

Spoiler

MAY/JUNE ▪ 2018

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PREZ SEZ...

Sunday Brunches

Our monthly brunches held at Fishlip's in Port Canaveral on the first Sunday, have been well attended probably in part due to the nice waterfront venue and a free Mimosa that comes with a complete breakfast.



Autocross

We had to cancel our latest Test & Tune autocross due to other events and not enough members who know how to operate the timing equipment. The next planned autocross is the Corvette/Porsche Challenge 2 to be held on Sunday, September 30. Our Club is the host for this year's event so we need shirt sponsors to help defray the cost. If you have any ideas for sponsorship, please contact Kevin Charles or myself. Kevin is also looking at possible dates for holding sanctioned autocross events prior to our scheduled October event.

May 12th Eckler's 31st Reunion

I would personally like to thank our members who set up the parking lot on Friday and for getting the by-generation parking signs ready for the show. The day of the show members were there early to get all the parking areas ready, setup registration and all those last minute activities required to be ready prior to the competitors arrival. Thanks again to all of you who volunteered to be judges and scoring. I know that judging is a very tedious and demanding task. I appreciate your help especially dealing with the afternoon rain. We are going to sit down with Eckler's representatives to discuss proposed changes to the judging sheets and adding new classes, such as Mod and Custom, to the 2019 Reunion show.

Continued on next page

Monthly Cruise-Ins

Attendance is getting better at our monthly cruise-in at Cheer's Seafood & Grill in Rockledge. Hopefully we can keep increasing the number of members attending in the coming months. The Social committee is looking at new venues for the future. If anyone would like to volunteer to be on the Social Committee, please contact Karla Camarata.

New Autocross Timing Equipment

Kevin Charles, Bill Young and I have assessed both the Tag Heuer Timing System and Race America Timing System to replace our current Farmtek Timing System. We decided on purchasing the Race America Timing System. Two factors helped in the decision process. First, the Tag was almost twice the cost of the Race America system. Second, Race America changed the software in

their controller to accept the wireless signal from our current timing display. That was a major cost saving. We are going to meet to discuss the items that we need to procure such as the label printer, software management and a monitor.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to Kristy and George Halkovic for their many hours of time and energy handling the on-line registration for our show and the Eckler's Reunion show. They have decided its time for someone else to take the reins. If you are interested in possibly taking over this responsibility, please contact me.

*Save the Wave,
Bill Shearer, President*



JUNE CRUISE-IN

Photos by Bob Pietrasko

Members who attended our June Cruise-in to Cheer's Seafood & Grill in Rockledge had a great time and also celebrated our President's (Bill Shearer) birthday with a song and a birthday cake.

Memorial Day Parade and Cruise-In

On May 28, CKCC members joined the cities of Cocoa and Rockledge celebrating Memorial Day and our military veterans with a parade. Twelve Corvettes ranging from Samantha Cavallaro's '59 to the newest Corvettes participated. Several members backed out due to the serious threat of rain. Luckily there was no rain.

The parade went through Cocoa Village twice. CKCC members in the parade then joined other CKCC members at the Time Out Plus Sports Bar making up about 30 members who enjoyed the food and drinks at the popular restaurant. Some parade attendees went to join other celebrations around the county.



MAY SUNDAY BRUNCH



JUNE BRUNCH

Our monthly brunch at Fishlip's in Port Canaveral has proven to be the favorite venue with most of the members who attend the brunches.





Eckler's 31st Corvette Reunion

In spring 2017 Cape Kennedy Corvette Club was asked to be in charge of Eckler's 31st Corvette Reunion show scheduled for January 2018. Unfortunately in September Hurricane Irma did significant damage to Eckler's main office building making it necessary to delay the Reunion until May 12.

most of the cars arrived, it started to rain — nice and hard. Finally it stopped but a number of the attendees had left before the rain stopped. After the rain was over a little time was given to participants to clean their cars. Then judging got started full scale. Three members of CKCC won trophies: Dena and Kenny Richmond won



This made it tough for CKCC members who worked both our show and two autocrosses in April. Thank goodness our show was a people's choice, not a judged show.

George and Kristi Halkovic handled the Reunion registration and CKCC members handled most of the judging using the judging sheet that Eckler's supplied.

