

## National Corvette Museum Report for March 2020

**Regular production of the 2020 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray coupe began February 3:** The first regular production mid-engine Corvette Stingray rolled off the assembly line on February 3, 2020 at the General Motors Assembly Plant in Bowling Green, Kentucky. It was the VIN #0001 Black Stingray that racing legend Rick Hendrick paid 3 million dollars for on January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale auction in Arizona. The money raised went to the Detroit Children's fund charity.

Mr. Hendrick is CEO of Hendrick Automotive Group and today he owns 94 car dealerships, 15 of which are Chevrolet. He sold the first Corvette he ever owned (a black 1963 Corvette Roadster) back in 1976 to help buy his first car dealership in North Carolina. He is also Chairman of Hendrick Motor Sports, the championship NASCAR racing empire he started in 1984. Both are headquartered in Charlotte, NC. Twenty miles to the north in Concord, NC is where the real action takes place however at the Hendrick's Motor Sports Campus. Here is the production center where the NASCAR vehicles are built & tested. It's also where he owns one of the largest collection of Corvettes in the world, at the Heritage Center. At 58,000 square feet the Heritage Center contains 210 of the rarest cars in the world, including 120 Corvettes. Because of his interest in and support for all things Corvette (especially Black ones!), he was inducted into the National Corvette Museum Corvette Hall of Fame as an "Enthusiast".



*VIN 0001 Black Corvette Rolls off the Assembly line*



*Rick Hendricks current collection of VIN 001 Vettes*

Currently Hendrick's Chevrolet dealerships have about 1000 pre-orders for 2020 Corvettes and he's stopped taking orders for more at this point as he figures it will be a few years before the 1000 are filled. Initial vehicle shipments of the new 2020 Corvette Stingray to dealers are expected to begin in late February or early March.

**National Corvette Museum announces latest inductees to the Corvette Hall of Fame:** In 1998 the National Corvette Museum established the Corvette Hall of Fame with 5 initial inductees: Zora Arkus-Duntov, Bill Mitchell, Larry Shinoda, Harley Earl & Joe Pike. Those of you who've been around Corvettes since the early days will no doubt recognize those storied names. Each year since, the Museum announces 3 additional inductees, one each from these categories: **Racing, GM/Chevrolet, and Enthusiast**. This year for the first time since the Hall of Fame inception, 4 people will be recognized as part of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Corvette Hall of Fame Ceremony in 2020. They are: Doug Fehan in the category of Racing; Henry Haga in the category of GM/Chevrolet; Dr. Mike McCagh in the category of Enthusiast; and the fourth inductee this year only will be Wendell Strode in the category of Enthusiast.

Many of you know that Wendell Strode was Executive Director of the NCM beginning in 1996, two years after the museum opened. He led the NCM for 23 years, announcing his retirement early last year. Wendell is credited with saving the NCM from financial ruin and turning it into a successful enterprise. 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.

The 2020 Corvette Hall of Fame recipients will be inducted during a ceremony and banquet held on Friday, September 4, 2020. Their induction will take place as part of the Museum's 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, scheduled for September 3-5, 2020. Since its inception in 1997, 74 individuals have been inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame (including Rick Hendrick in the first article above) for their contributions to the past, present and future of Corvette. Bios, photos, and videos (in many cases) of each are available on the Museum's website here: <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/learn/about-corvette/corvette-hall-of-fame/>



*National Corvette Museum – Corvette Hall of Fame*

Anyone can nominate an individual to be a member of the Corvette Hall of Fame. If there is someone you are aware of that should be considered to be a member of the Corvette Hall of Fame you can get a nomination form here: <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/HOFNominationForm2021.pdf> Nominations for the 2021 class can be made starting in August of 2020. You need to be a NCM member to nominate a candidate.

**Next Generation Membership:** The Next Generation Membership is for children ages birth to 18. The goal is to foster children's interest in Corvette and the Corvette Museum, and to keep the hobby thriving through the Next Generation of members/supporters. Revenue from these memberships go directly to develop and enhance the educational programs at the National Corvette Museum.

**Benefits:**

- Free admission
- 10% discount in Store
- Free cookie in café when visiting the NCM (limit 6 per year)
- Discounts on NCM sponsored children's programs
- Membership packet including toy Corvette when joining
- Quarterly emailed newsletter
- Birthday gift each year

**Cost:** The donation is a one-time amount that covers the Next Generation member until they reach the age of 18. There are two price brackets, based on the joining age of the child.

- Children ages 0-9 \$400
- Children ages 10-18 \$200

To purchase a membership, please call Member Relations Supervisor Bobbie Jo Lee at 270-467-8833.

**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](mailto: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:



### **2020 Arctic White Corvette Coupe**

Limited to 2000 Tickets

Price: \$100.00

Drawing: March 26, 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 adding more great adventures, both on the road (Museum in Motion events - MiM) and at the museum (NCM) for the 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 closes Apr 2nd)
- 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 (Registration OPEN)
- 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 open)
- MiM Colorado Springs: July 12-17, 2020; Pikes Peak Drive (Registration opens Spring 2020)
- MiM Northeast Ohio: August dates TBD (Registration opens Spring 2020)
- MiM National Parks Tour: Sep 20-26; AZ & UT; (Registration opens Summer 2020)
- NCM 26th Anniversary Celebration & Hall of Fame Induction Sep 3–5, 2020 (Reg open late Spring)
- MiM Lap of Kentucky: 4 separate Tours offered: Sept & Oct dates TBD (Reg opens Summer 2020)

**Did you know:** The NCM also has a Motorsports Park across I-65 from the museum? The Grand Full Course is 3.15 miles long with a 2300 foot main straight and is situated on 200 acres. The vision for the Motorsports Park is to create a safe and challenging environment where drivers of all ages, interests and skill levels can become more proficient behind the wheel. Whether the goal is teen driver safety or the excitement of high performance

recreational driving, participants can learn through classroom instruction and on-track with a certified instructor, designed to help students increase their ability and build skills that can be applied to the track and the real world. More information about the Motorsports park can be found here: <https://motorsportspark.org/>

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