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Nov 2024

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND CARAVAN!

The Caravan has come and gone but it was full of a lot of special moments. I think everyone that attended all or part of the festivities had a good time. Many of us met new Corvette people and have some new stories to tell. There is just too much to really do an adequate write up on the event and there were many parts that I was not able to witness. So here are some brief highlights that were either witnessed or reported. If you are curious about any of them, ask around. The stories only get better with time ;-).

- About 60 Corvettes showed up for the welcome event at District 850. There were some really interesting cars in attendance and some guy named Keena parked his car up on the grass at the front doors. The food was good and it disappeared about as fast as the gas in a new ZR1 at wide open throttle. There were also reports of a rainbow making an appearance over the parking lot during the event.



- The Car Museum gathering went very well. A lot of the visitors were amazed by the collection and lots of people were taking pictures and talking about some of the items. It was great to see Devoe Moore in attendance and I think he enjoyed talking with many of the visitors and old friends. We made sure he got lunch and an NCM Caravan pin for his collection. Chris did a great job of putting things together including the boxed lunches which were very good. After some pictures and strategically placed signage, the group took off for Tuscaloosa with Chris in the lead.



- Sadly, it would not be a Caravan without a few breakdown stories. We heard about spark plug wire issues, failed alternators and electrical gremlins. In true Corvette Community form, people helped each other and repair shops along the way did what they could to get folks back on the road. I think everyone made it to Bowling Green even if slightly delayed..
- The Talladega Track Run never disappoints! From the folks who ran it this year, the excitement of driving the track and getting up on the wall in the long curves is quite a memorable experience.



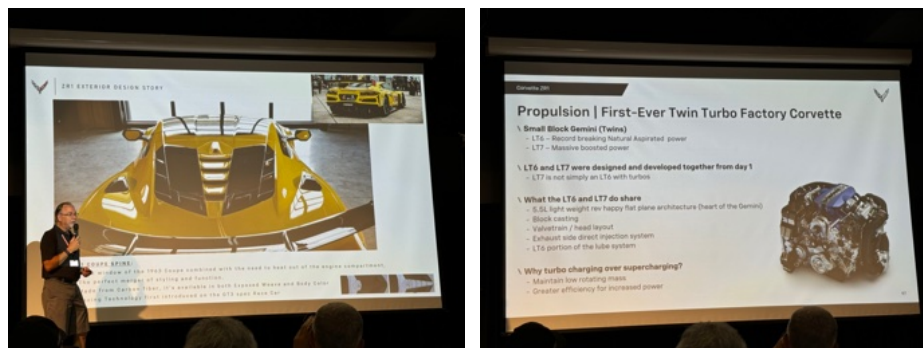
- Dinner with all of the crew (about 25 people) was a nice evening for sharing stories meeting new people and enjoying the Brickyard Café in Franklin Kentucky. There might have been some safe cracking activity during dinner??? No, I did not find the actual MSRP for the ZR1 inside.



- The NCM was busy as usual with a lot going on both at the main campus and overt at the Motorsports Track. Vendors displays were located at both venues. Accessory and exhaust installs, seminars, demonstrations, Corvette Racing and the Corvette Mechanic Drive Up Diagnostics were just a few of the things happening over the course of the anniversary celebration. And we found the Club banner!!!!



- Seminars or presentations by Paul Koerner, the Corvette Team, Factory Tours, book signings and autograph opportunities as well as partner events from Mobil 1 and Michelin as well as the ongoing driving tours left little room for shopping in the Corvette Store.



And we will do it all again in 2029! See you there!

R8C – ORDERING A NEW CORVETTE AND MUSEUM DELIVERY!

Some have heard the story of my new C8 from planning and ordering to follow through with the full Museum Delivery Experience. In the next two editions, I will cover the story in some detail for those who might be interested. Of course, times have changed a bit since I started my journey. C8 Stingrays and Z06's are sitting in dealer showrooms at MSRP and many with discount offers. Not that long ago, if you wanted a car at MSRP and you wanted to build it the way you wanted; it was an 18 month or so wait. I started my journey during that time. So what follows is the first installment of the story.

