

The 2024 Muscle Car And Corvette Nationals Car Show

I'd like to start off the first issue of 2025 by wishing everyone a happy and prosperous 2025. This year will be the Golden Anniversary of Santa Clara Corvettes. We will be celebrating our 50th birthday all year long. The 50th committee has been working hard to put on special events throughout the year so stay tuned.

On the weekend of November 22-24, I was able to check off another box on my bucket list. In Chicago every November, is a car show called the Muscle Car And Corvette Nationals aka the **MCACN**. **MCACN** may not be the largest car show but it has the reputation as being one of the best car shows in the nation. The Donald E. Stephens Convention Center is the gathering point for over five hundred of the best and rarest cars from the muscle car era. This was the 15th year the show has been held. Each year, the

show's promoters somehow manage to track down and persuade the owners of these rare cars to bring them out for all to enjoy. There are cars from all over the nation, Canada and beyond, not just this year but also every year for the past fifteen years. The cars on display are different every year.



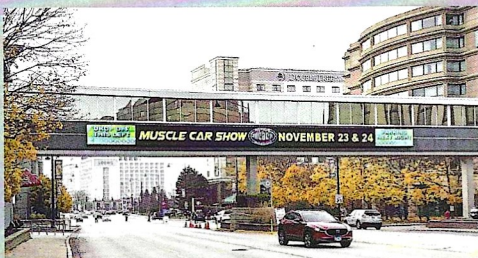
As you enter the main show floor, you'll walk down the steps onto a long red carpet. On either side of the main isle is this year's special display, the Pontiac GTO. Many say that the GTO was the car that started the muscle car era. This year is also the 60th anniversary of the car's first release in 1964. The cars featured this year are the GTO Judge convertibles with the rare Ram Air IV performance option. That not only makes these cars extremely rare back when they were new, but even more so today as there are literally fewer known to still exist. There were two rows of them featured at this year's show.

All the different displays were broken down by themes and car makes. If you're a Blue Oval fan, parked side by side was a special gathering of Mustangs with the rare Boss engines, Ford's version of the famed Hemi engine. When was the last time you saw a Boss 302, 351, or Boss 429, 429 Cobra Jet, Shelby GT350 and GT500 Mustangs all on display next to each other? There hasn't been a reunion like this since they originally left the Ford dealer's lot. This group of cars also included a 1971 mach 1, sports roof, pilot car.

One of my favorites was an all Mopar display called: Black & White, Formal Attire. This consisted of Plymouth and Dodge E body Cudas and Challengers, B body Chargers and Road Runners and a full sized Fury GT. How many Fury GTs have you ever seen? All these Mopars had 440+6 Barrel or Hemi engines. Every car in this group wore factory black paint with white interiors. How were they able to round up all these cars in the same color with white interiors? Another favorite display is one featuring several 69½ Plymouth Road Runners and Dodge Super Bees, all with the A12 performance option, factory equipped with 440+6 Barrel engines and lift off hoods. The A12 cars were built and sold with one thing in mind, dominate on the streets and tracks.

If you're a fan of the GM F body cars, there were plenty of Firebirds and Camaros. There was a special reunion of the Firebird Trans Am 455SD (Super Duty) cars. If you prefer your muscle cars sporting a Blue Bow Tie, there were many Camaro SS, RS and Z28 cars. And for the mid sized A bodied Chevy fans, plenty of Chevelle SS cars with a few 454 LS5 and LS6 equipped cars too.

Every year there's a display featuring celebrity cars. This year's special guests have all appeared on the silver screen. Two Dodge Charger Daytona's used in the Joe Dirt movie were there in all their dirty, as appeared, glory. The 55 Chevy, driven by James Taylor aka The Driver, from the cult classic, Two Lane Blacktop, was there. On display next to it was the black 55 Chevy driven by Harrison Ford in American Graffiti. I've previously read that the same car was repainted and used in both movies so one of these cars is probably a clone or tribute car.



Every year, there is a display at the show called Barn Finds & Hidden Gems. The cars featured here are rare muscle cars, recently rediscovered and put on display in their unrestored, as found condition. No shiny, freshly painted or newly chromed cars here. These cars are in rusty and dilapidated condition and wear their dirty paints with pride. Many of these cars will probably reappear here at a future **MCACN** show after under going an extensive, expensive, make over and

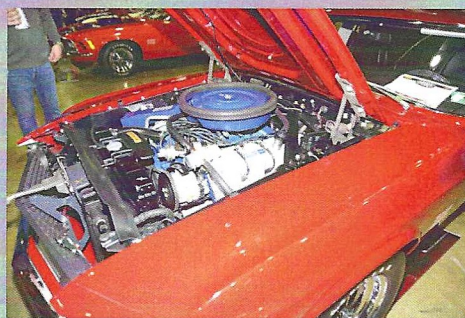
restoration. Some of the cars featured include rare Hemi powered Plymouths and Dodges including a couple of Mopar winged cars.

