

National Corvette Museum Report for February 2020

Here we are in February and this year we have a leap year, with an extra day in this month. How appropriate that production of the new 2020 C-8 Corvette, which is a huge leap forward in many ways, is scheduled to start this month (rumored to be February 10th). As production starts on the new mid-engine Corvette, here is the latest news out of the National Corvette Museum, which is right across the street from the Corvette Assembly Plant in Bowling Green Kentucky.

Chevrolet Corvette Voted 2020 North American Car of the Year: The all-new Chevrolet Corvette Stingray has been selected as the 2020 North American Car of the Year by the North American Car, Utility and Truck of the Year (NACTOY) Awards. The awards honor excellence in innovation, design, safety, performance, technology, driver satisfaction and value and are judged by approximately 50 professional automotive journalists from the United States and Canada who work for independent magazines, television, radio, newspapers and industry websites. After evaluating the field of competitors, jurors vote individually by way of Deloitte to determine finalists and winners in each category.

The Stingray was selected not only for its revolutionary mid-engine design, but for its level of refinement and impressive performance. The Corvette was previously honored with this award in 1998 for the introduction of the fifth generation and again in 2014 for the introduction of the seventh generation. Corvette executive chief engineer Tadge Juechter received the award in January at a public ceremony held at the TCF Center in Detroit. “It’s humbling to be selected for this award by such an impressive jury of automotive journalists,” said Juechter. “Our team poured our hearts and souls into this vehicle, and to see such an overwhelmingly positive reception makes it all worthwhile. We are sure our customers will love the new Corvette as much as these jurors and we can’t wait to get them behind the wheel.”

“The 2020 Corvette represents a new era for the iconic brand,” said Lauren Fix, NACTOY president. “The excitement from consumers has been overwhelming. From a journalist’s perspective, this is one of the best-built GM products that exemplifies what it means to be the North American Car of the Year.” Corvette production will begin in February 2020 at General Motors’ Bowling Green Assembly in Kentucky, with customer deliveries taking place shortly thereafter.

Personalized Plaques Available on Eighth Generation Corvette:

A personalization option that was available for the seventh generation Corvette is also available for the eighth generation Corvette. Those ordering their Corvette can select to have a personalized interior plaque, which is installed on the ‘waterfall speaker’ between the driver and passenger seats. The option code for the personalized plaque is BV4, costing an additional \$200. Buyers opting for option R8C, Museum Delivery, will automatically receive a customizable plaque featuring the National Corvette Museum logo. The plaque can accommodate up to 24 characters/spaces. Buyers also have the choice of all caps or sentence case. Wording can be your name, nickname, slogan or anything other wording.



Pre-Production 2019 ZR1 Displayed at Museum: The National Corvette Museum, a 501c3 nonprofit in Bowling Green, Kentucky, serves as the ‘Gateway to All Things Corvette.’ Charged with preserving the legendary sports car’s past, present and future, the Museum regularly displays vehicles on loan from General Motors as well as private individuals so that no two visits to the Museum are the same. Joining the Museum’s display floor in the coveted ‘turntable’ display area is the 2019 Pre-Production ZR1, VIN 1G1Y52D93K50002EX – also known as the Nürburgring unofficial 7’:04” 2019 Corvette ZR1.

Vehicle Dynamics Engineer Jim Mero and his team received this pre-production ZR1 from Bowling Green Assembly in May of 2017. By June, the team had the ZR1 at the Nürburgring and completed the Magnetic Ride Control calibration for that track, despite bad weather.

The ZR1 then returned to the United States and was used as a track development car, primarily driven at Milford Proving Grounds, Willow Springs racetrack in California, and Virginia International Raceway (VIR). While running endurance tests for exhaust system attachments at VIR in January of 2018, Jim and his team discovered that a Ford GT had set a track record of 2':38.6" on the Grand Course West. Although Jim was running the Corvette tests on the full course, the team moved the ZR1 to the Grand West Course and after only five to six laps on the course, the ZR1 shattered the Ford GT record by running a 2':37.2" lap!

After this amazing record run at VIR, the ZR1 and Jim went back to the Nürburgring with the goal of running a sub-7-minute lap, becoming the first American car to achieve that time. Once at Nürburgring, Jim and the team discovered that the protocol for the run had changed and they would not get a warm-up lap. Starting the lap on cold tires and never having them properly warm during the run, Jim was able to make the lap in a reported 7':04".

Chevrolet would never officially release the lap time, however, after retirement, Jim released the unofficial time of 7':04" so that the Corvette community would know what the ZR1 was capable of. Although devastated that he did not break the seven second mark due to the change in protocol, Jim still believes it is completely obtainable in the ZR1.

The Corvette is on loan from General Motors and is on display in the turntable through mid-April, after which it will be transferred to its new display location – the Nürburgring display in the Design and Engineering section of the Museum.



