



# Spoiler

MAY – JUNE 2022

## IN THIS ISSUE

*Car Show Corner*

2

*NCCC Florida Region Picnic*

2 – 4

*Monthly Sunday Brunches*

5

*Long Time Member Remembered*

6

*Memorial Day Parade*

7

*NCCC Convention*

8 – 10

*NCCC Governor's Report*

11

*Late Spring Racing in Florida*

12 – 14

*Upcoming Events*

14

*New Members, My Wife Beats the Odds*

15

*Everything to Know About Spark Plugs*

16 – 19

*May & June Meeting Minutes*

20 – 22

## PREZ SEZ

Good day to everyone, and I hope that by the time you receive this issue you had a happy 4th of July.

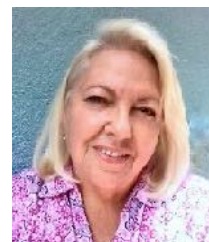
A little humor goes a long way in our current times. I don't mind taking it on the chin so everyone here gets a good laugh. And we can always learn something. Plus, this is also a cautionary tale, especially for you newer Corvette owners.

This is a story from about eight or so years ago. And I swore then I would *never* tell a soul about this. Especially another Corvette owner. But years pass and I no longer worry about being ridiculed. Back then I had a 2009 Crystal Red Convertible named Ruby, so I am going to tell this exactly as I have a couple of times, back when I had no CKCC members on my FaceBook page:

"So, yesterday I was going to take Ruby out for a spin. I opened the garage door to back her out and then got in the driver's seat, shut the door, seatbelt on.... nothing. Tried to start it again, nothing. Shoot. So much for my Sunday, top-down drive!

Then I tried to get out. And tried again. The doors are locked and the battery is so dead they won't release. It was then I realized I was trapped inside this red monster inside the garage. Totally trapped. And the temperature is rising, as it is July. No one home that could hear me yelling. Panic. Stay calm.

So being resourceful, I decided well, this is a convertible; I should be able to escape out the top. It was my only option. I unsnapped



President  
Janice Greene

*Continued on next page*

the top latches and pushed the top up about a foot, which is all it would go being an electric top and all. I managed to get my feet up into my seat, and stuck my head out, then one foot up on the console, then the other. I then threw one leg over the windshield, all while thinking 'How will I ever explain this to the insurance company once I break off the whole windshield?'

I'm now lying face down, spread-eagle across my windshield. I slowly inched my way backwards until I could get to the floor. Now, I know you're thinking.. it's a SHORT car! But I'm pretty short too, so it all kinda evened out. I slid down until I finally touched the floor. I've never been so glad to feel the earth beneath me.

Today I called AAA. They got me running and I drove Ruby straight to the dealer to get a new battery. Now here I sit, waiting. Where they all proceeded to laugh out loud and point me to the manual, inside the car, door release.

I'm sure they're all inside the office right now spreading the tale around about the dumb blonde who got trapped in her car. So at least everyone got a laugh today. My mission is complete; I gave everyone a tale to tell. And Ruby is getting a new battery." -----

So, all of you new owners... PLEASE take the time to familiarize yourselves with every feature on your car. I have laughed about this many times but a few years later I read that one man and his dog died inside his Corvette because the battery died and he did not know about the manual release. It's a real thing and probably made worse now due to no manual latches on top to open. So, read your manuals!

The Ladies Corvette Breakfast is coming up July 20th. If interested, please check with Marilyn Lewis for more information.

Happy Summer to all of you. Enjoy yourselves and don't forget the sunscreen!

And mask up!

*Janice*

## Car Show Corner

*By Barbara Lenhard*

On May 14, 2022, Peter and I participated in the Ponce Inlet Corvette Club car show at One Daytona. Also in attendance was fellow CKCC member Denny Ross and his friend Cathy. This is always a great show because of the many restaurants and retailers that encircle the show field. More than 200 Corvettes were entered in the wash and shine judged show.



We had a very lucky day. In addition to winning a door prize and basket from the charity raffle, we received a second place plaque in the C3 class.

---

## Annual NCCC Florida Regional Picnic and 2021 Awards Ceremony

*By Veronica Duys*

The annual picnic has been the primary social gathering for the Florida Region Corvette Clubs for many years. Clubs take turns hosting this event, and the most recent ones have been in Clearwater and Tavares. The Covid-19 pandemic caused the event be put on hold since 2020 and all

*Continued on next page*





*Door prize winners locate their prizes among the many that were given away.*

regional recognition awards for 2019 and 2020 were delivered to each club to present to recipients at their individual meetings. In January of this year the Florida Region Board of Directors decided it was time to restart the tradition. After much arm twisting and since CKCC was the Regional Champion Club and had the most individual winners in 2021; CKCC Governor Zach Duys agreed to have CKCC host the annual event this year.



*C6 Corvette carved out of a watermelon for display*

The Florida Region's treasury provides \$1500 for the event, which is free to all attendees. This budget limits both venue rental and catering selections, and we have always relied on pot luck provisions to round out the meal. The picnic committee began meeting in February for final site selection, choosing a restaurant to provide the main course, and organizing all the other details to host the event. Several months were spent checking out area parks to find one that met



*Ellen Schwartz*

the criteria required - covered seating for 150 people, space for presenting awards, parking for at least 60-70 Corvettes, and sufficient kitchen for serving and clean-up of the PotLuck event. Brevard County re-opened the park pavilions in early 2022 and they booked up quickly. The committee members were: Zachary Duys, Bill and Lynn Kassebaum, John and Janet Hoy, CKCC President Janice Green, Ellen Schwartz, Connie Kostyra and myself. There were many more who assisted in the kitchen on the day of the event: Judi Merrill, Marilyn Lewis, and MaryJo Helm. I know there were others who assisted and I'm sorry I didn't taken down names to give you credit but your efforts were appreciated.

The picnic was held May 14th in the Main Pavillion at Fox Lake Park in Titusville. Sonny's BBQ provided pulled pork and pulled chicken and CKCC members provided a mountain of tasty appetizers, side dishes and desserts. The committee set up a Jumbo Jenga and several Corn Hole games and other activities to entertain the attendees. Corvette enthusiasts from the following clubs were represented: North Florida Corvette Association, Cypress Gardens Corvette Club, Corvettes in Paradise, Vettes 4 Fun and Gulf Coast Corvette Club.

