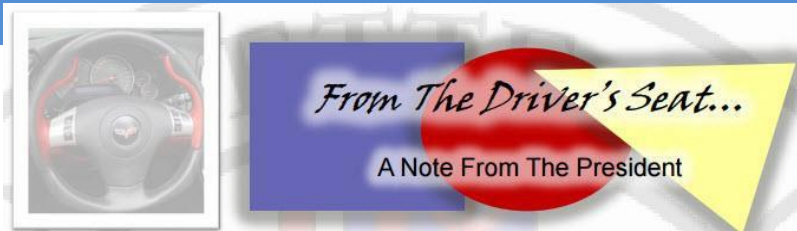


The Glass Fiber Gazette

Rochester Corvette Club Newsletter

March 2024 Volume 65 Issue 1

Bob Hoffarth
2024 RCC President



Notes from the President!



About Bob Hoffarth

Bob was born in Germany and raised in Tonawanda, NY where he attended Kenmore East SR. High School. Bob was active in the Army for 6 years where he was a helicopter pilot. He was discharged as a disabled Veteran. We'd like to thank Bob for his service. He has since retired from the US Postal Service after 30 years. He is currently living in Henrietta.

Bob has been single since 2009 but he has the love of his dog Ranger which he got in October at 8 weeks old after losing his beloved dog Oreo in June. Oreo live a great life with Bob for 12 years. Both Oreo and Ranger are Tri Color Shelties (black and white). They are beautiful dogs.

In 1973 Bob bought his first Corvette, a 1969 convertible. It had no engine and no transmission. He worked on it till he went into the Military in 1975 and sold it. In 2011 he purchased a 1982 Collector's Edition-which he still has and has 38,000 original miles on it. He then bought a 1991 C4 Coupe. One of only 200 built (metallic turquoise). He also purchased a 2004 C5 triple black. In 2018 Bob traded the 1991 C4 Coupe along with the C5 triple black for a 2016 Z51Stingray triple black. In 2020 he bought his 2018 Z06 and is now in a 2023 C8 Z513LT Stingray. Of course, Black.

Bob has been in the RCC since 2015. He has been the Director of News and Media for the Club since 2018. The Rochester Corvette Club really means a lot to him and he will do anything he can to help the club prosper. He says not to hesitate to reach out to him for anything.



Get to know your new Vice President-Gil Alexander

Gil has been a Corvette owner since 2015 when he traded his 2007 Mustang convertible for a 1993 torch red Corvette convertible at Turner Corvettes in Victor. He is on his 4th Corvette today, a 2021 torch red coupe with the license plate POPS ONE. In the meantime, he had a 1999 magnetic red Corvette convertible and a 2009 crystal red metallic Corvette convertible. Gil joined the Rochester Corvette Club that first year in 2015.

In 2017, he retired as an Information Technology Project Management Professional from Harris RF Communications. He joined Xerox Corporation as a college Co-op from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1972. He was hired full-time upon graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and remained for 22 years until he was outsourced to Electronic Data Systems in 1994. Gil stayed at EDS for 12 years until 2006 when his job was outsourced to India. He remained unemployed for 18 months when he was hired as a contract employee for Harris RF Communications in 2008. After 10 months in 2009, he was offered a full-time position and remained until he turned 66 and retired in 2017. He states he has never looked back.

Gil is the father of three grown children, who all live in the area and five grandchildren just beginning their adult lives. He has been divorced from his children's mother since 2000 after being together for 30 years. In 2003, he remarried for three years and has been single since 2006. Gil lives in the 19th Ward of the City of Rochester in the home that he purchased in 1977. His children graduated from Wilson Magnet High School where Gil's mother attended when it was West High School.

Gil was born in his grandmother's house six blocks from his current home and was baptized in the original Emanuel Lutheran Church on Thurston Road. His parents were also married in that Church. His parents bounced between Rochester and Syracuse in his early years and settled in Fairmount just west of Syracuse in 1959. He lived there until 1969 when he graduated from West Genesee Sr. High and over the next two years got a AAS degree from SUNY at Delhi, got married to his high school sweetheart, and they had their first daughter. Upon graduation, they moved to Rochester to complete his education. Their second daughter came 22 months later and their son 6 years later.

