

JULY 2020 VOL. 4-7

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**NEXT MEETING AUGUST 13, 2020** 

# VILLAGE VETTES CORVETTE CLUB 2020

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Although our June General Membership Meeting was cancelled, and I was in self-quarantine, Club VP Rich Rose reported that in spite of the bad weather there were 20 Corvettes gathered to enjoy an "informal" cruise-in at Eisenhower. Rich reported it was members Tim & Terri Berthiaume's wedding anniversary and a sheetcake appeared in the hands of George Borke which was enjoyed by all there.

As June progressed, I was called by Eisenhower Rec Center and asked if we wanted to hold our Membership Meeting on July 9th? At the time, it was not clear how many people could attend and under what conditions? The BofD concluded we should not schedule the meeting, but to schedule the August 13th meeting. More on that later.

At the suggestion and organizing efforts of past President Don Cheney, a Cruise the Squares event was scheduled for July 3rd to celebrate the assembly of the first Corvette in Flint Michigan in 1953. The plan was to assemble member Corvettes at Eisenhower and Savannah Rec Centers and as small "parade groups" would proceed through the three town squares waving "Old Glory". Sixty two Corvettes and 110 people signed up to participate. Following the "Parade", all were to proceed to the Baker House in Wildwood where Paul's Hot Dogs set up his Tent and served 120 hot dogs, soft drinks and chips to all in attendance. The event came off beautifully with the exception of some RAIN. We did get the Parades in and there was a 2 hour non-rain window when we got to the Baker House. Thank You to Don Chaney for his efforts and Mike and Vicky Reimer for coordinating the Baker House, The VVCC presented a \$500.00 check to the Baker House as a combination annual contribution and recognition of their hospitality for this event.

Back to Eisenhower and the August 13th Membership Meeting. I received another call last week from The Villages advising me the Eisenhower Rec Center is again closed with no scheduled opening date. So....Mike White had been working to put together a wine and cheese social at Nahas Chevrolet in September. The Board voted to move the event to August 13th, our scheduled meeting date We will hold a short membership meeting during this event.

We are continuing to schedule events around CoVid limitations and hope for some return to a new normal. Our Western themed Christmas Party with special entertainment is scheduled for December 10th'

Information on upcoming event is on our Web.

Be Safe!!! Charlie Tagman, President 2020

## "WINE & CHEESE GET-TOGETHER" Thursday, 13 August 2020

A Village Vettes Corvette Club "Wine & Cheese "Get-Together" will occur on Thursday, 13 August '20 (06:00PM – 08:00 PM) at the Nahas Chevrolet Dealership. This is an opportunity to re-energize and rekindle the camaraderie with your fellow members.



## JUNE MEETING OUTSIDE EISENHOWER

The club met for an informal social distanced get together in the Eisenhower parking lot on June 11. We set up our chairs and tables and enjoyed each others company on a beautiful afternoon.

As it turned out George Borke just happened to have a sheet cake in his car so we were able to celebrate Tim & Terri's Berthiaume's 49th Anniversary.







Happy 49th Anniversary Tim & Terri Berthiaume







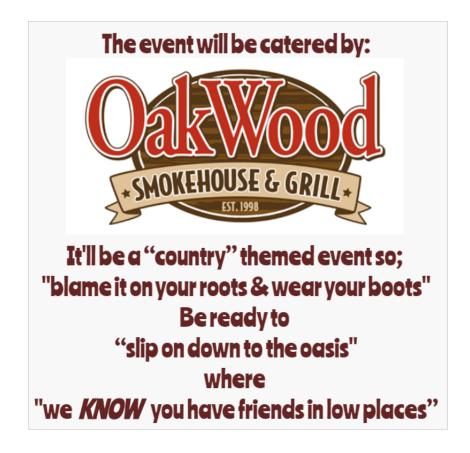




Jingle, jingle, mark your calendars for the annual Village Vettes "Country Christmas" Dinner Party on **Thursday, 10 December '20.** The entertainment will feature world class showman Kip Sweeny channeling country legend Garth Brooks in his production, "Garth Brooks – The Ultimate Tribute Show." It promises to be an evening to remember.