*Continued on next page*



Ellen Schwartz, long time CKCC member and current NCCC Secretary, started things off with a People Hunt Game, a Corvette trivia contest mixer that made everyone move around to get answers from others present, which is great because most people only sit with those they know.

Each year the region recognizes the Top Three Overall Men and Ladies in Regional Competition Points, the Top Competitor(s) in each car class, all competitors reaching 200 cumulative points in the region and the Highest Achiever in Worker Points. There are

minimum requirements for awarding Rally's and Concours Trophies and they were not met in the 2021 Competition Season. Hopefully we will see more of these events in the future to bring back these awards.

After the racing competition awards were presented, Dick & Judi Merrill won the 50/50 drawing and door prize ticket winners picked theirs up from a generous number placed on the stage.

Approximately 120 people attended the picnic, including Tom Henry, one of the original founders of NCCC.

### CKCC MEMBERS WHO WON NCCC FLORIDA REGION 2021 AWARDS



*Veronica Duys  
1st Place Ladies*



*Connie Kostyra  
2nd Place Ladies*



*Steve Goodbread  
1st Place*



*Zach Duys  
3rd Place*



*Bill Kassebaum  
5th Place*



*Lloyce Campbell  
5th Place Ladies*



*Bill Shearer  
6th Place*



*David Glenn  
14th Place*



*Ron Gasque  
18th Place*

Not pictured or at the Picnic but also award winners, were Lesley Goodbread (2nd Place Ladies), James Patterson (4th Place), Tim Reardon (7th Place), Jason Brzozowski (8th Place), David Elseroad (11th Place) and John Helm (13th Place).



# CKCC Sunday Brunches

By Lois Lacoste



Where have you been? The first Sunday of each month, please join us for our CKCC Sunday Brunch at Fishlips restaurant in Port Canaveral. If you have not attended our Brunch lately you are missing out on a fun club gathering. We meet on the first Sunday of every month at 10 AM for a delicious Brunch with “free” Mimosas!

Some of our “snowbird” members are back up North but we still average 35 to 40 dining

club members at these Brunches. We are so blessed to live on the Space Coast, enjoying all the activities at the Port, including the latest addition to the Disney Cruise Lines fleet, the *Disney Wish*, which was christened in late June. Her inaugural cruise is scheduled for Thursday, July 14th.

Come see the sights and sounds at the Port, enjoy a delicious Sunday Brunch and visit with members and welcome new members.





# Long Time CKCC Member and Former Vice President Remembered

*By the Editor*

On May 25th member John Franklin (74) unexpectedly passed away after a short illness. John was an active member of our club for many years, including serving as Vice President and Competition Director. An avid Corvette guy, he owned several, including a pristine Marina Blue 1967 roaster that he graciously displayed at our club's 50th anniversary celebration at the Radisson Resort at the Port in 2017.



*Astronaut John McBride, the Franklins and their 67 roaster at the CKCC 50th Anniversary Celebration*

Earlier this year the car was judged by the National Corvette Restorers Society (NCRS) receiving a Red Ribbon award, the second highest Concours award for modified or customized Corvettes.

On Tuesday, May 31st. approximately 35 CKCC members in 18 Corvettes and other vehicles caravanned to Kissimmee to honor John by attending a memorial service in his honor. The Funeral Director was surprised by the number of CKCC members that attended



*CKCC flower arrangement*

the week night service, saying it was a real testimony of how well John was liked.

Many members will remember John's distinctive laugh and his participation in several car shows, especially those that gave their proceeds to charitable organizations. I could always count on John and his wife Barbara to send a story and photos to me about the shows they attended before the Spoiler deadline for his Car Show Corner

column; and his willingness to drive his 67 from St. Cloud to my Merritt Island home with Barbara following in a newer car in case the 67 broke down so I could photograph it for inclusion on one of our club show t-shirts.



May he rest in peace.

Additional information about John's life can be found via the following link.

<https://www.osceolamemgds.com/obituaries/John-Franklin-23/?fbclid=IwAR0m7rYpwnJultYCSITjRMVepaeltUZXN6bg-sdwfKd9JoIRxPgMkW1itmK#!/Obituary>



# CKCC Members Cars in Memorial Day Parade

*By Patsy Shearer*



On Monday, May 30th CKCC members in 20 Corvettes participated in the annual Cocoa Village Memorial Day Parade. We staged our cars behind a business office just off Derby Street so that we did not take up too much street room until the parade started. Parade participants included several Veteran's groups on floats and in the back of pickup trucks, other groups marching, and our Corvettes.

Led by CKCC member Beth Cavallaro's 59 Corvette convertible carrying the mayor of Cocoa, the parade circled downtown Cocoa Village twice to a cheering crowd. After the parade, participants met at Time Out Plus Sports Bar for refreshments, food and

socializing. A lot of CKCC members say this is one of the best organized parades in Cocoa. We hope more members can join us next year for this rewarding event.







## NCCC CONVENTION #63

### Atlantic City, New Jersey

*By Ellen Schwartz*

#### **Our Caravan Adventure**

On Thursday, June 9, 2022, a group of 6 Corvettes, John and MaryJo Helm, Lloyce Campbell, Connie Kostyra, Bill and Patsy Shearer, and my daughter Amy and I from CKCC, and Fred and Donna from Corvettes in Paradise (Naples) set out on an adventure that would end at the National Convention in Atlantic City. Our first stop was in Georgia where we had the best fried fish dinners. The Shearer's had called ahead and they were expecting us. We were treated royally and the food was great. Moving on we spent the first night in Lumberton, North Carolina. Early the next morning we drove to Kitty Hawk to visit the Wright Brothers National Memorial. It was thought provoking how far aviation has come since 1903. While in Kitty Hawk we stopped at



a local seafood restaurant for another excellent lunch. We traveled on through the countryside in North Carolina and Virginia, spending the night in Virginia Beach. The traffic and the rooms were horrible but we survived. The next morning we headed for The Mariners Museum and Park in Newport News, VA where we learned about the USS Monitor, which was an ironclad ship with a gun turret that was very successful for the Union (North) in the Civil War. It finally was sunk and the Maritime Museum has 200 tons of artifacts that have been archeologically rescued and restored from the site and a full scale replica. After leaving the museum we drove through the North Carolina Outer Banks and across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and through the tunnel. It was

*Continued on next page*



interesting driving on a bridge across ocean waters to Lewes, Delaware to catch the Cape May (car) Ferry. The trip (about an hour) saved a lot of time, by-passing the heavy traffic around Washington, DC to Atlantic City, where Zach and Roni Duys, and John and Janet Hoy, who drove to the Convention separately, were waiting for us.