Gil has had a fascination with auto racing since he saw his first stock car race at the age of 11. None of his three brothers nor sister ever shared his interest. Since 1972, he has been an avid local auto racing "fan in the stands". In 1998, he was offered the opportunity to scrape mud off a DIRT Modified. That led him into the pits where a new promoter that he knew from Xerox invited him to become a pit steward. He eventually became a corner flagger and did one season as an assistant starter at Canandaigua Speedway. In February of 2004, he suffered two heart attacks. One of the stents that was placed on Superbowl Sunday occluded six days later. He no longer had the strength to climb into the starters tower. For the next two years he became the voice in the driver's helmet as he manned the one-way radio from the tower. The track management changed hands and his services were no longer required. For two years he worked at Genesee Speedway in Batavia. Since 2012, he has worked with the local 360 and 305 sprint cars of the Patriot Sprint Tour and CRSA Sprint Tour. Last December, he retired to devote his time and energy for the next two years to the Rochester Corvette Club as our Vice President.

Gil finally got the opportunity to realize his dream of driving fast on a racetrack. In October of 2021, he attended the Ron Fellows New Corvette Owners School at Spring Mountain in Nevada. He stated- It was more fun than you should be allowed to have. For the last two years he has driven his 2021 Stingray with the Niagara Region Porsche Club at their High-Performance Drivers Education events at Watkins Glen International.

Gil highly recommends that you experience all that the Corvette has to offer. They are truly an amazing car! As Vice President this year and President next year, Gil plans to continue the success of the Rochester Corvette Club. We have a 65-year tradition of fun, fellowship, education, giving, and support to those who are passionate about our favorite automobile, the Chevrolet Corvette.



Rochester Corvette Club

Membership Meeting Notes

Date: February 26, 2024 **Secretary Notes:** Kathy Heberle **In attendance:** D. Heberle, Bob Hoffarth, **Absent:** Glenn Burley and Gil Alexander

6:00pm to 6:30pm Socialize / Sign In / 50-50 Raffle Tickets / Host-Hostess Signup

6:15pm to 6:30pm Financial Transactions at front table

6:30pm Start of Meeting Pledge of Allegiance

Thank you to the Hostesses: Margie Finn & Maddy Cuciti

Presidents Report: Bob Hoffarth Kicked off the meeting with the pledge.

Headcount at meeting: 81

Upcoming RCC Picnics / Party:

Spring Picnic: Ontario Country Club – May 5th

Summer Picnic: Eagle Vale Golf Club – July 14th

Fall Picnic: Wildwood Country Club – October 6th

Holiday Party: RIT Inn & Convention Center – December 14th

Completed 2024 Events and/or Shows

Corvettes & Coffee – Van Bortel Corvettes Warehouse Showroom – Feb 24th. A Very Successful event. Kitty, Buffalo, Syracuse all turned out for this event. Some cars were even sold that day. Kitty and Matt took anyone interested for a tour of the new facility. Bob arranged the restaurant Hooligans, for lunch for anyone that was interested after the event.

Upcoming 2024 Events and/or Shows:

- **Rochester Auto Show – Feb 29th** – March 3th (Carmela Gallant). Things are being handled differently this year. If you work under 4 hours or a combination of 8 hours you do not get free for anything less than 4 hours admission. If you want to do this let her know. She needs help Saturday and Sunday. Call Carmela to get your name tag to get in.
- **Watkins Glen Opening Weekend – April 6 & 7** (Steve Popple) He needs 15 cars to sign up to go in as a group. Deadline to sign up is the Thursday before. You can drive your daily driver if your car is in storage.

Vice President Report: Gil Alexander – Bob – We are at 948 Members currently. 8 new members in the past 30 days. Any new members tonight? 4 couples were present including a returning Bob and Robin Simmons.

