

National Corvette Museum Report for January 2021

Happy New Year! I'm hoping for a much better year for all of us filled with more opportunities to get together and enjoy our Corvettes. Now that Winter is officially underway, it continues to be a good time to explore some of the great Corvette content on the internet, including that from our friends at the National Corvette Museum (NCM) like **"Fully Vetted"** which is a series geared towards Corvette enthusiasts of all ages, offering at-home educational and entertaining episodes on various aspects of Corvette. Season 1 of Fully Vetted featured ten video episodes while Season 2 has taken on a Podcast format (up to 6 episodes now). Episodes can be found at this link and are available to stream online for free! <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/learn/about-corvette/fully-vetted/>

There is also season II of Vettecadamy which is up to about Episode 13 by the time you read this. It's one of several educational series produced by the NCM and is geared towards school age kids, (and kids of all ages). Season II can be found here on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Vettecademy+S2 If you missed last year's episodes there are 35 of them available for viewing here: <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/explore/educational-programs/vettecadamy/> They range in length from 3 minutes to about 12 minutes and cover a wide variety of topics related to Corvette. Perfect for a quick viewing on a cold winter's day. Here's some more news brought to you from our friends at the NCM:

Corvette Named a 'Best Buy' by Consumer Guide: Consumer Guide® Automotive, the leading publisher of authoritative, unbiased new-car reviews for 54 years, announced the recipients of its 2021 Best Buy Awards. A Consumer Guide Best Buy represents the finest balance of attributes and value in its class. For 2021, nearly 50 Best Buys have been awarded in 21 classes, providing clear, easy choices for consumers. Making the cut for 2021 is the 2021 Chevrolet Corvette. The car was deemed a Best Buy because "This level of overall performance and 'curb appeal' usually costs thousands – if not tens of thousands – more." The article also points out that the base-model Corvette can even spring from zero to sixty in only three seconds.



The guide stated that "Chevrolet engineers took on a monumental task in reimagining the Corvette as a mid-engine vehicle while staying true to the styling and engineering character, relative practicality, and relatively affordable pricing that have long been Corvette trademarks. By our account, they've succeeded with flying colors. To get anything approaching the Corvette's level of acceleration/handling performance and exotic-car feel, you'd have to spend tens of thousands more. And despite the Corvette's super-car design, it's reasonably practical and comfortable in everyday driving, boasting a broad range of available comfort and convenience features and enough luggage space for an extended weekend getaway for two."

Tom Peters, Retired GM Design Chief, Joins NCM Team: A familiar face from General Motors is re-emerging from retirement to join the team at the National Corvette Museum. Tom Peters, former Director of Design for the GM Performance Car Studio and 2019 Corvette Hall of Fame inductee, has joined the Museum's curatorial team effective January 2021 as Consulting Curator of Exhibits. Tom is no stranger when it comes to assisting with Museum exhibits, having co-curated 'Car-toon Creatures, Kustom Kars and Corvettes: The Art and Influence of Ed "Big Daddy" Roth', a special exhibit that officially opened in January 2020 and continues through April, 2021. I covered details of this exhibit in last month's newsletter.

“Sean (Dr. Sean Preston, President and CEO of the NCM) had the thought to see if Tom would be interested in being involved with the Museum in a more official capacity after his co-curation of the Rat Fink exhibit,” shared Derek E. Moore, Director of Collections / Curator at the Museum. “Of course, his design background with GM is huge and we figured the best use of his talents would be in aiding us in the overall visual experience of our exhibits at the Museum.”

The Museum’s collections team, including Derek and Associate Curator Bob Bubnis, collaborate to develop a narrative plan and storyline for each exhibit, with plans to bring Tom into the fold to dig even deeper into the stories and the look of the exhibit. “We want Tom to help build up our exhibits, tapping into his first-hand experience behind GM’s closed doors,” said Derek. “Tom can take those stories that are text on a label and help us bring them alive visually. We will look at how we can use the cars and artifacts we have to make our exhibits as much of a visual experience as they are educational – balancing the storyline with something visually interesting for our guests. Of course, his design background with GM is huge and we figured the best use of his talents would be in aiding us in the overall visual experience of our exhibits at the Museum.”