Ordering a New C8

As many of you know I have had my C6 Corvette since 2009 when I purchased it from its first owner. The car was a museum delivery car that was configured and ordered from the factory. As a result, the car does not really fit the regular options found in the various 1, 2 or 3LT specifications. In any case I have enjoyed the car over the 16 years I have owned it but as time marched on and the new cars were revealed the lure to jump in on a new C8 grew and it was finally time for me to decide to fish or cut bait.... At the time, we were emerging from COVID and dealer price gouging was a regular topic of the Corvette blogosphere. After talking with several club members who had ordered cars, I elected to jump on the Stingray Chevrolet waitlist since they had a good reputation and they were selling the cars at MSRP. I was provided with monthly updates and a sales representative who worked with me to build off the specifications for the car I wanted. Eighteen months later, I got the call that it was time to submit my build during the April allocation. I finalized it and went over it twice with my sales representative who was knowledgeable about the process and current constraints. As luck would have it, one of the things I wanted to order for my car was the high wing and that was on constraint. The obvious reason was that for 2025, GM was changing the wing offered for the Z51 package to more of a mid-level wing and thus the focus was on producing the new version. Thinking that I could procure the high wing from either a dealer or third-party supplier, I went ahead with my submission. The decision to go was a bit nerve racking in that I had been on a list for 18 months and this was it. I was glad to have gone over the build twice with my contact at Stingray before submission.

Museum Delivery?

I knew about Museum Delivery and always thought that I would do it if I ever ordered a new Corvette. Go big or stay home! Plus, I wanted to celebrate the event after waiting and working towards it. So, what is Museum Delivery about? First, the bad news. It costs \$1500

more and is an option when you configure your Corvette. And even if you are picking your car up at the Museum, you still have to pay the delivery charge that is part of all Corvette purchases. The philosophy here is that everyone pays the same freight charge no matter how near or far you happen to live from the actual plant. The amount is an average so it can easily be worked into the pricing rather than custom charging for each car and breaking up shipping loads on trucks. That's the bad news. The good news is that Museum Delivery is really a nice process. Your car goes from the production line, once cleared for release, right across the street to the NCM Delivery Department. Pre-Delivery Inspection, dealer installed items and a general clean-up is all done by the well-trained staff. Once your delivery date is determined, your car is moved out on the Museum floor the day before, roped off for display and a placard with your name is placed congratulating you on your ownership. The screens around the museum Blvd. where the cars are located will routinely display a congratulatory message with an image of your car acknowledging you as a VIP and mentioning the name of the selling dealer. You receive a number of benefits including a special plaque with your VIN, a custom dash plaque with your name, VIN and NCM logo inside the car just above the wireless phone charger between the seats, a Museum Delivery decal is placed on the driver's side door jamb, a tour of the factory, discounted laps at the Motorsports Park, custom R8C apparel opportunities, the opportunity to purchase a custom photo album of your car actually moving down the production line at each stage, lots of information about the car and its operation, a VIP host is assigned to you for your day and of course a personal orientation and setup of your car while in the Museum before you are driven out with great fanfare, photos and any final Q and A. Overall, this is a great way to celebrate the experience of owning a new Corvette and create some great memories. We loved the experience and would do it all over again.

There were only two regrets that were completely out of the control of the NCM. First, I did want to purchase the custom photo album of my car being built. Photos and explanations of each stage are included. A photographer accompanies the car down the assembly line and documents each phase for the book. Once completed, the book is sent to you shortly after the delivery. Unfortunately, because of restrictions on visitors and tours of the factory at the time my car was built, I could not participate in that program. The photo album would have been quite the keepsake to have. Second, I could not take advantage of my complimentary tour of the plant while there for the same reason. No access to the plant at the time of my delivery. The good news here is that I can take a plant tour at any time up to one year from the date of my delivery so I am looking forward to that opportunity. So, I decided to focus on the things I could do and as a R8C VIP I had some discounts available to me. I booked Lead and Follow laps at the Motorsports Track for Alex and I. And I also booked hot laps for each of us early in the morning of delivery day. We planned to eat at the Stingray Grill, shop the Corvette Store and take advantage of our guided museum tour. (More to come!)

