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MAY 2023

CIRCLE CITY BEACH CARAVAN AND CAR SHOW!

For some of us, this show is an annual event that is not to be missed. The Circle City Corvette Club puts on a great 4 day event that begins in Dothan with a dinner on Thursday night, caravan to Panama City Beach on Friday, welcome party Friday night, car show Saturday and Banquet and auction on Saturday night to conclude an event packed weekend. This year proceeded according to plan with a nice meet up in Dothan at Solomon Chevrolet and dinner that evening. Friday morning there was staging at the Peanut Festival Fairgrounds and a great looking caravan to Panama City Beach and Pier Park for lunch. Our crew ate at Hooked while some of the other participants tried out Margaritaville. The resort had nice views of the gulf, the weather was pretty good with acceptable temperatures in the morning and breezes in the evening. Saturdays car show was set up in a side lot to the convention center. The club members started early grabbing a good spot and cleaning up the cars. I drove over that morning with no problems and set up with everyone else. We had a nice row off the side with some shade. There was a seminar by Damian Zink from the Corvette Assembly Plant which covered some facts about the current Corvette, anticipated changes for the 2024 model year and lots of information about the E-Ray. We also learned a lot about the assembly process for the current generation car and were able to ask questions all the way through. The National Corvette Museum had staff on-hand and set up a nice pop-up store in the convention center. This is one of the great things about this show; not only is it run well with great people but they also bring folks from both the NCM and Corvette Assembly Plant down for the event.

I am happy to report that Mike Wallenfelsz won the participants choice award and Rick Raffensberger won a sponsors choice award. Other members won top 25 plaques as well. In addition, this show takes pictures of all the Corvettes and drivers upon arrival on Saturday morning and at the award ceremony everyone gets a participant plaque with the show logo and the picture mounted on it as well as the normal dash plaque and t-shirt. This is not the cheapest show you might go to but it is one where the return on investment is well worth it with all the souvenirs, food and seminars. One of the highlights of this show is the closing banquet and auction. There are typically highly collectible items up for bid including things from Corvette Racing, GM, Mobil, and significant people in Corvette history. This year, I bid on an autographed wheel and set of transmission gears from the #63 Corvette C8 that ran in the 2022 Lemans 24 race. The wheel is autographed by the drivers and now I am working to make it into an interesting table. We will see how that goes.....

This is a fun show with seminars, a pop-up NCM Store and a great auction. Add this one to your list for next year.

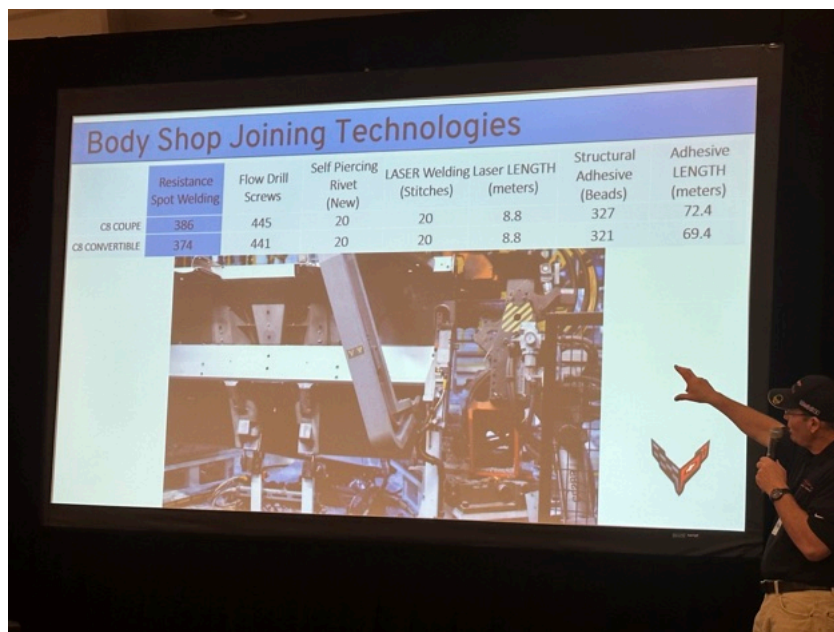


CORVETTE ADVANCEMENTS – THE COMPLEXITY/SERVICE CONUNDRUM!

Last edition, I wrote a little about the forthcoming Corvette variants in the pipeline and the E-Ray. The current and projected future versions of Corvette are exciting to think about. Even what we know so far about the E-Ray is pretty amazing from both a performance and design perspective. Who knows what a ZR-1 or Zora version might bring to the table when they show up. For now, the rumors are interesting to speculate about. Like many of you, I follow the blogs, news item and other posts on the Corvette Forum to keep up with events, technical news or just information from other owners, dealers and engineers. And recently, I began make a few connections that are concerning.

