



London Strawberry Festival

June 20-22 • Downtown London



Climb in a Cobra for a burnout ride on Main

By Kristy Zurbrick
Madison Editor

Curvy, colorful cars with loud, powerful engines will roar into London on June 22 for the annual London Cobra Show.

Each year, the Ohio Cobra Club hosts the show in conjunction with the London Strawberry Festival. At 9 a.m. that day, the drivers of nearly 170 Cobra cars will parade into London. They start at the Speedway gas station at U.S. Route 42 and I-70, turn west on U.S. Route 40, then turn south onto State Route 56, wheeling into downtown London two abreast.

They will park at North Main and High streets, where from about 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m., the public can get a close look at the vehicles, talk to the owners and browse through vendor booths. Visitors will see Cobras of all makes and color combinations.

For people who want an even closer look, burnout rides are available from 10 a.m. to

2:30 p.m. For \$10, a person can climb into the passenger seat of a Cobra car and enjoy a one-eighth-mile ride down Main Street.

"It's a thrilling ride," said Pam and Dave Beck, Ohio Cobra Club members. "You go 0 to 60 in about four seconds. It's loud, rumbling... the tires are screeching."

For those who want a chance at owning a Cobra, the club is raffling off a Hurricane Motorsports Cobra kit car. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the show or at www.londoncobrashow.com. Online ticket sales close at midnight on June 20. The drawing will take place the evening of June 22.

The club also is selling London Cobra Show t-shirts and, for the burnout riders, "I Smoked 'em on Main Street" t-shirts.

Proceeds from the burnout rides, t-shirt sales and car raffle benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Over the years, the Ohio Cobra Club has raised over \$800,000 for the cause.



Messenger file photo

Admirers look over a Hurricane Motorsports replica 1965 Shelby Cobra owned by Dave Firebaugh of Wooster, Ohio.

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Festival schedule of events

Thursday, June 20

10:30 a.m.-noon—Contest registration and check-in at information booth: largest homegrown strawberry, toy building, shoebox float, window/house/yard decorating, stories and poetry, coloring, art, photogenic, cake and cookie decorating

10:45 a.m.—Opening ceremony and National Anthem by Kelsie Baldwin

11 a.m.—Festival and all vendors open

11:30 a.m.—Modeling contest

4-8 p.m.—Sports Heroes autograph session with Pete Johnson, Icky Woods, Courtland Bullard, James Cotton, Maurice Claret and Michael Wiley

6 p.m.—Queens pageant with hosts Simba Jordan and Danielle Stockham; Miss Photogenic announced

6 p.m.—Mister/Miss Shortcake contest, main stage

6-8 p.m.—Six To Noon band on railroad stage

6:30 p.m.—Royalty contest (Little, Young, Junior, Queen) on main stage

8:45-10:30 p.m.—Strawberry Shop (fresh and chocolate-dipped strawberries, etc.) in shortcake tent

10:30 p.m.—Festival closes

Friday, June 21

11 a.m.—Festival and all vendors open

Noon—Victory Express performs on main stage

1-8 p.m.—Sports Heroes autograph session

4:30—Thunderfoot demonstration, main stage

5-9 p.m.—Strawberry Shop in the shortcake tent

5:30 p.m.—Billy Starrett & Hired Guns, main stage

6:30 p.m.—Six To Noon band, railroad stage

7-8 p.m.—Strawberry food contest check-in (information booth)

7:30 p.m.—Kiddie Tractor Pull at Advantage Bank

8:30 p.m.—Crossroads Station band, main stage

11 p.m.—Festival closes

Saturday, June 22

9 a.m.—Baby contest on main stage

9 a.m.—All vendors open

9 a.m.-1 p.m.—Young Eagles giving free plane rides at Madison County Airport for children ages 8 to 17 and their parents.

9 a.m.-3 p.m.—London AC COBRA car show at courthouse square

11 a.m.-7 p.m.—Sports Heroes autograph session

Noon—State Street Band on main stage

Noon-4 p.m.—Ride special (\$12)

1:30-3:30 p.m.—Queens luncheon at Della Selsor Building at fairgrounds

4 p.m.—Parade line up at Cowling Park

5 p.m.—Parade followed by crowning of the 2013 queen at the main stage; grand marshal recognized; contest and parade awards announced

6 p.m.—Six To Noon band, railroad stage

7:30 p.m.—50/50 raffle

8 p.m.—Tim Omark performs on main stage

8:30-10:30 p.m.—Strawberry Shop, shortcake tent

9-11 p.m.—Pick up contest entries at info booth

11 p.m.—Festival closes

Contest Deadlines: The deadline to enter the royalty and baby contests is June 17. For information about these contests and other contests, as well as the festival in general, go to londonstrawberryfestival.com, email london_strawberry_festival@hotmail.com, or call (740) 852-1582 or (740) 857-1417.