

An irregularly-published publication of the Hoosier Cobra club of Indiana

Winter Winding Down at Last

Even though the groundhog predicted 6 more weeks of winter, we have to realize that winter will not have us in its grips for too much longer.

I remember in the autumn of '16, all the farmers around here were talking about the severe winter we were about to endure. The wooly worms were all dark-colored. The horses had put on their exceptionally heavy winter coats early. The squirrels had hidden their nuts high in the tree. Everybody had a theory as to why we were going to get hammered this winter.

Well, as I see it, this winter hasn't been too bad. I realize that we still have March and its unpredictable weather ahead of us, but surely the worst is over for this winter.

It's time to start thinking about getting that Cobra back on the road again. Hopefully, you stored it

Hoosier Cobra is a not-for-profit club of individuals united by their appreciation for the Shelby Cobra automobile. The use of the term "Cobra" in this newsletter is not to imply that the club has any license to use that term commercially. Rather, it is used to describe the kind of car replicated in the hobby that we enjoy.

away carefully last fall. It's not too soon to think about any upgrades or repairs you need to get done before the 2017 cruising season.

Are your tires several years old? How about those belts and hoses? Was there a squeak or a rattle that you vowed you'd find before the next cruising season? Well, now's the time to find it. How about that annual oil change? Coat of wax?

One way to cope with the dying days of winter is to get out there in the garage and give that Cobra a little love.

News Flash: Hoosier Cobra Dues Go DOWN AGAIN!

It's hard to believe that the club is looking forward to its 5th year in existence. It seems like just last year that we chose a name, incorporated, developed a logo, filed for non-profit status, bought insurance, and all that other stuff.

But the club continues to grow. We want to be more than just a bunch of guys with loud cars and matching tee-shirts. Our club looks to be a place where enthusiasts of the Shelby Cobra automobile can fellowship, go cruising, see some sights, eat

some good food, support some good causes, and generally enjoy themselves and these cars.

There are a few expenses, so we charge dues to be a member. The dues amount has been reduced every year since 2013. This year, dues are only \$35 for the whole year. That's half of the 2013 amount. What else has gone down 50% in the last 5 years? Send your check to Bob Lennon, 210 Surrey Hill, Noblesville, IN 46062. You'll get a stunning club decal for your windshield.

2017 Schedule Planning Underway

The Hoosier Cobra board of directors met in January to discuss 2017's schedule of events. Every year, we have had 12–15 events to choose from, hoping to offer something enjoyable for everyone.

Some events have been popular enough that we felt we ought to repeat them. We've also been on the keen lookout for anything new to add to our schedule.

Weather plays an unusually significant role in whether we hold an event or choose to cancel it.



Last summer was unusually hard on our schedule because it seemed to rain only on weekends. Grrr!

Check out the tentative, proposed, possible, maybe schedule for 2017 below. Find something that interests you or pass along ideas of your own to add to the schedule.

APRIL 22 Annual Business Meeting, Location TBA

MAY 6 Dallara tour, Sarah Fisher Racing, or IMS tour in Speedway

MAY 20 Indiana SAAC Spring Fling at Brown County State Park

JUNE 3 Morgan/Monroe/Brown County Scenic Cruise

JUNE 17 Annual club picnic, location TBA

JUNE 22–27 London Cobra Show, London, Ohio

JULY 4 Rushville Car Show, Fireworks, Midget Racing

JULY 15 Annual Run to Rick Yeager's house and other places

JULY 29 Hoosier Cobra Poker Run

AUGUST 12 Studebaker Museum tour

AUGUST 26 Annual Madison Cruise

SEPTEMBER 9 Annual Nashville and Story Cruise

SEPTEMBER 23 James Dean Festival and Car Show

With weather affecting our events so much, we want to encourage spontaneous, impromptu events as well. When weather looks good for a coming weekend, we'd like to see hastily-organized trips to the SUDS Drive-in, Cars & Coffee Cruise-in, the SVRA Vintage Auto Racing Event at IMS, the RODFATHER's Car Show in Connersville, Winchester Speedway, Cammack Station, and *many more*. We might even throw in some cruises with other car clubs, like Old Cars for Fun, or the Renegades Car Club.

So, keep an eye on your email this summer. The club might just stick a few more spur-of-the-moment events into the schedule when the weather looks favorable for a Cobra cruise.

Feel free to pass along any ideas for cruises that you'd like to host or to see the club undertake.

Hoosier Cobra Pitches in for Cystic Fibrosis

As many of you know, the Ohio Cobra Club has adopted the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as a focus for their group. All year, the OCC engages in fundraising to support this worthy cause.

The biggest part of their fundraising centers around raffling off a brand-new Cobra every year and donating the proceeds of the raffle to CF.

For the last few years, Hoosier Cobra members John Czarnecki and Mike Bare have been helping out at car shows in Cincinnati, helping the OCC staff the booth and sell raffle car tickets.

