

National Corvette Museum Report for October 2019

This month's article will be a little shorter than usual as I am on a National Corvette Museum (NCM) - Museum in Motion (MiM) tour of the Southwest USA National Parks. This is my second tour with the NCM, the previous trip I was on was right here in the Pacific Northwest. I'll feature highlights from the SW National Parks Tour in the next newsletter. With the Pacific Northwest NCM Caravan group just wrapping up their journey to Bowling Green KY for the 25th anniversary of the NCM in early September, you might be wondering what other NCM sponsored trips will be happening prior to the next caravan 5 years from now. No worries, I list all the upcoming NCM events in the NCM column of our newsletter each month. Read on for latest news coming out of the Museum:

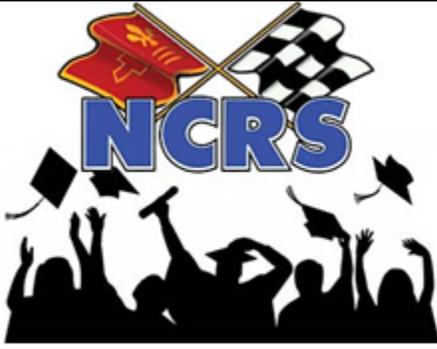
Retiring NCM Executive Director Wendell Strode named to 2020 Corvette Hall of Fame: During the Corvette Hall of Fame banquet held on August 30, 2019, as part of the National Corvette Museum's 25th Anniversary celebration, NCM Board Chairman, Lon Helton, spoke to the 1,050 guests in attendance about reaching this milestone year. He shared his optimism for the future and expressed his gratitude for retiring Executive Director Wendell Strode. "Wendell, your 23 years of service to the NCM could never be [overstated]. A few years after it opened, the NCM fell on some pretty tough times, to the point where I think that its very existence was threatened. Not only did you rescue the NCM—you led it to the prosperity that we enjoy today." He then went on to make a surprise announcement "that the 2020 class of the Corvette Hall of Fame will include Wendell Strode." The crowd showed their support with a thunderous standing ovation.



This honor is well-deserved, as Wendell was involved in getting the National Corvette Museum going when it was still just an idea. In 1988, word had spread that the National Corvette Restorers Society had been exploring the idea of building a Corvette Museum. Strode, a banker at the time, contacted the local Chamber of Commerce with an idea to initiate a proposal to have it built in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He then found himself heading up a task force, bringing to the table an offer of a 30-acre land donation from private citizens, and a commitment from the State of Kentucky to put in the road and utilities. Strode also worked with the NCRS to put together a financial package that included a feasibility study to get banks interested in joining the effort.

The Museum opened Labor Day weekend 1994 with much fanfare, but the excitement was short-lived as it soon began experiencing financial troubles. Strode was recruited to join the National Corvette Museum as Executive Director on December 20, 1996. At the time, he had never even driven a Corvette and had only ridden in one once. While he didn't know much about the car itself, what he did know was how to save its new home. Strode worked to develop new strategies for generating funds, while making strides to repair strained relationships with the community, clubs, enthusiasts, media, the Plant, and GM. During his tenure, the Museum not only paid off its initial debt, but it nearly doubled its size, adding a world-class motorsports facility to its facilities. Under his leadership Museum membership grew from 1,600 enthusiasts to almost 36,000 members today. He even managed to survive a Corvette-swallowing sinkhole and helped to turn the attention it brought into a chance to share the Museum with a global audience.

NCRS Sponsors Higher Education Scholarship Through Museum: Without the National Corvette Restorers Society (NCRS), there would not be a National Corvette Museum. It was their idea to build a facility to house the history of Corvette, and now, they are once again offering an educational opportunity through the Museum. This time that opportunity is to benefit the future of the automotive hobby. "The NCRS Board wanted to give back to the NCM. The Museum's membership base is approximately 35,000 strong, while NCRS has about 15,000 members – so that's 20,000 enthusiasts that are not touched by NCRS," said Carlton Colclough, NCRS Representative on the National Corvette Museum Board of Directors. "We wanted to generate interest in the younger generation and get them interested. The students don't have to be attending college, it can be a tech school, or anything post high school education."



NCRS gifted 18 scholarships in 2019 through both NCRS and the NCRS Foundation totaling more than \$42,000.

“When Carlton approached us on behalf of the NCRS with this idea, we were thrilled,” said Dr. Sean Preston, President & CEO of the Museum. “For the past several years our team has hosted a number of students for career tours, helping to get them interested in the employment opportunities that are available when they complete their education. This adds another layer to the Museum’s educational offerings, helps to promote the Museum and NCRS, and is a wonderful benefit to our members and their children or grandchildren,” added Sean.

Process - Applications are made available beginning in Jan/Feb each year to students desiring to apply. More details can be found here: <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/explore/educational-programs/scholarship/>

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@q.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.

Three Corvette Raffle winners were drawn during the NCM 25th Anniversary celebration recently. Turns out it wasn’t me! I know several of our members purchased tickets as well, and unfortunately, they weren’t winners of a Corvette either, however they are winners in that the raffle tickets they purchased help to support the museum so it can carry out its mission. Thank You to all who support the museum by purchasing a ticket. Your support is truly appreciated. Here are the winners of the last 3 drawings:

John Hadley of Sylvania, OH with ticket #829 won the 2019 Shadow Gray Grand Sport Coupe Raffle Drawing 08/29/2019 (these were \$150 tickets limited to 1500)

Jeff Vallett of Old Hickory, TN with ticket #615 won the "Build Your Own" 2020 "C8" Stingray Corvette Raffle Drawing 08/30/2019 (these were \$250 tickets limited to 1000)

Wade Harshaw of Canton, CT with ticket #10834 won the VIN 25 2020 Torch Red Stingray Corvette Raffle Drawing 08/31/2019 (these were the \$25 tickets - unlimited)

There are plenty of Corvettes still being raffled off by the museum. Here is the current line-up:

2019 Arctic White Corvette Coupe Limited to 1000 tickets -
Price: \$150
Drawing: October 24, 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!



2020 Black Corvette Coupe Unlimited tickets - Price: \$20
Drawing: April 25, 2020 - 2:00 PM.
Here are the lowest priced Raffle Tickets by far!

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, for example the September SW parks trip had an opening come up 3 weeks prior to the event as someone dropped out) 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/>

Here are the remainder of the NCM Corvette related events currently scheduled for the rest of the year and into 2020.

- MiM 1-Lap of Kentucky 2019 Tour (1); Sep 30 – Oct 5 (Registration is Open)
- MiM 1-Lap of Kentucky 2019 Tour (2); Oct 14 – Oct 19 (Registration is Open)
- MiM 1-Lap of Kentucky 2019 Tour (3); Oct 21 – Oct 26 (Registration is 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 is 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 celebration of the NCM’s 25th Anniversary had over 12,000 visitors leading into Labor Day weekend? Most of them were part of the many Caravans that rolled into the museum. If you were there, you’ll love how the short (2 minute) video here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ubbiwlNwss>) brings back fond memories. And if you weren't there, you'll enjoy it too!

That’s all for now – Save the Wave!