

# *Cruisin' Corvettes*



*Tallahassee, Florida*

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AUG 2024

## **OFF WE GOINTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER !**

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On April 30th. a group of club members took a nice cruise over to Pensacola to take in a Blue Angels Practice Flight followed by a visit to the Naval Aviation Museum. From all accounts the cruise over was pretty nice and members arrived with no problems at the local hotel across from the legendary McGuires Irish Pub. For those that have not been, McGuires is famous for its food and all of the \$1 bills stapled to the ceiling and walls. You can add your own signed dollar bill to the mix by asking any staff member. And they have to count the bills each year and pay taxes on the new money. In any case, rumor has it that John Harris chose this place because of his secret desire to be a dancer earning dollar bills. I understand there were no serious incidents that night and our group was not thrown out. On day 2, our group successfully entered the Pensacola NAS, although there might have been a few delays, and secured seats on the bleachers for the practice air show. The Blue Angels never disappoint and from all reports, the show was thrilling with some great photo moments. Afterwards, there was lunch at the Cubi Bar Café and a guided tour by a very knowledgeable veteran. A very informative and enjoyable trip!



## **A CASUAL FOURTH OF JULY!**

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The fourth of July is usually a great time to cookout and watch fireworks but with the current heat, many of us are staying in and streaming movies or fireworks. Travel to the shore is also a popular option and we live pretty close; so many choose that activity. However there

are the crowds and those shark attacks! Given all of that, Nancy and I thought we would just see if folks were interested in a casual lunch in the AC and a chance to take those American Supercars out for a short hop. After a little planning, we went with Buffalo's Wild Wings on Magnolia because they had space, decent parking and a great attitude about hosting a few Corvette folks. As it turned out, that last point was critical since we had approximately 45 folks show up. The staff did not blink and helped us rearrange tables and do a little decorating. All in all it was a wonderful lunch with time to catch up, enjoy the food and celebrate Mike Wallenfelsz's birthday. Yep, born on the forth of July! Thanks to all who came out and joined the gathering. We will have to do it again!



## **LETS HEAR IT FOR OUR VETERANS!**

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On April 29<sup>th</sup>, a large group of CCOT members cruised over to the Veterans Village to have lunch with the residents, thank them for their service and talk all things Corvette. The projected rain held off and it was a beautiful day; except for the heat. I counted about 20 cars representing quite a few generations. The Village is a nice facility and with the club member's donated funds, we were able to provide not only a nice Hot Dog/Hamburger lunch but also so needed linens for new residents. Those attending enjoyed talking to the veterans about their service, answering questions about all things Corvette and just hanging out. Special thanks to Angie and Mike Wellenfelsz for organizing this event and allowing us to meet at their lovely home to prepare everything!

## **DADFEST!**

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In what seems to have become an annual event, the Canopy Roads Baptist Church held their Dadfest Car Show on Sunday, June 16th. The show was nicely attended with all types of cars represented, snow cones and food trucks. It was a nice event at the church and everyone

was welcoming and interested in photographing and asking questions about the cars. I had one or two interested children ask about my car and I made sure they got the chance to sit in the drivers seat. A great, but very hot, Sunday event!



### **HOT TICKET: MYSTERY DINNERS !**

Our monthly Mystery Dinners have been picking up. Recently several have had over 20 participants so our volunteer coordinators are either picking some good locations or our members can always use an excuse to go for a cruise. If you have not participated before, all you have to do is let the months coordinator know you are coming so they can make sure the location is ready for the right number of people and show up at the gathering point. Once there, when it is time to depart, everyone is informed of the destination restaurant for the cruise. And off you go. As you might imagine, there have been a few stories over the years about members finding interesting routes or various happenings on the way. In fact, just recently the Mystery Dinner Caravan was stopped just outside of Crawfordville by the local police who apparently “heard” them coming. The group was welcomed to town and advised to take it easy. You never know what interesting and fun things can happen. Join the fun on the next one!