### **Arrival & Welcome Party**

Arriving at the hotel we checked in and picked up our convention packets and each got a door prize. The first night was the welcome party. We were joined by CKCC members Bill and Kristin Young, Judy Thompson, and Vicki Wilson who had flown to Atlantic City. All of us wore our Ron Jon Surfing Astronaut shirts and we were a stylish group of folks.

Many of our club members participated in the High Speed and Low Speed autocross



events during the week but since I did not, I will tell you about what Amy and I did.

### **Funkhana & Awards Banquet**

Monday, we had several competitors in the Funkhana, which is always fun to watch. I believe Zach and Roni and Lloyce and her partner both took home trophies. That evening was the National Awards Banquet where our club members Roni Duys and Jim Patterson were recognized for being in the top 15 in racing competition points. CKCC was the #4 club in the nation.

### **Philadelphia Tour & Atlantic City Board Walk Scavenger Hunt**

Tuesday we took the site seeing trolley bus trip of Philadelphia. As it happened President Biden was also in Philadelphia speaking at the AFL-CIO Convention. We were treated to the sights as the trolley drove by museums,

statues, Betsy Ross' House, and the building where Thomas Jefferson worked on the Declaration of Independence. Then we were dropped off at the Reading Terminal Market



to have lunch on our own where we enjoyed authentic Philly Cheese Steak sandwiches.

That evening we joined a Board Walk Scavenger

Hunt where we were transported to the Atlantic City Board Walk on jitneys with a list of items to find and return – a feather, seashell, pinecone, etc., followed by having dinner on the Board Walk. While there we saw the building where the Miss America Pageant was held for many years.

### **Rallye, Winery Tour & Luau Party**

Wednesday was the rallye, which promised to show us why New Jersey is called the "Garden State" and each pit stop was at a local winery. Excellent but tricky questions – thank goodness I had Amy's much younger eyes to help me look for the clues. We took 5th place. That night was the Luau Pool Party,



hopefully you were treated to the video of Connie losing her grass skirt. I think a good time was had by all.

### **Pajama Party & Valve Cover Races**

Thursday the morning was free for hospitality and some presentations. In the evening we had the pajama party and we wore our "I Dream of Jeannie" themed t-shirts. Several of our Club members were winners of nice door

*Continued on next page*



prizes but we were all concerned about how we could possibly fit anything else into our Corvettes for the trip home! At the same time the Valve Cover Races were going on and although we had no CKCC competitors this



year, a lot of us expressed interest that this is something we might try next year.

### **Awards Breakfast & Departure**

Friday morning was the Convention Awards Breakfast. Zach and Roni had a table full of awards and many other of our club members also got awards. CKCC won the award for the most distance traveled by a Club.



And then it was time to start the trip home – repacking the car with a few additional items. Several of us took the Cape May Ferry back. Of course, the Corvettes were oohed and ahed by our fellow passengers.

### **Next Year's Convention**

Next Year the Convention will be back in Bowling Green. I apologize for not keeping my big house there for all of you to come and stay but if you get your reservations in early, I understand the hotel is reasonable and will have breakfast included.



*Ready for the Pajama Party*





# National Council of Corvette Clubs Report

*By CKCC Governor Zachary (Zach) Duys*

The next NCCC National meeting will be September 9 – 10 at the Sheraton Westport Plaza in St. Louis, MO. The governors will discuss several By Law and Standing Rule proposals for change. Please go to NCCC website and you will find the minutes to the May 6 – 7 meeting under the members only tab.

NCCC Florida Region will have the next meeting September 19<sup>th</sup> at Carl Black Chevrolet, 1150 East Colonial Dr. Orlando. Nominations for office of Regional Competition Director, Regional Membership Director, and Treasurer will be taken.

Florida NCCC sanctioned autocross spring season ended on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Lakeland's Sun N Fun airport. However, competition did not end for many from CKCC. The New Jersey Motorsports Park June 14<sup>th</sup> autocross became a huge low speed challenge. Most of us got at least one DNF. We missed cones or



sometimes we missed an entire section of the course. We were driving in the rain, had no parade lap, and only two runs to put down a best time. All those in the morning session for High Speed switched and did low speed in the afternoon. The afternoon events were much better with the track dried up. However, the DNFs continued into the afternoon.

Roni and I were the only CKCCers competing in the high speed time trials. So we quickly

changed to Hoosier tires and did our qualifying runs. Then we were put into groups for the actual competition. Roni drove with the ladies and I was put in a good group of C5 Z06s and C6s. We had two laps to put down our best run. Roni was fastest lady by 5 seconds. I was second place behind Jerry Bitner by 2 seconds. Times are posted on the NCCC website under the competition tab.

The next autocross in the south is the Carolina Summer Sizzler 14-event low speed in Anderson, SC on Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup>. The host club is Carolina Corvettes. The flyer is posted on the NCCC competition website.

Florida has its next autocross in Lakeland at Sun n Fun airport, October 1. This will be a 6-event low speed and hosted by Cypress Gardens Corvette Club.

I have received an email from Craig Kamradt NCCC Director of Public Relations. The subject is NCCC Family Helping Family program. The program is designed to connect NCCC members who are traveling and in need of help with local club members who have volunteered to help. I would like you to read about this program at the NCCC website under Members only tab. After you have read about this program and have decided you have something to offer, there is a form to fill out at the NCCC website Family Helping Family Application. Please send me a copy or simply let me know your interested in volunteering.

St. Jude has a tire raffle, the cut off date is August 15<sup>th</sup> for the drawing on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The tire raffle is to benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Each entry is \$25 and tickets are available from Patsy Shearer at the General membership meeting.



## CKCC Late Spring Racing in Florida

*By Bill Kassebaum*

June 30, 2022 Springtime in Florida is a great time for racing. CKCC racers had three autocross events scheduled with one the last day of April (too late for the March/April Spoiler Edition) and two in May. Two were NCCC events, one at Lakeland's Sun-N-Fun and the other at the National Truck Driver School near Green Cove Springs. The Green Cove Springs AX event had to be cancelled due to the school changing their schedule to non-stop 7 day/week driver training. The third was a 2-day Solo event (SCCA Autocross) inside the Daytona International Speedway. A group of CKCC members made it to Lakeland and Daytona to race.

