

## National Corvette Museum Report for August 2019

### Next Generation Corvette Stingray Officially Revealed on 7-18-19!

The long-awaited C-8 mid-engine Corvette Stingray made its debut at the Tustin Blimp Hanger #2 in Tustin, California, handily just off I-5 near Santa Ana. According to the news out of the National Corvette Museum the late Zora Arkus-Duntov, the father of the Chevrolet Corvette, had a long-held vision for a mid-engine Corvette, and over the years several mid-engine Vettes were designed and built, but never released into production. That all changes now with the vision coming to life the evening of July 18, 2019, and much of the world watched via livestream from the comfort of their own homes.

Kicking off the proceedings Astronauts Dr. Mae Jemison and Captain Scott Kelly discussed the engineering required to power men to the moon 50 years ago this week, comparing it to the engineering required to launch the new Corvette. Much like was demonstrated in the recent exhibit at the National Corvette Museum “From Gas Station to Space Station”, Corvettes and astronauts have been closely linked since 1962. Scott Kelly quipped “And just like the rocket that took us to the moon, the new Corvette has the engine in the back!” Then a bright Red 2020 Corvette Stingray was fully revealed for the first time for all the world to see, joined later by a white and a blue version.



From the time the first Corvette was revealed on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1953, 1.7 million have been produced as the Crown Jewel of General Motors. Some of the quotes from the GM Leadership speaking at the reveal: “One giant leap for Corvette”, “Mid-Engine has always been part of Corvette’s legacy”, “It will be the best Corvette anyone has ever driven” We built on its history and as always drive to the future”, “Performance, Design, and Engineering” “12 exterior colors, 6 interior color themes, even 6 choices of seat belt color”.

The 2020 Stingray still packs the power and performance that Corvette has consistently delivered over the decades. The 6.2L small block naturally aspirated V8 LT2 engine produces 495 horsepower and 470 lb.-feet of torque when equipped with the performance exhaust -- the most horsepower and torque for any entry-level Corvette, according to Chevrolet, and 0-60 in less than 3 seconds. “It is an attainable dream car”. Price was discussed and it was stated that price starts at less than \$60,000



The new Stingray can be reserved today, and Chevy.com launched a new “visualizer” where you can experience 360-degree, 3D exterior and interior renderings of your potential vehicle, or you can just see your Chevrolet dealer (our Sponsor is Evergreen Chevrolet in Issaquah). You can read more about the Next Generation 2020 Corvette Stingray at the National Corvette Museum News Web site here:

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/explore/news/> You can watch a repeat of the 1 hour long reveal here: <https://media.chevrolet.com/nextgenCorvette> Or you can play around with the 2020 Corvette Stingray Visualizer (scroll down & click on the “design yours” button) here : <https://www.chevrolet.com/upcoming-vehicles/next-generation-corvette>

The Next Generation Corvette is hitting the road for two national dealership tours that will include vehicle specialists and numerous interactive displays. At these events, Chevy dealers will host customers to showcase the new mid-engine supercar, display customizable parts (seats, wheels, accessories, etc.) and teach people how they can personalize their own Corvette. “With all the excitement around this vehicle, we don’t want people to have to wait to experience it in person,” said Barry Engle GM VP. “Our national tours will bring the Next Generation car right to our customers’ local Chevrolet dealership, where they can start imagining themselves in their very own personalized mid-engine Corvette.” The tours will begin on the East and West Coasts and stop at more than 125 select dealerships across the U.S. starting after the reveal and extending through early 2020. Tour dates and cities will be available soon.

#### **Last C-7 Corvette sets record for Charity Auction at 2.7 Million Dollars:**

As I reported at our last meeting the Last C-7 Corvette, a black Z06 model, was sold for 2.7 Million Dollars at the Barrett-Jackson Northeast Auction at Mohegan Sun (CT) on June 28<sup>th</sup>. This winning bid breaks the Barrett-Jackson record for an automaker-donated vehicle.

The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation will receive the 2.7 million dollars from the auction.

“This is going to vibrate across America,” said Frank Siller, chairman and CEO of the Stephen Siller Foundation. “This donation will build at least five homes for our catastrophically-injured veterans to give them their independence and a better quality of life.”

The foundation builds mortgage-free, accessible smart homes for the most catastrophically injured service members and helps pay off the mortgages for families of first responders killed in the line of duty. 85 homes

have been built or are under construction to date, and this donation will allow for construction to begin on five new homes. More information is available at [www.tunnel2towers.org](http://www.tunnel2towers.org).

“It’s appropriate that the most iconic vehicle ever built in the US, has the honor of being the highest auctioned vehicle at Barrett-Jackson for a charity,” said Steve Hill, GM U.S. Vice President of Sales, Service and Marketing. “What makes me proud to be a GM employee is that fact that we’ve supported the military and veterans for over 100 years. This is a great evening, but tomorrow morning we get back to work to help more service members in need.”

For the past five years, GMC has supported the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation as its national foundation of choice. In that time, it has helped the foundation raise more than \$10 million. That includes \$2.2 million raised last year, with \$925,000 of it coming from the auction of the first production 2019 Corvette ZR1. It was purchased by Chevrolet dealer and NASCAR team owner Rick Hendrick at the 2018 Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale sale. The last C7 was purchased by Daniel Snyder of Clarence, NY.

GM is committed to helping those who have given so much for their country. GM’s current and retired workforce includes 60,000 veterans.