The **MCACN** show co-starred the Chevy Corvette. There was row after row after row of C1 – C3 Corvettes, all award winning Triple Diamond Certified cars. We usually see nice C1 through C3 Corvettes at the Corvette Spectacular car shows each year, but nothing like the cars on display here. Two all Corvette accessory vendors were at the show, Corvette Central and Mid America Motorworks. Mid America Motorworks had a rare Corvette at their booth that caught my attention. It was a black Corvette CERV IV. For those who aren't familiar with the acronym, CERV stands for Chevrolet Engineering Research Vehicle. CERV cars are usually crushed and destroyed at the end of the testing period so how was this car able to survive the crusher? Mike Yeager, the owner of Mid America, introduced himself and was just starting to tell me the story of the car when he was interrupted and called away so I wasn't able to get the complete story. Stay tuned for more when I get a chance to follow up on our interview.

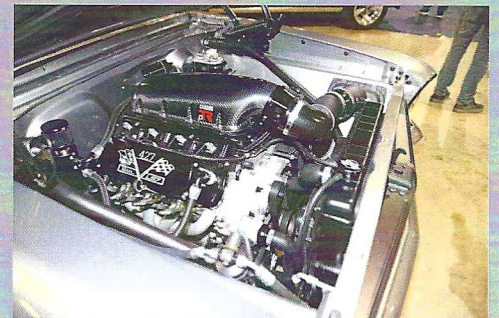
I can go on and on about the show but I'm limited by space and time. If you're interested, go to You Tube and do a search for **MCACN** for more videos on this year's show and years past. You'll be impressed with all the different cars on display. If you're a gearhead like me or have 5W30 Mobil 1 flowing through your veins, be sure to make the pilgrimage to Chicago next November and wander up and down the aisles to see for yourself. You won't be sorry. Hmm, I wonder what the show promoters have planned for next year's show?



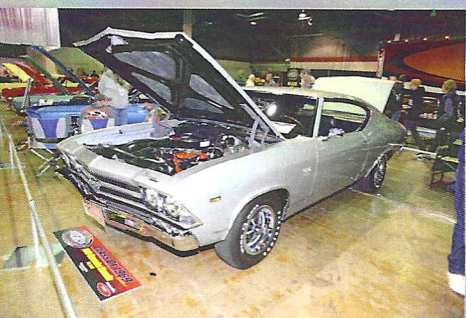
A Mustang mach1 With The Boss 429 Under The Hood



Sports Roof mach1 Pilot Car



A Beautiful 66 Chevy Nova Resto Mod



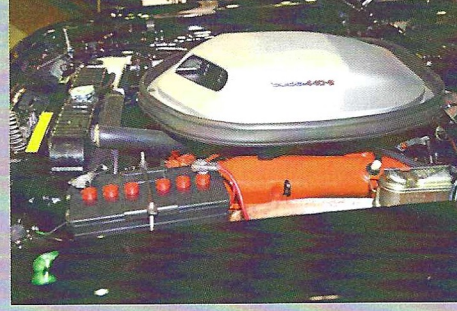
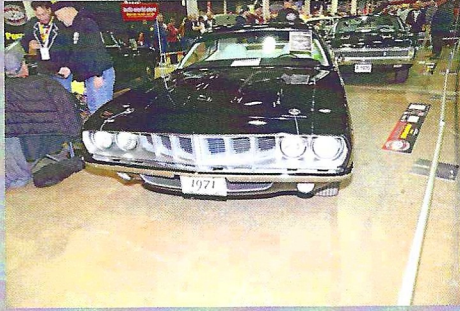
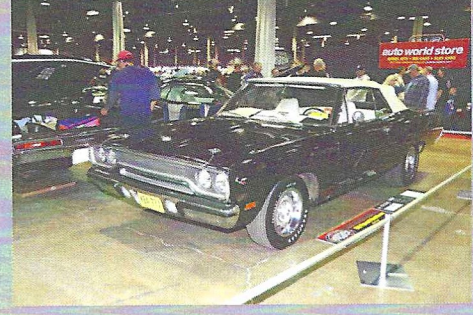
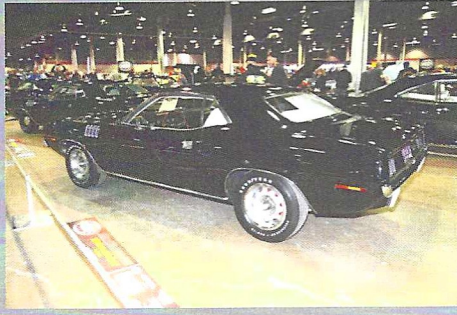
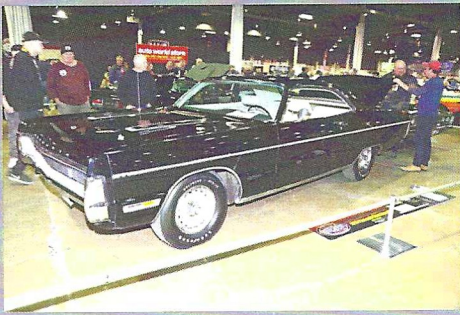
69 Chevy Chevelle SS396