With over 18 months of leadership at the National Corvette Museum under his belt, Dr. Preston, is excited to continue investing in exhibits and Corvette history. “We have Corvette Racing’s Andy Pilgrim as our resident track pro at the NCM Motorsports Park, and now Tom Peters as a resident design pro at the National Corvette Museum. We are not only preserving and showcasing Corvette history, now we have a direct connection to that history – someone who was not only there to experience it, but who made that history during his career. This is truly a historic hire for the National Corvette Museum. We care deeply for the cars and artifacts in our care, but we also curate Corvette culture. Tom has a wealth of experience and understanding in both areas. He will be a welcomed addition to the already successful Curatorial and Collections team.”



Photo: Tom Peters, pictured with the Corvette Stingray Concept which was also used in the second Transformers film, co-curated the Ed Roth / Rat Fink exhibit at the National Corvette Museum where the car is currently displayed.

“I think the Museum has a great relationship with GM but bringing Tom on board just makes those connections even stronger,” added Derek. “I’m excited to tap into his nearly 40 years of experience with the iconic automaker.” Even General Motors is excited about the move and looking forward to how Tom’s skills can be further utilized to preserve, educate, and promote the iconic Corvette. “I can’t think of a better choice for this position than Tom Peters,” said Mark Reuss, General Motors president. “His institutional knowledge of Corvette and his enthusiasm for it are unmatched. Through the years, he has played a crucial role in maintaining

Corvette's status as America's Sports Car, and, as Consulting Curator of Exhibits, he will ensure the National Corvette Museum remains the ultimate caretaker of Corvette's storied history and its dynamic future."

First up for Tom will be helping to refine the new Enthusiast exhibit area, and Damsels of Design exhibit – which was fully funded by Elfi's Silver Pearl Sisterhood, a female-led philanthropic giving society of the Museum. "The invitation to work with the National Corvette Museum, the first thing that struck me is that it's a fabulous honor," shared Tom. "I've always felt that working with the Corvette team was not only a dream and a privilege, but an incredible adventure and I've always regarded Chevrolet and Corvette as family. This is an extension and continuation of that. Working with Chevrolet and the Corvette team becomes more than just a job, it's part of your life and lifestyle."

2020 Corvette Final Model Year Stats: The Coupe was the most popular of the two models available with 82.4% of the 20,368 total 2020s produced. As for color line up, Torch Red was the most popular for 2020 with 25% of the cars in that hue. The complete final color line up is as follows:

Torch Red (25%); Arctic White (15%); Black (11.7%); Sebring Orange (6.8%); Elkhart Lake Blue (6.7%); Rapid Blue (6%); Ceramic Matrix Gray (5.97%); Blade Silver (5.55%); Shadow Gray (5.45%); Long Beach Red (5.25%); Accelerate Yellow (3.38%); Zeus Bronze (2.69%).

Carbon Flash Badges were the most popular with 91.6% of the cars. The Z51 package was selected on 76%. 3LT was the most popular package with 46.4%. Front Lift was opted for on 58.4% of the cars while performance exhaust (NPP) is on 89.2%. The GT2 seats were the most popular pick with 61.6%. Painted Carbon Flash Open Spoke Wheels were the most popular with 41.7%, closely followed by the Bright Silver Open Spoke with 36.9%. The National Corvette Museum will have delivered 943 Corvettes for the 2020 model year.

Doug Fehan is stepping down from his role as Program Manager for the Corvette Racing team. On Wednesday December 16th it was announced that after 25 years fan favorite Doug Fehan is stepping down from his role with the Corvette Racing team. Doug was one of the architects of what would become the most successful GT race team in the world. Together, the team would take the overall win at Daytona in 2001, 8 class victories at Le Mans, 113 worldwide victories, and 13 Manufacturers Championships, which is more championships than all of their competitors COMBINED since the team started racing.

In addition to his work as Program Manager, he also served as a spokesperson for Corvette Racing where his interactions with the fans became legendary. With uncommon humor and candor, he would talk about the challenges of racing, while always emphasizing how Corvette is the best example there is today of technology transfer between race car and street car. Consequently, he saw every Corvette owner as a valuable member of the Corvette Racing team as they provided the support that fueled the team's success. There is some controversy surrounding Doug's leaving the team, with some reports saying he was asked to leave, and others reporting that he was retiring. Either way, he will be missed. Doug is a member of the 2020 Corvette Hall of Fame at the NCM.