### **Dr. Sean Preston to Join Museum Team as NCM President:**



The National Corvette Museum Board of Directors has selected Dr. Sean Preston to serve as President and CEO of the National Corvette Museum. Dr. Preston joins the NCM, effective July 1, from Portland, OR where he served as President of a non-profit independent school. He succeeds 23-year NCM CEO/Executive Director Wendell Strode, who announced his retirement May 2018. “When Wendell announced his retirement, we knew it was a huge drivers’ seat to fill,” said NCM Board and Search Committee Chair Lon Helton. “The NCM Search Committee teamed with Chicago-based Kittleman & Associates to conduct a thorough nationwide search to find the best possible candidates – and there were many. Sean possesses the leadership skills, diverse qualities, relationships and unique skill sets necessary to collaborate with NCM Board of Directors to expand the mission and strategic objective of the NCM while being mindful of the unique legacy and spirit of the organization. His skills as an innovative leader are proven and we look forward to the NCM’s next chapter with Sean leading the way for the staff, management, volunteers and members. The icing on the cake: Sean is a car guy with a 1954 Corvette and 1972 Corvette in his collection!”

“The National Corvette Museum is a one-of-a-kind organization. There are thousands of museums across the globe, but none other dedicated to Corvette,” said Sean. “I’m head over heels in love with all things car-related, and specifically Corvette. It is an honor to have been named President and CEO.” Dr. Preston will assume full CEO duties on July 1 and Strode will remain with the Museum through January 3, 2020.

**NCM Corvette Raffles available again for all:** The NCM has figured out a work around to allow anyone anywhere to send in an order for raffle tickets and they will be purchased in KY on your behalf. The Corvette raffles are a major fundraiser that help to keep the museum operating so it can fulfill its mission of “Celebrating the invention of the Corvette; preserving its past, present and future; and educating the public about Corvette”. If you are in the mood to support the mission of the NCM through a contribution, please consider ordering a raffle ticket. You never know, you might win! Remember, the odds of winning one of these Corvettes are a whole lot better than any Lottery ticket (and the proceeds go to a great cause!).

To place an order for a raffle tickets go to this web page:

(<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Raffle-Ticket-Request-5.2.19-Ambassadors.pdf>), download the order form, print the form, fill it out & send it in to the NCM with a Credit Card number, and they will purchase the tickets for you right there in Kentucky and enter you in the drawing! They will send you an e-mail letting you know your ticket numbers. Note this form has a line for “ticket sold by”. You would put my name in there so our club gets credit for the order.

If you would prefer to purchase tickets with cash or a check you will need to bring your form to a CMCS meeting, and I can get it processed. I handed out some order forms at our last meeting. Just let me know if you send in an order (and write my name on the bottom) and for how many tickets at ([kevinwilson@q.com](mailto:kevinwilson@q.com)) so we can receive credit for our Club supporting the NCM. The upcoming Corvette Raffles are:

**2019 Shadow Gray Grand Sport Coupe** Limited to 1500 Tkts - Price: \$150

Drawing: Drawing: August 29, 2019 2:00 PM



**Build Your Own Next Generation Corvette or \$55,000:** Limited to 1500 Tkts - Price: \$250

Drawing: Drawing: August 30, 2019 3:00 PM



**2019 Elkhart Lake Blue Corvette Convertible:** Limited to 1500 tickets - Price: \$100  
Drawing: September 19, 2019 2:00 PM (Picture is also on attached WORD DOC)



**OR for those wanting to spend a little less: A Next Generation Corvette VIN #25 (above):** You can order unlimited tickets - Price: \$25.00 Drawing: August 31, 2019 3:00 PM

If you wonder who actually wins these Corvettes, or if you want more detailed information you can find out here: <https://corvettestore.com/corvette-affle>

**2019 National Corvette Museum Events:** Many of these events sell out quickly (but you can typically still get your name on a wait list) so be sure to keep an eye on this space for additional upcoming trips to consider for your future vacation planning purposes. You can find more details about these events and sign up for them here: <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/explore/events/> I recently signed up for the National Parks Tour in September when it became available and it sold out in just one weekend! It should be a great trip.

**Here are the remainder of the NCM Corvette related events currently scheduled for the remainder of the year.**

- National Corvette Caravan at NCM August 28-31, 2019 (see article in Newsletter for more info)
- Jefferson Starship Concert & Fireworks Show @ National Corvette Museum Amphitheater Aug 29 @ 5:00 pm
- Corvette Racing Banquet @ Embassy Suites By Hilton Seaside, CA Sep 14 @ 6:15 pm – 9:00 pm
- 2019 MiM 'National Parks Tour' (Grand Canyon South Rim, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Arches, Glen Canyon Dam, Monument Valley, and Canyonlands), September 22 – 28, 2019 (**SOLD OUT:** wait list)
- MiM 1-Lap of Kentucky 2019 Tour (1); Sep 30 – Oct 5 (Registration open)
- MiM 1-Lap of Kentucky 2019 Tour (2); Oct 14 – Oct 19 (Registration open)
- MiM 1-Lap of Kentucky 2019 Tour (3); Oct 21 – Oct 26 (Registration open)
- 2019 Corvette Racing – Presented by Michelin @ AACA Museum Hershey, PA; Oct 25 & 26 (open)
- MiM 1-Lap of Kentucky 2019 Tour (4); October 28 – Nov 2 (Registration open)
- Vets 'n Vettes presented by Mobil 1 @ NCM; Nov 7-9 (Registration opens soon)
- Michelin NCM Bash @ National Corvette Museum Apr 23 – Apr 25 2020 (Registration end of 2019)

### **Did you know?**

The National Corvette Museum offers 10 different ways to recognize or commemorate a special someone, anniversary, car, event, business, child and more? Each of these recognition opportunities are considered a tax-deductible donation to the Museum. View more information at

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/support/bricks-and-dedication-opportunities/> and click each opportunity's title to see additional options/logos, details and how to order online. What a great gift!

**That's all for now – Save the Wave!**