Watch the club's web site (https://villagevettes.clubexpress.com) for further details or check out

"Garth Brooks - The Ultimate Tribut Show" (Click on link) https://youtu.be/jeJH5vNSCao



#### Get your thrills with this "Death Defying" 1958 Corvette Grace Houghton

23 June 2020



We've made no secret of the fact that we love some movies purely for their cars, and particularly for their car stunts. The orange-and-white Corvette above proves that this fascination for jumping, crashing, and barrel-rolling cars is hardly unique to the green-screen era; it's been in the blood of car enthusiasts for decades.

This 1958 Corvette, up for auction at Mecum's Indianapolis auction this July, hails from the Joie Chitwood Thrill Show, a live event which was also advertised in the 1940s as Joie Chitwood and his Death Defying Hell Drivers. Sponsored by Chevrolet

and hosted largely on dirt tracks, Joie Chitwood and his team of 15-or-so drivers crisscrossed North America for decades, accompanied by the smells of "popcorn, peanuts, and Red Hots" according to a '50s commercial.



Joie Chitwood Photo by YouTube/Cars & Stripes

Chitwood himself was of Cherokee Indian descent and was launching softly-sprung sedans off ramps well before Evel Knievel came around. Officially known as George Rice Chitwood, the unusual spelling of Joie's name is likely (and embarrassingly) due to a journalist's error and a typesetter's subsequent mistake. Before Chitwood's name was splashed across Corvettes and Chevelles, it appeared in the annals of dirt tracks and

even those of the Indianapolis 500. Chitwood raced at the Brickyard seven times in the 1940s—he was no slouch, either, and recorded three fifth-place finishes driving Offenhauser-powered cars for Kurtis Kraft.

He also brushed shoulders with another unsung hero in the Corvette legacy: fellow Indy racer Mauri Rose. Chitwood had some minor appearances in Hollywood flicks as a stunt driver, including one in 1950s To Please A Lady, which starred Clark Gable and featured actual race footage from the Indianapolis 500—including Mauri Rose's pit lane fire.

Chitwood first built a career racing, but he eventually left oval circuits to trace some more ... unorthodox routes. The following video (unfortunately, without sound) captures one of the earliest days of the thrill show's decades-long career:

As of September, 1966, and as advertised in the Detroit Free Press, attendees could get a slice of the combustion-fueled action for \$1 for adults, children ¢50.

The show appealed to thrill-seeking kids, who wanted to see cars bash into each other, and to safety-conscious parents, who wanted to see drivers walk away from those same crashes. Chitwood obliged both, making sure that Chevrolet made the most of its sponsorship:

## Get your thrills with this "Death Defying" 1958 Corvette, con't

"Chevrolet is the only one we use, not a souped-up reinforced model but the same Chevrolet you'll find on any showroom floor," Chitwood himself touts in this video. "My boys and I give hundreds of performances day and night with same fleet of Chevrolets. When you say the pounding we give 'em ... you'll get an idea of why the car we use has to be able to take it."

In addition to balancing cars on two wheels and launching them off ramps, Chitwood and his team even ran Chevrolets into each other head-on, and walked away:

Perhaps Chitwood wanted to spare this handsome 1958 Vette that same rough show program, because even though it could "spin on a dime and give you a nickel change," the Vette only spent a year with the thrill show.



## Get your thrills with this "Death Defying" 1958 Corvette, con't



To flaunt the C1 Corvette's capabilities, Chitwood—naturally—targeted the hottest performance upgrades. In 1958 Chevrolet offered its 283-cubic-inch V-8 either with a single four-barrel carb or with two four-barrels; the latter came in 245- and 270-hp tune. At the top of the range sat the fuel-injected 283 engines, however, and Chitwood specced the top-of-the-line 290-hp mill. That V-8 mated to a BorgWarner four-speed manual and drove through a 4.11:1 Positraction rear end. With the car's stated purpose—and with that all-American soundtrack—Chitwood opted to delete the radio.

