

SCCC PROGRESS REPORT

*We came together for the cars,
we stay together for the people...*



Space City Corvette Club



SEPT 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Lifetime Business Member ID
National Corvette Museum

Upcoming Meetings

October 10, 2023
November 14, 2023
January 9, 2024

La Brisa Mexican Grill
501 N. Wesley Dr., League City, TX 77573
Food served at 6pm || Meeting at 7pm

Upcoming Events

Wings & Wheels at Lone Star Flight Museum **Oct 7**
Lone Star Flight Museum - Hstn, TX
11551 Aerospace Ave, 77034

Good Grub & Gears Car Show **Oct 14**
Stevenson Park - Friendswood, TX
1100 S. Friendswood Drive, 77546

October Road Trip **Oct 21**
Southside BBQ & Market - Bastrop, TX
531 State Hwy 71, 78602

November Street Meet #1 **Nov 11**
Bay Area TX Heart Walk - Kemah, TX
Kemah Boardwalk, 215 Kipp Ave, 77565

November Street Meet #2 **Nov 12**
Clear Lake Greek Festival - Seabrook, TX
Landolt Pavilion, 5000 Nasa Rd 1, 77586

SCCC Annual Christmas Party **Dec 3**
Tommy's Restaurant & Oyster Bar
2555 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, TX 77058

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SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

MAJOR SPONSOR:



<https://www.baywaychevrolet.com/>

OTHER CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS:



LANSDOWNE-MOODY



RICHEY COLLISION INC



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings my fellow Corvette enthusiasts!

In the September 2023 issue of the SCCC Progress Report, we highlight the July, August, and September Street Meets, along with a recap of the 4th of July Parade in Friendswood (record participation - 2023!), a celebration of the National Corvette Museum's 29th Anniversary Celebration, coverage of the Bayway Car Show (where SCCC won the Club Participation Award), and end with an article written by one of our very own, Robert R. Smith, highlighting the American Space Program and the love story of Astronauts and their Corvettes.

Additionally, I'm very proud of how much our SCCC family keeps growing. We are nearing a total of 250 SCCC Members, something that we have all worked very hard to achieve, not to mention the countless amount of community service we continue to perform. We have accomplished so much in the last year!

I'm also looking forward to what the last three months of the year will bring us, especially our 11th Annual Good Grub & Gears Car Show & Fall Festival scheduled at Stevenson Park in Friendswood in October. We will be ramping up to break our park car show record (that is our goal!), along with the amount of support and donations we can raise on behalf of Texas Equusearch.

As President, I'm honored and humbled by what this entire organization has offered and will continue to offer to our community for many years to come. Onward and upward!

With health and happiness,

A.J. Loupe

July 4 Parade Friendswood

Space City Corvette Club,

We are writing to express our deepest gratitude for your generous support as an in-kind sponsor of our recent 4th of July event. Thanks to your contributions, our celebration was a resounding success and left a lasting impact on our community.

Your commitment and dedication to our event were truly remarkable. The City of Friendswood was thrilled to have your esteemed organization as a sponsor, and your involvement helped make the event memorable for all attendees.

Furthermore, your sponsorship not only enhanced the event but also underscored your commitment to our community. By associating your organization with our 4th of July event, you demonstrated a genuine interest in fostering community spirit and supporting local initiatives. Your support contributed to the overall success of the event and created a positive impression on all those who attended.

Please accept our sincerest thanks and know that your support has made a meaningful difference. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate again in the future.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the impact of your sponsorship, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warmest regards,

