

National Corvette Museum Report for February 2021

It's the month for celebrating Ground Hog Day, and if you're like me with the fallout from the Corona Virus you probably feel like you've been living in the movie "Ground Hog Day" where weatherman Phil (Bill Murray), is out to cover the annual emergence of the groundhog from its hole. He gets caught in a blizzard that he didn't predict and finds himself trapped in a time warp where he is doomed to relive the same day over and over and over again until he finally gets it right. At this point in the pandemic we can all see the light at the end of the long tunnel, but meanwhile we keep plugging away day after day, hoping to finally get it right.

Our friends at The National Corvette Museum (NCM) have been getting a few things right during this pandemic, including Vettecademy which is up to episode 14 of season 2 and is all about the history of the Z-06 ([Vettecademy S2 Episode 14: The History of the Z06 - YouTube](#)). And "Corvette Today" weekly podcasts are up to 40 as I write this and can be found here: [CORVETTE TODAY #40 - Learn How To Insure Your Corvette Is Truly Valuable With Bloomington Gold President, Guy Larsen! by Corvette Today! • A podcast on Anchor](#) For a short month there is a lot of news out of the museum, so let's get started:

Please let me know if you have any dealings with the National Corvette Museum this year: If you have any dealings with the National Corvette Museum this year like if you are a member, if you purchase a Raffle Ticket, if you insure your Corvette through them, if you have museum delivery of a new Corvette, if you attend one of their events, if you make a donation by buying a brick or make some other kind of donation, please let me know via e-mail at kevinwilson@q.com I submit a report annually to the NCM to let them know what our club is doing to support them, and with your help I can be more accurate. Thank You!

NCM offers HALF PRICE Family memberships for the month of February: Save on new Family Memberships! Now through February get a Family Museum Membership for only \$50 (regular price \$100)! Gift one for Valentine's, or purchase one for yourself. It's something you can enjoy for a full year! Use promo code VAL2021. Learn more at <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/valentines-membership.../> The Museum is a living, growing organization inspiring generations of Corvette enthusiasts through public tours and special events onsite and across the country. To benefit and sustain its growth, the Museum encourages support through its membership program as well as exclusive opportunities such as Museum Delivery and Experience programs, Buyer's Tours, and High-Performance Driving Events.

By becoming a member, you help to: Celebrate the Corvette experience and maintain the only non-profit museum dedicated to a single automotive marque. Unite passionate Corvette enthusiasts of all ages from all 50 states and around the world. Share collective historical and technical resources to promote the traditions of the Corvette for generations to enjoy. Preserve the legendary past, present and future of America's first sports car through exhibitions and events.

Motor Authority Names Corvette 'Best Car To Buy': While electric cars seem to be the up and coming automobile, for Motor Authority, it was the traditional performance that won this year's 'Best to Buy' award – being both fun to drive and an outstanding value. According to writer Kirk Bell, "Most importantly, it's the kind of car we want to own and drive. And the way it drives is what earned the Corvette the Best Car to Buy 2021 award." "It's one of those cars that almost reads your mind when you drive it," Motor Authority contributor Brian Wong said after a drive. "If I wanted the nose to dive in, it would. If I wanted to hang on the power and get it to move around a little in the back, it would."

Interactive Content Manager Joel Feder compared the new Corvette to a Ferrari and the best Corvette of the last generation, the ZR1, which won Motor Authority's Best Car To Buy 2019 award. "This car's steering is so much more precise. Its turn-in is so much quicker. Frankly, it reminds me a lot of the 488 Spider and that car was like \$300,000. And it's going to be 10 times more reliable." "The C8 will make kids' mouths drop open, grown adults stare, and people ask all sorts of questions. Many don't even realize it's a Corvette," Feder said.

Contributor Brian Wong pointed out an aspect of the car we can all appreciate. “I love the theater of the Corvette,” he said. “When you lift up the back and you see the engine and all the carbon fiber sitting there. That’s something you don’t get with the old Corvette.”