Though the 1958 Vette had only a brief tenure with Chitwood's show, its ancestors—driven by Chitwood's sons—were still kicking up dust clouds into the 1980s:

The show morphed slightly into The Joie Chitwood Chevy Thunder Show and ran until 1998.

Where was the 1958 car, if it wasn't touring with the team?

In 1959 Chitwood sold the C1 show car to Gerald C. Francis of Lansing, Michigan, with whom the car stayed until 1995. Francis' widow sold the car to Harry and Marianne Strong of Clinton, Missouri, in the mid-'90s. The couple restored the car but kept it as original as possible, leaving a nut-and-bolt restoration to the car's next owner, who commissioned the work in 2006. Mecum advertises that Chitwood Corvette will be offered with its original 1958 registration, signed by Joie Chitwood himself, and various show promotional materials and vintage footage.

Welcoming crowds to a "presentation of automotive artistry," the thrill show's announcer proclaimed that "We live to drive, and drive to live." We can't guarantee a mystical transfer of dirt-track stunt-driving skills if you purchase this historic 1958 Vette—but we hope the car's buyer agrees with that same sentiment.





Ron Tanner, VVCC Master Ambassador; Email: <u>bandito2108@hotmail.com</u>; Cell: (402) 651-0474 JULY 2020 UPDATE - Here's the latest news and offerings from the NCM.

## **COLLECTIONS BUILDING DEDICATED**

AMBASSADOR

If you attended the Marth 12, 2020 monthly VVCC meeting, you heard Derek Moore, NCM Director of Collections & Museum Curator, announce the pending opening and dedication of this Building.



Last summer the National Corvette Museum acquired the former Fraternal Order of Police Lodge on Corvette Drive. The 8,000 square foot facility, which opened in 2002, sits on 7.5 acres and adjoins existing Museum property. The Museum had originally owned the land.

On Wednesday, June 24, 2020 the building was officially dedicated and named the Chuck, Sharon and Kimberlee Fast Collections Campus. Members of the Museum Board of Directors were on hand for a ribbon cutting ceremony and tour of the facility.

## ATTENTION VVCC MEMBERS WHO BELONG TO NCM

According to my records, the following is a list of Village Vettes Corvette Club members who are also members of the National Corvette Museum, <u>If you are an NCM member and your name(s) is not on this list, or if your name is on the list but you are not an NCM member, please contact me ASAP</u>.

Marinaro, Sam & Debbie	Kennedy, Steve & Judy	Gorgorian, Tom
Davis, Scott	Cohen, Stanley	Klenz, Bob & Lone
Moscowitz, Gary & Judy	Johnson, Dave	Palivoda, Paul
Flanders, Keith & Leslie	Williams, Warren	Shamblin, John
Russo, Larry & Mary	Little, Larry	Taylor, Rad & Mary Ann
Kamps, Michael	Privott, Ray & Victoria	Buzek, Ken & Cindy
Zaycek, Wayne	Carroll, Dennis	Gatto, Frank
Peworchik, Carol	Taylor, Charlie & Linda	Sherrill, Marcus & Pam
Stopcrynski, Wayne & Erica	Adams, Kurt & Sharon	Bachand, Bob & Betty
Stroke, Richard	Tagman, Charles	Borlase, George
McLaughlin, Larry & Maureen	Stokes, Roger & Cindy	Tanner, Ron & Marty
Loguidice, Jim & Barbara	Vinson, Chris & Barbara	Taylor, Dave & Jaye
Bova, Paul & Darry	White, Mike & Linda	Whicker, Fred & Linda
Chaney, Don & Linda	Cullum, Ronald & Beth	Klett, Gale & Nancy



## AMBASSADOR

Szekeres, John Swiers, Tom Weaver, William McConkey, Gene & Betty Neustadter, Rudy & Barbara Rose, Richard & Ann Marie Juliano, Bart & Nancy Sheasley, Frank & Karen

Ron Tanner, VVCC Master Ambassador; Email: <u>bandito2108@hotmail.com</u>; Cell: (402) 651-0474 JUNE 2020 UPDATE - Here's the latest news and offerings from the NCM.