The morning of the show, CKCC volunteer members arrived bright and early. There were 57 CKCC members registered in the show. After

2nd in C5B, Bob and Susan Pietroski won 1st in C6B and LeeAnn & Jerry Wojcieszak won 3rd in C6B. Former CKCC members, Miriam and Charles Sikes won 2nd in C6B. There were a fair number of Corvette owners from all over Florida who won trophies. Joanne and Tony Diaz, NCCC MAL members from Margate, Florida won Best of Show. George & Siobhan Trohalides from the Corvette Club of the Palm Beaches won the Eckler's Award for their 2014 Artic White car.

Special thanks go to all those CKCC members and others who worked the event.



81-year-old CKCC member finally gets his RIT diploma

Article from Rochester Institute of Technology
University News

By: Diana Louise Carter

May 14, 2018

It's been a year of surprises for Bob Fitch, the 81-year-old who plans to walk the stage at graduation today (Friday, May 11) at Rochester Institute of Technology, 56 years after he stopped taking classes.

Last Aug. 12, Fitch's nephew, David Cerrone, had gathered family and former contractors and subcontractors who had worked with B. Fitch Construction in Perinton for years to help Fitch celebrate his 80th birthday. Suddenly, Fitch was being called up front by Howard Ward, associate vice president for Student Auxiliary Services at RIT to receive something.

"I was flabbergasted. I never even had a clue of what was going on.

I didn't know who Howard Ward was." Ward was there to present Fitch with the diploma he had stopped short of completing back in 1962.

"His final words he said to me: 'You have to do the walk.' I thought, 'What is the walk?' " Fitch recalled. When relatives told him it meant walking across the stage at graduation, Fitch said, "No way, I'm not going to do that. And here I am."

"None of the family would let him get away with not doing the walk," said wife Evelyn Fitch. Nor his friends. Another surprise came this week when family went to dinner at the Cheesecake Factory only to find longtime former neighbors from Mendon waiting for them. Steve and Joan Pierce, and Audrey "Sam" Kettenburg had traveled from South Carolina to see Fitch graduate.

The Fitches' two living daughters, Elizabeth Chastang (and husband Jim) and Sarah Smith, will be there, along with three grandchildren and a great-grandchild. A third daughter, Suzanne Poole, passed away at age 45.

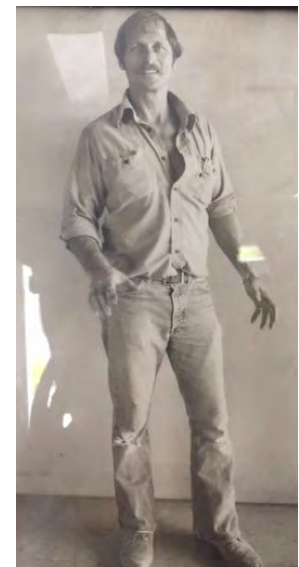
With two jobs in construction and a young family



to support back in the early 1960s, Fitch had found it difficult to complete the last night course he needed for a degree from RIT's School for American Crafts. But when Cerrone contacted RIT about his uncle's credits, RIT's School of Individualized Study agreed it could grant Fitch a diploma in applied arts and sciences for the work he had done.

"It was easy for SOIS to do something like this because Bob earned it," said Abby Cantwell, assistant director of RIT's School of Individualized Study. "He put a lot of time and energy into taking those courses and we are glad that we can use the individualized diploma to help him receive a RIT credential."

Despite lacking that last course in economics, Fitch has applied himself to craftsmanship and business ever since, including at the university. As a construction worker and then owner of B. Fitch Construction for many years, he ended up working on carpentry jobs at his former school. He renovated the RIT president's office by installing oak doors and frames, and added oak walls and ceilings to the foyer and elevator area in the Eastman Building,



A family photo shows Bob Fitch as a student at RIT more than 50 years ago.

which houses the president's office.

Fitch sold his business to his nephew and planned to retire to Florida in the 1990s. While looking for a place to live, however, he realized he wasn't ready to stop working. As a result, the Fitches bought a marina in Cape Canaveral that they ran from 1992 to 2002. He works for the new owners 3 1/2 days a week, doing everything from maintenance work to boat building.

