

National Corvette Museum Report for September 2019

By the time you read this the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green Kentucky is in the throes of recovering from all the activities surrounding the 25th Anniversary Celebration and the National Corvette Caravan. The Celebration took place August 28-31st at the museum. Many of our members, along with their Corvettes (as well as Corvettes from other clubs and other intrepid individuals) left Evergreen Chevrolet in Issaquah on the morning of August 22nd to Caravan to the museum. There were many planned stops & highlights along the way for the caravan members and many more activities took place at the museum. The Caravan was led by Pacific Northwest Captain Ken Thomas and our Club was led in the Caravan by Dennis Milliken. Many thanks to Ken and Dennis for the years of planning that go into this every 5-year event. I'm sure there will be reports in future newsletters about the Caravan. If you would like to review the many activities that took place at the museum during the celebration you can see them here:

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/event/anniversary-celebration/>

Meanwhile there is a lot more news coming out of the Museum:

2020 Mid-Engine Chevrolet Corvette Stingray Starts at \$59,995: With its new mid-engine configuration and sleek, modern design, the 2020 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray offers unprecedented performance, is capable of 194 mph top track speed, and at a starting price of \$59,995 (including Destination Freight Charge of \$1,095, excluding tax, title, license, dealer fees and optional equipment).

“Most people thought when we moved the Corvette to mid-engine it would no longer be attainable, but we knew we couldn't mess with a winning formula and the 2020 Stingray proves it,” said Brian Sweeney, Chevrolet U.S. vice president.

The 1LT will start at \$59,995, the 2LT trim package will start at \$67,295 and the top-level 3LT trim package on the 2020 Corvette Stingray will start at \$71,945 (including DFC, excluding tax, title, license, dealer fees and optional equipment). Specific details on each trim level can be downloaded here:

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2020-corvette-stingray-pricing.pdf>

“We've packed a lot of performance into the Corvette Stingray at this price when you consider an eight-speed dual clutch transmission, Small Block V-8 and engine-mounted dry sump oil system are all standard,” said Tadge Juechter, Corvette executive chief engineer.

Interested Chevrolet Corvette Stingray shoppers can view a pricing guide with available options and order codes and preorder their vehicle by visiting the 2020 Corvette reveal page at Chevrolet.com.

A dedicated Chevrolet Corvette Concierge team will provide 2020 Corvette customers with answers about the vehicle discovery, buying and ownership process. The team, which is based at General Motors headquarters in Detroit, can be reached by calling 866-424-3892. Customers can also live chat with a Corvette Concierge online by visiting Chevrolet.com. The team is available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EDT Mondays through Fridays.

The 2020 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray goes into production at GM's Bowling Green Assembly in late 2019.

NCM Raises funds through multiple avenues: As most of you know, it's darn expensive to run a World Class museum focused first and foremost on the Corvette and the Corvette enthusiast, then the general public as well. The NCM mounts hundreds of exhibits in multiple buildings, runs a road-course racetrack and motorsports park, holds track days and High Performance Driving Events, and auto cross. Other activities and events include Car Shows, go karts, an educational program, Caravans, Museum in Motion tours, New Corvette Delivery Programs, running a physical and on-line store, maintaining a WEB presence for all things Corvette, and more. The NCM raises funds through multiple avenues to support these Corvette focused activities and counts on the generosity of people like us (Corvette Enthusiasts) to take part. I'm featuring some of these fundraising efforts this month:

The NCM sells items on E-bay. Usually it's banners or other items from special displays, however in August there was also a 1974 Corvette (ultimately it sold for \$18,655). I'd imagine we will be seeing additional Corvettes from the NCM being auctioned off in the future as more people donate their beloved vehicle to the museum. The number of automobiles housed within the collections of the National Corvette Museum are owned

by the non-profit foundation. The Corvettes have a good life at the museum and are utilized to create ever-changing exhibits which continue to grow thanks to the generosity of numerous donors. Apart from being in NCM exhibits, many of the Corvettes are used for the NCM's Museum in Motion programs, educational programs, school visits, and parades, while some are donated with the specific goal of being converted to cash to be reinvested in the Museum's collections. The 1974 Corvette was donated to the NCM in early 2014 and has been exhibited numerous times in the Museum. It was a one-owner car at the time of its donation, purchased originally with only 8 miles on the odometer. It currently has only 34,434 miles on it. I'm sure it's gone on to a good home for another Corvette Enthusiast to love.



If you want to take a look at the unique items the NCM auctions on E-bay you can find them here: https://www.ebay.com/sch/nationalcorvette/m.html?_ssn=nationalcorvette

What's this??? A Thunderbird at the National Corvette Museum??



