

National Corvette Museum Report for April 2020

Here it is just after St. Patrick's Day and as I prepare this report for our April newsletter a lot has changed over this past month. Turns out we here in the Puget Sound area are at the epicenter of the Corona-Virus outbreak here in the USA. With businesses closing down right and left, employees being urged to work from home and social distancing underway, I'm sure we're all feeling the impact. The only good thing happening right now is this week has been beautiful and sunny with temperatures edging towards 60 degrees. A perfect time to socially distance yourself with a cruise in your Corvette, perhaps to hunt down a package of toilet paper. Oh yeah, the traffic is a lot lighter too. The impacts have spread well beyond our area and are being felt throughout the USA, and the world at large. That includes at the National Corvette Museum (NCM). However, there are some good things happening there as well, read on for the latest news out of the NCM.

Museum impacted by COVID-19 : The National Corvette Museum closed to the public effective at 5pm Wednesday, March 18. This closure does NOT affect the R8C Museum Delivery program for new Corvette owners picking up their cars. Additionally, the Corvette Cafe is available for carry-out and delivery (through Uber Eats). At the National Corvette Museum the top priority is the health and safety of their visitors, volunteers, staff, their families and the community. While there have been no known cases of COVID-19 at the Museum or in their community, the decision is based on guidelines from the CDC and public health officials attempting to slow the spread of COVID-19. They We will continue to monitor guidance from local, state and national officials and will announce a reopen date once it is known. Museum hosted events in March, April and early May have been rescheduled or postponed.

Museum administration will continue to work behind the scenes, offering customer service and managing the many on-going programs and projects, including renovations to the Performance & Racing Gallery, Design & Engineering Gallery and new Entombed Corvette display. Additionally, the Museum will be launching a new educational series, posting live videos each weekday at 10am CT geared towards kids and families on our Facebook page and YouTube.

Please consider supporting the Museum through the purchase of tax-deductible Memberships, corvettestore.com merchandise, Corvette raffle tickets, commemorative bricks, admission tickets for a future visit or any of the many other fundraising programs offered at corvettemuseum.org.

Museum's Experimental Mid-Engine Corvette Featured at Amelia Concours: Many of you already know that the new mid-engine 2020 Corvette is six decades in the making and is the fruition of a dream of Zora-Arkus Duntov the "Father of Corvette" In 1957, Zora believed that a mid-engine Corvette would offer the best combination of balance, visibility, acceleration and braking, and many other GM engineers throughout the years have desired to mass produce a Corvette with the motor amidships. But up until now the few that have been built in prior years have been few and far between and then only as one-off prototypes or racers. I've featured a couple of these rare Corvettes in prior OYM articles. Now to celebrate the arrival of the next generation Corvette, Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance is hosting the 'Silver Anniversary Amelia's Mid-Engine Corvette' class on March 8, 2020. Displayed as part of this class includes the Museum's recently acquired 1973 XP-987 (picture below, the red one), along with Chevrolet's 1964 Grand Sport IIB research vehicle, CERV I, CERV II, Corvette XP-819, XP-895, Aerovette, CERV III and the Indy Corvette.



“Word has quickly spread that we now own this one-of-a-kind Corvette with a rotary engine, and we’ve been receiving a number of invitations to show it off at various events throughout the country,” said Derek E. Moore, Director of Collections / Curator at the Museum. “It’s a common practice of automotive museums to attend a lot of these shows because not only does it bring the museum out to different parts of the country, it helps you meet prospective donors and prospective partners in projects.”

Museum President and CEO Dr. Sean Preston echoes Moore’s sentiment. “One of our goals is to get the Museum out into the car community more. We want to reach people that may otherwise never be exposed to the National Corvette Museum and may not have the opportunity to visit.”



Details on the 1964 Grand Sport IIB from Amelia Island Concours:

This will mark the first appearance of the one-off experimental 1964 GS IIB outside the Chaparral Gallery of the Petroleum Museum in Midland, Texas. Applying the name Corvette to the nose and flanks of the GS II likely disguised GM Chief Engineer Frank Winchell’s ambitions to create a state-of-the-art Chevy-powered prototype race car and successor to the Corvette Grand Sport.

