

2016 M&M'S® Collectors Club Beach Party Convention



The M&M'S® Dispenser

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2016 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS • Beach Party in Orlando!



18th Annual M&M'S® Collectors Club Convention Meets in Orlando, FL

What a better place to have a Beach Party than in Florida! The 18th Annual M&M'S® Collector's Club convention was held May 18 - 21, 2016 in Orlando. "Beach Party" was the theme with many fun activities for everyone to enjoy. This year's hosts were Carolyn McAlarney and Jo Ann Bellamy.

We had a great turnout this year that included members from New Zealand and Germany along with a couple new members and their families attending the convention as well as some members we haven't seen in a while. Everyone likes the convention because it gives them the opportunity to visit with friends and catch up on their collections. The folks at M&M'S WORLD® Store were fantastic and they donated several items for the convention.



Wednesday night was registration night. The registration packet included: a Calendar Dry Erase Board, a 75th Anniversary Pin, Squeeze Ball, Cinemark Movie Cup, Socks, Kyle Busch Magazine, Keychain, Coupons and various other M&M'S® Brand goodies. This year's convention t-shirt was also a 75th Anniversary Design with the 6 Characters. This was a theme carried throughout the convention with the T-shirt, Pin, Gift Bag, Water Bottle & the Club's 2016 Membership Magnet. The Welcome Party brought everyone together



with fun rounds of LCR (Left Center Right). Everyone received a 75th Anniversary Gift Bag at their chair.

Thursday evening brought more fun games with Pictionary. Who knew we had such talented drawers & good guessers in our club?! M&M'S WORLD® Store donated Star Wars Iphone covers to everyone that night.

Then it was time to get up bright & early and be in the lobby at 7:15 AM on Friday morning for our M&M'S WORLD® Store visit! We were fortunate that we were allowed to shop in the store for a few hours before they opened. Some of the employees even took a group picture with us! They had stocked up on 75th Anniversary merchandise just for us!!!



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There were also items they had just put out for us, like X-Men items, new t-shirts, beach towels and other summer items. Everyone had a great time taking pictures with the characters, eating breakfast & filling their shopping bags!

Our Business Meeting was held Friday afternoon. We talked about increasing membership and the various reasons our members attend conventions. Future conventions were discussed, with Gatlinburg or Pigeon Forge being looked at for 2017 and the possibility of Vegas for 2018, our 20th Anniversary. After the Business Meeting, we held our Silent Auction. There were many great items to be won!



Friday evening we had a Pizza Party. But before we could eat pizza, each table had to decorate their own centerpiece / dessert!!

We started with a Rice Krispies base & built our M&M'S® Beach Party themed dessert with frosting and M&M'S® Brand Milk

Chocolate Candies. There was a contest judged by Independent hotel employees. The winning table was Bob & Sandy Bantz, Jim & Sharon Cross and Ralph Corner.

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The judges commented that **everyone** did an outstanding job, but they incorporated the M&M'S® Brand 75th Anniversary theme & the Beach Party theme the best. Everyone got to eat their creations afterwards, so we all really won! M&M'S WORLD® donated Star Wars Ipad covers to everyone that night. Who knew that our Club President, Richard Stern, had a hidden Bingo-Caller talent?! The remainder of the evening was spent playing Bingo & winning great prizes!

Our Auction was held on Saturday. There were over 100 items to bid on! Our auctioneer, Greg Brown, did a fantastic job!! He was assisted by Ralph Corner & Dennis Taylor – always a fun combination!

There are always items that bring some spirited bidding – there were also some bargain-priced items this year, because many people flew & we couldn't get those stand-ups home!! The Mystery Box was won by Monty Seawright. Keep in mind that Libby Dixon will be accepting donations all year for the 2017 Auction's Mystery Box! The Ugly T-shirt was resurrected with a new t-shirt. Mike Shute from New Zealand was the proud winner!



