and captivating memorabilia including Corvettes from the National Corvette Museum’s collection will round out the experience” according to the Museum web site.



This should make a museum visit more enjoyable for younger family members and give parents a little respite from what might be a boring visit for the youngsters.

### **Museum Membership: What’s in it for me?**

This is a frequent and very valid question. The National Corvette Museum is a 9.5 hour, 708 mile drive away and that is based on doing exactly the speed limit with no hinderances such as pesky traffic lights or traffic jams. So, that makes the free museum entry benefit a bit questionable unless, like Brooke and I, one makes multiple trips to the Museum per year. What we have found is that the most useful benefit is the 10% discount Museum members get on merchandise from the store. The new membership rates are: \$65 for individual, \$100 for family, \$750 for senior individual (20 years) and, \$200 for individual and \$350 for family for five-year renewal. For this you get:

- Membership card
- NCM member lapel pin
- Free admission to member\*
- Discount on NCM sponsored events
- Annual subscription to America’s Sports Car
- 10% discount on merchandise from the Corvette Store and catalog\*\*\*
- 10% off NCM Motorsports Park Driving Club initiation fee
- Discount on insurance from NCM Insurance Agency
- Discounts on car rentals and hotels
- 20% discount on CARFAX reports

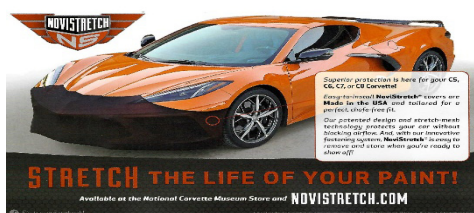




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- \$10 off membership to Air Evac/AirMedCare Network
- Access to Members Only section of website, including Monthly Corvette Calendar Wallpaper and Special Videos
- 

But, let's talk about the 10% discount on merchandise: our experience is that it doesn't take many purchases to reach the \$650 amount resulting in \$65 discount paying for the individual membership. A relatively quick search of the on-line Corvette store revealed a C6 or C7 or Supercharged ZR1 Corvette Lambskin Leather Bomber Jacket for \$339. Add the Corvette Zip Top Black Leather Shopper's purse for \$288 and you not only have some pretty nice gifts but the discount pays for your individual membership. By the way, the \$65 individual membership price takes effect June 15<sup>th</sup>. Up till then, it's \$50 so act quickly. You can find membership application forms on the National Corvette Museum web site.



### **C8 Corvette Bra: "If At First You Don't Succeed" or "Its All About The Shot Glass!"**

One of my best purchases at the at Corvette Museum Store during one of my 4 Bowling Green visits over the last year, was the purchase of the museum-recommended car bra. It was a great buy for about \$150.

So why did I buy TWO bras the last year?

Well, let's try the first purchase to begin with. We took delivery of our 2021 C8 at the Corvette Museum on May 8, 2021 along with several other delighted purchasers one of whom was driving from Bowling Green to Texas. He asked if we were buying the bra and advised we should in order to protect the front of the car and the radiators from errant stones and debris. We purchased the Novistretch bra for \$150 and paid an additional \$15 for it to be installed at the Museum.

All was good, or so we thought. Leaving the Museum, we soon realized that our Novistretch bra covered our HD/ Front and Rear Camera system --- or, at least the front camera which now provided a high-definition image of the back of the bra.



"It's All About the Shot Glass!" Once at home, I tried to cut holes for the cameras. The first bra I tried unsuccessfully to cut "exact" circles around the front cameras. I wish I could show you the video. Bottom line: not good. It was time to reevaluate my hole cutting technique. Enter the shot glass! I purchased the second bra on a subsequent trip to the museum and vowed to do a better job with this one. I installed the new bra on the car and got a shot glass from the bar to use as a guide. I placed the shot glass on the bra over each of the cameras and used a Sharpie to outline the top of the shot glass. I removed the bra and stretched it over the shot glass so the Sharpie circle was on the rim. It is stretch fabric so you must stretch it back to the installed size in order to fit. The final, and important thing, was to singe the Sharpie markings to create a finished, perfect circle. IT WORKED!