The 1960s were years of revolution in motorsport. Engines moved behind the driver. Wide tires replaced the skinny high-profile rubber that had been Formula 1 and sports car orthodoxy. Aerodynamics practically became a religion. And no one was more in tune with the new rhythms of race car design than Cal Tech engineering graduate, Chaparral creator and Rattlesnake Raceway owner Jim Hall. He opened his doors to Winchell & Co. Hall’s remote Rattlesnake Raceway test facility offered Winchell the perfect cover to shield the GS II from prying eyes and lenses and cold winters. In the wake of the American Manufacturer’s Association ban on direct factory racing participation, companies like Chevrolet were limited to creating research vehicles and assisting private teams. That’s precisely where the GS II fit perfectly.

The GS II was based loosely on Chevy's Monza GT concept car that used Corvair running gear in Chevrolet's first monocoque design. But unlike the Monza GT, the GS II took the theme several steps further by using thin-gauge steel and an experimental all-aluminum 327 V8 engine that was mated to a bespoke single-speed automatic transmission. In the years that the Corvette Sting Ray was the latest design, the GS II was a bolt of engineering lightning created by an all-star squad: Larry Shinoda (who designed the C-3 Corvette Body) designed the GS II's svelte body. The radical single-speed automatic transmission was developed by Chevy's Jerry Mrlik. It was a confluence of the latest thinking and it looked and acted the part.

In 1964, after a brief testing period, the GS II was returned to Michigan and destroyed. An updated GS IIB was then built. The monocoque chassis was riveted and bonded together using .032" sheet aluminum. The body was revised to accommodate wider tires. GS IIB was then shipped to Midland where it underwent extensive testing. The Amelia's 2003 honoree, Jim Hall, was behind the wheel for the majority of the GS IIB's high-speed runs.

"The Mid-Engine Corvette Class is a dream class," said Bill Warner, founder and Chairman of the Amelia Island Concours. "Having a historically significant car at The Amelia that's never been seen in a concours before is a dream for us. Thanks to Chaparral and the Petroleum Museum that dream has come true."

Museum Delivers First R8C Optioned 2020 Corvette: On Tuesday, March 10 the National Corvette Museum celebrated the first Museum-delivered 2020 Corvette. Glenn and Andrea Johnson of Port Neches, Texas were the first customers to pick up their 'next generation' mid-engine Corvette through option R8C, the Museum Delivery Program. When ordering a new Corvette, customers may select option "R8C," designating their car for Museum pickup. The 'red-carpet' VIP experience includes signage welcoming the customers to the Museum, a guided tour of the Museum where their Corvette is on display (and plant tour when available), a quality and detailed orientation on the car followed by celebratory drive out of the Museum for photos. Delivery customers are provided with the opportunity to take an NCM Motorsports Park-owned Corvette for touring laps around the road course to round out their day.

VIN 29, a Torch Red Stingray Coupe, arrived on Friday, March 6 along with ten other R8C optioned cars and one car for the NCM Motorsports Park. This was the first R8C Delivery for the Johnsons, and the sixth Corvette they have owned. Glenn joined the Museum's board of directors in 2015 and currently serves as chair. "Being involved with the Museum, I felt that not only does their Delivery program do such a good job, but it is also another way we can support the mission of the Museum," shared Glenn.



The Johnsons first purchased a 1982 Corvette, which they kept for several years. In 2005 he and wife, Andrea, had retired and shortly thereafter purchased a 2007 Convertible. It was a car that they traveled very little in at the time. While googling Corvette, Glenn came across the website for the National Corvette Museum and decided to join as a member. They'd visited Bowling Green in 1989, touring the Corvette Plant, but had not returned since. "I got online and saw where the Museum was having an annual celebration, and asked Andrea if

she'd like to go to Bowling Green. She said, 'you're actually going to take your car?' It's a day and a half drive for us. But we got in the car and came!" "I always encourage other Corvette enthusiasts to get involved with the Museum at whatever level they feel comfortable, to get involved with their local Corvette club, and to DRIVE their Corvette and enjoy it," added Glenn.

"We thank the Johnsons not only for taking delivery with us today, but also for their thirteen years of supporting this nonprofit foundation," shared Dr. Sean Preston, President and CEO of the National Corvette Museum. "People like Glenn and Andrea are the lifeblood of this organization and we love being able to celebrate such a fun and exciting day like this with them."

