

MAY 2023

CCOT ON THE ROAD – CORVETTES ON THE CIRCLE!

As many of you know, the Corvettes on the Circle Show at St Armand's in Sarasota has become a favorite event for a lot of the club members. There are several reasons for this. First it is a great show with over 175 Corvettes in one place and well organized. Second, the destination/location is beautiful with a lot of wonderful shops and restaurants to choose from. And third, we have always had a great time and done well as a group in the awards. So this year, we had 14 cars attend the show.

The CCOT Caravan met at Chris's office and pulled out about 9:30 heading down to Suwannee Belle Landing for lunch on the river. The food was good and service was great. They got us back on the road for the longer leg of the trip through the South Florida/Tampa traffic to Sarasota. Everybody made it safely to our hotel, Carlisle Inn, which is run by the Amish. The hotel is very nice with large rooms and hallways, large parking lot, a pleasant staff, exceptionally clean and fresh cookies at 4PM every day. Other than a bar, which is absent for obvious reasons, we could not ask for more. We organized at the Der Dutchman restaurant and bakery, which is right in the same lot as the hotel, for a great buffet dinner. Once again, great food and plenty of it.

As many of you might know, the Corvettes on the Circle is actually held inside of the park that is the center of a large traffic circle. As a result, we try to get there early each year so that the local club can get us parked in a good location. They cram 175 cars in a small space, so this is truly a case of early bird gets the worm. Club members met down in the hotel lot at 6AM to help Jerry get his 67 unloaded and ready to go. Afterwards we headed out for arrival at the registration tent about 6:45. Yes, the moon was still visible in the sky! After getting parked and doing the usual prep, everyone relaxed, headed to breakfast, or just began to look over the other cars. This show has something for everyone! All generations are represented and there are always some special editions or rare cares around to check out. This year I specifically noticed a 1 or 50 62 Corvette with a gold grill, fuel injection and 360hp, a 1 of 2 63 Corvette convertible with an almost complete glass top and a C8 with a standout wrap in electric blue and Lambo doors as well as stands and ropes around it. In addition, there were all manner of cars with little special additions or touches that often suggest ideas for anyone looking to make their own modifications. The Skyway club donates proceeds to Honor Flight and as such they have door prizes, silent auction items and a 50/50 drawing which usually goes over \$1500.

After a long but fun day, the time came for awards and I am pleased to say that our club, once again, did well.

First Place in C2 – Jerry Culbreth

Third Place in C3 – Terry Thomas

Third Place in C4 – Andre Pozzuoli

Third Place in C7 – Pat McElveen
50/50 Winner – “Lucky” Lou Hyatt

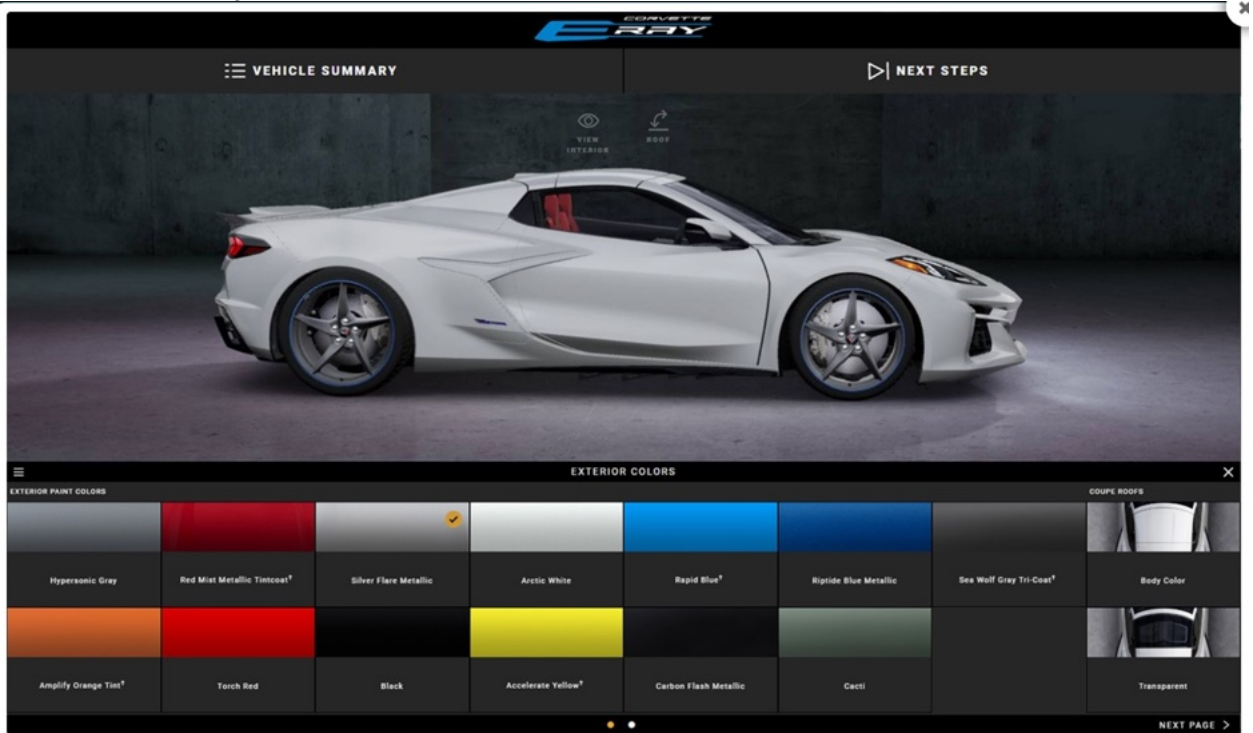
After a long but successful day, club members met back down at St Armand’s to watch the Kentucky Derby, there may or may not have been some wagering, and eat a nice dinner. All in all another great trip to Sarasota with a good showing by CCOT!