Secretary's Report: Kathy Heberle – Can someone approve my meeting minutes. Dan Dunn and Nadine Jopson approved the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Heberle / Glenn Burley – Dave – Charity Donations - \$236; Membership Dues - \$5,950, Total Expenditures \$2,388.94; Net Revenue \$3,561.06

Social Report: George Werner – Cruises and Restaurants. He showed everyone the new flag for the Corvette Club that he ordered through a Women Owned Business.

Couple of Things: Memorial Day at the Red Wings. Putting together our own color guard. A little different this year. The following Tuesday after Memorial Day is when it will be held. It is an evening game. More to come.

51 Members at the Valentine Dinner. New friendships were made for everyone.

George will bring the flag to all our events.

Warfields, 4/27 Saturday. Looking for 60 Corvettes Breakout Cruise. It will be open for everyone in

the club. Don't need your Corvette but, you will be at the back of the line and have to park in the back of the building. Registration is not open yet. TBD

Corfu VA Cemetery and lunch at the Log Cabin at Indian Falls - 25 cars. We are hoping to do our own colors we should be there for about 30 – 35 minutes. The cemetery is also holding an event that day and we must be mindful of the timing. The event will be held on 5/25/24.

George the financial situation this year we are working on reasonable pricing if possible. Not sure what the price will be at Warfields. It is a lot more expensive than last year. We want it to be a successful year. We are negotiating the best we can. Suggestion from the group; skip the appetizers, only dinner, no dessert. Keep it simple. We will look at doing that again possibly at Warfields. George will investigate this.

Corvette Racing Report: Doug Rigerman – Corvette Racing report. No report really. There were 4 corvettes that did not finish very well. Blew an engine etc. Didn't finish the race. GT ended up with a few incidents and they did not finish the race.

Newsletter Report: Donna Wollschleger absent – by the end of March we should have the newsletter according to her husband.

Sunshine Report: Karen Coast – absent Bob - Condolences, Mac Holder's brother passed away. Donation to the charity in his honor. Glenn surgery and he is doing very well.

Club Store Report: Dick Lagiewski – Need anything from Dick shirts and jackets, name tags and clothing reach out on the website is his email or see he at any event.

Sponsor Liaison Report: Angelo Ciersi – VanBortel were very thankful for the great success. New dealership should open late April. Still running into issues with the building. April and October meeting will be at VanBortel's new building. Brand new 2024 Corvette \$5,000 off MSRP. 90 Corvettes for sale. Appointments are filling up for the Spring so, call soon. People are saying there are issues with Service Department. They don't get back to people in a timely fashion. It took a member 5 days for them to get back him. There is a new Service person who just started. He is new and learning the job etc.. Angelo had a talk with them. If anyone has an issue my phone number is on the website. I will take care of it. Make sure your car inspection is up to date before you go to Watkins Glen or you will be turned away. Do they have an online to make an appointment? Not sure will check it out. Ang checked the website and you can make appointments online at their website. If Ang can't get resolved and Bob will contact them.

National Corvette Museum Report: Dave Kuchman – Manufacturing tours are suspended as of 2/5 not sure when it will start up? April 25, 26, 27 National bash. Raffles 2024 white convertible \$200 , Seawolf coup \$100, 2024 Riptide Blue April 15 , 2024 Red Misty Convertible \$20. (not sure of the cost for the tickets for the drawings check the website)

Wheels in motion – 6/22 are back at Charlotte again. We would like the RCC group back.

Bob Welcomed Dave back to the meetings. He had been recovering for about 1 year.

Charity Activity Report: Doug Rigerman – No new updates about the Charity.

50/50 drawing: \$286 Winner; \$143 Mark Wollschleger won the pot! Additional \$10 for donated books.

- **Cars and coffee:** \$255 winner from Syracuse.

Host and Hostess; Dan and Teresa Dunn

New Business: Open to the floor

Ed DiPonzio asked; to please send a card to Tom Turner get well send one to him. If you sent one send a second card.

We had a member ask when will the website calendar of events be updated? He also said, we have members with many obligations i.e., work, vacations etc. would like to schedule time off for these events. Bob said, they are working on updating the calendar.

Adjourn Meeting

RCC CUSTOM APPAREL CLUB STORE IS OPEN!