Document the build process of your new Corvette with color photography: The National Corvette Museum is offering an exciting opportunity for Corvette buyers to document their Corvette's "build process" at the GM Bowling Green Corvette Assembly Plant with a New Corvette Owner's Photo Album. Whether you are ordering to take delivery at the Museum through the R8C Program or simply ordering your new Corvette to take delivery at your Chevrolet dealership – the NCM can help you preserve a monumental part of your Corvette's history with a 20-page photo album that captures the complete build of your new Corvette! You can order one here –

<https://webservices.corvettemuseum.org/Delivery/DeliveryIf.cfm>

Each 15" x 12" leather bound album is created with the highest quality photo paper preserved in a padded leather album with high quality stitching detail and includes:

- 20 plus pages of text and photos devoted to capture your Corvette's build process
- Letter of authenticity
- Letter from the GM Bowling Green Assembly Plant Manager and the National Corvette Museum's Executive Director
- Back page autograph area for memorable moments/events.



Cost: \$700.00

National Corvette Museum Scholarship - Earn a \$2,500 Scholarship!

Scholarship applications for the 2020-21 school year NOW AVAILABLE. Deadline to apply 02/28/2020. The National Corvette Restorers Society Foundation has provided funding for the National Corvette Museum to offer a scholarship annually in the amount of \$2,500. All scholarships shall be awarded in a non-discriminate manner, without regard to color, creed, national origin or gender.

Any scholarship awarded is for one year. Recipients shall not be eligible for renewal or reapplication of future scholarships from the Museum. The application process shall consist of completing the NCM application form which can be found here:

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/12/NCMScholarshipApplication.pdf>

Selection and Eligibility Guidelines

1. Applicants must be NCM members or children or grandchildren of NCM members. (membership must be current at time of application and award)
2. Applicants must have applied and been accepted at an accredited post-secondary school, technical school, college or university.
3. Applicants must be pursuing a degree related to the automotive, museum or non-profit industry, or a field which would work in those industries (i.e. human resources, finance, marketing, information technology, etc.).
4. Applicants must be planning to enroll in 12 or more hours per semester.
5. While academic and extracurricular performance will be considered, work or volunteer experience in automotive, museum or non-profit related fields and apparent financial need will also be considered in the application. Applicants must include a statement of the source of their funds for their education (i.e. loans, other scholarships, grants, etc.)

Process

Applications are made available online in Jan/Feb each year to students desiring to apply. Applications are available for download on the Museum's website at the URL above. Applications received before or after the posted dates will not be considered. Similarly, applications which are incomplete or contain erroneous information will not be considered. Scholarships are awarded on a one academic year basis. Payments will be made to the student in September after evidence is provided to the scholarship committee of their successful enrollment in school.

NCM Motor Sports Park has announced it's schedule of planned events for the year. Drive one of their Corvettes, Drive your own Corvette, Ride with a pro (Hot Laps), or get coaching from Race Driver Andy Pilgrim. More details can be found here: <https://motorsportspark.org/> With over 1.5 miles of frontage on Interstate 65 and located across from the National Corvette Museum (NCM) and the Corvette Assembly Plant, the Motorsports Park is one of the most centrally located and easily accessible driving facilities in the country. The First Phase of the Park is situated on 200 acres.

Current Corvette Raffles: The Corvette raffles at the NCM are 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://raffle.corvettemuseum.org/>, click on **download an Order Form** which will enable you to open or download and print the latest form. Just 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! Please jot down on the bottom of the form “Ticket sold by Kevin Wilson - CMCS” 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. Here is the current Raffle line-up:



2019 Blade Silver Corvette Grand Sport Convertible
Limited to 1500 Tickets
Price: \$150.00
Drawing: February 20, 2020 2:00 PM



2020 Black Corvette Coupe Unlimited tickets - Price: \$20
Drawing: April 25, 2020 - 2:00 PM.
Here are the lowest priced Raffle Tickets by far!
These are the least expensive tickets and for just \$20 and it's a new C-8! These tickets make a great present. Give the top part of your form to your gift recipient.

Current National Corvette Museum Events: The NCM is busy planning some great adventures, both on the road (Museum in Motion events - MiM) and at the museum (NCM) for the next year. So be sure to keep an eye on this space for upcoming trips to consider for your future vacation planning purposes. Registration is open on some of these events now and they fill up quickly. You can find more details about them and sign up here: <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/explore/events/>. These are the events currently posted by the museum:

- MiM Plantation Tour: Mar 31–Apr 4, 2020; New Orleans LA (**SOLD OUT**/Waitlist)
- Michelin NCM Bash @ NCM Apr 23–Apr 25, 2020 (Registration OPEN)
- MiM Bash Tail of the Dragon Run & Biltmore: Apr 26–29, 2020, Biltmore Estate NC (**SOLD OUT**/Waitlist)
- The C-4 Gathering @ NCM: May 14-16, 2020 (Registration opens early 2020)
- MiM Branson Experience: May 26th –30th, 2020; Branson, MO ()
- 2020 NCM-MiM Le Mans Tour: June 5 - 16, 2020. England & France (**SOLD OUT**/Waitlist)
- 2020 Le Mans Viewing Party at NCM: June 13 – 14, 2020; (Registration opens Spring 2020)
- NCM 26th Anniversary Celebration & Hall of Fame Induction Sep 3–5, 2020 (Reg open late Spring)

Did you know: Monthly Calendar Wallpapers are now a benefit of membership of the National Corvette Museum? If you are a member, to access this month's wallpaper simply click “Who Am I” in the top right corner of the NCM website and then click “**Member.**” Proceed to login, and the calendar is a new tab in Member Services.

That's all for now – Save the Wave!