**Record
participation!**

~~~~~

**2023**

# AUGUST STREET MEET







# SEPTEMBER STREET MEET

## Ocean Star Drilling Rig & Museum



# Bayway Car Show



17TH 2023

**OPEN CAR SHOW!**  
Motorcycles also welcome to participate!  
**Fundraiser!**

**3RD ANNUAL CAR SHOW**  
SUPPORTS THE  
AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR  
ROLLING STONES

**TROPHIES AWARDED!**  
Pre-Registration - \$30  
At the door - \$40  
<https://bit.ly/bayway2023>

**EXTRAVAGANZA**  
**Bayway**  
CHEVROLET

**12 - 4PM**  
**Bayway Chevrolet**  
5719 BROADWAY ST, Pearland, TX

**EVENT IS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**  
**!! • VENDORS! • FOOD TRUCKS! • SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS**

**EFFITTING WHEELCHAIRS FOR WARRIORS**  
Wheelchairs for Warriors provides custom-fit, complex-rehab mobility solutions to ensure injured veterans and their families regain their lives at the highest level of INDEPENDENT mobility and function possible.  
[www.WheelchairsForWarriors.org](http://www.WheelchairsForWarriors.org)

**FUNDRAISER CAR SHOW**

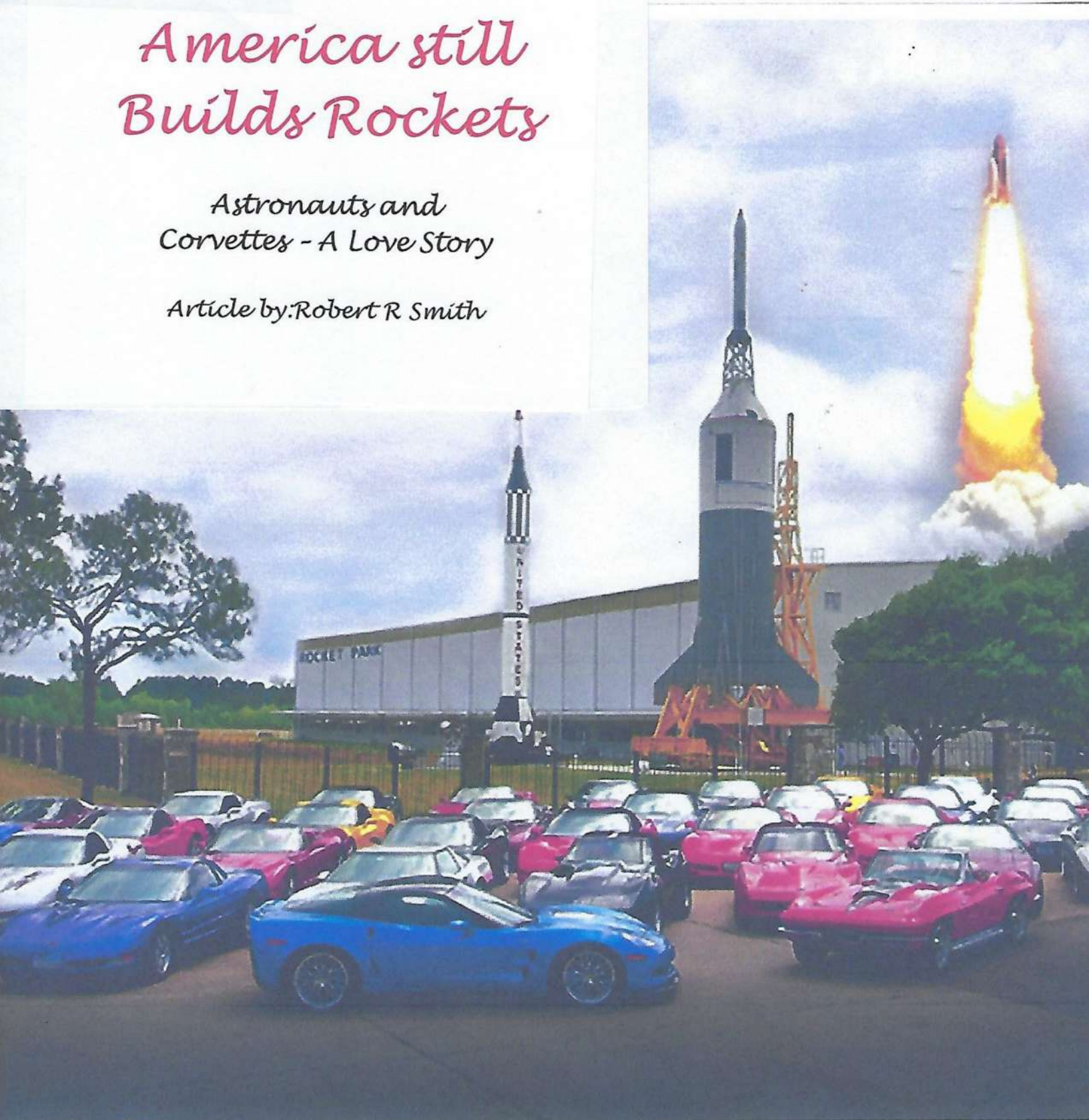
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
Auction, Raffle, Free Food, Prizes, Awards, Texas and Astro-Golf

Bayway

# *America still Builds Rockets*

*Astronauts and  
Corvettes - A Love Story*

*Article by: Robert R Smith*



# There is nothing more American than Astronauts and Corvettes. It's a love story as long as the Space Program itself.

A lot has been written about the early astronauts and their Corvettes. Both share a common history. GM wanted its sports car to be associated with NASA, and it started with Alan Shepard and the Freedom 7 capsule launch on May 5, 1961 and ran until the final flight of Apollo 17 on December 11, 1972. The first man in space owned a 1957 Corvette. After his sub-orbital flight, Shepard toured the country, promoting the space program. Stopping in Detroit, he saw several Corvette prototypes and met Bill Mitchell, GM's chief of styling along with Ed Cole, who gave him the keys to a new 1962 white Corvette.



That gift started an unofficial relationship between astronauts and the Corvette. The idea originated with Jim Rathmann, winner of the 1960 Indy 500, and owner of Rathmann Chevrolet in Melbourne Florida. Rathmann understood the astronauts' need for speed and convinced GM to offer them a special program. For just \$1.00, they could lease a new car through his dealership. Just about every astronaut picked a Corvette. According to GM, six of the Mercury astronauts took advantage of the arrangement. Nearly all of the astronauts ordered their cars with big-block 427's or 454's and 4-speed manual transmissions. And amidst all this horsepower, gasoline, and fury we have John Glenn. While all his comrades commuted in highly-tuned Corvettes, Glenn trundled back and forth in a Diminutive NSU Prinz.