> Moritz, JR & Christine Roemer, Mike & Vicki Baker, Bob & Patty

I need your help gathering some information. Please email me (<u>bandito2108@hotmail.com</u>) or text me (402.651.0474) answers to the following questions as soon as reasonably possible:

- NCM Membership Type: Individual; Sr. Individual; Family; Lifetime
- NCM Member(s) Name(s)
- NCM Membership Renewal Date

Thanks for your help! Ron Tanner, VVCC NCM Master Ambassador

## **UPCOMING NCM CORVETTE RAFFLE**

**2021 BYO Corvette or \$60,000** Drawing Date: 7/16/2020 @ 2 PM CDT; Price: \$250.00 Each; Tickets: 1500



**2021 Shadow Gray Coupe** Drawing Date: 7/30/2020 @ 2 PM CDT; Price: \$150.00 Each; Tickets: 1500



2020 Torch Red Corvette Coupe Drawing Date: 9/5/2020 @ 3:00 PM CDT; Price: \$20.00 Each; Tickets: Unlimited





## AMBASSADOR

Ron Tanner, VVCC Master Ambassador; Email: <u>bandito2108@hotmail.com</u>; Cell: (402) 651-0474 JULY 2020 UPDATE - Here's the latest news and offerings from the NCM.

Below is a Raffle Ticket request form for the above raffles – simply clip it, complete, and mail to the NCM at least 7 days prior to the raffle selected. Please give me a call or send an email or text if you have any questions, **and let me know if you purchase a ticket(s).** 

Upon receipt of your completed ticket require tickets are still available, a raffle ticket st your contact information and placed in the	ub will be completed with	RETURN TICKET FORM BELOW WITH PAYMENT TO: Attn: Raffle National Corvette Museum 350 Corvette Drive Bowling Green, KY 42101
Corvette Raffle Ticket Requ	lest Form-NOT A	TICKET
NO. OF TICKETS:@\$250/tkt 7/16/20	@\$150/tkt 7/30/20@\$20	/tkt 9/5/20
		TOTAL: \$
NAME(s):		
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		
PHONE:	EMAIL:	
CREDIT CARD PAYMENT: Name on Card:		
Card Number:	Exp. Date:	Security Code:
RETURN TICKET FORM WITH PAYMENT TO: Attn: Raf Sold by Ron Tanne	fle, National Corvette Museum, 350 Br, Village Vettes Corvette	



<u>REMINDER</u> – Whenever you do any type of transaction with the NCM, such as joining or renewing membership, purchasing raffle tickets, getting a quote or actually signing up for insurance, visiting the museum, buying build sheets or window stickers, etc., please remember to notify me at either the above email address or cell phone to ensure our Club receives recognition for supporting the NCM.



Ron Tanner, VVCC Master Ambassador; Email: <u>bandito2108@hotmail.com</u>; Cell: (402) 651-0474 JULY 2020 UPDATE - Here's the latest news and offerings from the NCM.

#### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NCM TODAY!

As of May 23, 2020, the VVCC has 409 members of which 86 (21.0%) are members of the National Corvette Museum. The 86 VVCC members who are also members of NCM have the following NCM membership types: 56 family; 14 individual; 1 senior individual; 10 lifetime; and 5 trial (1 year given with the Museum delivery of a new Corvette). As the NCM Ambassador to the VVCC, my objective is 75%+ of our club members will hold ongoing NCM memberships.