- **Name Tags** – with pin back \$9.00, with magnet back \$10.00 (Must be pre-paid with filled out order blank. Order blanks available on line or at monthly meeting.)
- **Window Stickers** - \$2.00 (Always available at monthly meetings.)
- **License Plate Frames** – Black with raised Chrome lettering - \$5.00 (Always available at monthly meetings.)
- **T-Shirts** – S-XL \$ 22.00; XXL - \$24.00; 3X - \$26.00
- **Golf Shirts** – S-XL \$24.00; XXL - \$27.00
- **Golf Shirts with pocket** - S-XL \$28.00; XXL - \$32.00. Logo on right chest.
- **Sweat Shirts** – S-XL \$29.00; XXL - \$32.00
- **Sweat shirts with hoods (hoodies)**—S-XL \$31; XXL \$37.00
- **Performance Jacquard Polos** (moisture-wicking) - **Men's Style** (3 button) Sizes – S-XL \$30.00; XXL - \$32.00 **Woman's Style** (open V-neck) & Sizes – S-XL \$30.00; XXL - \$32.00 (women's sizes run small - need to see or try on)
- **Fleece Jackets** – Men & Women Style & Sizes – S-XL \$35.00
- **Club Jacket** – S-XL \$55.00; XXL - \$60.00 (Must be pre-paid, includes first name) Add title- \$6.00
- **Put logo on your supplied item** - \$15.00 (Must be pre-paid). If there is a pocket, then logo goes on opposite chest
- **Sew on patches**- \$3.00 (previous logo)
- **Personalize** any item above with your first name- add \$6.00 (Must be pre-paid)

Dick always has items at our monthly meetings to try on for size. He also has some colors and sizes for immediate sale. If you are thinking about gifts for Christmas already, you need to order by October meeting for delivery at November meeting (last meeting before Christmas).

CONTACT: Dick Lagiewski @ 585-426-0217 or dickl64365@gmail.com

New Clothing Logo Options

As approved by the club we've developed and added the RCC logo wear store to the affiliate section of the Gulag America website. To get started we've designed and added two items a t-shirt and a hoodie that are available in multiple colors.

RCC Logo Wear Store: <https://www.gulagamerica.com/shop/Rochester-Corvette-Club-c149688019>

Club members can take advantage of 10% off these and all items on our site by using this custom RCC discount code at checkout: **RCCMEMBER10**

Barry W. Alt



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Linkedin [barrylinkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gulagamerica)

Co-founder



Sunshine Report by Karen Coast



Condolences- Carmela Gallinat – her mother-in-law Kaethe passed on January 9th,
Mac Holder – Mac's brother Michael passed
Get Well- John Terrano had surgery, Tom Turner had a stroke
Thinking of you- Glen Burney had back surgery

Be sure to let Karen know of all happy and sad occasions so that the Club can acknowledge them.
Send to: kcoast75@gmail.com

It's SPRING... let's get those cars out and drive them.

**UPCOMING EVENTS-SOME EVENTS REQUIRE REGISTRATION. CHECK OUT THE
RCC WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EACH EVENT**

Saturday April 6-Watkins Glen Opening Weekend.

Saturday April 27- Breakout Cruise to Warfields-7 West Main St, Clifton Springs

Sunday May 5-Spring Picnic, Ontario Country Club, 2101 Country Club Lane, Ontario, NY 14519

Saturday May 11-Grist Iron Brewing-Burdett, NY 14818

Sunday May 19-Memorial Day Parade-Rush-Henrietta HS, Lehigh Station Rd, Henrietta

Saturday May 25-Kaboodles Kafe and Corfu VA Cemetery for Respect-13677 Main St, Akron, NY 14401

Saturday June 8- Canisteo Craze Daze Car Show-S Main St, Canisteo 9-3

Sunday June 9-50th Annual Street Machines of Roc. Outdoor Car Show 1120 Latta Rd, Rochester 9-5

Saturday June 15- Sons of Liberty Motorcycle Club 2nd Annual Car & Bike Show Brockport Area Vet Club

Thursday June 20-Corvettes @ Charbroil-The Charbroil House, 1395 Island Cottage Rd, Greece, NY