### **TO MOD OR NOT TO MOD, THAT IS THE QUESTION!**

I can remember when I got my first Corvette. The first question was, how will I make it mine? Will I change its look, add more horsepower or maybe new wheels? Perhaps some interior changes? With a huge aftermarket, there is really no end to what you can do with a Corvette. When I got my C6, I was thinking of a cold air intake, maybe a tune, an oil catch can, some engine cap covers or a new exhaust. I did a lot of things to my C6 over the years that I

have had it. The car was a museum delivery car that was built for the first owner. I think the only thing he did, outside of how it came from the factory, was to add a cat-back exhaust and a few small appearance items. Needless to say, once I had the car and drove it on cruises, I changed my mind on many of my first ideas. I quickly discarded the idea of a tune since I would probably have to do that via email and it could come back later to haunt me since GM does not like it much if you mess with the stock system. I also decided to abandon any ideas of increasing horsepower through engine mods for two reasons. First, once you add horsepower above a certain point you have to strengthen other parts of the drive train and usually there can be reliability issues. Second, for me, the car is perfectly quick enough as it is and there can be no end once you start down that path. Perhaps on this journey, my favorite piece of advice I have heard is – “If you want to go faster, take a class and learn to drive your car to its limits first.” I found that I valued reliability above many of the options available to me. The more I went to events and spoke with knowledgeable technicians, I decided that the sweet spot for me was in appearance mods. That is not to say that I have not made a few mechanical changes. Most of those only altered the feel of the car and not the overall function. For example, I changed out the shifter for a MGW solid aluminum close ratio shifter. My car is a 6 speed manual. This made a difference in how it shifts and “feels” but I did not change anything in the actual transmission. I am glad I did this one once I saw the actual OEM shifter. Let’s just say, compared to what I put in; it looked very “weak”. In the process, I was also able to add some additional heat mat protection which reduced the temperature coming off the console considerably. Over the years, I have added painted engine covers, a chrome Racemesh grill, jacking pucks, sequential turn signals, LED side marker lights, factory nav radio, braided steel radiator hoses and most recently new chrome wheels to name a few items. The process has been fun and that is part of the Corvette hobby. You go to car shows and see what others have done. Get some new ideas and come back ready to try something new. So, explore, read the catalogs, talk to others and see what you like. There are always new things coming out from the silly to just completely awesome. What was your favorite mod? Inquiring minds what to know. Send me a note for further discussion on this intriguing matter.

## R8C – MUSEUM DELIVERY!

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As many of you likely know, I ordered a new C8 Corvette in April and opted to take delivery at the National Corvette Museum. The experience was really great and I will report in detail next issue. Stay tuned. Until then, here is a picture of “Jake” on display.



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## APPRECIATING THE FINER THINGS

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*"My new security system vaporizes anyone who gets too close to my Corvette. I'm going to miss Jim."*



An American flag made out of 200 corvettes old and new



## **NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM UPDATE!**

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**The 2024 Caravan is almost here!** - Well this is the month many of us will head out on the road with thousands of our good Corvette friends for the Bowling Green, Kentucky and the National Corvette Museum. As many have heard me comment, this is a huge and unique event with all types of car and non-car related activities. The actual trip among so many Corvettes on the highway at once is just pure fun. And that is before we even get to all of the other activities from running the Talladega Superspeedway, taking a Bourbon Tour, attending a workshop to learn more about your car, getting a new exhaust, accessory and new wheels installed during the event, running laps at the motorsports park or just enjoying the atmosphere of the concert by Generation radio. So much to do and so little time. Plan your time well, it all goes by in a flash. For more information on the Florida Caravan activities planned by our Club President and Florida Caravan Captain Chris Keena check out the main Florida Caravan page - . **Remember, we have a group dinner planned for 6:30PM on Thursday night, August 29<sup>th</sup> at the Brickyard Café in Franklin, Ky.** This will be our third visit and it has become our Caravan tradition so I hope everyone can join us and share all of the exciting things you have experienced.