STORIES FROM THE NCM BASH!

Last month the annual NCM BASH sponsored by Michelin was held. This event is usually a great time to get a read on what is happening with Corvette both for the coming year and within the factory. Members of the Corvette Team and Factory personnel are always present to provide updates on what is happening and what is coming for the next model year. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend this year but here are some tidbits based upon what I have been able to piece together from the Interweb.

There are three new exterior colors. Sea Wolf Gray Tri-coat, Riptide Blue Metallic and Cacti. There is a new interior option called Artemis Dipped which can be described as a dark green color. And there are some new wheel options that can be best viewed in the E-Ray configuration tool. There is also some discussion about an increase in horsepower for the Corvette V8 as well as a new see through engine cover for the convertible. Stay tuned for more.



SHADE TOBACCO MUSEUM TOUR COMING UP!

Jacque and Evan Hume have arranged for CCOT members to have a personalized guided tour the Havana Shade Tobacco Museum on Friday, June 9th at 10:30, with lunch to follow at the new Off the Rails Irish Pub in Havana (**TENTATIVE!**). If the Pub has still not opened by June 9th, we will designate another restaurant in Havana.

There is a \$5/person donation to the Museum which is located at 204 2nd Street, Havana. We'll meet at the Bradfordville Publix parking lot and leave at 10:00 am, taking the scenic Highway 12 (non-toll) route into Havana.

Shade tobacco, for those (like me) who've never heard of it, was an extremely profitable crop for local farmers into the mid-20th Century. It was grown under shade to protect the tobacco leaves so they could be used for cigar wrapping tobacco. It was a complicated and time-consuming

process that kept a lot of local farmers in business during tough economic times, but it all went away as cigar smoking declined in popularity. You can still see barns and processing facilities in the area that were dedicated to growing and curing shade tobacco.

Even if you're not a cigar smoker, it is a fascinating bit of local history and we're counting on great weather to make the tour very enjoyable. After the tour, we'll walk to lunch and cool beverages.

To get a good headcount, please call or text Evan Hume at 850-933-6568 to let him know you will be joining us.

BACKPACKS FOR ONE MORE CHILD – UPDATE!

The Summer Backpack Project with One More Child is coming along well. We have received a wealth of donations from outside sources and members. We will pack the backpacks and the bags for the single moms on Tuesday, May 16th, at 6:30 p.m. at Terry Thomas' home. **We will deliver everything to One More Child on Thursday, May 25th, at 6:45 p.m., meeting about 6:15 p.m. to caravan.**

Thanks to all the generous donations we have received, we have most all of the items for the bags, or we have the funds to purchase the remaining items. If you wish to help with packing the bags, notify Angie Wallenfelsz at (850) 510-6448.