"I've got to have something to do," Fitch said.

"As long as I'm healthy and I can get up and get out, I'm going to work."

When Fitch was fitted for a cap and gown earlier this week, he learned from James Hall, director of the School of Individualized Study, that he will be the last student to walk across the stage at the ceremony.

"You're saving me for last – this is not good," Fitch said. He suspects there may be one more surprise.



2017 Eckler's Show C7 1st. Place - All Chevy & Truck Show



2017 CKCC Christmas Party



Bob and Evelyn with their multi-award winning 2015 Stingray

MEMBERS WIN AT CAR SHOWS

Ponce Inlet

We went to *Ponce Inlet Corvette Show* Saturday, May 5th. Weather wasn't great, it did rain on and off several times, during judging too.

Three CKCC cars were shown, including John and Barbara Franklin's 2017 Black Grand Sport; Gerald and Carol Walsh's red 2003 C5 Callaway ZO6, which won 1st Place (they live in Rhode Island but have a home here, too); and our yellow C6 ZO6 that won 2nd Place. Something new the show did this year was divide each class by Coupes and Convertibles, no A & B.

Overall we still had a great day and fun as always.



Carol and Gerald Walsh



Faye and Gary Leschitz

Jacksonville



We attended *Vette Masters Corvette Show* in Jacksonville on Saturday, June 2nd. There were 11 of us CKCC members who attended and showed six cars. Unfortunately it rained on and off but we survived. It has rained the last five shows we attended. It use to be if the weather forecast was a 30 percent chance of rain or more I wouldn't attend but if we did that now we would not be going to any shows.

We all won awards! Richard and Christine Dobsha, John and Barbara Franklin, Janice



Greene, Tony and Alice Valdes, Faye and I all received top 40 awards.

Bob and Evelyn Fitch won 1st Place in C7 class. It was a great time as usual.

By Gary Leschitz

Important Day in Corvette History – June 30

On this day in 1953, the first production Corvette is built at the General Motors facility in Flint, Michigan.

of GM's traveling Motorama display at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. The sleek Corvette, the first all-fiberglass-bodied



Factory build team with first Vette

Harley J. Earl, the man behind the Corvette, got his start in his father's business, Earl Automobile Works, designing custom auto bodies for Hollywood movie stars such as Fatty Arbuckle. In 1927, General Motors hired Earl to redesign the LaSalle, the mid-range option the company had introduced between the Buick and the Cadillac. Earl's revamped LaSalle sold some 50,000 units by the end of 1929. By the end of the LaSalle, 1940, Earl had earned more attention for designing the Buick "Y Job," recognized as the industry's first "concept" car. Its relatively long, low body came equipped with innovations such as disappearing headlamps, electric windows and air-cooled brake drums over the wheels like those on an airplane.

After scoring another hit with the 1950 Buick LeSabre, Earl headed into the 1950s—a boom decade for car manufacturers—at the top of his game. In January 1953, he introduced his latest "dream car," the Corvette, as part

American sports car, was an instant hit. It went into production the following June in Flint; 300 models were built that year. All 1953 Corvettes were white convertibles with red interiors and black canvas tops. Underneath its sleek exterior, however, the Corvette was outfitted with parts standard to other GM automobiles, including a "Blue Flame" six-cylinder engine, two-speed Powerglide automatic transmission and the drum brakes from Chevrolet's regular car line.

The Corvette's performance as a sports car was disappointing relative to its European competitors, and early sales were unimpressive. GM kept refining the design, however, and the addition of its first V-8 engine in 1955 greatly improved the car's performance. By 1961, the Corvette had cemented its reputation as America's favorite sports car. Today, it continues to rank among the world's elite sports cars in acceleration time, top speed and overall muscle.

JUNE CARS AND COFFEE



The third CKCC Cars & Coffee event was held at Eckler's on the second Saturday in June from 9 to 11 a.m. Eckler's again graciously provided free coffee and CKCC Treasurer Rick Sherlock provided free donuts for everyone.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Steve and Pam Hepp

The Hepp's own a 2001 Magnetic Red convertible and live in Cape Canaveral and Indian Lake, Ohio. They like shows, cruise-ins, social events, Corvette info.