### **Lakeland NCCC Autocross**

The Cypress Gardens Corvette Club held a NCCC sanctioned event at the Sun-N-Fun in Lakeland, FL on April 30, 2022. Unfortunately, due to tight scheduling restrictions, this event conflicted with the CKCC Vettes at the Museum Car Show at the AMCM. Attendance at the Lakeland AX was down but a lot of fun was had by all that traveled to the races. CKCC members that traveled to Lakeland included Veronica and Zach Duys, Ronnie Gasque, Cindy Barrett, Tim Reardon, Troy Springer and me.

There were 6 events held on this beautiful day of racing in central Florida. That meant each car/driver got up to 12 runs through the course of corners and straights guided by the enemy of AXers everywhere, the ubiquitous traffic cone. The best times for each of the 6 events were collected, tabulated and entered as NCCC records. Every cone you hit costs you 2 seconds that is added to your time.

Veronica Duys claimed Ladies 1st Overall FTD for all six events with a total of 66 points. Tim Reardon captured 4 of the 6 Men's 1st Overall FTDs. I had one Men's 1st Overall FTD and three 2nd Overall FTDs. Ronnie Gasque and Zach Duys had three and two Men's 3rd Overall FTDs, respectively. The CKCC members collected a total of 341 points to add to national and regional points totals.

As of the June 30th, this puts CKCC in 3rd place in the National NCCC Club Competition Points and 1st place in Florida Region points. The only CKCC member that is in the national NCCC top 15 is 7th in the nation, Veronica Duys with a total of 554 points. In the NCCC Florida Region, CKCC is first by a large margin.

*Continued on next page*



In the Florida Region, CKCC members hold 12 of the top 15 men's positions and 11 of the top 15 lady's positions.

### **Daytona Speedway SCCA Solo**

The Central Florida Region (CFR) of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) held a two day Solo (autocross) event at the Daytona International Speedway infield Kart Track May 7 and 8. CKCC members that traveled to Daytona were Ronnie Gasque, Cindy Barrett, Tim Reardon, Jason Brzozowski, Reed Hadley, Lynn Kassebaum and me.

The SCCA has entirely different classes than NCCC since they are not restricted to just Corvettes. As a result, some of the class designations may seem foreign to CKCC members who only participate in NCCC events. Most newer stock Corvettes will run in Super Street (SS), A Street (AS) or B Street (BS). Minor modifications are allowed to the suspension in these classes unlike NCCC stock classes. The biggest difference is the tire restrictions mandated by the SCCA. All stock or street classes are required to run tires with a minimum tread wear (TW) rating of 200. Tires such as Hoosiers are not allowed nor are any other tire with TW less than 200 (some Michelin Cup 2 tires are 180 TW). If

you want to run the sticky race tires, you will be racing with the big boys and girls with modified race cars.

Unlike NCCC, where there are multiple events (up to 7 events per day) and each event with 2 runs (for a max of 14 runs/day), the SCCA Solo event is just one event with typically 5 runs. Also, unlike NCCC where all first runs are completed by all competitors and then a second round of runs is done by everyone (if they want), the SCCA has competitors run all 5 of their runs consecutively. The best time of your 5 runs will be compared to the others in your class to determine who wins and the finishing order. One additional difference between NCCC and SCCA is that SCCA requires all drivers to work (corner, starter, pits, etc.) during a heat they are not racing. If you don't work, your racing times will not be counted. Of course, there are exceptions due to physical restrictions/limitations. But everyone who races works some job during the day. There are usually 3-4 heats during the event so there is plenty of time to sit, relax and catch up on the latest when you are not racing or working.

The Daytona SCCA Solo attracted over 120 racers on Saturday, May 7 and just shy of 90

*Continued on next page*



racers on Sunday, May 8th. If you have never been to or participated in a SCCA Solo event, give it a try. It is a lot of fun and keeps your driving skills sharp for when you race NCCC events.

Saturday had the most racers turn out and even with an hour-long interruption due to nearby lightning, we were done with the day's racing at around 3:30 PM. Tim Reardon won AS on Saturday, and I came in 7th a bit more than a second behind Tim. There was a total of 9 entries in AS with all but one being Corvettes. Reed Hadley won BS in his 2007 Corvette competing against 2 other Corvettes. Ronnie Gasque raced his C5 in Street Touring Ultra (STU) and finished in 3rd place. See Table 5 for Saturday's CKCC member results.

Sunday was a beautiful day for racing. No rain or lightning would interrupt the day's racing. The track was very similar to the

layout that was run Saturday, except the track was run in the opposite direction. Jason Brzozowski finished 4th in Super Street (SS) which had 8 cars total. Competition in SS is very close and included some very fast cars including a Tesla Model 3 Plaid which took FTD for street classes. Jason was one of only two Corvettes competing in SS. Other than the Tesla, all the other cars in SS were Porsche models. Tim and I ran in AS again on Sunday with Tim taking 2nd place and me finishing 4th. There was only one non-Corvette racing with Tim and I in AS. Ronnie Gasque competed in STU again on Sunday finishing in 2nd place. See Table 6 for Sunday's CKCC member results.

We all had a great time at Daytona. Hopefully you will come join us for a day or two of SCCA racing at a nearby track.