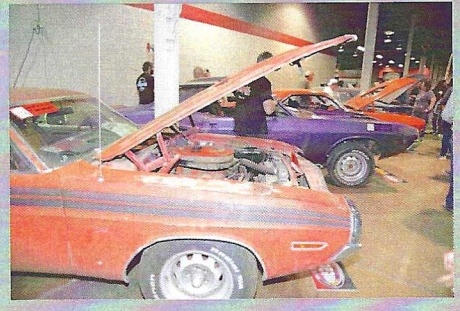
Gorgeous Mustang Eleanor



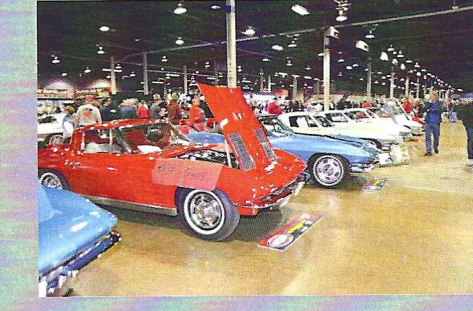
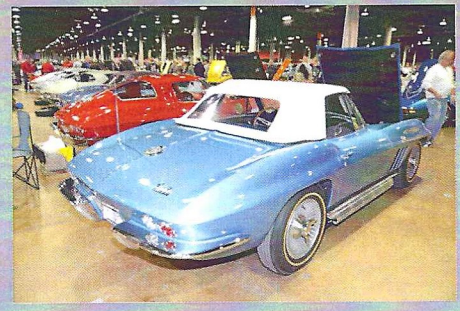
C6 Corvette Called Wet Paint



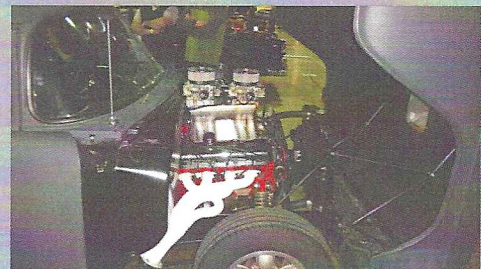
The All Mopar Special Display: Black & White - Formal Attire



Some Of The Cars In This Year's Barn Find & Gems Display



A Few Of The Beautiful Triple Diamond Certified Corvettes From This Year's Show

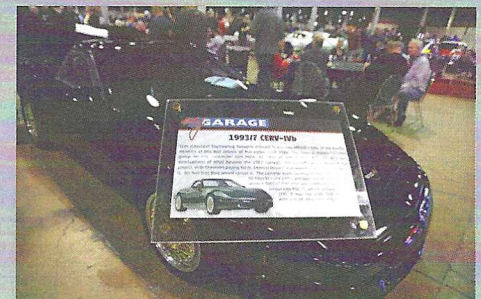
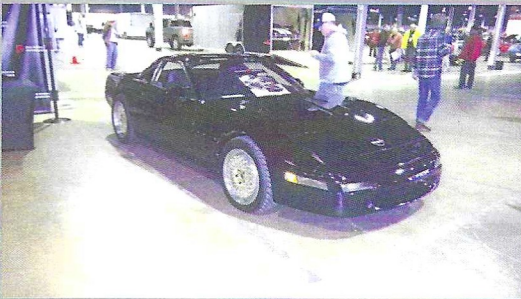


The 55 Chevy From Two Lane Blacktop

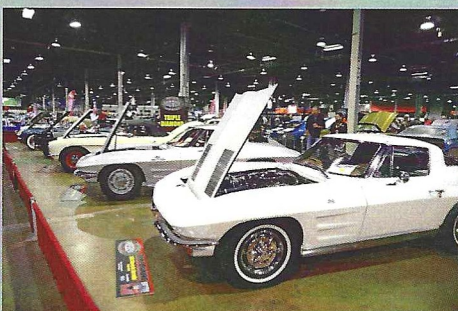


The Charger Daytonas Used In Joe Dirt

55 Chevy From American Graffiti



CERV IV Corvette @ The Mid America Motorworks Booth



More Corvettes From The Show