

## National Corvette Museum Report for April 2021

Happy Spring! It's finally arrived and as Mother Nature shakes off the winter doldrums and bursts forth with new life, we Corvette Owners who tuck our babies away for the Winter Season are also bursting forth with activities. It's time to get our Corvettes ready for the upcoming "best part" of our Northwest year, whether it's for cruising, parades, car shows, community service, or Auto-Cross there are plenty of activities within our club to keep we Corvette enthusiasts busy. Speaking of activities, in checking in with our friends at the National Corvette Museum they've got plenty going on as well. Here is just a sampling of some of what's underway.

**Stars and Cars exhibit now on display in the Skydome:** The featured cars include George Jones' 1978 Corvette and Roy Orbison's 1967 Corvette Stingray. Along with their shared love for music, Jones and Orbison loved their Corvettes. The Museum is proud to honor the legacy of these two amazing musicians. In the words of Director of Collections/Curator, Derek Moore, these Corvettes "help us talk about the cross-cultural impact that the Corvette has. It is an affordable car that the masses can purchase, but it is also a car that celebrities own, love and drive."

Country music singer George Jones special-ordered his 1978 two-tone Corvette to feature a one-off paint scheme of Corvette Dark Brown and Corvette Light Beige. Jones chose the two-tone paint because he was fond of the 1978 Corvette Pace Car's two tone job. The iconic front license plate remains to this day, showcasing his nickname, "Possum". A musical genius, he had more than 160 chart singles throughout his career. At the National Corvette Museum's Grand Opening celebration in 1994, Jones performed his best-known hit, "He Stopped Loving Her Today". George's love of Corvette also inspired his song, "The One I Loved Back Then (The Corvette Song)". George Jones' car is the first celebrity-owned Corvette now permanently displayed the National Corvette Museum.



Also on display, is a red 1967 Stingray once belonging to musician and six-time Grammy winner, Roy Orbison. With close to two dozen Billboard Top 40 hit singles including, "Only the Lonely", "Crying", and "Pretty

Woman”, Roy Orbison’s talent and success in the music industry would earn him a spot in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Throughout his life, Orbison owned many Corvettes, but the red ’67 Stingray was his personal daily driver. He would commute to the studio to record albums such as The Traveling Wilburys and Mystery Girl. The car’s features include factory side pipes, air conditioning, chrome step plates, 4-speed manual transmission, electric windows, and power steering. This 1967 Stingray was the last Corvette purchased by Roy before his passing in 1988.

**Honoring The Women In Corvette History:** On Monday, March 8th, the NCM celebrated International Women's Day by honoring several iconic women who've made a positive impact throughout the Corvette community. As March was Women's History Month, the NCM continued to celebrate Women and Corvette and can't wait to see what the next generation of female Corvette enthusiasts bring!



Three of the four honorees are in the Corvette Hall of Fame, while the fourth is representative of a newly-founded women’s organization at the NCM. The contributions of Dollie Cole, Donna Mae Mims, Betty Skelton, and Elfi Wolfe Duntov have made to the Corvette world are each significant in their own right. Here is some more information about the unique contributions of these women:

**Dollie Cole - 2019 Corvette Hall of Fame Inductee** - While the world at large first came to know Dollie as the wife of Edward N. Cole, President of General Motors, she wasn’t the kind of automobile executive wife to let that be the one thing that defined her. Colorful, beautiful, driven and outspoken, she truly did live life to the fullest, building up a resume of accomplishments that included: accredited test driver and pilot, Senior Editor for a publishing company, author, television host, and she was even a model in print ads for Dr. Pepper. She could work out in the barn all day, and step into the most elite social situation without missing a beat. She was engaging and comfortable with anyone she met regardless of their station in life. She made it a point to make people feel valued whether it be an underprivileged child, the elevator operator, a Hollywood celebrity, top race car drivers, powerful business icons, or even the President of the United States. They all mattered to her, especially those who were defenseless—mainly children and animals. It would be the goal of her life to use her resources, abilities, time and energy to help them rather than looking for ways to be entertained. After her husband’s tragic death, Dollie became a cheerleader of sorts for Corvette.