The car with the unique bra technique was not exactly the "hit" of the last day of this year's Bash, but it did draw attention. How did you do that? Answer? With a shot glass, a Sharpie, and a product from Hot Wire Foam

Factory that the container says: "cuts polystyrene foam like a knife through butter."

Moral of my story: Some things are so simple the second time around.



## AMBASSADOR

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### Coming Events

The upcoming events from the National Corvette Museum. If you are interested in participating, please contact the museum directly for the most expeditious means of joining these activities. Planning is underway for the 30th anniversary of the museum in September 2024 and Mike White is our Club contact for that.:

**9** Thu **Summer Reading Kick-off: Pirate Party @ The National Corvette Museum! @ National Corvette Museum**  
Jun 9 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**11** Sat **Le Mans Race Weekend**  
Jun 11 @ 7:00 am – Jun 12 @ 10:30 am

**25** Sat **BG Cars And Coffee June Monthly Meetup @ National Corvette Museum**  
Jun 25 @ 9:00 am – 11:00 am

**2** Sat **BG Thunderfest 2022 @ National Corvette Museum**  
Jul 2 @ 5:00 pm – 11:30 pm

**23** Sat **BG Cars and Coffee July Monthly Meet-Up @ National Corvette Museum**  
Jul 23 @ 9:00 am – 11:00 am

### **Museum Raffles**

The NCM is raffling off two C8s in the not-too-distant future: a Anniversary White on June 16<sup>th</sup> and a Red Mist on September 3rd. Car raffles are one of the ways the NCM makes money and it does offer the potential to get a new C8 for very little investment. However, you have to be in it to win it and you can win it. A member of our club won one off a raffle ticket he purchased while taking delivery of his new car. Kentucky law is such that you have to purchase the raffle ticket in Kentucky but there is an easy way to do that. You complete a ticket purchase request and mail it to the museum. Please find ticket purchase forms on the NCM web site. Good luck!!

**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).**



## Non-Z51 Corvette Stingray Units Under Constraint

New Chevy Corvette C8 Stingray owners eager to get the most from their mid-engine sports car are encouraged to opt for the Z51 Performance Package, which adds in a host of go-faster bits that take the C8 Stingray to even-greater levels of performance. Critically, the package may speed up delivery as well, as GM Authority has learned that non-Z51 Corvette Stingray units are currently under constraint.



According to GM Authority sources, units of the Chevy Corvette C8 Stingray not equipped with the Z51 package are currently under constraint due to a supply issue with the Mechanical limited-slip differential (RPO code G0J). The constraint applies to both 2022- and 2023-model-year vehicles.



As a reminder, the Z51 Performance Package includes an Electronic Limited Slip Differential (eLSD, RPO code G96), which replaces the Mechanical limited-slip differential equipped by non-Z51 Corvette C8 Stingray units. The Electronic limited-slip differential is available and only included with the Z51 Performance Package, the latter of which is offered as an optional extra for all three C8 Stingray trim levels. As it stands, non-Z51 orders are currently limited to 375 units a week.

For those who may be unaware, the eLSD differs from the Mechanical LSD in a few crucial ways. Essentially, while the latter unit uses mechanical factors to control the clutch and locking force between the right and left wheels, an eLSD uses the onboard computer to control the lock-up between the two rear wheels via a bevy of data and other inputs, such as tire temperature. The electronic unit allows for a greater range of tuning and control for more confidence-inspiring feedback between the car and the driver, thus encouraging faster and faster lap times.



As a reminder, the Corvette C8 Stingray is equipped with the naturally aspirated 6.2L V8 LT2 gasoline engine just behind the cabin, which is rated at 490 horsepower and 465 pound-feet of torque. Under the body panels, the C8 rides on the GM Y2 platform, while production takes place at the GM Bowling Green plant in Kentucky.