Don Hering of Cincinnati, OH pictured with wife Joanne, stand in the Nostalgia Area of the National Corvette Museum with his donated 1955 Ford Thunderbird. The car is on display to tell the story of how the Ford helped push Chevrolet to further develop the Corvette, saving the American Sports Car from extinction. Don purchased the car about 5 years ago but started to realize perhaps it wasn't the car for him. "I couldn't drive it that well. I'm 6'4" and didn't fit into it, and the 3-speed manual transmission was hard to shift due to my size. It's red and looked to be in good shape when I purchased it, but after I had it a while, I noticed some bondo rust repairs and that it wasn't in pristine shape like my Corvettes. Yes you read that right - before you boo-hiss Don for his choice in make of vehicle, you have to understand that he's actually a Corvette guy. With five currently in his stable, a '63 Split Window, '68 Coupe (that he's owned for 42 years), '78 Silver Anniversary Pace Car, 2003 50th Anniversary Pace Car and 2015 Z06. According to Don the Corvettes are much more fun to drive than the

T-bird was. The Corvette is a tighter car and holds the road better. The T-bird seems real loose when you're driving it. Corvettes have the power."

Don decided that since he didn't enjoy driving the T-bird like he did the Corvettes, and how it would be nice to park his daily driver in the garage again, that he should look into getting rid of it. That's when he saw the wish list of cars the National Corvette Museum was seeking to help better tell the story of the iconic American sports car. "I'd been a member for awhile and visited several times. I thought it was a good time instead of selling the car to donate it to the Museum." Don says since donating the car to the Museum he's gotten a lot of 'whats?!?' about it. "You should have seen the double take from the auto carrier when I said it's shipping to the Corvette Museum." A lot of eyes will now be on Don's 1955 Ford Thunderbird as it tells the story of Corvette's first 'competition' in the Nostalgia area of the Museum. Learn how the Thunderbird's hard top inspired General Motors to offer the same for their iconic car, and how the car spurred a much-needed V-8 for the sporty Chevrolet! Thank you to Don for his generosity and help in telling another story in the history of Corvette. For a current wish list of cars, visit CorvetteMuseum.org and click on Donate Your Automobile under the Support menu. Don't worry, you aren't committing to a donation, you will just learn more about it there.

Current Corvette Raffles: The Corvette raffles at the NCM are also a major fundraiser that helps to keep the museum operating. I typically mention these at our monthly meetings and in the Newsletter. All you need to do to enter a raffle for a chance to win one of these fabulous Corvettes is go to the NCM Raffle web page: (<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Raffle-Ticket-Request-5.2.19-Ambassadors.pdf>), download and print a form, fill it out & send it in to the NCM with a Credit Card number, and they will purchase the tickets for you and enter it into the raffle drawing right there in Kentucky! 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. Also, please let me know if you send in an order (kevinwilson@g.com). 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.

There were 3 Corvettes Ruffled off at the very end of August at the 25th Anniversary Caravan Celebration. A special NCM 25th Anniversary 2019 Grand Sport and two of the new C-8's. so for September & later there currently is only 1 Corvette Raffle. Don't worry, there will be more raffles coming up including one that will be cheaper tickets (\$10 - \$25). Typically there is one of those each quarter, it just hasn't been announced yet.

2019 Elkhart Lake Blue Corvette Convertible: Limited to 1500 tickets - Price: \$100
Drawing: September 19, 2019 2:00 PM



2019 Shadow Gray Corvette ZR1 Coupe Limited to 1500 tickets - Price: \$300

Drawing: November 21, 2019 2:00 PM. This is a fully loaded 3LT high wing model!



The July 25th Drawing for the 2019 Arctic White Grand Sport Convertible that was limited to 1000 x \$200 tickets was won By Arthur Yaroshefsky of Wayne, NJ Ticket #400. I looked into where the Corvettes over the last 5 years or so ended up and lots of them go to the most populous states: Florida, New England, Texas, California. There were 3 Corvette Raffles won by people here in WA in the last several years. John Haynes of Port Orchard has won 2! One on 7/7/2016 & again in 3/2017. Ron Hannes of Spokane won one on 5/10/18. Maybe you know one of these lucky people.

2019 National Corvette Museum Events: Many of these events put together by the NCM 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'll be on the National Parks Tour this September and when it became available for registration 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 rest of the year and into 2020.

- 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 NCM is a “living Museum” with displays that change periodically. No two visits to the Museum are ever the same, thanks to generosity of Corvette enthusiasts and supporters world-wide. Many of the Corvettes on display in the Museum are on loan from NCM members, many of whom are avid collectors. If you have a special Corvette and are interested in offering it to the Museum to feature on a display for a few months or so you can learn more about it here: <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/support/display-your-car/>

That's all for now – Save the Wave!