Special thanks to the following:

Sam's Club

Terry Thomas and Glori Enzor

Gina Harris

Lil Red School House

The Perkins family

The Raffensburger family

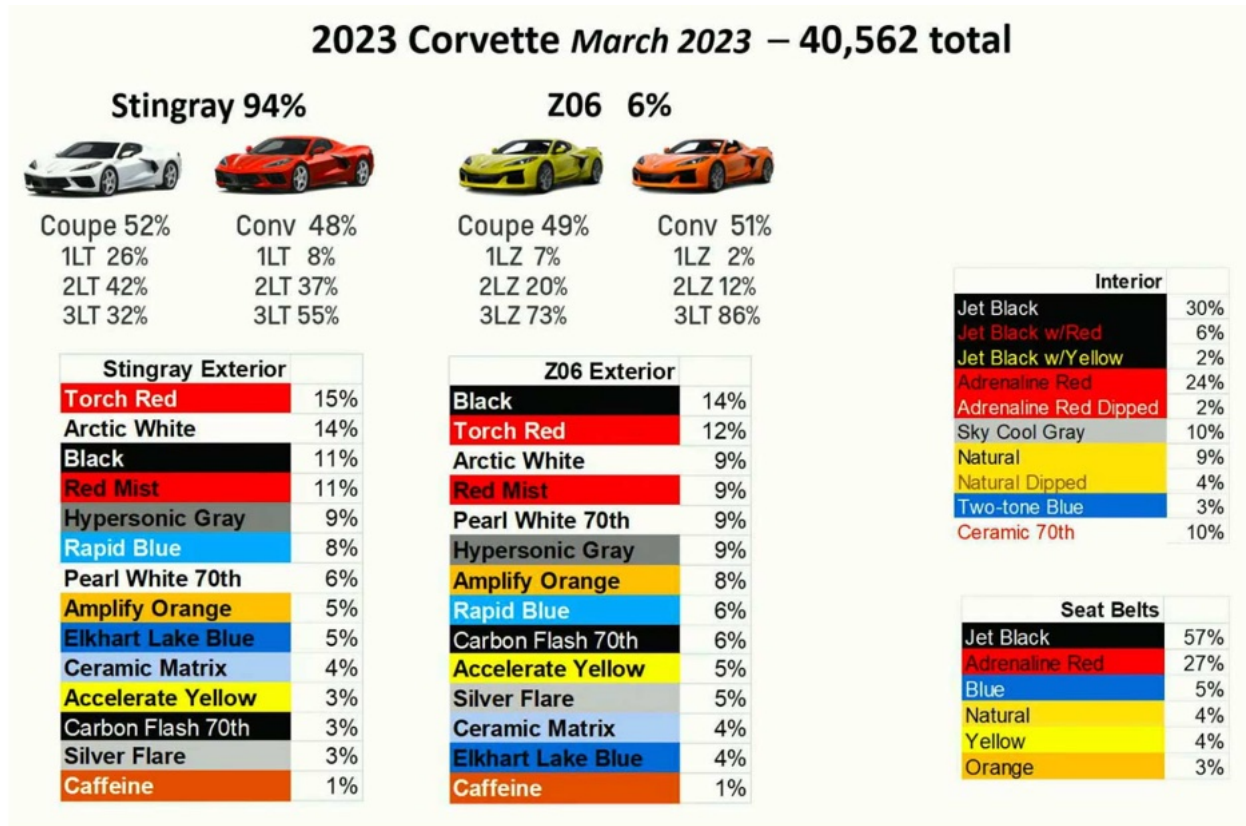
The Miley family

Publix

Numerous Club Members

THOMASVILLE ROSE FESTIVAL!

The annual Thomasville Rose Festival has been a regular event for our club for many years. The regular itinerary usually involves cruising over for dinner at the Plaza restaurant on the Friday of the parade, heading to the parade after and then walking over to the big street dance with the Swinging Medallions. Several club members have made personal connections over the years with members of the band so it is always a good time. This year Chris was contacted by the Jacksonville Corvette Club that was planning to bring a large number of their members over to participate in the parade and other events. Seems like the parade participation was nixed due to restrictions on the number of cars that could participate. Even so, the group joined our members for dinner, parade watching and the street dance so connections were made and there were no arrests or reported "driving awards" collected by anyone. On Saturday a small group of members participated in the annual car show sponsored by the Thomasville Police Department. There are a lot of events between March and June so check the events calendar often on our website.



THE NEW VARIANTS!

Nope, you don't need a vaccination for these! Well maybe a few of you do or at least you need to lock up your wallet ;-). The May edition of Car and Driver has a nice cover shot of Corvettes that are rumored to be coming. There are at least three out there. The first which is quite controversial and is referred to as "the worst kept secret since the mid-engine Corvette, is the Corvette SUV. I think, following the example of Lamborghini and Porsche who seem to be selling a few, GM has decided that there is too much money left on the table in the Corvette brand by not having an SUV version. Some who are more purists have decried this move as tantamount to sacrilege. Yet, even at the recent Corvette show in St Armand's I heard several owners talk about difficulty climbing out of their cars. Two different owners who had installed Lamborghini doors were quite vocal about how much it helped them with exits – especially one who had recent knee replacement surgery. Rationalization or reality? There have been comments over the years from many who would like additional room in the cars so perhaps this is a solution. We will see. However this rumored SUV turns out; it had better be a class leader and not just another rebadged grocery getter. Anyone heard anything about a Corvette baby seat with a shifter and FOB teether?