## Lake Sumter Corvettes on the Square





## Don “The Snake” Prudhomme: Still racing at 81



05 May 2022

Steven Cole Smith



SIX-TIME NHRA champion Don Prudhomme made a living piloting eye-catching race cars down the quarter-mile. Early in his career he drove the Hawaiian rail for the Leone family, and in the '70s, he campaigned an Army-sponsored Chevy Monza. But his greatest fame came when he teamed up with Tom “Mongoose” McEwen, and they match-raced their funny cars—the “Mongoose” Duster and the “Snake” Barracuda—in the late-'60s. The pairing caught the attention of Mattel, leading to premium sponsorship for both cars, a line of Hot Wheels toys, and eventually a feature film titled “Snake & Mongoose.” McEwen died in 2018 at the age of 81.

Prudhomme turned 81 last month, as he prepped for a 1000-mile off-road down the Baja California peninsula. Just last year, after his class victory in the NORRA 1000, called it quits on off-road racing. “Yep, I said that,” Prudhomme recalls. “But Baja is just a place that keeps calling me back to try it one more time. I think we can win it again.

“I’m just ready to go—I’m 81 years old, but I still feel like I’m 51.” Aside from a sciatic nerve in his back that keeps acting up, Prudhomme says he’s in amazingly good shape. “I’ve been blessed. And I just got a cortisone shot for the sciatica, so my back should be good to go.”

Prudhomme and racer Dick Firestone (yes, from the tire family) will be racing the retired drag racer’s modified Can-Am UTV once again. “We’ve done some work on it, and it should be a little faster,” Prudhomme says of his wicked-looking side-by-side. In fact, when we spoke to the Snake—a nickname he earned in high school growing up in Southern California—he was taking the shocks from the Can-Am to veteran off-road racer and tuner Walker Evans for some last-minute tweaks. Apparently, it’s a star-studded affair, as P.J. Jones, son of racing legend Parnelli Jones, will be helping out, too. “We’re serious about it,” Prudhomme says. “If we weren’t, we’d have no business heading down there.”



The 1000-mile scramble is sanctioned by the National Off Road Racing Association (NORRA). The first NORRA Mexican 1000 ran in 1967, and eventually transitioned into what we now know as the Baja 1000. The NORRA 1000 is a little more low-key than the , with five days allowed to cover the 1000 miles.

Each year, the route is different, and unlike the Baja 1000, you can’t pre-run this race. You don’t get the chip containing the route for your GPS until the day before the race. Drivers have less than 24 hours to study the downloaded map before they careen off into the desert. “It’s tough,” Prudhomme says. “Some days we’ll do 250 miles, some days 150, but we’ll average 200 miles over the five days.”





The race starts Monday, May 2, and runs through the following Friday. (It is live-streamed at ) The field is comprised of restored vintage race cars, historic vehicles, as well as modern-day, high-tech race cars, trucks, and motorcycles as they traverse the challenging and spectacular landscape of Baja, Mexico.

“I like going fast,” Prudhomme says. “I don’t go *crazy fast anymore, I just go fast.*”

Prudhomme went crazy fast for years. As a teenager, he joined a Southern California car club called the Road Kings of Burbank. “They had a dragster that they took to a track near where I lived, and I got to drive it. I was hooked. Absolutely hooked.”

Prudhomme won his first national event in 1965. (If you have Roku on your television, there’s a 24-hour NHRA drag racing channel, and they’ve been airing vintage black-and-white coverage of the first win for Prudhomme and his rail dragster.) Not long after, he moved to full-bodied Funny Cars. The Snake is one of the few drivers who have won titles in the NHRA’s Top Fuel and Funny Car classes.



Alvin Upshaw/Getty Images



Bettmann Archive/Getty Images



According to veteran Prudhomme, the dragsters are easier to drive, but he preferred Funny Cars, and won four titles in the fiberglass floppers. “They’re a little trickier, but they are the most exciting to drive,” he says. He was also the first Funny Car driver to top 250 mph. Prudhomme eventually retired from driving in 1994 but continued to own winning race teams.



As for drag racing today, “I wish I had a lot of good things to say. It costs so damn much money to be in it professionally,” says “the Snake.” To race, you have to bring a lot of sponsorship, or your folks supply the money, or you marry into it, or something. The cost has run a lot of the good people out. But that’s the way it is with all professional racing. It’s all about money.”

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“I’m glad I came up when I did. It was the golden years, really – the building of the sport, the innovation, the ability to do new things. I’m so glad I raced when I did,” says Prudhomme.