Fehan began with GM Racing in 1988 and worked on a number of the company's motorsports programs including the Chevrolet Beretta Trans-Am, Chevrolet Intrepid GTP and Oldsmobile's World Sports Car efforts. Following Fehan's promotion to program manager in 1996, he and the Chevrolet Motorsports team worked for more than two years on the development of the Corvette C5-R race car, the racing version of the Corvette C5 production car. The C5-R debuted in January 1999 at the Rolex 24 At Daytona and produced a podium finish in the GT2 class. Fehan was also in on the development stages of three more model updates of the Corvette race car, including the C6.R, C7.R and this year's mid-engine C8.R.

Current Corvette Raffles: The Corvette raffles at the NCM are a major fundraiser that helps to keep the museum operating. 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 NCM Ambassador" so our club gets credit for the order. Also, please let me know if you send in an order (kevinwilson@q.com). Here is the current Raffle line-up:



2021 BYO Corvette or \$65,000
 1500 Tickets to be sold
Price: \$250
 Drawing: January 14, 2021 2:00 PM



2021 Red Mist Corvette Convertible
 1500 Tickets to be sold
Price: \$150
 Drawing: February 4, 2021 2:00 PM



2021 Black Corvette Coupe

2000 Tickets to be sold

Price: \$100

Drawing: February 25, 2021 2:00 PM



2021 Arctic White Corvette Coupe

Unlimited Tickets

Price: \$20

Drawing: April 24, 2021 2:00 PM

These are the inexpensive tickets to buy and give out as Gifts!

Latest Winners: The **2021 Arctic White Corvette Convertible** was won by Brian Loffredo of North Grosvenordale, CT with ticket #869 drawn on 12/3//2020! 1429 of the 1500 available tickets sold at \$200 each.

The **2021 Torch Red Corvette Coupe** was won by Don Davenport of Omaha, NE with ticket #1396 drawn on 12/17/2020! All 2,000 available tickets were sold at \$100 each. Don shared with the NCM that he does not currently own a Corvette, but he has owned nine different ones over the years. I'm sure he's excited to get a new one back in the garage!

Current National Corvette Museum Events: With the beginning of 2021 finally here the NCM is working to balance the potential impacts of Covid 19 with the desire of Corvette Enthusiasts to safely get together to drive their vehicles and to celebrate the Marque in meaningful ways. Here is the current schedule of events and adventures, both on the road (Museum in Motion events - MiM) and at the museum (NCM). Be sure to keep an eye on this space for upcoming trips to consider for your future vacation planning purposes. These events are popular and can fill up fast. You can check the NCM website for more details about them and sign up for them here: <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/explore/events/> . Note that more than half of these are still in the planning stages due to Covid.

- MiM Daytona Rolex 24 | January 27 - February 1, 2021 (Planning stage)
- MiM Plantation Tour 3/30 – 4/3/2021 New Orleans. (**Sold Out – waitlist**)
- NCM Michelin Bash 4/22 – 4/25/2021 (**Registration opens early 2021**)
- MiM Dragon Run Presented by Michelin @ Biltmore Estate; NC (**Registration opens early 2021**)
- NCM The Gathering | May 13 - 15, 2021 (Planning stage)
- MiM 9 Day Caribbean Cruise: 5/14 - 5/23/2021 (depart & return Fort Lauderdale FL) (**Just Cancelled**)
- MiM Branson Experience | June TBD (Planning stage)
- MiM 24 Hours of Le Mans (London, Paris, Le Mans) | June 4 - 15, 2021
- NCM Le Mans Race Weekend Viewing Party | June 12 - 13, 2021 (Planning stage)
- MiM Colorado Springs | July 11 - 16, 2021 (Planning stage)
- MiM Northeast Ohio | July 11 - 16, 2021 (Planning stage)
- NCM 27th Anniversary Celebration | September 2 - 4, 2021 (Planning stage)
- MiM National Parks Tour (AZ & UT) | September 19 - 25, 2021 (tentative dates)

- MiM One Lap of Kentucky | October (Planning stage)
- NCM Vets 'n Vettes presented by Mobil 1 | November TBD

Did you know:

General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant Manager Kai Spande not only works on the Corvette brand, he's also a long-time enthusiast. Having owned a number of models over the years he's excited to share his latest with visitors to the National Corvette Museum - a 1966 427 Big Block in Milano Maroon. The car will be displayed for the next several months in the lobby's turntable display.



That's all for now – Save the Wave!