When Chevrolet offered him the lease deal, Glenn used it to buy a Chevrolet Station Wagon for his family.



Virgil "Guss" Grissom in his C2



Neil Armstrong's 1967 427 Corvette



Gordon Cooper C3 Corvette



This is Neil Armstrong's 1967 427 Corvette which, in 2012, fetched bids of more than \$250,000 when put on eBay. It was eventually pulled from auction when it didn't meet reserve.



Alan Shepard's Corvette Roadster is on display in the Saturn V building at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor's Center.



Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and his 1969 Corvette

In 1969, Apollo 12 astronauts Dick Gordon, Charles Conrad, and Alan Bean were so smitten with the Corvette they all ordered custom 390hp 427 Stingray Coupes made with a gold-on-black color scheme designed by Bean himself.



These special Corvettes came with triple-carbed 427's and came to define the pilots and their cars.

# Apollo XII Astronauts and their matching 1969 Corvettes

Charles "Pete" Conrad  
COMMANDER

Richard Gordon  
COMMAND MODULE PILOT

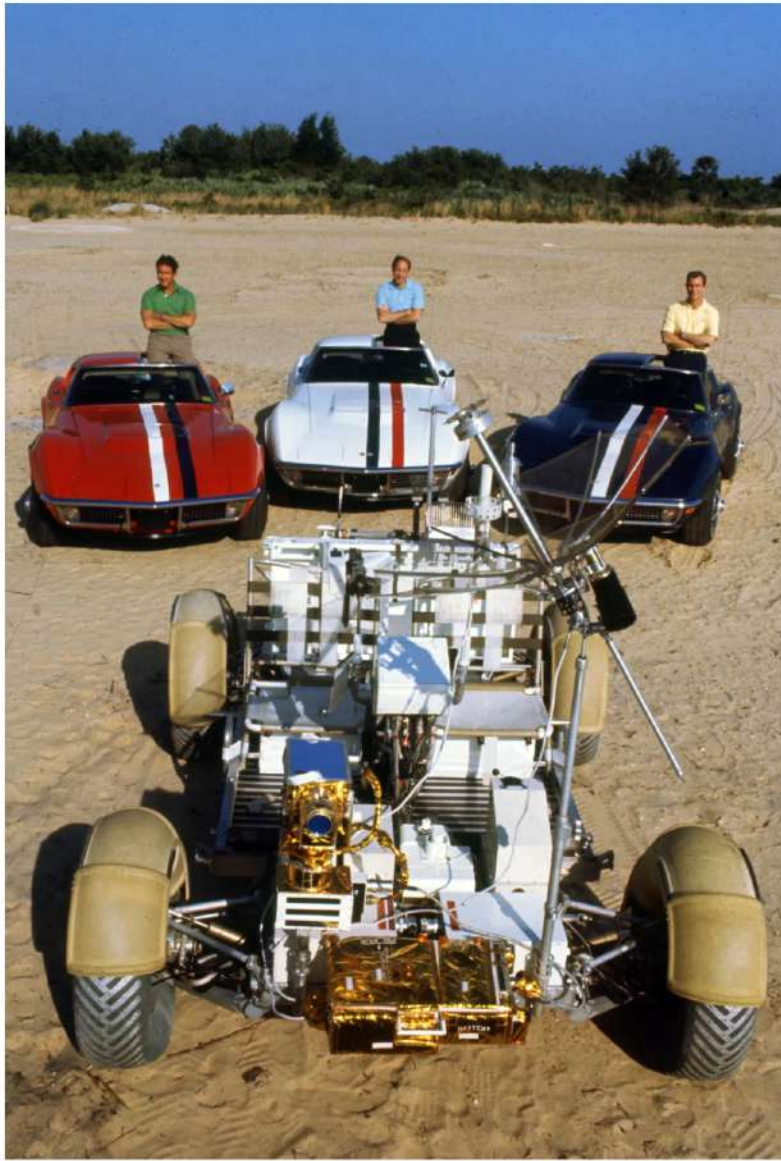
Alan Bean  
LUNAR MODULE PILOT



*Charles Conrad*      *Richard Gordon*      *Alan Bean*



Down on the Cape



Later, before the Apollo 15 launch, Life Magazine photographed its crew of Jim Irwin, Al Worden, and Dave Scott featuring their very patriotic Red, White and Blue Corvettes next to a lunar rover.

The lease program continued until 1971. Each year the astronauts traded in their Corvettes for newer, faster models, trying to one-up each other. This included stories about drag racing, practical jokes, and high speed runs on the beaches near Cape Canaveral, as well as pulling people on water skis.

Pictures of America's heroes driving Corvettes was good marketing for GM.

Today, modern ethics rules mean that the \$1 lease program could no longer be utilized for public servants, a category that astronauts [out-of-this-world, as their job description is] – still fall under.



There is nothing more American than Astronauts and Corvettes.

The Love Story as long as the Space Program



# 2023 OFFICERS

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A.J. Loupe



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Governor  
Gary Doggett



Governor  
Kevin Brady



Governor  
Joshua Ybarra

*We came together for the cars, we stay together for the people...*