Jason and Eileen Brzozoski

The Brzozoski's own a 2017 Admiral Blue coupe and live in Indialantic. They like cruise-ins, shows, social events, speed events, rallies, tech sessions, caravanning and Corvette info.

Jeff Hudson

He owns a Ruby Red 1993 coupe and lives in Melbourne. Jeff likes speed events, social events, rallies, tech sessions and Corvette info.

Roger Green

He owns a Silver 2004 Coupe and lives in Melbourne. Roger likes cruise-ins, shows, speed events, social events and Corvette info.

Mitch and Mary Morgan



The Morgan's live in Merritt Island and own a Midnight Blue 1978 coupe, which Mitch has had for 37 years; and just purchased a low mileage Torch Red 2014 Stingray coupe. The Morgan's like caravanning, cruise-ins, shows, speed events, social events and Corvette info.

NCCC and CKCC Events

July 1 Sunday Brunch • Fishlips • 10

July 12 Club Social/Meeting • Moose • 5/7 PM

July 14 Cars & Coffee • Eckler's • Tiusville • 9 AM

July 15 – 20 NCCC Convention • New Orleans

July 21 Cruise-In • Cheer's • Rockledge • 4 PM

Aug 4 Autocross • 5 Low Speed Events • Smokie Stadium • Kodak TN

August 5 Sunday Brunch • Fishlips • 10 AM

August 9 Club Social/Meeting • Moose • 5/7 PM

August 11 Cars & Coffee • Eckler's • Tiusville • 9 AM

Aug. 18 Cruise in • Cheers • Rockledge • 4 PM

Sept. 15 Autocross • 6 Low Speed Events • Nat. Training • Green Cove Spring FL

Sept. 22-23 Autocross • 14 Low Speed Events • Sun-N-Fun • Lakeland

Oct.13-14 CKCC Autocross • 14 Low Speed Events • AMCM • Melbourne

Oct. 20 Space Coast Vettes Car Show • Downtown Melbourne



The Madness is just around the corner and our final arrangements are being made. New Orleans, here we come! Are YOU ready? We're trying our best to think of everything. As we mentioned last month, on July 2nd all registered convention attendees will be sent a digital copy of our **"Convention Encyclopedia"** in an email encompassing everything we have planned specifically to prepare you for your journey to the 2018 NCCC Convention. Please read it carefully before you leave home; then, if there are questions, what better time to ask? Email your Convention Directors...we'll promptly respond.

Reminders: Dust off those Valve Cover Racers....a duel-award race will be hosted by the local Crescent City Corvette Club in the Air Conditioned NOLA Karting Café on Tuesday. No entry fee required! It will be a combined Drag-Endurance event. Details will be available in our Encyclopedia.

And for those **trailer**ing your **Vette**, bringing an RV or oversize vehicle; if you haven't already, please respond to the recent email survey sent by our Parking & Security Chair, Craig Kamradt. Thus far only about 60% have answered his questions to facilitate issuance of reserved parking nearest the Host Hotel.

We are having a full blown **gimmick golf outing** on Monday morning! You don't have to lug those golf clubs across the country because the City Park course will rent you a set. Join Deb Murphy for a relaxing round just minutes from the Host Hotel with Lunch provided. This event will be available for late sign-ups through Sunday.

On Thursday evening during the Grand Masquerade **Mardi Gras Party & Gala** we will recognize the most outstanding table and crown the best dressed King & Queen.....

Come prepared or rent or buy something locally from a number outlets including the Mardi Gras Bonanza across the street from the Host Hotel.

Get Your Car Photographed

We are adding new members and updating photos of current members with their cars on the web site so if your car is not pictured or you've changed cars, please let me know in advance if you'd like the photo taken at the monthly Sunday Brunch or Club meeting.

ROGER WOLF, CKCC Photographer
321-459-5084

Join Our Facebook Group

If you'd like to see and post photos of members and their cars at CKCC and other Corvette events, join the CKCC closed group on Facebook.

All you have to do is be a paid up member of CKCC, go to Facebook, search Cape Kennedy Corvette Club and ask to join.

2018 CKCC SPONSORS

DIAMOND

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USSG*

GOLD

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BRONZE

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