

[WWW.CRUISINCORVETTES.COM](http://WWW.CRUISINCORVETTES.COM)

DEC 2024

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024!**

---

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Cruisin Corvettes Members met at the Capital City Country Club for a wonderful evening of food, fun and fellowship. The party started with drinks, horsderves and some lively conversation. Approximately 40 members and friends attended and just like last year the food was great! Part way through dinner there was a loud disturbance in the middle of the room. Yes, it was Santa! Each year he makes a surprise appearance at our party with his big red bag from which he pulls some “meaningful” or sometimes appropriately questionable gifts for select club members. This year was no exception. And this year, Santa found a belt for his pants so they did not fall down like one previous year. In any case, we were happy to have him stop by and share in our event. The party ended with the traditional gift exchange poem read by Angie Wallenfelsz. And thanks to Angie’s steady performance, no gifts were dropped or mangled in the process. A great evening and one that we plan to repeat next year!



### **CHILDRENS LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY!**

---

As many of you may know, each year we visit the Children’s Lighthouse for a Christmas party. The club brings pizza and desserts and the Lighthouse provides the drinks. Also, we have supported the girls there in many ways over the years. This year, in addition to supporting a trip to Wild Adventures, the club also presented each girl with a gift bag containing Christmas crafts. From all appearances, the gift bags were a tremendous hit and there was also a collective cheer when the Wild Adventures trip was announced. While the visit includes the gifts, the pizza, the desserts and a wonderful performance of classic carols by the girls, the undisputed high point is

the chance to see and sit inside the Corvettes. Our club really turned out this year with about 20 cars for the girls to explore. There were questions, lots of laughter and excitement, some energetic engine start-ups and, at the end, there may have been the slight smell of burning rubber upon leaving. Needless to say there was a lot of encouragement from our hosts. If you haven't been to this event, put on your list for next year.



## **C8 MUSEUM DELIVERY (PART 2)!**

---

### Delivery Day

After a long drive up the day before, Alex and I arrived at the Museum about 8AM just to see if we could get an early look at the car. The Museum was hosting a group for a conference but we were able to enter right at 8. We were greeted by a pleasant security guard and once we told him why we were there he let us head over to see the displayed cars. As we walked over, we were greeted by several museum staff including one named Dean who turned out to be the host assigned to us for the day. He took us in hand, directed us to our car and went off to get us some VIP lanyards. We looked over the car and I have to say it was pretty cool to actually see what you configured and built right in front of you. After talking with Dean about our schedule and asking a number of questions, we quickly headed over to the Motorsports Track for our 9AM lap times.



## The Motorsports Track Experience

We quickly headed to the other side of I-65 and the Motorsports Track. Once there, we checked in at the main building which houses a store, classrooms, a second floor reviewing area to see the track and other spaces that we did not explore. While waited out turn, we watched some of the classes going on, explored the merchandise and looked over some of the cars waiting to run the track. Our Driver/Guide of the Lead-Follow Laps, Zach, met with us and led us out to our car which was an orange, Z51 Stingray. After getting us oriented and strapped in we followed him out on the track. The process was pretty simple. Follow Zach through the 4 laps. Keep up and he would go as fast as we could keep up. We would start out easy and go faster each time until we hit the limit of my ability. I was to keep the transmission in automatic/track mode and let it do its job. So off we went. And boy di we have fun! I had run the track at the last Caravan and was somewhat familiar with it. The track is really all about the curves and the challenge of adapting to its changing design. You don't have to go really fast to have a great time and we tried to do both. By the third lap, we had found my limit but I did continue to get better as I got more familiar with the layout. As with most things, just as you really get the hang of it; the ride is over. I have never really tracked any of my cars but I completely get the pull of that experience and I look forward to doing more of it as I can. I particularly will remember turn number 10 which challenged me. I got better at entering and successfully negotiating it and by the fourth lap I was gaining speed through it. Zach later told us that they can usually tell if someone has track experience by the way they handle #10.

After the Lead/Follow laps, Alex and I were ready for hot laps with Zach. The hot laps are exactly what you think. You get helmeted up and hop in a Z51 Stingray with your driver and he lets it all go on the track as fast as possible for the true Corvette experience. In our case, Alex spotted the NCM/Mobil 1 Z06 sitting outside the building with a large Pegasus emblem on the side and said, "I want to go in that!". To which Zach replied, "You can for an upgrade fee. Zach never got to the word "fee" before Alex said, "DONE!" And so we changed horses and I went first. We eased out on to the track and got clearance to go. Zack used launch control, floored to car and let it loose....