**Donna Mae Mims, 2016 Corvette Hall of Fame Inductee** - Affectionately known as “The Lady in Pink,” the late Donna Mae Mims became a true Corvette enthusiast from the first moment she spotted one, a 1957 Corvette, for sale on a dealership lot. At the time she and husband Mike had never heard of the model, but ended up purchasing a brand new one from Don Yenko Chevrolet. An invitation from a fellow motorist to a sports car meeting is what got Mims involved in the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), and in 1961 she started racing, winning the B Production national race that same year at Cumberland. While Mims liked her Corvette, she was not fond of the color. Her husband would not let her paint it pink, so she painted ‘Think Pink’ on its side. Her subsequent race cars bore the same name, while Mims sported pink coveralls, a pink crash helmet, and full pink wig behind the wheel. In her championship driving year, she was part of the Yenko/Chevrolet race team that dominated A/Production and B/Production SCCA racing with Corvettes, all

while she was driving her little pink H/Production bug-eyed Sprite. Her dedication to racing was not only recreational, but also professional, serving as Manager of Hi-Performance at Yenko Sports Cars.

After retiring from racing in 1974, Mims stayed busy as a worker in Race Control at three Ohio race courses, and remained active in events of the Steel Cities SCCA Region, Corvette Club of Western Pennsylvania, Three Rivers Corvette Club (which she founded), Steeltown Corvette Club, and the Tri-Rivers Car Club Council. Donna Mae Mims was inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame in 2016.

**Betty Skelton, 2001 Corvette Hall of Fame Inductee** - frequently referred to as the “first lady of firsts”, worked side-by-side with some of the biggest names in Corvette, and established unbelievable records of her own in racing, aviation and automotive history. The first woman to be inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame was also the first woman in the world to drive racing cars to new records through the famous NASCAR measured mile on the sands of Daytona Beach. Skelton established records for Chevrolet behind the wheel of the Corvette, and appeared at major auto shows, as well as national ads and TV commercials.

Harley Earl at the GM Tech Center along with Bill Mitchell, designed a special Corvette for Betty in 1956-57. Skelton drove the translucent gold Corvette to Daytona for Speed Week and then paced all the NASCAR races with it in 1957. In 1959, she was invited by NASA to become the first woman to undergo physical and psychological testing for the first seven astronauts and was directly involved with arranging for America’s first astronauts to become Corvette Owners. Betty Skelton is represented in Hall of Fames and Museums throughout the United States and was inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame in 2001.

**Elfi Duntov** - is considered the Godmother and First Lady of Corvette. She would often accompany her husband Zora Arkus-Duntov, the first Chief Engineer of Corvette, to car shows and special events. Everyone who met Elfi was immediately impressed with her grace, enthusiasm, and knowledge of America’s Sports Car. She attended the Grand Opening of the National Corvette Museum in 1994 and plays a pivotal role in the story of the Corvette. It is an honor to attach her name to a new “society” at NCM – to continue her legacy of philanthropy among like-minded women in the Corvette family. In 1965, Corvette introduced a new and exciting color – Silver Pearl. It was sleek, elegant, and powerful, much like the women who love Corvettes! Pearls symbolize wisdom acquired through experience as well as generosity, integrity, and loyalty. While pearls make the perfect complement to flashier gemstones, they also possess an elegance that can shine alone. Although Elfi is not a member of the Corvette Hall of Fame, a special women’s organization at the NCM was named in her honor, Elfi’s Silver Pearl Sisterhood.

Elfi’s Silver Pearl Sisterhood is a group of women with a shared passion for Corvette, who enjoy celebrating the Corvette experience, uniting with other Corvette enthusiasts, promoting the traditions of America’s Sports Car, and collaborating to advance the mission of the National Corvette Museum. Members pool their financial gifts and allocate the funds to a project or program at the Museum to maximize the impact of their philanthropy. Each member of the group has a unique opportunity to be connected to other women who are enthusiastic about all things Corvette, and to learn about the Museum’s priorities and initiatives in a group setting specifically geared toward women. Members have an equal voice on how the pooled funds are utilized annually. A member may be as involved as she wishes, from serving as an ambassador to simply making a financial gift. To learn more about Elfi’s Silver Pearl Sisterhood click here.

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/support/elfis-silver-pearl-sisterhood/>

In the end, each of these four women represented the connection between women and Corvette. Presently, women like Nora Roper, Assistant Plant Manager of the Bowling Green Assembly Plant, Laura Klauser, Sports Car Racing Program Manager at General Motors, and Mary Barra, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at General Motors continue to pave the way for the next generation.

**Local Puget Sound “NY Times Bestselling Author” Takes Museum Delivery:** Debbie Macomber is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author and one of today’s most popular writers with more than 200 million copies of her books in print worldwide. She is an American author of romance novels and contemporary women's fiction. Six of her novels have become made-for-TV movies and her Cedar Cove series of novels was adapted into a television series of the same name. Macomber may have never written about a Corvette but, "can tell you right now, [she] will in the future!" Debbie, and her husband Wayne, of **Port Orchard, Washington**, took delivery of a 2021 Red Mist Corvette Coupe at the Museum on Thursday, March 11th. This is their first Corvette. Upon leaving the Museum, the Macomber’s said they will drive to Florida and then back to Washington, giving them the opportunity to truly experience America’s Sports Car. Wayne added, “We may never get another road trip like this.”