---

## Upcoming CKCC & NCCC Events

**July 14:** CKCC Social/Meeting. **CANCELLED** due to Covid outbreak among several members

**July 23:** CKCC Cruise-in to Marsh Landing, **CANCELLED** due to Covid outbreak

**Aug. 7:** CKCC Brunch at Fishlips, 10 a.m., Port Canaveral

**Aug. 9:** CKCC Social/Meeting 5:30-7 p.m. Merritt Island Moose, SR 3

**Aug. 20:** CKCC cruise-in, 2 p.m., The Catfish Place, St. Cloud, FL

**Sept. 4:** CKCC Brunch at Fishlips, 10 a.m., Port Canaveral

**Sept. 13:** CKCC Social/Meeting 5:30-7 p.m. Merritt Island Moose, SR 3

**Sept. 17:** Vettes on the Beach, Pensacola, FL

**Sept. 17 or 24:** CKCC Cruise-in, Elliot's Steak House, Edgewater, FL (TBD)

**Oct. 2:** CKCC Brunch at Fishlips, 10 a.m., Port Canaveral

**Oct. 9:** Corvettes at Palm Coast, Palm Coast, FL

**Oct. 11:** CKCC Social/Meeting 5:30-7 p.m. Merritt Island Moose, SR 3

**Oct. 15:** Vettes on the Avenue, Space Coast Corvettes, Melbourne

**Oct. 22-23:** CKCC 14-event Low Speed autocross, American Muscle Car Museum

**Nov. 5:** Canaveral Light House Tour, Cape Canaveral Space Force Station

**Dec. 16:** CKCC Christmas Party, 6:30 p.m., Rockledge Country Club, Rockledge



## Welcome, New Members!

### **Bill & Anita Clark**

The Clarks live in Titusville and drive a 2022 grey coupe. They're interested in drag racing and cruise-ins.

### **Diane Tingley Nagel**

Diane is a former long time member of CKCC. She lives in Merritt Island and currently owns three Corvettes: a 71 blue coupe, an 88 red convertible and a 2002 red coupe. Diane is interested in cruise-ins and other social events.

### **Kim & Linda Snyder**

The Snyders live in Titusville and drive a 2021 red coupe. They're mainly interested in participating in cruise-ins.

### **Frank & Lynn Storc**

The Storcs reside in Cocoa and own a 2021 red coupe. They are interested in participating in all of our club events.

## CKCC Ladies Breakfasts

*By Marilyn Lewis*

On June 15th our CKCC ladies met for breakfast at Sarno Pizzeria in Melbourne. Yes, a pizzeria does serve breakfast — good food, great conversation. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

The next restaurant is selected from recommendations made at each breakfast. If you have time, come join the fun. The next breakfast is scheduled for July 20 at Cozy Corner Cafe in Merritt Island.

## My Wife Beats The Odds

*By CKCC Member Bob Lacoste*

On Friday, June 24th at an afternoon Complementary Cancer Care event, my wife Lois was honored for her essay on surviving cancer. The organization requested cancer survivor stories for sharing



with the community through the North Brevard Hometown News newspaper. Of all the essays submitted, they chose the top 3 to be voted on for publication in their monthly publication and website. Lois submitted her essay, "How I Fought the Silent Killer" and was informed it was one of the top 3 to be judged. The award event was held in a quaint old cottage in Cocoa Village that had been converted into a tea house & wine bar with a beautiful outdoor patio. The event was attended by approximately 65 people. The Cancer Care staff presented each cancer survivor with a welcome package – a piece of jewelry, a pair of slippers, etc.; served light refreshments; held a 50/50 drawing; silent auction; and awarded prizes for the longest cancer survivor, which Lois won at 28 years. The 3 top essays were read by the writers and Lois was announced and awarded 3rd place with a huge gift basket filled with a coffee mug, a candle, \$25 gift card to a local restaurant, a wall hanging, a T-shirt, and other items. There were lots of tears and congratulations shared with all three winners and they were thanked over and over again for sharing their cancer diagnosis – experience – recovery and determination to fight and thank God for their blessings.

# The Venerable Spark Plug

By Bill Kassebaum

Suck, Squeeze, Bang, Blow. Just another way to describe the operation of the four-stroke internal combustion engine that is the source of the power in all our Corvettes. This article will talk about just one of the four-strokes, Bang. Actually, only the initiator of the Bang.

## History

We all have them. We may have never replaced them in our modern Corvettes. For the older Corvettes we own or have owned like the C1, C2 and early C3 models, they were always replaced as a part of the frequently (at least every 12k miles or so) required task of the engine tune-up all these early cars had to have. Without them our Corvette's engine will not start or run well or efficiently. They have been in every gasoline



fueled engine since Nikolaus Otto and Eugen Langen founded the first production company in 1864 and first engine that compressed the air/fuel mixture prior to combustion initiation with electric ignition and carburetor in 1876. Otto used an electric spark plug system developed and produced by Etienne Lenoir. He met Lenoir during his

travels investigating early engine designs. Lenoir is generally considered to be the true inventor of the spark plug.

## Combustion Process

The bang, also known as the combustion, power or ignition stroke, is the start of the second revolution of the crankshaft of the four-stroke cycle. At this time the crankshaft is at top-dead-center (TDC), both valves are closed, and the compressed air-fuel mixture is ignited by a spark plug, forcing the piston to bottom-dead-center (BDC). As crankshaft speed increases, the actual timing of the spark needs to be adjusted to ensure maximum efficiency and complete fuel combustion. In the early years of Corvette engines, the ignition system timing was completely mechanical. Mechanical distributors, electrical coils and various methods for controlling spark timing were utilized. Most used a combination of centrifugal and vacuum based spark timing based on engine rpm and engine vacuum.

## Engine Design & Progression

Over the years of Corvette engine design, the ignition system (like most of the other systems) is controlled by a computer with programming to provide maximum performance, drivability, economy and to ensure that the engine meets the current emission requirements. But there are a few things still common between our new Corvette ignitions and the early Corvette ignitions. Besides the coil(s), the spark plug is the other component that is essentially the same since the first 1953 Corvette was built, bought and enjoyed by the first enthusiasts.

## How Spark Plugs Work

A spark plug is a component for delivering electric current from an ignition system (coil) to the combustion chamber of a spark-ignition engine to ignite the compressed air-fuel mixture by an electric spark while maintaining the resulting combustion pressure within the engine. A spark plug has a metal threaded shell, electrically isolated

*Continued on next page*



from a central electrode by a ceramic insulator. The central electrode, which may contain a resistor, is connected by a heavily insulated wire to the output terminal of an ignition coil or magneto. The spark plug's metal shell is screwed into the engine's cylinder head and thus electrically grounded. The central electrode protrudes through the porcelain insulator into the combustion chamber, forming one or more spark gaps between the inner end of the central electrode and usually one or more protuberances or structures attached to the inner end of the threaded shell and designated the side, earth, or ground electrode(s).

