

Members Autos

David Stilson



1965 / 2012 Replica Cobra



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In Memory of David Stilson



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While you may not have known the man, you knew his classic car. Dave Stilson had a beautiful white 1965/2012 Shelby Cobra replica, which he proudly displayed at car shows and cruises. His car was typically met with a lot of oohs and aahs, and while he was a quiet man, he relished talking to admirers about it.

The engine of the Cobra jumped to life and produced a huge sound each time it turned on, such that being considerate, Dave was always concerned about starting it too early in the morning to wake his neighbors. For this reason, he tended to arrive a little on the later side at early

weekend morning car shows.

Dave thoroughly enjoyed the classic car hobby and happily immersed himself in it by becoming a member of the CT Seaport Car Club in 2019 and later acted as its Vice President for four years (2022-2025).

Dave's love of the sea began when he took a job in High School at Fayerweather Yacht Club in Bridgeport, ferrying members back and forth between the club and their moored boats in Black Rock Harbor. He continued his passion by going to college at Maine Maritime Academy, which focused on civilian ships. After graduating, he began his career as a deckhand and ultimately in his career, he became the Captain of several tugboats including The Jill Reinauer, which was his favorite, and is pictured here. It was a job he

absolutely loved.

Due to his rare kidney disease and what became the need for constant dialysis, Dave sadly had to give up his Captainship. Instead, he found more time to spend with his friends, his classic car, and his dog Ziggy. His dream was to put together a band, which came to fruition about 3 years ago. He created a Pink Floyd tribute band for which he played the guitar, and he was also an accomplished guitar maker, handcrafting several beautiful electric guitars for friends.

Unfortunately, Dave died at the young age of 50 on 8/19/26, just about a month shy of his 51st birthday. For his 50th birthday, Dave threw himself a glorious and well-deserved birthday party at Redline Restorations, surrounded by classic cars on display of his choosing, and special friends from each

facet of his life. I remember him telling me he was excited about his upcoming party and how he had never had all his friends together at one time. He and his band, called Embryo, performed that night, and he was in heaven.

A memorial service for Dave will probably be held in the spring of 2027. Until then, the CT Seaport Car Club wishes to offer our sincerest condolences to Dave's family. We miss him.

