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SEPT 2023

CELEBRATION CAR SHOW !

Club members met at Annsworth Academy just off Kerry Forest Parkway on Saturday after lunch for the short cruise over to the car show. The weather was just fantastic on Saturday and the caravan cruised through Killlearn over to Celebration Baptist Church. Each year this car show has grown a little more to become one of the community's best attended events. This year was no exception. With over 250 cars pre-registered, some were wondering if the field could hold all of the participants. Club members checked in and, as in years past, moved over to the Corvette area which is parallel to Centerville road. Cruisin Corvettes were well represented with 22 club cars present and another 13 or so non-club Corvettes also in attendance. The breadth of models and manufacturers represented at this show is impressive. There is no admission or charge to participate which makes it a real draw. And this year, the Church asked entrants to bring some canned food or other non-perishable item to contribute to their food pantry to help others. This was a great idea and I know our club did its part in helping to fill up the large tub with food. The Church, in turn, provided tickets to registered car owners for free lunch.

Beautiful day, lots of cars to see, great friends, free food and music. I am not sure a Saturday at a car show can get any better. Below are a few pictures. If you were not able to join in this year's event, we hope to see you there next time.



NEW CARS IN THE CLUB!

From time to time our members trade or acquire new cars. It is always fun to see a new car and learn a little about why or how they were acquired. The process can also be a bit painful when saying goodbye to an old Corvette. But I think it is safe to say that most of us approach

this with an eye toward finding a new home that will appreciate the car we have enjoyed. And some of us, you know who you are, just keep the all! Over the last month or so we have three members who have acquired new to them Corvettes. Andre Pozzuoli drove quite a ways up north to pick up a very nice C4 ZR1 that is maroon in color. This car seems to have an interesting history which I will leave to him to relate. Mike Wallenfelsz picked a black C6 Z06 that has that wicked Batmobile look with red calipers. This car has to be heard in person. There might or might not have been a little engine work done on this ride with 550 HP at the rear wheels. And Rick and Donna Raffensburger have acquired an Indy 500 Pace Car edition C6. We have heard Rick say that if he could buy a new C6, he would do it. And as fate would have it, while he and Donna were on a trip up to the Corvette show in South Dakota, they found this car with between 300-400 miles on it. So, basically a new car and of course Rick and Donna jumped on it. Congratulations to everyone on the “new” cars!



NCM ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Each year the National Corvette Museum hosts its anniversary celebration around the Labor Day Weekend. This year was the 29th anniversary of the opening of the museum and it has come a long way in those many years. In addition to the usual opportunities to visit local area sites and join day trip caravans, there are many seminars available. Three of the most popular, in this writer's opinion are the updates from the Bowling Green Assembly Plant, the presentation by the Corvette Design Team and the very popular seminars help by Paul Koerner, the Corvette Mechanic, who can often diagnose or fix most any Corvette issue. All were in attendance this year along with the recently located VIN #1 Corvette and some new exhibits. The museum has completed a major redesign of the space in the Skydome. The cars that had fallen victim to the sinkhole have been moved out and a new large scale display screen has been added along with updated exhibits. Among lots of discussions about the forthcoming 2024 Caravan were underway and we continue to watch for more exciting details about routes and activities planned for the 30th anniversary celebration. Stay tuned!

BILLY (BROTHER BILLY) HUDSON

Many of you have heard some of us speak about Brother Billy in relation to the Lighthouse Children's Home which we support annually at Christmas through a Corvette Cruise/Pizza Party and donation. Brother Billy was a major force, if not THE major force, behind the ongoing operation and work of the home and had a huge positive impact on the many girls who transitioned through. He had some health challenges in his later years but that never seemed to slow him down much. On August 27th, Brother Billy passed and many of us who had at least a passing acquaintance with him have all felt that loss. Out of respect and admiration for him, we reprint his obituary here.

Billy J. Hudson, passed away on August 27, 2023, with his wife of 66 years by his side. Billy was born in Westville, FL. He graduated from Bonifay High School where he was awarded All

Conference in sports. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1957 and was medically discharged after a year due to having a heart attack. He married his high school sweetheart, Betty and moved to Tallahassee in 1957. He joined the Tallahassee Police Department where he was voted one of the top ten police officers in America in 1971. He retired as Sergeant after 26 1/2 years. He was a Southern Gospel Music DJ and promoter for almost 53 years and in 1973 was voted #1 Gospel DJ with the Gospel in Song program. He was awarded Tallahassee Good Samaritan in 1982. He was a deacon and choir director at Lakewood Baptist Church for many years. Although he was not musically trained, he led one of the largest and best choirs around.