The function of a spark plug is to produce a spark at the required time to ignite the combustible mixture. The plug is connected to the high voltage generated by an ignition coil or magneto. As current flows from the coil, a voltage develops between the central and side electrodes. Initially no current can flow because the fuel and air in the gap is an insulator, but as the voltage rises further it begins to change the structure of the gases between the electrodes. Once the voltage exceeds the dielectric strength of the gases, the gases become ionized. The ionized gas becomes a conductor and allows current to flow across the gap igniting the fuel-air mixture. Spark plugs usually require voltage of 12,000 to 25,000 volts or more to "fire" properly, although it can go up to 45,000 volts. They supply higher current during the discharge process, resulting in a hotter and longer-duration spark. As the current of electrons surges across the gap, it raises the temperature of the spark channel to 60,000 K. The intense heat in the spark channel causes the ionized gas to expand very quickly, like a small explosion. This is the "click" heard when observing a spark, somewhat like lightning and thunder.

The heat and pressure force the gases to react with each other, and at the end of the spark

event there should be a small ball of fire in the spark gap as the fuel-air gases burn on their own. The size of this fireball, or kernel, depends on the exact composition of the mixture between the electrodes and the level of combustion chamber turbulence at the time of the spark. A small kernel will make the engine run as though the ignition timing was delayed, and a large one as though the timing was advanced.

### **Unchanged Spark Plug Design**

Essentially the description, purpose and operation of the spark plug has not changed since the first engine was designed, built and installed in our Corvettes. But that does not mean things have not changed and significantly improved. Technology has optimized engine combustion chamber and ignition system design, so they are trouble free (most of the time!). A lot of Corvette owners don't even think about their spark plugs. That was not always the case.

I have owned my 1964 Corvette since early 1978. It has one of special high performance 327 cu.in. (5.359 liter) 365 hp engines. The owner's manual recommends that the engine have a tune-up every 12,000 miles or 12 months whichever occurs first. I found that I had to perform a tune-up much more frequently than that. It was not something I did because I felt the engine needed it but because it was required as the engine was misfiring so badly. There were many times I limped home after either glazing the plugs due to spirited driving or they fouled due to much town driving. In fact, I usually carried a couple sets of plugs (one cold, one hot) in the glove box and a socket/ratchet wrench so I could change the plugs while out. This was the cost of high-performance high-strung engines of the time. The C2 lower horsepower engines did not have as many problems with spark plugs.

### **Modern Materials Extend Life**

GM (and all other manufacturers) have learned how cylinder head, combustion

*Continued on next page*

chamber, valve train, intake designs and the refinement of fuel injection affects engine performance and component life. In addition, the spark plug design has been refined with noble metal (Platinum and Iridium) electrodes which has drastically improved the life of the center and side electrodes. Since the 90's most Corvette engines have incorporated these longer lasting plugs into their engine designs and the recommended spark plug replacement has been extended to around 100k miles. Very few of us with modern Corvette models have needed to or considered replacing the spark plugs. It is not that replacing the plugs would not make the engine run better with more power but the degradation of engine output from old plugs is not something most of us would even notice in normal or even spirited driving. It is likely a few hp gain could be realized with new plugs in our cars if the car power was measured on a dyno just before and after the plugs were replaced.

### **What to Buy or Not to Buy**

GM recommends specific spark plug part numbers (AC Delco for newer Corvettes, AC for older Corvettes) and frequency of replacement in your owner's manual. For most of us, that is the best for your Corvette. It is recommended that you buy your spark plugs from your local Corvette dealer or a reputable auto parts store. If you want to try a different brand of spark plug there are several long-standing reputable aftermarket designers and suppliers of spark plugs. You may consider replacing your original equipment AC Delco plugs with one of these brands (NGK, Bosch, Champion, etc.). But I would be wary of buying your AC Delco or aftermarket spark plugs from eBay, Amazon, or other similar online sources. You may think you are getting a great deal but most likely you will get even less quality than what you paid for. The iridium plugs you buy from eBay may not even be made with iridium or be safe to put in your engine. Stick with the dealer or major auto parts stores. A quick

internet search for fake or counterfeit spark plugs will find many examples of why not to buy your spark plugs from anywhere else.

The designers of the engines in our Corvettes have spent the last 70 years trying to make them as powerful and trouble free as the latest technology, material science and engineering knowledge allows. This includes the AC or AC Delco spark plugs that came from the factory in our engines.

There are also sources of aftermarket spark plugs that are not from mainstream major spark plug original equipment and aftermarket manufacturers that try to fill a niche or provide novel design features. We have all seen them through the years with their wild mostly unsubstantiated claims of horsepower, torque and economy gains. Sometimes in the back of car magazines, or even on TV infomercials late at night.

One Florida based firm, E3, has gained a lot of recent support in the industry from reputable professional mechanics and actual users.

They were founded in 1997 and are headquartered in Ponte Verde Beach, FL. You



*E3 plugs*

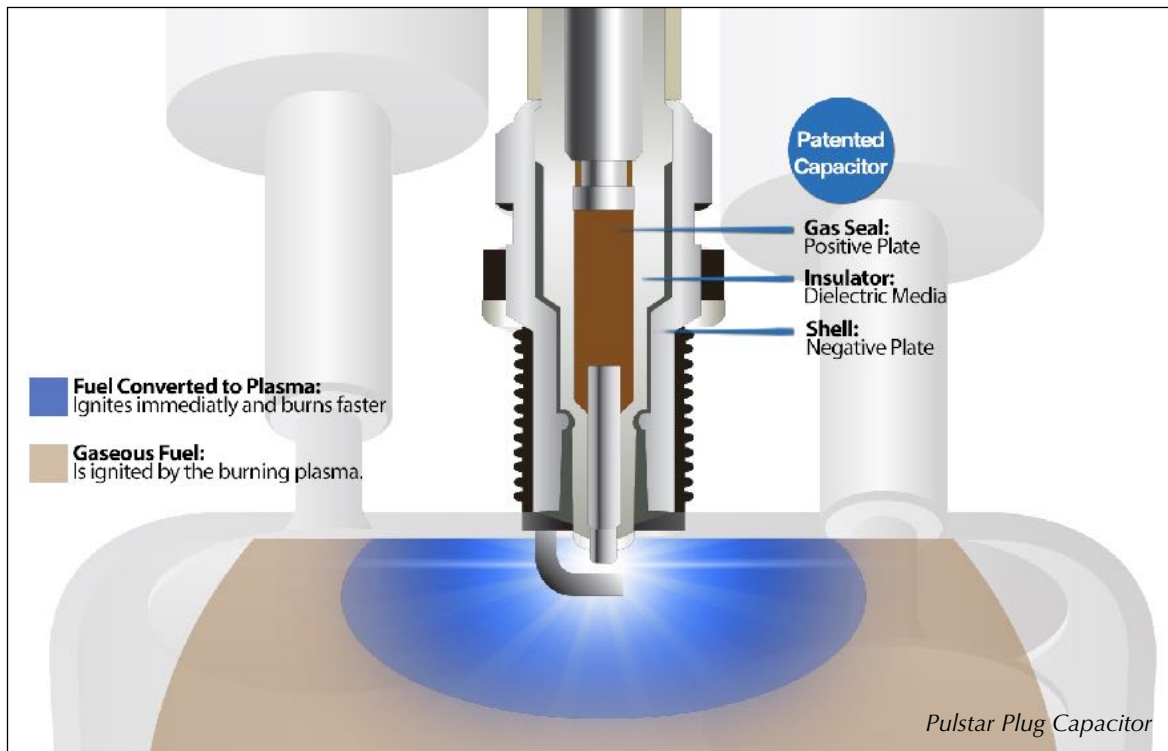
can buy E3 spark plugs at most national auto parts stores and links on their website. But at the time this article was researched and written not one major auto manufacturer has adopted the E3 spark plug as an original equipment part.