The convention concluded with our Banquet. This year's menu was a Fried Chicken buffet with a never-ending assortment of desserts. I know that no one left the room hungry. Two special guests from the M&M'S WORLD® Store also attended the banquet. Jo Ann Bellamy won this year's Club-wide Raffle. Congratulations Jo Ann!!



All attendees received a 75th Anniversary M&M'S® Collectors Club Water Bottle, a 75th Anniversary Tin and a commemorative package of My M&M'S® Brand Milk Chocolate Candies with the Club's name printed on the candy. The evening concluded with door prizes for everyone!

Thanks to everyone who attended & to everyone who helped put it all together!



We hope to see everyone next year!!!

- Carolyn



2016 Convention General Business Meeting Minutes

The Annual General Business Meeting was called to order by President Richard Stern on May 20, 2016. Board members also attending were: Vice President Jo Ann Bellamy; Secretary Ralph Corner; Treasurer Carolyn McAlarney; Trustee Greg Brown. Trustees Jill Flynn and Rose Hudson were absent.

Richard Stern began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 2016 Convention in Orlando and thanked Carolyn and Jo Ann for their hard work and help with this year's convention. Richard asked Ralph Corner to read the minutes from the 2015 General Business Meeting. Bill Merritt made a motion to accept the minutes and Libby Dixon seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

Carolyn McAlarney gave a brief Treasurer's Report stating that the club had \$15,010.75. She stated that so far 102 members have renewed which was down from 127 in 2015. Bill Merritt made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Lisa Ahlers seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

Richard then asked if there were any questions in general. He said membership size is getting smaller and becomes an issue when guaranteeing a large meeting room at hotels. We had to guarantee 100 room nights would be purchased to receive a lower rate and a free meeting room otherwise the meeting room would have been \$900. When it comes to smaller groups it makes it tough to negotiate with the hotel for meeting space, food, room night costs, etc. He said that there may come a time when the club may be forced to raise dues and begin to being more creative to continue. Special merchandise like pins is becoming expensive because there are quantities that have to be met. He told the members to think about what they want for their membership. Please advertise the club with note cards or print some of the "Membership Interest Cards" located in the Members Only Section. Gene MacLaughlin mentioned about putting something in the M&M'S WORLD® Stores about the club. Richard said that he wants to start working with Las Vegas now about the 2018 Convention. Sara Landis mentioned about perhaps advertising in malls etc. Richard answered by saying we are going to try making a new brochure and that he wants to try to communicate with Mars Stores and Representatives about the club.

Richard again thanked Carolyn and Jo Ann for taking over the reigns of putting on the convention and asked Carolyn to introduce her two friends Marla and Janet who helped. He said that the M&M'S WORLD® Store donated several items for the activity nights. The membership was impressed with the store visit and how friendly everyone was.

Richard discussed future conventions. He said that in two years the club will be having it's 20th Anniversary Convention in Las Vegas. A proposal was being looked at for 2017 for either Pigeon Forge or Gatlinburg, TN and that we will let the membership know once it's finalized. Wanda Taylor mentioned Gatlinburg tends to be more high end and harder to get to on busy weekends. Richard asked of an informal survey by show of hands on five things that may keep a member from attending a club convention.

1. Cost Threshold (hotel, registration, etc.), 2. Near M&M'S WORLD® Store, 3. City location for vacation, 4. Main issue is to Socialize, 5. People who come for free items. It seemed like most of the members attending liked to come to the convention so they can socialize with other collectors and pick up new things they don't have.

The attendees were asked for any thoughts on the magnets. It seemed as though most people like the magnets. There were no negative comments. Bob Gowdy also mentioned that he likes it when the collectors who are also vendors bring things to sell and that the membership should support their efforts. He said when we are near stores it makes it harder for the members who are selling because people only have so much money to go around and that we should try to support the members also.

Richard asked for any other questions or comments. A motion was made by Lisa Ahlers to adjourn the meeting. Sara Landis seconded the motion. Motion was passed by all members present.