This year, Hoosier Cobra hosted the raffle car at the Indianapolis World of Wheels car show at the state fairgrounds, Feb. 10-12.

A big thanks goes out to additional HC members



who staffed the booth at the Indianapolis show this year. Those include: Nigel Bloom, Tim Love, John Shumaker, Joe Hirsch, Keith Henline, Steve Cadwallader, and Jeff Kleiner.

Tickets for this year's raffle Cobra are available online at www.londoncobrashow.com. Thanks, Hoosier Cobra guys, for stepping up to help OCC as they try to help stamp out this insidious disease.

Looking for Corporate Sponsors

In past years, we've had a few corporate sponsors. This is an opportunity for a company to advertise their product or service and help the club at the same time.

Past corporate sponsors have included **SBC Wealth Management**—benefit consultants and financial advisors, **Mikar**—an automotive maintenance and repair shop for speciality automobiles, and **Darring's Detail**—an auto detailing business.

Perhaps you have a business or know of a business that would be interested in corporate sponsorship.

The price is \$200. This purchases the sponsor ad space in this web newsletter. Also included in the

sponsorship is an ad on the home page of our Hoosier Cobra website, www.hoosiercobra.com.

That's pretty affordable advertising, compared to other means of reaching people. Plus, it helps the club with ongoing expenses and helps keep dues low. Let us know if you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a sponsor.



Jeff Kleiner gets FFR Legacy Award

Hoosier Cobra's resident Factory 5 Racing expert, Jeff Kleiner, was awarded a nice honor this past summer. At the 2016 London Cobra Show he was awarded FFR's Legacy Award.

This award recognizes persons in the FFR family that contribute to the replica car hobby and give sacrificially of themselves to help others.

That certainly describes our guy Jeff. He's always building a car, painting one, or giving someone advice about one. For years, he's been active on the FFR forum, helping people with their builds.

Additionally, he hosts a cruise or two each year for the members of the Hoosier Cobra club. Congratulations, Jeff, and thanks to Dave Smith and the FFR gang for recognizing such a worthy recipient of this very meaningful award.

Here's Your Big Chance!

Hey, do you want to be an officer on the Hoosier Cobra board of directors?

Initially, we had 3 directors, and then we expanded to 5. We're happy to keep doing our jobs, but we want to welcome anyone who would like to take a turn at being on the board of directors. (So we can take a break for a while!)

If you're interested, call one of the current directors.

Hoosier Cobra, Inc. Current Directors

Terry Gentry 614-537-2970

Bob Lennon 317-289-3559

John Czarnecki 812-623-4743

John Shumaker 317-710-7308

Mike Bare 765-561-4933

Not Too Soon to Sign Up for the London Cobra Show

Registration is open for the 2017 London Cobra Show. See the details at the website, www.londoncobrashow.com.

If you've been to this show, you know what a great time it is. If you have not been, you really need to consider it.

Hundreds of Cobra replicas from all over the United States will be there for you to look over. You'll meet lots of like-minded people, lovers of these little cars.

There are cruises, lectures, autocrossing, a car show, a parade, a banquet, and much more. Many enjoy the acceleration rides down Main Street in London all day Saturday.

Some enjoy the evenings, when the various Cobra clubs sit out in the hotel parking lots under the summer sky to talk Cobras and just get to know everyone.

Best of all, the whole thing serves as a fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis research.

Fire up, everyone. Let's go to London.

A Final Thought...

As winter fades and the warmth of spring takes its place, our club will undoubtedly start hitting the road again soon.

Being a Cobra-phile is a special hobby. You meet so many interesting people and if you cruise with the club, you go to some interesting places, see some different roads and new towns.

Everywhere you go, the wind tugs at your hat. The harsh ride and the rumble of the exhaust remind you that this is no ordinary mode of conveyance.

Stab the pedal on the right, and it reminds you of its eagerness to run, sort of like back in the 60's, when Cobras were winning all those races.

People take pictures of you and the car as you go down the road. They wave and give you a thumbs-up. Stop for gas and you gather a crowd.

No, this is not a hobby like stamp collecting or painting by numbers. This is some big-time fun. I've been doing it for 24 years, now, and even still, my face gets tired from perpetually smiling the whole time I'm cruisin' along in my little hot rod.

Or Two...

Come on out and get active in the club this summer. There are several events on the schedule to choose from. Hopefully, there will also be several impromptu events as well.

Get active in the Cobra hobby. Read a book or watch a video about Cobras and their history.

Get out of the house and put some miles on that car of yours. Air conditioning is over-rated.

Check out the sparkle in the little boy's eyes as he looks your car over at the car show. Maybe it's the first time he's ever seen a Cobra (replica). Make his day by letting him sit in the car, or better yet, give him a ride.

These cars have historical significance. Share that with interested youngsters.

Enjoy the fun. Drive safely.

Most of all, be important in the lives of your loved ones.

*That's going to do
it for this time.
See you at the
annual meeting.
mb*

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