Thanks to all those Club members who have renewed their NCM membership, and to those new Club Members who have joined the NCM ! If you aren't a member of the NCM, here are 10 good reasons why you should be:

- 1. TAX DEDUCTIBLE MEMBERSHIP FEES, RAFFLE TICKET PURCHASES & DONATIONS
- 2. FREE ADMISSION TO NCM EXHIBITS
- 3. SUBSCRIPTION TO AMERICA'S SPORTS CAR MAGAZINE & E-NEWSLETTERS
- 4. DISCOUNT ON NCM CORVETTE STORE & CATELOG MERCHANDISE
- 5. DISCOUNT ON NCM SPONSORED EVENTS
- 6. DISCOUNT ON INSURANCE FROM NCM AGENCY
- 7. DISCOUNT ON CAR RENTALS
- 8. DISCOUNT ON HOTELS
- 9. DISCOUNT ON CARFAX REPORTS
- 10. DISCOUNT ON AIR EVAC / AIRMEDCARE NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't yet renewed, or joined NCM, please do so today --- your ongoing membership fees of about \$1 per week support of the Museum is critical! Simply clip the membership application below, complete, and mail to the NCM. Please give me a call or send an email or text if you have any questions.

	a the following membership: 2500 □ Renewal □ Rejoin~ ~Required after 6 month lapse.	Method of Payment	_	
Business/Club \$250     Business/Club \$250     * □ Family \$100     **□ Individual \$50     □ Senior Individual \$50	monthly payment plan**** (Lifetime membership only)	Credit card number	□ MasterCard	AMEX     expiration date
*\$75 1st yr; **37.50 1st	\$50/yr renewal yr; \$50/yr renewal	signature		security code
address	city		e-mail address state/province	zip code
I home phone	work phone Village Vettes Corv		birthday+ +Required for	New Generation and Seniors.
Corvette club or organiz				
	CM) is a non-profit foundation exempt from federal ((c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership fees	Save time and a stamp by corvettemuseum.org or se National Corvette Museum, 350 All memberships are non-transferable and	nd this form (and ) Corvette Drive, Bowli	check made payable) to: ing Green, KY 42101-913

For variety we sometimes bring you articles of interest to "Car People" that are not solely focused on Corvettes. Chapter 2 - John Shamblin (2016 Blade Silver Z06 Convertible). John has been building model cars since he was a kid growing up in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He has expanded his model car hobby into automotive dioramas, some of which actually tell a story. This month we bring you Chapter 2 of his most recent project. " https://www.shamblesmodels.com/



## Chapter 2 Mo' Mopars

Shambles started out with a salvage yard specializing in high performance cars of the 50s, 60s and 70s. The business took off and he hired

first one, then two specialty mechanics with vast experience in high performance engines of that era. Soon, he had acquired several omuscle cars who's owners couldn't (or wouldn't) pay for the necessary repairs. Shambles hated to leave these classic cars outside on his lot, exposed to the weather, vandals and thieves.





Not too far away, there was a small vacant building with room inside to hold five or six cars, a small office, and room to expand the lot outside. Shambles took out a loan, bought the building. And hired Frank as "sales manager". Frank hired Connie as assistant something



or other. Soon, we'll add a 3 bay garage and a few other (ahem) "amenities" at the new location.

Stay tuned....



#### Cat Boat Adventures, Lake Dora Tim & Terri Berthiaume Friday, June 12

It was an amazing adventure & we got compliments from each and everyone of the people from the group. None of us had every gone on such an adventure so it was new to





everyone. It covered many different feelings. There was the thrill of speed on the water & we even had a boat race. I

don't remember race but I placed at boat there was a

passengers. If you wanted to go right you pushed the for a left you pulled it backwards. The throttle was on the was a push forward & pull backwards. It was something

think about all of the time. A would have been a piece of furnished a 1st at CatBoat



who won the 3rd. To steer the stick between the stick forward & right side and also that one had to steering wheel cake. Udells Adventures as



much wildlife including a gator. The trees covered us with a full canopy & it was





just picture perfect. Due to the virus and everyone had placed different restrictions on social distancing so we split up after the CatBoat Adventure. Some headed back home and the rest of us just went to where ever for their lunch. Bova, Swiers & the Berthiaume's went to One Floor Up & had an enjoyable meal together.