Respectfully Submitted, Ralph Corner, Secretary



2016 Club-wide Raffle Winner Is JoAnn Bellamy!!!

Congratulations Jo Ann Bellamy for winning the club's 2016 Annual Club-wide Raffle! She won a lot of great items for her collection including a special mystery item which was a compact made by Jimmy Crystal New York!!

M&M'S® Collectors Club Income & Expense Report 1/1/2016 - 6/28/2016 Submitted by Carolyn McAlarney, Treasurer	
Beginning Balance	\$ 10,808.64
Income	
Dues	2100.00
Auction	518.00
Raffle	710.00
Convention	448.84
Total Income	\$ 14,584.98
Expenses	
Newsletter	\$160.50
Website	51.94
Membership Item	213.19
Total Expenses	\$ 425.63
Balance as of 6/6/2016	\$ 14,159.85

2016 M&M'S® Collectors Club Officers

Richard Stern, President	membership@richardstern.com	Jill Flynn, Trustee	Secada27@verizon.net
Jo Ann Bellamy, Vice President	joann.bellamy@att.net	Greg Brown, Trustee	No Email
Carolyn McAlarney, Treasurer	pprincess@aol.com	Rose Hudson, Trustee	rosebud@ptd.net
Ralph Corner, Secretary	colacomer@windstream.net		

Rose & Dennis Hudson Visit the UK!

During the 2016 Convention in Orlando, Rose and Dennis Hudson along with several friends were across the pond touring England, Scotland, and Wales for 17 days. Dennis has been working extensively on his ancestry for several years and he wanted to visit where his relatives originated from. Rose got to tag along and sneak a visit to the M&M'S WORLD® Store in London!



Rose said they had a fantastic trip! Dennis was able to visit the church in London where his Great, great grandparents were married in 1827. Rose said this was the same church Teddy Roosevelt was married in and mentioned President Roosevelt is the only American President to get married outside USA! They enjoyed dinner in the tombs under a church in London and visited Hampton Court, Henry the VIII residence. As a special highlight Dennis got to pour beer where his great, great grandfather did in 1830, standing in the very same spot behind the bar at the Lobster Inn Red Car UK! Rose said "it was a lovely day or should I say "Brilliant" day"! He was very moved by this experience." Cheerio for now!!



M&M's Ultimate Funnel Cake Limited Time Offer

Don't miss out on your limited-time chance to enjoy our Six Flags Famous Funnel Cake with powdered sugar, whipped cream, chocolate drizzle, and sprinkled with mini-M&M's!

This colorful twist on your classic funnel cake favorites is available as part of the All Season Dining Pass. Hurry, these delicious treats will only be available at G.A. Cafe for the month of July!

Pre Convention Socializing & Items For Sale in Rooms



Welcome Party and Registration



Silent Auction



Awesome Night Of Pictionary!



Early Morning Shopping at M&M'S WORLD® Store!!