The Museum will deliver nearly 600, 2020 model year, Corvettes over the next several months. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Museum Delivery Program, with over 12,000 Corvettes having been delivered at the Museum since the program's inception.

Commemorative items that are incorporated into the Delivery Program include the option to place a unique decal on the inside of the drivers' door jamb to signify that the car was picked up at the Museum. Customers are presented with an individual one-year NCM membership, special lapel pin and a recognition plaque. R8C delivered Corvettes also feature a special license plate frame, and an interior nameplate with the customer's name, date of delivery and VIN inside the car. Exclusive NCM Delivery merchandise may be ordered by participants. Customers who are bringing children along for the experience can notify the Museum to receive special perks through the Glazer Family Delivery Program.

Deliveries can be viewed world-wide on the Museum's webcams at corvettemuseum.org. New Corvette buyers can add option code R8C to their order through any dealer. The program is an additional \$995. Additional details on R8C and other unique programs is available on the Museum's website.

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! Also please note, there is now an "Enter Interactive Mode" button you can use to print out a form that has your Credit Card number scrambled, if you are queasy about mailing your full credit card information. To use the Interactive mode you must have a user ID and Log in to the NCM site. Either way, 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:



2020 BYO Corvette or \$60,000 Cash Option

Limited to 1500 Tickets

Price: \$250

Drawing: April 24, 2020 3:00 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.



2020 Torch Red Corvette Coupe

Limited to 1500 Tickets

Price: \$150

Drawing: April 30, 2020 - 2:00 PM.

Current National Corvette Museum Events: The NCM is busy adding (and right now postponing and cancelling because of the Corona Virus) 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:

- The C-4 Gathering @ NCM: May 14-16, 2020 (**CANCELLED**)
- Michelin NCM Bash @ NCM **Re-Scheduled to** May 28–30, 2020 (Registration open)
- MiM Branson Experience: May 26th –30th, 2020; Branson, MO (**SOLD OUT/Waitlist**)
- MiM Bash Tail of the Dragon Run & Biltmore: **Re-Scheduled to** May 31–June 3, 2020, Biltmore Estate NC (**SOLD OUT/Waitlist**)
- 2020 NCM-MiM Le Mans Tour: June 5 - 16, 2020. England & France (**SOLD OUT/Waitlist**)
- MiM Colorado Springs: July 12-17, 2020; Pikes Peak Drive (**SOLD OUT/Waitlist**)
- MiM Northeast Ohio: August 2-7, 2020 (Registration opens Spring 2020)
- 2020 Le Mans Viewing Party at NCM: **Re-Scheduled to** Sept 19-20, 2020; (Registration open)
- 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 tour 1: 9/28-10/3 (Registration opens Summer 2020)
- MiM Lap of Kentucky tour 2: 10/12-10/17 (Registration opens Summer 2020)
- MiM Lap of Kentucky tour 3: 10/19-10/24 (Registration opens Summer 2020)
- MiM Michelin Corvette Racing Weekend @ AACA Museum, 10/23-24, Hershey, PA (Spring Reg)
- MiM Lap of Kentucky tour 4: 10/26-10/31 (Registration opens Summer 2020)

Did you know: The new 2020 Corvette offers 12 unique exterior colors and six interior color themes, along with special packages, and additional accessories to match the customer's desires?

The exterior colors are: Long Beach Red Metallic Tintcoat, Torch Red, Sebring Orange Tintcoat, Accelerate Yellow, Black, Shadow Gray Metallic, Zeus Bronze Metallic, Blade Silver Metallic, Ceramic Matrix Gray Metallic, Arctic White, Rapid Blue, Elkhart Lake Blue Metallic

The interior colors are: Jet Black, Sky Cool Gray, Adrenaline Red, Natural/Natural Dipped, Two-Tone Blue and Morello Red. In addition to the interior themes, customers will also be able to choose their seat belt color. The colors that will be offered include: Black, Blue, Natural, Torch Red, Yellow and Orange. With the most options ever for Corvette, customization options allow the customer to create their own design statement.

That's all for now – Save the Wave!