Billy was part of the founding of the Lighthouse Children's Home in 1977, where teen girls would have "A Place of Second Chances". He served as the current President. Billy spent his retirement full time volunteering in the ministry.

He enjoyed bream fishing but most of all had a heart to help children, teens and families in need while telling them about the Lord and living as mentor for others.

Billy is preceded in death by his parents W.E. and Litha Hudson, brothers, Ben Hudson, Bud Hudson, Doye Hudson, Willard D. Hudson and sisters Lillian Carroll, Pearlie Harrell, Edna Beagles, Laura Grant, Nancy Grantham, Pauline Youree, Hazel Allen and Barbara Bratcher and son-in-law Buddy Land.

Billy is survived by his wife, Betty Hudson, daughter, Theresa Land, grandchildren, Jeffery Hurdle (Kaitlyn), Billy Land, Bethann Phillips (Scott) and great granddaughter Layla Phillips and sister-in-law Sherry Hudson.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Lighthouse Children's Home.

Rest in Peace. Job well-done!



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND PARTY DATES !

The holidays are fast approaching! In fact, some would say that once September hits, the proper greeting is Happy Hallowthanksmas! Regardless, our club plans to have its stellar Christmas Party again this year. Right now the plan is to have the party on **December 2nd** which would also be the same day we have our annual cruise and visit to the Children's Lighthouse. Put this date on your calendar now! Both events are wonderful holiday traditions for us. This year's Christmas Party will be held at the Capital City Country Club. Other activities that are forthcoming include a November 4th cruise up to Aaron Scotts South Georgia Corvette Shop and Slot Car track which must be seen to be believed, the November 10th Veterans Day Parade and the WTXL Turkey Drive. Check the club website for additional details as well as Chris' usual email updates.

With all of the forthcoming activities as well and the chaos of the holidays, you may want to go ahead a get annual club dues and Christmas party costs out of the way. Club dues are \$30

for single memberships and \$40 for a couple payable by the first of the year. The Christmas party cost this year will be \$60 per person. For those that want to go ahead and pay early, Pat will be happy to take any payments at the regular meeting or you can mail a check into the P.O. Box. Please make a note as to what the payment is for; especially if you are writing a single check for multiple items. As a reminder Pat is no longer accepting livestock, used car parts or partially used containers of wax or car wash as payment. ;-)

NEW MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION!

As many of you know, we have a new monthly meeting location at Casa Grande. While we had enjoyed our time at Glory Days, our new location is a welcome improvement in terms of space and service. As our club has grown, the old space was just not large enough and service had become challenging. The restaurant is located just off Thomasville Road next to JoAnn's Fabrics. There is good parking in the large lot at that time of the evening so please feel free to drive your Corvette. The room in the back is quite spacious with multiple tables and room to move around and talk easily. Last month's meeting was our first visit and the food was great, the service was first rate and they managed to get us all checked out very quickly by the time we were ready to leave. Come join us on Thursday!

APPRECIATING THE FINER THINGS



"When you said you had something special planned for Labor Day, I was hoping for something a little more relaxing than us detailing your Corvette."



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!

The 2023 Corvette Hall of Fame! - The Corvette Hall of Fame welcomes its class of 2023! Inductees include John Amgwert, Dan Binks, and David Wickman. Want to attend the 2024 Corvette Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony? Contact [Lexi Stewart](#), Donor Relations Coordinator, to find out how!

Become a Lifetime Member! - To celebrate America's love affair with Corvette and the icon's 70th Anniversary, we're rolling back lifetime membership prices to \$1,953 through the end of the year!

Custom CARisma Exhibit is Closing Soon! - The Cosmic Invader is just one of the out-of-this-world creations of Carl Capser, world-renowned car designer, engineer, movie car builder, racer and car show producer.

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 10/19/2023

Price: **\$250.00** Tickets: 1500 Available: 1005

Drawing: October 19, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time

2024 Build Your Own Corvette Stingray or \$80,000 10/19/2023



2024 Hypersonic Gray Corvette Coupe 11/16/2023

Price: **\$150.00** Tickets: 1500 Available: 1209

Drawing: November 16, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time

2024 Hypersonic Gray Corvette Coupe 11/16/2023



2024 Torch Red Corvette Convertible 11/30/2023

Price: **\$200.00** Tickets: 1500 Available: 1363

Drawing: November 30, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time

2024 Torch Red Corvette Convertible 11/30/2023



2024 Red Mist Corvette Convertible 4/27/2024

Price: **\$20.00** Unlimited Raffle

Drawing: April 27, 2024 3:00 PM Central Time

2024 Red Mist Corvette Convertible 4/27/2024

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

Join us for our next meeting on October 5th at Casa Grande!

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

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