He added: “And I’m happy to be doing what I’m doing now.”

# Ralph R. Teetor:

## Blind Automotive Engineer

May 19, 2022

Learn about the man who invented cruise control and so much more...

In many lists of little-known automotive historical facts is often included a tidbit about the engineer who invented cruise control was actually blind. Yeah, that seems pretty incredible, but that's where the info about Ralph R. Teetor begins and ends for most. That's sad, because the life Teetor lived was inspirational and rich as he left an indelible mark on the automotive industry which extended far beyond just the creation of cruise control.

Teetor wasn't born blind. Instead, he spent part of his childhood in Victorian rural Indiana with the full use of all his senses. However, an accident with a knife at the age of five left him completely blind. His deeply religious parents didn't allow Ralph to feel sorry for himself, an attitude he adopted himself. Pulling himself up by his bootstraps, the boy learned to do what everyone else who could see did, including driving a car and attending college. There was no shortage of doubters, although they were quickly won over once they saw Teetor in action.

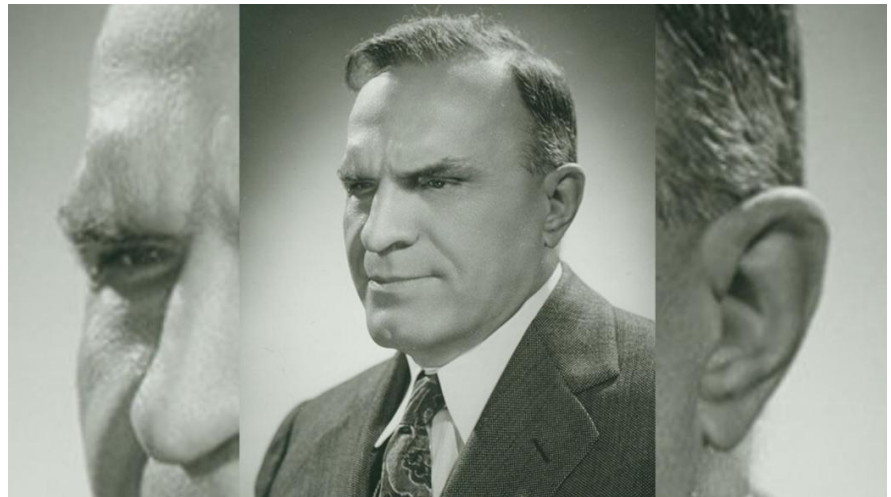
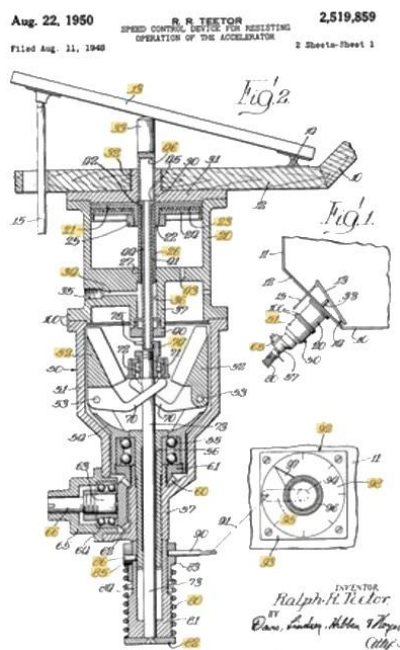


From a young age, Ralph had an intense interest in the work his father and uncles performed as they created maintenance cars for the railroad lines. He learned to work lathes, grinders, and other dangerous machines in the shop without serious injury. In fact, after a while many of the men remarked how the blind boy was more proficient with their tools of trade than them.



Ralph further proved his wherewithal in college, which he completed with the help of a cousin. However, life took him back to the family business, which had transitioned to making components for automobiles. Because the business started to focus mainly on piston rings, the name was changed to Perfect Circle, a brand you might recognize.

Just by listening to an engine, Ralph Teetor could correctly diagnose a mechanical problem. He was famous for this, resulting in his working with a number of people in the automotive industry to diagnose issues, including motorsports teams. You could say he was a car whisperer of sorts.