While the reviewers didn’t all agree with every aspect of the car, they did agree on one thing. “Our bottom line goes back to how the Corvette drives. It makes us want to drive it, which is the mission of a sports car.” “When I think back to all the cars I drove this year, that is the one I will remember the most. I had the most fun with it. I went out and drove it every single day,” said Wong. Senior Editor Robert Duffer felt the new Corvette captures the essence of the sports car. “You make excuses to go out and drive it. It’s a great place to be,” he said. “It gives you all the thrills you want out of a car.” Feder pointed out the Corvette’s obvious value. “It’s a lot of performance car for not a lot of money,” he said. “It’s astounding what they did with the change to the mid-engine design.” You can read the complete review and check out the photos at Motor Authority here: [Best Car To Buy 2021: How we named the Chevrolet Corvette our winner \(motorauthority.com\)](https://www.motorauthority.com/news/1014211/best-car-to-buy-2021-how-we-named-the-chevrolet-corvette-our-winner)

National Corvette Museum Receives ‘World’s Fastest Corvette’: The 1984 Land Speed Record Race Car just joined the NCM Collection! Referred to as the ‘World’s Fastest Corvette,’ this highly modified 1984 has competed and held records in several Bonneville salt flat speed trial classes, reaching over 270 miles per hour.

Juris Mindenbergs of Redmond, Wash. Acquired the car stock in 1986, modifying it for Bonneville racing with the assistance of Mike Dorgan, Don Schellberg, Art Morrisson and Larry Kalsch with his expertise and dyno facility. On October 1, 1988 at a USFRA Bonneville meet, Mindenbergs achieved a top speed of 271.04 MPH with his two-way average of 266.45 MPH setting a record in the AA-GT class and breaking Mickey Thompson’s longstanding mark. Hot Rod Magazine’s December 1989 issue called this naturally aspirated, and gasoline powered Corvette one of the ten most awesome race cars of the 1980s.



Later, owner Bobby Moore of Tulsa, Okla. Achieved many Bonneville class records, including eclipsing Mindenbergs' 1988 AA-GT class mark in 2004, which are highlighted on the vehicle's rear window. Mindenbergs reacquired the vehicle in 2016, donating it to a Museum in the Pacific Northwest in 2019. A full story on this car will be published in the April/May/June issue of America's Sports Car Museum member magazine.

Chevrolet Documents Corvette Engineering Team's Journey To Build The Mid-Engine Supercar: Chevrolet has release a two-part documentary entitled: "Revolution: The Mid-Engine Corvette Development Story." Episode one, released on December 22, 2020, focused on Corvette design with the Corvette Stingray team sharing what inspired the groundbreaking design of the mid-engine Corvette Stingray.



Episode two, released on January 4, 2021, follows the Corvette engineering team's journey to build a supercar for every day – with superior ride comfort on the highway and well-balanced handling on the track – while also chronicling the rigorous performance testing process at the most demanding track in the world. You can watch both episodes here on the NCM Website (each is about 10 minutes)

[Chevrolet Documents Corvette Engineering Team's Journey to Build the Mid-Engine Supercar – National Corvette Museum](#)

The documentary was also released on Corvette's Facebook and Instagram pages and Chevrolet's YouTube channel.

Museum Welcomes Two New Board Members: Joining the National Corvette Museum's Board of Directors are Dale Ledbetter of Indian Trail, NC and Shannon Skokos of Dallas, TX. Rotating off the Museum's board was Wes Wong of Sandy Springs, GA who joined the board in 2016.



Shannon Skokos, a former Miss Arkansas and motivational speaker, is an attorney, author, photographer and philanthropist residing in Dallas, Texas. She has extensive board and executive committee experience, and when she is not volunteering her time or working on various business ventures, Shannon enjoys preserving the history of classic automobiles.

Dale Ledbetter is an American automotive executive, entrepreneur, and consultant. Dale is best known for his involvement with classic and collectible car acquisition, vehicle restoration and business management for Hendrick Motorsports Performance Group.

President/CEO Dr. Sean Preston is leaving the National Corvette Museum: It doesn't seem that long ago that I was announcing that after 23 long years at the leadership helm, Wendel Strode the President of the NCM was retiring. He was being replaced after a nationwide search by Dr. Sean Preston who re-located to Bowling Green, KY from Portland, OR. In fact, it was June of 2019 when Dr. Preston took over as President and CEO, and on January 13th the NCM Board of Directors announced today that Dr. Preston was leaving the organization where he has worked the last 19 months.