The other two variants are pretty much expected if history is any indicator. First the ZR1 model is described as possibly a Z06 with twin turbos, over 800 hp and improved aerodynamics to make it very quick around the track but still comfortable on the street. Expect 0-60 at about 2.5 seconds and a base price of \$150,000. The top dog should be the long-rumored Zora described by Car and Driver as the top-fuel dragster of the Corvette lineup. You might expect a mashup of the ZR1 mechanics with the electrification of the E-RAY. Guesses are that it will be 1000hp or more and produce 0-6- times of 1.9 seconds with a quarter mile of 150mph. That should help get the ice cream home from Publix before any melt in the summer heat. Car and Driver describes this as a smartly dressed speed demon with the full complement of luxury features ready for a cross country trek. Expected price will be around \$200,000.

Anyone on a list yet? I suspect we will see some jockeying around with allocations, demand across the various models and, of course, the ridiculous, brand damaging dealer market mark-up pricing debacles. Fasten your seatbelts!



NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM UPDATE!

The 2024 Caravan is Coming! - The National Corvette Caravan is coming! As many of you know, every 5 years coinciding with the annual Labor Day celebration of the NCM Anniversary, there is a National Corvette Caravan. This event is years in the making. Clubs join regional caravan groups which usually choose a beginning rendezvous point and then proceed to Bowling Green over several days. On the way there are usually a lot of activities and stop overs at scenic places. I participated in the 2014 and 2019 Caravans and I enjoyed them both immensely. In 2014 I got a chance to run my car at Talladega and in 2019 I was able to do the same at Daytona. These experiences were two of many that I greatly enjoyed. In 2019 we had a solid club cohort that participated in the event and I am sure that there will be interest in the 2024 event based upon my informal conversations thus far.

I was able to meet and speak with the National Caravan Captain Frank XXX at the Corvettes on the Circle Show in Sarasota last week. He is a great guy and told me that plans are being made and firmed up now. He noted that one of the major problems in years past is getting all of the Corvettes in-route by the museum in an orderly manner. He said given current traffic patterns around the museum, that are looking at alternative ways to accomplish that goal which seems to be more challenging now than in the past. Because of our location, we actually have the option to caravan with the Florida group or the Southeast group made up of LA, AL, MS and Northwest FL. I am waiting for the itineraries to get posted so we can all decide what looks like the most fun trip. Once we decide, the most important thing we will need to do as soon as things become clearer will be to reserve hotel rooms. Like last time, we will build out a detailed itinerary for everyone participating. Stay tuned!

Upcoming Museum in Motion Events



MiM Le Mans Tour

June 3 - June 13, 2023

LIMITED AVAILABILITY



MiM Charlotte

June 4 - June 8, 2023

WAIT LIST AVAILABLE



MiM Alaska Cruise

July 11 - July 22, 2023

WAIT LIST AVAILABLE

View a complete list of events with more information and links to register on the [website here](#).

Corvette Raffles! - Currently raffle tickets are only available through the mail, by filling out an order form, or through purchase at the museum or in the State of Kentucky. There are a range of vehicles and raffle types underway, so I encourage you to take a look at the website for a complete listing. I have not won yet, but I remain hopeful. You can't win if you don't play as they say. You can find the latest raffles here - <https://raffle.corvettemuseum.org>



2023 Torch Red Corvette Coupe 6/15/2023

Price: **\$100.00** Tickets: 2000 Available: 1366

Drawing: June 15, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time



2023 70th Anniversary Carbon Flash Coupe VIN 00001 6/29/2023

Price: **\$300.00** Tickets: 1953 Available: 1466

Drawing: June 29, 2023 7:00 PM Central Time



2024 Build Your Own Corvette Stingray or \$80,000 7/13/2023

Price: **\$250.00** Tickets: 1500 Available: 1396

Drawing: July 13, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time



2024 Arctic White Corvette Coupe 9/2/2023

Price: **\$20.00** Unlimited Raffle

Drawing: September 2, 2023 3:00 PM Central Time

Check the Events Calendar on the [UPDATED](#) website for more upcoming activities

Join us for our next meeting on [May 4th](#) at Glory Days!

If you have any questions or suggestions about the newsletter, please contact:

John Opper
ccotnews@gmail.com

Corvettes on the Circle – CCOT Winners Circle