Many of you may recall several disturbing videos that hit the internet when the C8 came out of the cars actually falling off of lifts in dealer service bays. The issue was simple to understand. The new cars weight distribution had changed significantly with the shift to mid-engine and as a result the lift points and process had also changed. Apparently, information and training on this matter did not make it down to a number of dealer shops. And so, we had a short period of flying C8's. There have also been a considerable number of ongoing threads all over the internet about transmission matters and service intervals and processes for the C8. Sadly, many of us with such questions or issues have to work very hard to get answers or we wait to talk with Paul Koerner or another GM/Factory representative at a major Corvette event. Similarly, I have been in several sessions at the NCM and other places where representatives from the factory have explained in great detail how much care is taken in just the painting process alone for Corvettes. Imagine now that you have a fender bender and need a fender resprayed. How many of you have the confidence that you will get that same level of care and

quality in a respray from any local shop? Some weeks ago, I read another story on the net about popular Youtuber SpeedPhenom who was one of the first to receive a C8 Z06, and his challenges with the Z06 Carbon Fiber Wheels. SpeedPhenom has been quite open in his video posts about his experiences with his new Z06. He has DRIVEN the car pretty hard and tracked it as well. In the process, he has gone through some tires. Without going through the whole sequence of events, he is now on his third set of tires and has a new set of carbon fiber wheels from GM that he cannot get mounted. The issue is that the carbon fiber wheels need a specific tire machine to mount the tires or they can be damaged in the process. Seems our boy Speed has been to three dealers to have the work done and they won't do it because – they don't have the correct machine and could damage the wheels. Speed even tried to get the work done at a Ferrari dealer and they could not help him. So for a time, his Z06 found itself sitting on jack stands it seems. He has only great things to say about the Z06 but, seems he has recently decided to part with his Z06 at this point because he is very excited about some of the upcoming Corvette variants and needs to make room. And, last week, during the Circle City Beach Caravan and Car Show in Panama City, I was listening to Damian Zink from the Bowling Green Assembly Plant speak during his seminar on all things Corvette and the E-Ray. During the session we got quite a bit of information on the impressive engineering of Corvette and specifically the E-Ray. During the Q and A section at the end, I asked about the ability of the dealer service network to keep up with the obvious considerable technical advances in the current and forthcoming cars. Mr. Zink responded that that was a concern and something that GM was working very hard on in partnership with the dealer network.



When considering the above scenarios, I have to say that I am concerned. Logically, if I purchase a new Corvette from a Chevrolet dealer, I expect that same dealer to have ALL of the tools, computer diagnostic equipment and professional development in its technicians to be able to service what they sell. If that is not the case, then I firmly think that GM should not provide them allocations to sell something they cannot service. Too harsh or unrealistic? Lets be honest here. Every shop does not have the ability to work on everything. It is when they try and mess things up that it all goes bad. Fortunately, most of the major dealers go through a regular certification process. Many of us have had the conversation with a service advisor where it feels like possibilities about what might be wrong are being conveyed along with pricing to “explore” rather than specific causes diagnosed and solutions determined. My father-in-law worked in the

car business all of his life. He owned a GM dealership for many years and after retirement he helped others run theirs. He also served on the Dealers Council and in other roles. He always told me that a good service technician could make a great living and that they were integral to the success and profitability of a dealership. Seems like an obvious place to make an investment. And rightly so, GM is rolling out a million dollars in scholarships to attract and retain high quality technicians. I think that is a smart move. I only wonder if that is enough.

So where are we now with Corvette? The cars are truly engineering marvels. They are getting more and more complex from an engineering and diagnostic standpoint, they require more advanced tools and equipment and they need the type of technician that is dedicated to the profession. As Corvette advances, so too does the need for a higher level of professional development at the technician level. Electrification will only exacerbate this issue. We all know that when we find a good shop or technician, that information gets shared rapidly. So lets support great shops and great service technicians. If they make that commitment to be the best they can be, they will have my support and my business.

GATHERINGS!

Jacquie and Evan Hume organized a very nice tour of the Shade Tobacco Museum in Havana on June 9th. Along with learning about some of the unique history of the area, our club members had a very nice lunch at Off the Rails Irish Pub and enjoyed a cruise through some of the wonderful backroads of the area led by Allen Campbell.

Matt and Vivian Miley hosted a Saturday pool party and cookout at his lovely home on June 10th after the Southwood Cars and Coffee. Members enjoyed some good food and conversation around the pool. Thanks to Matt for opening up his home and yard! You can see the full drone video on our website at <http://www.napoliphoto.com/Videos/Pool%20Party.m4v>.