**Pre-Order and Schedule CORSA Installations** - During the NCM Anniversary - Get ready to elevate your Corvette experience during the National Corvette Museum's 30th Anniversary Celebration from August 28-31! We're excited to announce exclusive on-site installations of CORSA Performance exhaust systems for your C5, C6, or C7 Corvette, available through the Corvette Store.

**Discounts on Event Registration** - Members of the National Corvette Museum receive discounts on all Museum-hosted events, such as our Michelin NCM Bash, 30th Anniversary Celebration, and Museum in Motions!

**Get Behind the Wheel!** - The NCM Motorsports Park is pushing the accelerator when it comes to equipping Corvette owners with the training, skills and knowledge needed to fully experience their car's capabilities. The High-Performance Driving Program offers a variety of options ranging from an introductory course to a tiered HPDE approach, and even a "women's only" event. Each program is crafted by track professionals and is designed to have participants driving faster and safer than ever before. I recently did some lead-follow and hot laps in a C8 and Z06 respectively and it was awesome! Give it try!

**Ground to Sky: The Sinkhole Reimagined** - The limited engagement exhibit that expands on the timeline of the infamous 2014 sinkhole that captured worldwide attention is now open. Much like the history of Corvette, *[Ground to Sky: The Sinkhole Reimagined](#)*, tells a story of resilience, giving visitors a chance to reflect on the recovery efforts and encapsulating a decade of progress since the cave-in.

**Museum Leadership Search Update** – Recently, NCM Board Chair Kaye Wagner provider an update to the Ambassador Community on the status of the search for a new CEO.

As we approach the National Corvette Museum's 30th Anniversary, I wanted to provide an important update to our Corvette Club Ambassador community. As we look to the future and the continued growth of the National Corvette Museum, we are committed to finding a Chief Executive Officer who embodies our mission, passion, and dedication.

To aid us in this crucial search, we have enlisted the expertise of Russell Reynolds Associates, a global executive search and leadership advisory firm that helps companies and Boards shape what's next right now. Their reputation for finding exceptional leadership talent aligns perfectly with our mission and values.

We understand that change can bring both excitement and uncertainty. Please be assured that our priority remains the same: to honor the legacy of the Corvette while driving toward an even more vibrant and inspiring future. Russell Reynolds will work closely with us to ensure we find a CEO who shares our vision and commitment to excellence.

We are approaching this search with great care and thoughtfulness. Thank you for your ongoing support and belief in the National Corvette Museum. Together, we will continue to celebrate the past, present, and future of the Corvette, creating memorable experiences for generations to come.

*Kaye Wagner*

## Upcoming Museum in Motion Events



### MiM National Parks Tour

September 15th – 21st, 2024

**REGISTER NOW**



### MiM 1 Lap of Kentucky Tour

September 24 - 28, 2024  
October 1 - 5, 2024  
October 15 - 19, 2024  
October 22 - 26, 2024

**JOIN THE SHORT LIST**



### Corvette Racing Weekend

October 24- 26, 2024

**JOIN THE SHORT LIST**

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 Red Mist Corvette Convertible**  
DRAWING THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024 AT 2PM  
TICKETS \$200 | 1500 TICKETS AVAILABLE

**2024 Black Corvette Z06 Convertible**  
DRAWING FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2024 AT 3PM CT  
TICKETS \$350 | LIMITED TO 1994 TICKETS

**2025 Torch Red Corvette Coupe**  
DRAWING SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2024 AT 5PM  
TICKETS \$20 | "UNLIMITED" TICKETS AVAILABLE

**2024 Rip Tide Blue Corvette Coupe**  
DRAWING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024  
AT 2PM CT  
TICKETS \$100 | LIMITED TO 2000 TICKETS

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**Check the Events Calendar on the **UPDATED** website for more upcoming activities**

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

If you have any questions or suggestions about the newsletter, please contact:  
**John Opper**  
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Thanks to Our Sponsor!



Celebrating my **20<sup>th</sup>** year  
in Real Estate in Tallahassee