“We are grateful to Dr. Preston for the commitment and talent he brought to both the National Corvette Museum and the NCM Motorsports Park,” stated NCM Chairman of the Board Glenn Johnson. “Dr. Preston made a positive impact on our organization and we wish him the very best in his future endeavors and thank him for his contributions.”

Johnson said that former NCM Board of Directors Chairman and Bowling Green retired Real Estate executive Jack Matukas has agreed to serve as Interim CEO of the NCM during the transition. “We thank Jack for his willingness to once again serve the NCM,” said Johnson. The Board will engage a search firm to conduct a national search for a new CEO.



Photo: Jack Matukas - Matukas served on the NCM Board of Directors from 2002 to 2015 and was the Chairman of the Board in 2012 and 2013. He has been involved since he and his wife, Donna, visited the Museum Annex in Bowling Green in 1989, seeing the vision and becoming Founding Members. The Matukas' are Lifetime Members of the Museum, in the Spire Society, Members of the NCM Motorsports Park Acre Club and have participated in the R8C Museum Delivery Program numerous times. He can be reached at jack.matukas@corvettemuseum.org.

2021 Corvette VIN 1 Delivered at NCM: Brian Bowling of West Virginia took delivery of his Torch Red 2021 Stingray on January 4 at the Museum - the first customer-built car for the new model year - VIN 1. Brian previously owned a 1994 Corvette, saying the mid-engine configuration is what drew him back to America's Sports Car. He initially thought he was getting VIN 3 but got a call about a month ago offering to bump him to VIN 1.



Brian has owned quite a few hot rods over the years including a '71 Chevelle and a 2014 Shelby GT 500. Brian last visited the Museum in 1997, also drag racing at Beech Bend during his visit to Bowling Green. The NCM expects to see Brian back this summer, but at the NCM Motorsports Park in his new ride. Congrats, Brian!

Applications Now Available for NCM/NCRS Scholarship:



Applications are now available for the 2021-22 school year scholarship, funded by the National Corvette Restorers Society and awarded by the National Corvette Museum. Applicants for the \$2,500 scholarship must be NCM members or children/grandchildren of NCM members.

Other criteria include that the applicants have applied and been accepted at an accredited post-secondary school, technical school, college or university and are 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, IT, etc.)

The deadline to apply is February 28, 2021 you can learn more & download the application here: [National Corvette Museum Scholarship – National Corvette Museum](#)

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” (near the bottom of the page) 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” (near the top of the page) button you can use on the same page 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:

	<p>2021 Black Corvette Coupe 2000 Tickets to be sold Price: \$100 Drawing: February 25, 2021 2:00 PM</p>
	<p>2021 Silver Flare Convertible 1500 Tickets to be sold Price: \$200 Drawing: Mar. 18, 2021 2:00 pm</p>
	<p>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!</p>

Latest Winners: The 2021 “Build Your Own” Corvette or \$65,000 was won by Glen Aldentaler of Britton, SD with ticket #381 drawn on 1/14//2021! 1013 of the 1500 available tickets sold at \$250 each.

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 'Sights & Sounds of New Orleans' 3/30 – 4/3/2021(Sold Out – waitlist)
- NCM Michelin Bash 4/22 – 4/24/2021 (Registration open)
- NCM Virtual Michelin Bash 4/22 (10am) – 4/23/2021 (9:30pm) (Registration open)
- MiM Dragon Run Presented by Michelin @ Biltmore Estate; NC (Sold Out – waitlist)
- NCM The Gathering | May 13 - 15, 2021 (Planning stage)
- MiM 9 Day Caribbean Cruise: 5/14 - 5/23/2021 (depart & return Fort Lauderdale FL) (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: I asked the NCM how many new Corvettes they could deliver on any given day through the R8C delivery program? They can deliver up to eight on any given day! If you are thinking of getting a new Corvette and would like delivery through the museum check out more details here: [R8C Museum Delivery – National Corvette Museum](#)

That's all for now – Save the Wave!