**NCM Bash Registration open for both “In Person” 4/22 – 4/24 & “Virtual” 4/22 – 4/23/2021 events:**

The first on-site Museum event this year - the Michelin NCM Bash is happening April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. The road tours are filling up, and this year’s event offers not only the usual favorite activities, but also the 2020 Corvette Hall of Fame Induction Banquet which was postponed last Summer. There are four inductees including Doug Fehan, Henry Haga, Mike McCagh and Wendell Strode. For those who aren't yet ready to travel, the NCM also offers an online streaming option! This year the stream will include the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony! You can register for either the “In Person” or “Virtual” Bash here:

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/explore/events/on-site-events/>



**Performance Track Day to Host Event at NCM and MSP:** On June 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> car racing champions will be lead a Performance Track Day at the NCM Motorsports Park. This track day is a two-day long event where participants can enjoy a high-performance driving experience with professional racecar drivers. This once-in-a-lifetime adventure is perfect for any Corvette fan or automotive enthusiast.

This track day will be led by sports car racing champions Darren Law and Johnny O'Connell. Corvette Factory Driver Jordan Taylor, former Corvette Factory Driver Jan Magnussen, and Corvette Hall of Fame driver Andy Pilgrim will join as guest coaches in the classroom as well as on track. Nowhere else will automotive enthusiasts get a track day experience with such an accomplished group of driver coaches. Participants can sign up for one or both track days, though the event is meant to be a two-day experience, with Corvette's best.

On the evening of June 19th, Performance Track Day will be hosting a special cocktail hour and dinner with a keynote speaker, Doug Fehan, Corvette Racing Program Manager of 25 years. Registration for this event ends Saturday June 12th, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. CST. You can register for this event here:

<https://performancetrackday.trackrabbit.com/event/details/10002665-Performance-Track-Day-at-National-Corvette-Museum-2021-06-19>



**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](mailto:kevinwilson@q.com)). Here is the current Raffle line-up:



**2021 Shadow Gray Corvette Coupe**

1500 Tickets to be sold

**Price: \$150**

Drawing: April 1, 2021 2:00 PM

	<p><b>2021 Build Your Own Corvette or \$65,000</b>  1500 Tickets to be sold  <b>Price: \$250.00</b>  Drawing: April 23, 2021 3:00 PM</p>
	<p><b>2021 Arctic White Corvette Coupe</b>  Unlimited Tickets  <b>Price: \$20</b>  Drawing: April 24, 2021 2:00 PM  <b>These are the inexpensive tickets to buy and give out as Gifts!</b></p>
	<p><b>2021 Red Mist Coupe</b>  2000 Tickets to be sold  <b>Price: \$100</b>  Drawing: May 20, 2021 2:00 pm</p>

**Latest Winners:** The **2021 Black Corvette Coupe** was won by Mike Legg of Dickson, TN with Ticket #897 drawn on 02/25/2021. All 2,000 available tickets sold out at \$100

The **2021 Silver Flare Corvette** was won by Craig Petersen of Meridian, ID with Ticket #65 Drawn on 03/18/2021. 1294 of the 1500 available tickets were sold for \$200.

**Current National Corvette Museum Events:** 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.

- 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 4/25-4/28/2021; NC (**Sold Out – waitlist**)

- MiM Branson MO Experience | June 1-5 2021 (**Sold Out – waitlist**)
- NCM Performance Track Day 6/19/2021
- MiM Colorado Springs | July 11 - 15, 2021 (Planning stage)
- MiM Northeast Ohio | August 1-6, 2021 (Planning stage)
- NCM Corvette Car Show August 7 10am-3pm
- MiM 24 Hours of Le Mans (London, Paris, Le Mans) | August 13-24, 2021
- NCM Le Mans Race Weekend Viewing Party | August 21-22, 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 4-6, 2021

***Did you know:*** There are many ways you can show your support for the museum, such as becoming a member, donating your car, estate planning, purchasing raffle tickets and dedication opportunities. You can also support the museum through your online purchases with an Amazon Smile account.

The NCM welcomes the opportunity to discuss your interest in making a charitable, tax-deductible gift, pledge commitment, or including the Museum in your estate plans. For additional information, please contact the NCM at 270-781-7973 or email at [giving@corvettemuseum.org](mailto:giving@corvettemuseum.org).

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