POOL PARTY!

A big thank you to Matt and Viv Miley for once again hosting their pool party and cook out on October 19th. If you have not been, their pool and entertainment area is second to none and offered a wonderful opportunity for a great afternoon. Club members parked their shiny cars next to the house on display for the neighbors and contributed a number of desserts and goodies. Matt and Viv were great hosts and provided a main course of burgers, sausage dogs and shrimp from the grill as well as drinks and snacks. The weather was great, the pool was refreshing and the conversation and car talk was fun! A perfect day!



AVOID THE CHRISTMAS RUSH !

Each year about this time, the holidays come on in full force. As many of you know, the Club will have a few events at the end of the year including the Christmas Party and the Lighthouse Charitable Event. In addition, annual Club dues come around at the first of the year. In an effort to save Pat some stress and make things a little easier, why not write that check now and take care of these items on your list. Dues are \$30 or \$40 per couple. Christmas party costs will be announced soon so stay tuned.

CELEBRATION BAPTIST CHURCH CAR SHOW 2024 !

The annual Celebration Baptist Church Car Show was another huge success! This year, there was a \$10 entry fee to help cover costs but T-shirts were added for those early registrants. From all reports there were about 375 cars in attendance. The afternoon was a busy one with so many cars to see and folks to talk with. As usual, there were new and unusual cars to see and learn about and no shortage of Corvettes! The Church does a nice job with the show and it has become a eagerly anticipated family event in the fall.



CORVETTES ON THE CIRCLE?

You may have heard a lot of members talk about the Corvettes on the Circle Corvette Show at St Armands in Sarasota. It has always been a great event and we hear it will return this year on Saturday, May 3rd. We always have a large number of members attend this event and cruise down for the weekend. There will be over 175 Corvettes there and the show is held in a very nice shopping area. In years past, we have had a significant number of wins among our members and we only barely lost the award for the most club attendees last time. Seriously think about going to this one and talk with those who have been. Plans will be shared when we hear more from the sponsoring club – Skyway Cuvettes. I am looking forward to this one and lunch at the Columbia!

APPRECIATING THE FINER THINGS



NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM UPDATE!

Welcome Amy Hardin, Director of Development! - The National Corvette Museum is proud to announce the appointment of Amy Hardin as the Museum's new Director of Development. In this critical role, which bridges the Museum's mission with its many philanthropic initiatives, Amy's responsibilities include developing and implementing effective multi-year fundraising programs to support the ongoing programs, projects, and activities of the National Corvette Museum.

A Look Ahead: Exploring the Museum's 5-Year Growth and Innovation Plan - In the latest episode of the CORVETTE TODAY podcast, our Director of Marketing & Communications, Ryan Eichler, sits down with host Steve Garrett to share the Museum's 5-year plan for growth and innovation. Discover how the National Corvette Museum is ramping up its social media presence, engaging the next generation of Corvette enthusiasts, and working toward American Association of Museum accreditation. This episode is packed with insights on how we plan to preserve and celebrate the legacy of America's Sports Car while looking to the future.

Tune in to learn more about our roadmap and the exciting journey ahead!
<https://podcasts.adorilabs.com/corvette-today/corvette-today-234-ncm?eid=IoTtqSVvMKeFCPCu>

American Love Affair: Pop Culture and Corvette - From Elvis Presley driving a 1959 Stingray Racer in Clambake to the Corvette-inspired Autobots in the Transformers franchise, this exhibit celebrates the Corvette's role in film, TV, music, and video games. Visitors will be immersed in the sights and sounds of iconic Corvettes that have graced the big and small screens, including a blue C3 featured in Hawaii Five-0 and the Corvette concept featured in Gran Turismo 6. In addition to Hollywood fame, the exhibit highlights Corvettes tied to American icons, such as astronaut Jim Lovell's Corvette and Reggie Jackson's 1978 Indy 500 pace car replica.

Corvette Raffles! - Currently raffle tickets are still 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>

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

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

John Opper
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Join us for our next meeting on November 7th at Casa Grande!



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