On the way out of the canal there was a party pontoon boat & I asked Terri to take a picture of it & insure that the phone number was in the picture. That might just be another adventure for our club sometime in the near future. (Premier Boat Tours)





on his chest. Remember the Wide World of Sports when they showed, The Thrill of Victory well that's how we all felt after speeding back and forth across the lake. Then there was the peaceful slow no wake ride through the Dora Canal. We were able to see





they took their dog with them in a pouch that hung around Richards neck with their dog



## REGISTERING FOR AN

## EVENT

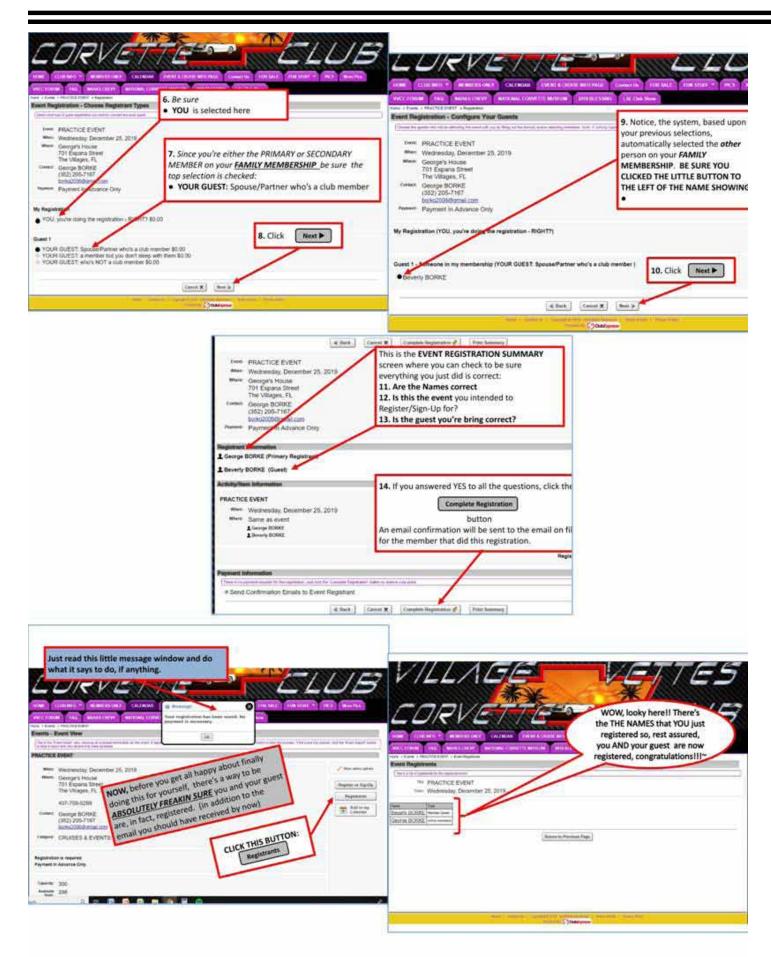
## FOR DUMMIES



complete instructions on "HOW TO REGISTER FOR AN EVENT". There will be, for some events, variations of these instructions but, if you follow these, you'll have few problems. <u>THE MOST IMPORTANT THING</u> <u>TO REMEMBER: BEFORE YOU ATTEMPT TO REGISTER FOR AN EVENT</u> YOU MUST BE LOGGED ONTO THE WEBSITE. If you're **NOT** logged on you will **NOT** see the gray Register button along the right side of the event detail screen and will **NOT** be able to register.