Rice Krispies Dessert Making Contest



*** FOR SALE ***

**Leftover 75th Anniversary Pins
and Gift Bags \$8 Each + S&H**



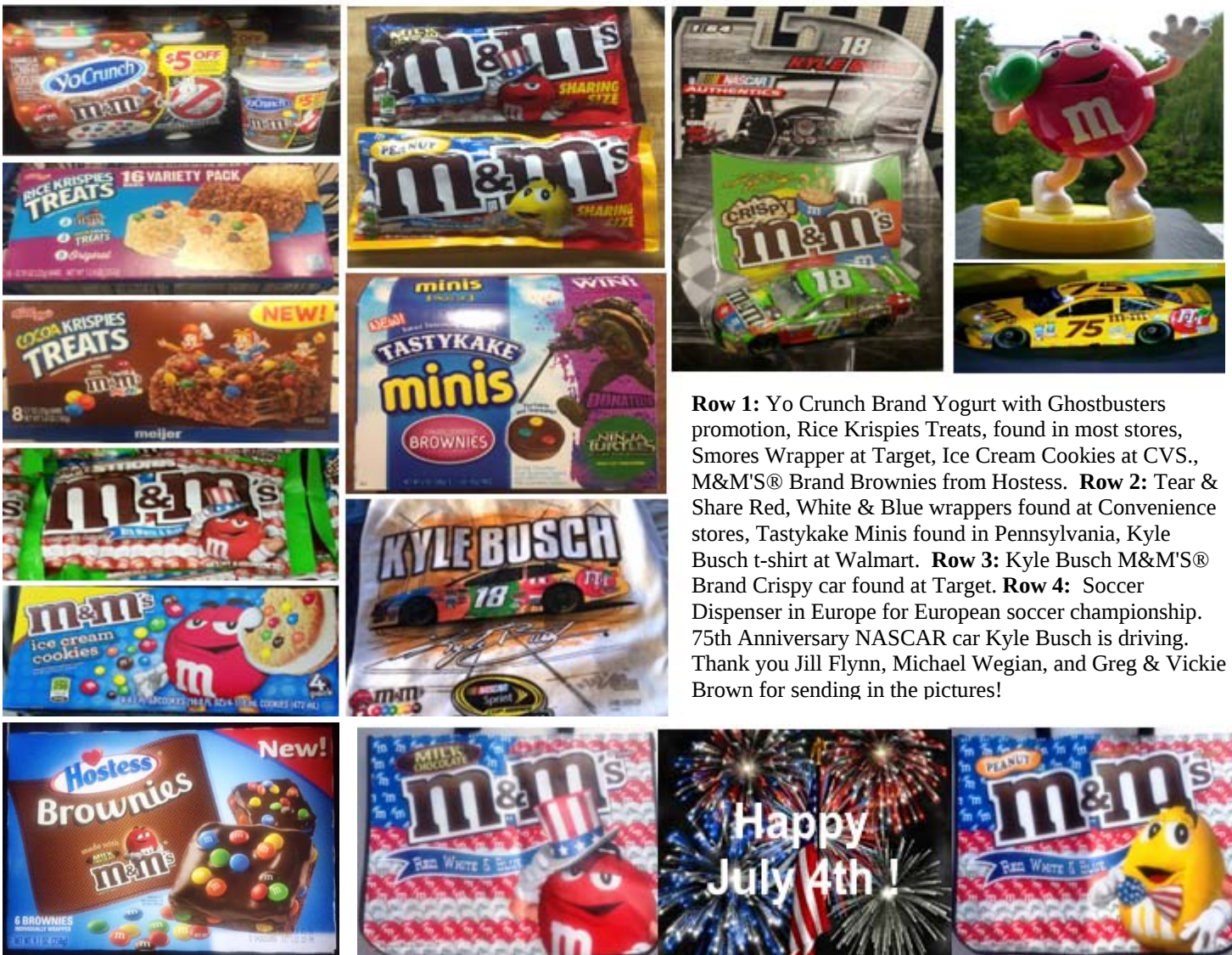
The club has a few Convention Leftover 75th Anniversary Pins and cloth Gift Bags (pictured above) that we are offering For Sale at \$8 each plus S&H. Please contact Carolyn McAlarney at her email: pprincess@aol.com or Ralph Corner at colacorn@windstream.net



Convention Banquet



Snacks and Items Recently Found



Row 1: Yo Crunch Brand Yogurt with Ghostbusters promotion, Rice Krispies Treats, found in most stores, Smores Wrapper at Target, Ice Cream Cookies at CVS., M&M'S® Brand Brownies from Hostess. **Row 2:** Tear & Share Red, White & Blue wrappers found at Convenience stores, Tastykake Minis found in Pennsylvania, Kyle Busch t-shirt at Walmart. **Row 3:** Kyle Busch M&M'S® Brand Crispy car found at Target. **Row 4:** Soccer Dispenser in Europe for European soccer championship. 75th Anniversary NASCAR car Kyle Busch is driving. Thank you Jill Flynn, Michael Wegian, and Greg & Vickie Brown for sending in the pictures!