Now, I have driven a number of tracks and been in some fast cars but this experience was something completely different. The combination of the howl of that Z06 flat plane crank engine at full throttle, the acceleration, the G forces of the curves at breakneck speed, that you think is not possible in that curve much less the next one, the momentary weightless feel as you change directions and then slam back down as the G forces come again. The car being challenged to hold the line as you hear the tires doing their best, and almost slipping, as you drift through in a few places just has to be experienced! Hats off to Zach who really pushed that Z06 on the track for that ride. We did a cool down lap which was brisk and fun while talking over the experience and performance. As we pulled up to the building so Alex could take her turn, Zach asked if he should take it easier on Alex. I told him, “H\*\*l no! She can take it.” Well not only did they take off for a thrilling run but I think Alex’s cool down lap was much warmer than mine since she really wanted Zach to keep going faster. I will say that both Alex and I want to do this again. After riding along, flat out, in a Z06, on a track, I think it would be a shame to own such a car and not sometimes use it to its full potential. What a rush! You have to do this!

Back to the Museum for Delivery

Once we finished at the track, we headed back over to the museum to have lunch at the remodeled Stingray Grill. The new look is very nice. A little more upscale than the previous

drive-in feel. They had a table ready for us, perhaps another VIP benefit, and we had a nice lunch while checking in with Dean our assigned guide. Once finished, we headed over to the delivery department and met up with our guide for a personal tour of the museum. I have toured the museum exhibits before, but I have to say, I learned a few things this time that I did not know. When I have been before, it has always been during a larger event so I don't seem to have time to really spend with the many displays. But each time I try to learn a little more about at least one area of the exhibits.

After our tour, we went back to the Delivery Department and finished up some paperwork, received some good information about the car's break-in period, service intervals, the owner's manual, key fobs, build sheet and sticker. I elected to have them laminate the build sheet and sticker for me while there. We got the NCM Insurance cards for the glove box. We also found out that there is special R8C Delivery Merchandise that you can buy. After that, it was time to go out and meet our new car.



Dean, our host, led us put to the gallery and we went through a basic orientation of the exterior, engine compartment and frunk. How to open everything. What to do if the battery runs down and you need to use the emergency process to open the car etc. While we were doing these things a crowd began to gather and watch the process. Once Dean moved the rope back and we both hopped in the car to begin the interior orientation, systems setup, Onstar initiation and personalization of the seats, dash display and driver features, a curious discussion happened between several museum visitors and Alex; who was standing next to the driver's side door. Seems that two visitors were having a mild argument about who was going to purchase our car. One was asking for the sticker because he wanted to purchase the car. The other was saying he was first and was already buying the car. Alex politely informed them that all of the cars in the gallery were already purchased and displayed for delivery. They were both disappointed; however one asked for a copy of the build sheet because he wanted to order a Corvette just like ours. I guess that is a nice compliment on the build we did, but it was also interesting that some thought the museum operated like a dealership with cars ready to purchase on display.

Once we finished the orientation, the NCM Photographer took a range of pictures and Dean and I swapped seats so he could drive us out. There is a little fanfare to this as a special announcement and music is played over the PA, bright lights flash on the car and off we go as visitors clap. There is a sort of passageway to the outside where there is a large mural and more pictures are taken with the car. And there you have it. Yes, we bought all the pictures at the track and at the museum during the delivery and we also bought stuff at the Corvette store. We thoroughly enjoyed the whole event and I would do it all over again; but that would mean buying

another car. Wait! Well, maybe. For those of you that would like to do the museum delivery experience but already have your car, there is a program for that as well. You can bring your car to the museum and have it detailed, parked in the gallery and receive a delivery experience. Check out the website for more on that option.



### APPRECIATING THE FINER THINGS

---





## **NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM UPDATE!**

---

**Speed, Style, and Stories - Exciting 2025 Lineup** - As the National Corvette Museum wraps up 2024, highlighted by the successful Corvette Caravan, 30th Anniversary, and the incredible support from enthusiasts worldwide, 2025 promises an even more dynamic year with exciting exhibitions and a packed calendar of programs for members and guests. From thrilling new exhibits to once-in-a-lifetime events, the National Corvette Museum is gearing up to deliver unforgettable experiences to Corvette fans and car lovers everywhere.

**Meet Andrea Bateman, Director of Membership** - Andrea will oversee all aspects of Membership, including communications, programs, and incentives. She will focus on expanding the Museum’s Membership base, welcoming new Members, and recognizing the contributions of longstanding supporters.



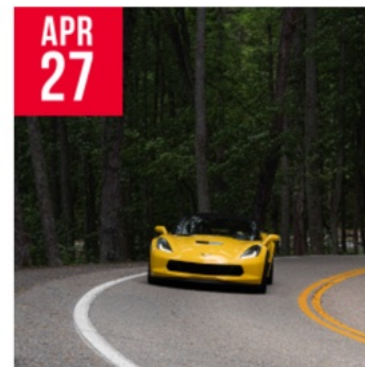
**MiM Daytona Rolex 24**  
January 22-27, 2025

[View the Itinerary](#)



**2025 Michelin NCM Bash**  
April 24-26, 2025

[Save the Date](#)



**MiM Dragon Run**  
April 27-30, 2025

[Register 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>

---

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

**Join us for our next meeting on January 9 at Casa Grande!**

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

**John Opper**  
[ccotnews@gmail.com](mailto:ccotnews@gmail.com)



**Happy New Year!**



Thanks to Our Sponsors!



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