Of course, Ralph Teetor's most famous contribution to the automotive industry was the invention of cruise control. It was the fuel and tire rationing during WWII which was enforced by a national speed limit of 35 mph that originally got him thinking of how to help people maintain a constant speed over long distances. In the early days, the "Speedostat" (Ralph hated the name "cruise control" as suggested by Cadillac later) featured a dashboard-mounted speed selector. Once the vehicle achieved the selected speed, a governor overcame spring tension to actuate a vacuum-driven piston, which in turn would push against the gas pedal. The patent for this amazing invention was filed in 1945, but it wasn't until the oil crisis of the 1970s that it really caught on. With a national speed limit put in place to help conserve fuel and law enforcement vigorously enforcing it, people clamored for the device which would keep them out of trouble.

Many other patents were filed by Ralph R. Teetor, including one for a hydraulic automatic transmission, an improved piston for controlling heat expansion, a mechanism for dynamically balancing steam turbines in US Navy ships, a pistol-grip fishing pole handle, an easier-to-use doorknob, a better lawn mower, an easier-to-use door lock, and a suitcase which fit more clothes without wrinkling them. His daughter testified he was always tinkering in the basement at night, with the lights off, as his mind worked on all kinds of problems. The man had an unceasing desire to improve the quality of life for everyone around him, which he did.

Throughout his life, Ralph Teetor counseled many other blind people, including war veterans who lost their sight in service to their country. He always told them to not feel sorry for themselves and to work smart as well as hard, that in so doing they could accomplish great things in their life. The man absolutely practiced what he preached as he didn't let his lack of sight hold him back in the least.



# Welcome New Members

List of New Members as of May 2022

## Annette LeRoux and Jeff Power

They live in the Village of St Charles. They are from Michian and they have a 2004 C5 Yellow, Vert

## Terry and Jane Miller

They live in the Village of Citrus Grove. They are from Wisconsin/Texas and they have a 1981 C3 Maroon/Red, T-Top

## Mike (Wolf) Mirgeaux

He lives in the Village of Bonita. He is from North Carolina and he has a 2020 C8, Red Targa

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

**TOTAL MEMBERS 525**

<b>FAMILIES</b>	<b>452</b>	
<b>SINGLES</b>	<b>73</b>	
<b>GEN</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>% Tot</b>
<b>C8</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>C7</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>C6</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>C5</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>C4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>C3</b>	<b>24</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>340</b>	

## TOP 10 VILLAGES

VILLAGE	#
PINE HILLS	27
COLLIER	25
GILCHRIST	24
PENNECAMP	24
LABELLE	18
FERNANDINA	16
MCCLURE	15
Osceola Hills @ Soa	15
PINE RIDGE	14
BUTTONWOOD	13
	<b>37% 191</b>
<b>ALL OTHERS</b>	<b>334</b>

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		Body	Qty	% Tot
		<b>RagTop</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>41%</b>
		<b>Targa</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>NCM MEMBERSHIP</b>		<b>T-Top</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>NCM FAMILIES</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>Coupe</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>INDIVIDUAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>HTC</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>LIFETIME</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>FRC</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>SENIOR INDIV</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>TOTAL = 110</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>340</b>	
<b>C8 ON ORDER???</b>	<b>7</b>			





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## Gate Access Software

If you are interested in adding automatic gate access software to your Corvette and or your daily driver, The club can recommend a Village resident who can accomplish this for you. Joe Striano, with Card Access will duplicate your gate card and apply a small patch on the inside of your driver's side mirror. You will then be able to pull up to a gate and it will automatically open. The installation is simple and quick. (About 5 minutes) No disassembly or alterations are required.

Joe has been attending our get togethers prior to our monthly meetings at Eisenhower Rec Center each month and doing on-site installations. If you prefer you can call him and he will come to your home or meet you at a convenient location. The cost for this procedure is \$25.00 (cash) per vehicle, and you will get a bonus of a spare gate card to use for your golf cart or for guest use.

If you can't make it to the pre-meeting get together, you can call Joe at 845-542-7365. Tell him you are a member of Village Vettes.