and the second se	arr - Pach Beacher Burgeballer - Pageballer	THE REAL PROPERTY AND A RE
CRUEED & EVENTS CRUEED CR		<ul> <li>3. Since you're doing this registration be sure</li> <li>Sign up yourself (is clicked)</li> <li>4. Since you're bringing a GUEST (it doesn't matter who at this point) put the number "1" in the box before the word "guest</li> <li>Me + 1 guests (is clicked)</li> <li>5. Click Next &gt;</li> </ul>

#### VILLAGE VETTES CORVETTE CLUB



### **CRUISIN THE SQUARES** Event Leader: Don Chaney, Past President



Our well-planned July 3<sup>rd</sup> event "Cruising the Squares" was met with a torrential downpour. What started out as 60 plus Corvettes driving all three Villages Squares waving our American Flags leaving from two different locations, Eisenhower Recreation Center and Savannah Center, eventually ended up at the Baker House on C.R. 44A for Hot Dogs, Sodas, and Chips by Paul's Nathans Hot Dog stand. Most drivers toughed the elements and arrived safely at the Baker House where we were met by only a few light drizzles.

As you recall, although this appeared to be more of a pre-4<sup>th</sup> of July cruise, it was really about the Anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Corvette rolling off the assembly line on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1953.



I appreciate everyone respecting Social Distancing and the camaraderie that has been long overdue by our national pandemic.



Several members came up to me and asked if we could repeat this event next year. Hopefully, our next VVCC Board will approve.

























#### National Corvette Museum Deliveries Celebrates 25 Years

It all started back in the early 1990's when several European auto makers started offering factory program delivery programs. The Corvette plant in Bowling Green started receiving such requests. By the mid 1990's, this idea came to fruition with the first delivery taking place on September 1, 1995 as part of the NCM Labor Day festivities. It was a 1996 Yellow LT4 Corvette.

## **R8C BY THE NUMBERS**

YEAR	# R8C	YEAR	# R8C
1996	93	1997	7
1998	284	1999	374
2000	560	2001	457
2002	371	2003	787
2004	142	2005	831
2006	1172	2007	1104
2008	954	2009	392
2010	307	2011	271
2012	181	2013	265
2014	1231	2015	1049
2016	675	2017	372
2018	88	2019	591

If you desire more information for your NCM Delivery (Option R8C), read the article in America's Sports Car, an NCM publication free for NCM members, or go to www. Corvettemuseum.org.



#### VVCC BOARD MEMBERS

Charlie TAGMAN - PRESIDENT (407) 375-9179 ctagman@aol.com

Rich ROSE - VICE PRESIDENT 908-752-8788 ra rose@hotmail.com

Marcus SHERILL - SECRETARY 352-693-2511 msherrill45@gmail.com

Thomas L SWIERS - ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR (352)633-2333 tom@swiers.com

George BORKE - WEBMASTER (352)205-7167 borkg2006@gmail.com

Michael D HARRIS - WEBMASTER (352)205-1616 <u>mharris2907@comcast.net</u>

## **Welcome New Members**

List of New Members Since June 1 2020:

#### **Richard and Jeri Sammons**

live in the Village of Pine Ridge. They are from Manassas, VAThey drive a 2006 Z51 Artic White Targa and 2019 Z06 Shadow Gray Metallic Roadster

#### Wayne Babor

He is from Chicago originally but lived the last 19 months in Las Vegas. He drives a 2019 C7 Coupe LT1 Manual Torch Red

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

### **Upcoming events** (cruises and car shows)

for details and signup member must logon to our website VILLAGEVETTES.COM

**8/13 - Thursday** - Wine and Cheese Get-together 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Nahas Chevolet



Larry Lovold, passed away suddenly the week of June 4th, His wife Cher notified the club. We would like to send our condolences to the family.

Larry was a member of the Village Vettes from 2016