*Continued on next page*



There is another small spark plug manufacturer, Pulstar, that claims their spark plugs will add horsepower to any engine by just installing their spark plugs. Some of you may have heard about this company at one of our meetings. Pulstar was originally based in New Mexico and was based on the concept of an internal capacitor, developed

losses of over \$2 million). I also found that the Pulstar/Enerpulse company(s) had been procured several years ago (2017-18 timeframe) by an investment company in New Jersey called Passaic River Capital, LLC. None of this is apparent on the Pulstar website so buyer beware. If you are interested, more details of Pulstar, Enerpulse



with the help of a US Department of Energy laboratory. It is interesting that Pulstar recommends that their plugs be replaced every 50k miles. That is twice the frequency GM recommends. Given that the Pulstar plugs are roughly twice as expensive as the OE plugs, that makes servicing your Corvette engine with Pulstar Plugs 4 times as expensive as the OE plugs.

When I was researching the Pulstar company, I found that the address listed on the Pulstar website was a building in Albuquerque, NM that appeared to be empty and had a For Lease sign. A bit more research found that Pulstar was a wholly owned subsidiary of Enerpulse Technologies and had not filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission since 2015 (where they reported

and Passaic River Capital are provided in the references used in the development of this article provided below.

There is likely many spark plug manufacturers that I have not mentioned or researched for this article. Some may be equivalent to what came in your Corvette, and it will run fine. What you install and use in your Corvette engine is up to you. Do your research or simply use what GM recommends in your owner's manual. But please don't believe everything you read or hear. I plan to keep using AC Delco spark plugs as recommended by GM in both my Corvette engines. As for my lawnmower or string trimmer, who knows.



## May 10, 2022 Membership Meeting Minutes Merritt Island Moose Lodge

The meeting was called to order by President Janice Greene at 7:00 PM.

A quorum was met as determined by the Secretary. Attendance sheet is attached to these minutes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the membership.

### OFFICER REPORTS

#### **President, Janice Greene**

CKCC members with birthdays and Anniversaries in May were recognized.

New members and visitors were welcomed.

#### **Treasurer, Vivian Iduate**

Not present. No report

#### **Secretary, Bill Kassebaum**

A copy of the draft minutes from the April CKCC meeting was placed on each table for review. No questions or comments were received. A motion was made by Veronica Duys and seconded by Lynn Kassebaum to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### **Vice President – Dale Lewis**

No Report at this time. Will report later in meeting

#### **Competition Director, John Franklin**

Not present. No report

#### **Past President, Bill Shearer**

Not present. No Report

#### **Member at Large, Ellen Schwartz**

No report.

#### **NCCC Governor, Zach Duys**

Zach reported that the NCCC National Convention is a bit over a month away, starting June 14th in Atlantic City, NJ. There

are lots of events at the convention ranging from day trips to local attractions, low and high speed competitions, car shows, and lots of food and beverage options for everyone.

Zach stated that there are 111 folks that have said they will attend the 2021 NCCC Florida Region Awards picnic at Fox Lake part in Titusville. He thanked all the volunteers that have helped and contributed their time and energy to making the picnic possible. He stated that a special guest will be attending; a past president of NCCC (who is also a NCCC Charter Member!).

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **Membership Report**

**Co-Chairs: Maryalice Istvan & Brenda Teixeira (not present)**

Visitors to the meeting were identified and welcomed to CKCC.

It was also reported that a past member of CKCC has applied for membership.

#### **Social Committee:**

**Lois Lacoste & Patsy Shearer**

Lois made an announcement that she now has joined the 21st century and has gotten a smartphone. No more flip-phone.

Lois announced the following upcoming CKCC social events in 2022:

CKCC members have been invited to attend and drive their Corvettes in the annual Memorial Day parade, May 30th, in downtown historic Cocoa. Details will be sent to members for how to get there and times to arrive. A show of hands was about 20-25 members said they would try to attend.

The monthly CKCC Sunday Brunch will be June 5, 2022 at Fishlips in Port Canaveral.



## **UPCOMING CAR SHOWS**

Saturday, June 4th, Vette Masters Car Show  
Saturday, June 18th, Vettes at The Villages.

### ***Spoiler* Editor/Facebook Admin./ photographer, Roger Wolf**

Roger reminded new members to contact him about taking a photo of their car for the next *Spoiler*, FB page and club website.

The next *Spoiler* is ready to be published/posted and covers club events in March and April. The next issue will be published before the next general meeting and will cover May and June club and member Corvette events.

### **CKCC Port Show – Dale Lewis, Vice President**

Dale reported that the CKCC Car Show was a success and thanked all those members that made it possible. Dale stated that there are lessons to be learned and these will be captured for those that plan and put on the CKCC car show in 2023.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

NCCC Convention – Roni Duys

Lois is organizing a caravan for any members wanting to travel as a group.

Roni stated that the Tee's for the PJ Party at convention is coming along.

Roni stated that there are lots of events for everyone including social events and low/high speed racing events.