BACKPACKS FOR ONE MORE CHILD – UPDATE!

The Summer Backpack Project for the kids and moms who are part of the Single Mom's Program at One More Child was a huge success!! The excitement on the children's faces as the cars cruised by and the covered ears for the loud car sounds, as well as the excitement for the backpacks and items, was priceless to see. The kids, the mothers, and the One More Child staff were extremely grateful.

Thank you so much to all of you who donated money and food, participated in stuffing the backpacks and bags, made phone calls to area schools, shopped for items, asked for donations, and let the kids touch and sit in your Corvettes. I hope all of you have a warm feeling in your hearts for what you have done for these families. It was such a blessing and could not have been done without all of you.

A special thanks to Chrissy Walsh and Diana Napoli, without whom this would not have been possible. THANK YOU EVERYONE!! ~ *Angie Wallenfelsz*



CORVETTE RACING AND THE 100TH LEMANS!

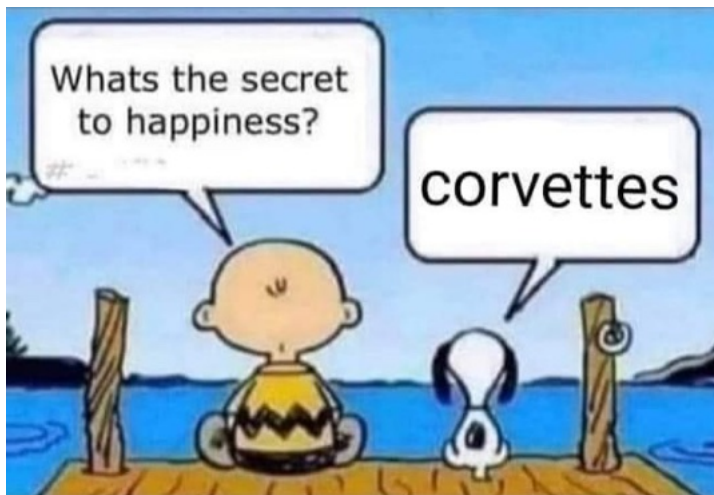
As many of you know, this is the last year, and the last LeMans, for Corvette Racing as a factory sponsored team. Moving forward we will see Chevrolet providing the new Corvette Z06 GT3 cars to private racing teams for competitive racing. As a result, Corvette Racing team members really wanted a win or podium placing for this final LeMans. This race is a really tough 24-hour competition and everyone brings their A game and more. Typically, Corvette Racing will bring two cars, the 63 and 64, for this race however, this year they came in with one car and a lot of determination. That determination and a great #33 car won them the pole position for their class and also put a target on their back. The car was fast but the race is long. There are blow by blow accounts of this race but to summarize – Corvette Racing started out

fast and suspension problems resulted in them dropping two laps down to 15th place. I struggled to continue watching thinking there is a long time to go and slowly but surely the #33 clawed its way back to the front. In the final 4 hours, Corvette Racing held and extended its lead to finish in first place for the win in its class! The perfect ending to a long and storied run as a factory team.

So next year we may see a lot more Corvettes on the racing field that are owned and operated by individual teams. While it is good to have more on the field, I will miss being able to focus on and cheer for the Corvette Racing factory team. BUT, all is not lost. Pratt and Miller have announced that there will be a Corvette Racing Team under their banner going forward. So, well done Team Corvette and welcome to the new world of Pratt and Miller Corvette Racing.



APPRECIATING THE FINER THINGS





NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM UPDATE!

The 2024 Caravan is Coming! - The National Corvette Caravan is coming! Checking the Caravan site does not yet show any itineraries posted for the trips so far. I will keep looking out for the details so we can make a call as to which group and route we might want to join. As I have said before, once we know it is extremely important to make hotel reservations immediately. This is a major event and rooms all along the way fill very quickly. Some groups will reserve entire floors of hotels. Stay tuned!

Upcoming Museum in Motion Events



MiM Detroit

July 9 - July 13, 2023

ONE ROOM AVAILABLE



Corvette Racing Weekend

Dates To Be Announced

CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION



MiM NYC

October 22-26, 2023

JOIN SHORT LIST NOW

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>



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

NOT ACTUAL COLOR



2024 Riptide Blue Corvette Coupe 8/10/2023

Price: **\$150.00** Tickets: 1500 Available: 1025

Drawing: August 10, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time



2024 Red Mist Corvette Convertible 9/1/2023

Price: **\$200.00** Tickets: 1500 Available: 1383

Drawing: September 1, 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 July 6th at Glory Days!

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

John Opper
ccotnews@gmail.com