Saturday June 22- Wheels in Motion Car Show-Ontario Beach Park 9-3

Sunday July 14- Summer Picnic- Eagle Vale Golf Club, 4344 Fairport Nine Mile Point Rd, Fairport

Saturday July 20-4th Annual Manchester Car Show 10-3

Saturday July 27- 4th Annual Bloomfield Car Show and Parade-10:30-3

Saturday July 28- Vettes at the Beach- Sylvan Beach

Saturday August 10-Scottsville Car Show Johnson Park, 3 Brown Avenue, Scottsville, NY 14546 8-4:30

Saturday September 6-Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival-Watkins Glen, NY 14891



Welcome New
members



Convention Center Auto Show

Another great showing at this year's 31st Convention Center Auto Show. The RCC displayed 3 beautiful Club Vettes. Thank you, Kitty Van Bortel, for your support. We did well for our charity WILLOW. Thanks to all those that helped make this event a success. Below are some of the volunteers that worked the show.



Cars and Coffee at VanBortel in February



Van Bortel Chevrolet sold BOTH the Rochester AND Buffalo club President's new vehicles at the Corvettes and coffee event in February.



Top: Bob and Nora Joseph from Buffalo
Left: Bob Hoffarth



VanBortel has also been busy selling other members cars! Here just a few I know of in the last few months.

Donna Wollschleger



Mark Wollschleger



**Both right
and left
New
member:
Garrett Pyc**



Valentines Day Dinner

The RCC 's Annual Valentine's Dinner was held at the Red Fidelis Brook House where the 65th Anniversary Club Flag was presented. Everyone who attended had a great time. The food was good and each member enjoyed the comradery of the club. Thank you George and Nadine for coordinating this event.





More fun at Bob's for Breakfast !





After a few bumps and delays the Harley Earl commemorative bench is up in the Visitors Center / Chamber of Commerce in Watkins Glen. The plaque is installed and the bench is in front of their brand-new mural showing the early days of Watkins Glen. Thanks to all RCC members who donated to help make this happen. If you get a chance, stop in, and see it in person.

HARLEY J. EARL 1893 – 1969

GENERAL MOTORS DESIGNER / STYLIST

"THE FATHER OF THE CORVETTE"

WATKINS GLEN – WHERE THE INSPIRATION FOR

"AMERICA'S SPORTS CAR" WAS BORN!

BENCH COURTESY OF THE ROCHESTER CORVETTE CLUB

– ESTABLISHED IN 1959

A quick pop-up lunch in Penfield on March 4th



Article Credit-Tim Tait

THE BATMOBILE THAT NEVER WAS...The Batmobile that ended up in the late '60s Batman TV series was a highly customized 1955 Lincoln Futura. But there was also a chance it could have been a Chevy Corvette. According to Randy Leffingwell's 2012 book *Corvette Sixty Years*, before the show went into production, its creators approached General Motors' designers to create their take on the Dynamic Duo's ride.

The result was this rather silly looking 1967 Corvette. That's famed GM designer Chuck Jordan sitting on the hood of the Batvette. The modded Corvette's most prominent features were its not very practical circular rear spoiler, stick-on Bat logos, hood-mounted machine guns, and an enormous 427 engine protruding through its hood.



Congratulations to Mike Hamblin on this 39th birthday and this AWESOME cake his wife made him for his birthday. WELL DONE!



Note from the editor: I hope you are enjoying the newsletter. Enjoy and let me know if you have any ideas. If you would like to see something special in the Newsletter or want to comment or send articles or photo's please send them directly to me at rccnewslettereditor@yahoo.com. All info will be considered and used as space allows. Thank you and I look forward to making the newsletter something we all enjoy. -Donna Wollschleger

2024 RCC OFFICERS

President: Bob Hoffarth – roberthoffarth@yahoo.com

Vice President: Gil Alexanderr—gilalex51@outlook.com

Treasurer: Dave Heberle -- d.hebr56@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Glenn Burley – gdb6818@gmail.com

Secretary: Kathy Heberle -- k.hebl56@gmail.com

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