### **NCCC Florida Regional Awards Picnic – Roni Duys**

Roni stated that the picnic will start at noon Saturday, May 14, 2022, with the meal starting around 1PM. Come early to help set up and get the party going.

NOTICE: The park does not allow pets!

The awards ceremony will start around 3:15 p.m. Roni suggested everyone should think about bringing bug spray (Wow, this was an understatement knowing what we know now!!)

Roni requested everyone that is bringing a dish to bring the appropriate serving utensil

and to mark with your name. No one should have to bring chairs.

Roni reminded the club that we need and appreciate club volunteers for the FL region picnic and car show.

Zach reported that the NCCC Florida Region will give \$450 to our charity, Central Brevard Sharing Center.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Patsy Shearer reminded the membership that NCCC once again will be having tire raffles to benefit St. Jude. See Patsy for details and entry forms.

### **Club Trailer**

There was discussion of looking to replace the club events trailer. A trailer committee was announced, and members were asked to volunteer to help with the search and decisions on the trailer. Volunteers included Jim Smith, Bill Young, Judy Thompson, David Glenn, Bill Shearer, Bill Kassebaum and Jerry Pownall. The committee was asked to organize and determine the appropriate replacement trailer.

### **CKCC By-Laws**

VP Dale presented draft By-Law changes to the general membership. Discussion from members was open for all to comment on. Dale stated that the By-Law changes will be discussed in one or more future meetings and that a copy of the proposed changes will be sent in an email to all members to review in detail and comment as they feel appropriate. All comments and questions should be sent to the CKCC BOD and Dale. Further discussion will be held next general membership meeting in June. A vote to approve the changes may or may not happen in June.

**Mecum Auction** – Connie Kostyra stated if you are interested in working the upcoming auction to get with her for details.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. by President Janice Greene.

Meeting Minutes recorded and submitted by Secretary Bill Kassebaum

## **June 14, 2022 CKCC Membership Meeting Minutes Merritt Island Moose Lodge**

The meeting was called to order by President Janice Greene at 6:45 PM.

A quorum was NOT met as determined by the Secretary. Therefore, no official CKCC club business was conducted. Attendance sheet will be attached to these minutes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the membership.

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

#### **President, Janice Greene**

CKCC members with birthdays and Anniversaries in June were recognized.

New members and visitors were welcomed.

#### **Treasurer, Vivian Iduate**

Not present. No report

#### **Secretary, Bill Kassebaum**

A copy of the draft minutes from the May CKCC meeting was placed on each table for review. No questions or comments were received. A motion was made by Lynn Kassebaum and seconded by Bob Lacoste to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

But since there is no quorum, the minutes are not officially approved. The approval of the May minutes will be repeated at a later date when a quorum is present.

#### **Vice President – Dale Lewis**

No Report at this time. Will report later in meeting.

#### **Past President, Bill Shearer**

Not present. No Report

#### **Member at Large, Ellen Schwartz**

Not present. No report.

#### **NCCC Governor, Zach Duys**

Not present. No report

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Membership Report: Co-Chairs**

##### **Maryalice Istvan & Brenda Teixeira**

Visitors to the meeting were identified and welcomed to CKCC.

#### **Social Committee, Lois Lacoste**

Lois announced the following upcoming social events in the coming months of 2022:

No cruise-in events are scheduled for June.

June 18, 2022 – Car Show at World Golf Resort in St. Augustine. See Lois for details or search the internet.

The monthly Sunday Brunch will be 10 AM on July 3, 2022 at Fishlips in Port Canaveral.

July 23, 2022 - Cruise-in to Marsh Landing. Meet at Sears Center. Details at next meeting.

Proposed cruise-in to Elks Lodge in Cocoa Village. This is a 100 year old lodge. Proposed date is Sept. 10, 2022. More later.

More cruise-in events are being planned for the fall months. Details at future meetings.

#### **Spoiler Editor/Facebook Admin., Moderator/photographer Roger Wolf**

No comment or report.

#### **NCCC Florida Region Awards Picnic and 2021 Awards Presentation.**

Janice Greene reported that the picnic was a huge success and everyone had a great time (regardless of the yellow flies). The leftover food was donated to the Sharing Center.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **CKCC By-Laws**

Dale reported that due to lack of quorum, no discussion of proposed changes. By-Law changes will be discussed at next meeting.

#### **New Club Trailer**

No update. Still a work in progress. More details next month.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

An announcement was made for CKCC members to volunteer to assume duties of Competition Director. Zach Duys will assume duties of Competition Director until a permanent replacement is formally approved. Also, a club historian is needed. Anyone interested should contact a Board member.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM by President Janice Greene.

Meeting Minutes recorded and submitted by Secretary Bill Kassebaum.



## CKCC SPONSORS

### DIAMOND

American Muscle Car Museum  
Eckler's Corvette  
Lloyce Campbell

### GOLD

EAA • Vette Doctor

### SILVER

Duys Marine • Fishlips • Rustys

### BRONZE

N Sync Computer Systems

## 2022 CKCC OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Janice Greene  
president@ckcc.club

### VICE PRESIDENT

Dale Lewis  
VicePresident@ckcc.club

### PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Shearer

### SECRETARY

Bill Kassebaum  
secretary@ckcc.club

### TREASURER

Vivi Iduate  
treasurer@ckcc.club

### NCCC GOVERNOR

Zach Duys  
NCCCgovernor@ckcc.club

### OFFICER-AT-LARGE

Ellen Schwartz  
OfficerAtLarge@ckcc.club

## COMMITTEES

### COMPETITION DIRECTOR

Zach Duys (temporary)

### CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Judi Merrill  
Patsy Shearer  
Brenda Texeira  
charity@ckcc.club

### HISTORIAN

(open position)

### MEMBERSHIP

Maryalice Istvan  
Brenda Teixeira

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Roger Wolf  
photographer@ckcc.club

### PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

publicity@ckcc.club

### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Mary Jo Helm  
Lois Lacoste  
Barbara Marshall  
Patsy Shearer  
Vivi Iduate  
social@ckcc.club

### SPOILER EDITOR/FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR

Roger Wolf  
spoiler@ckcc.club

### WEB SITE

George and Kristy Halkovic  
webmaster@ckcc.club

### 50/50 DRAWING

Judy Thompson  
Lynda Payne  
Darlene Connor  
50/50@ckcc.club

### SHOW CHAIRMAN

Dale Lewis