

National Corvette Museum Report for June 2020 - ECC

With the Corona Virus curve flattening in many areas businesses and activities are starting to open up a little here in our home state of Washington, and at the National Corvette Museum (NCM) in Bowling Green, Kentucky. However, with the Covid-19 impacts still being felt, and with everyone wanting to avoid a surge in new cases, slowly and cautiously seem to be the overarching themes in most areas.

The Corvette Store at the NCM re-opened May 20 with in-store shopping open at limited capacity. Current temporary hours are 8am-5pm CT Monday-Friday. The Corvette Café re-opened May 22 with limited capacity dine-in, and full capacity outdoor dining. Current temporary hours are 8am-3:30pm CT Monday-Friday. The Museum itself was just given permission to re-open on Monday June 8th, although no doubt at reduced capacity and with appropriate safety protocols in place. Those are being developed as this article is written.

The closures did not affect the R8C Museum Delivery program for new Corvette owners picking up their cars, however the March 20th Corona-virus shutdown of the Corvette Assembly plant, which is right across the freeway from the museum, certainly had a negative impact. The plant was only able to build 2700 C8 Corvettes after starting production on February 3rd. In early May General Motors announced plans to reopen some of its manufacturing operations by May 18, and the Bowling Green Assembly Plant reopened May 26 although slowly and cautiously according to a GM spokesman.

There was speculation in the Corvette Community that the 2020 model would become one of the rarest regular-production models in the Corvette's history. For context, Chevrolet sold 10,261 units of the Corvette during the 1960 model year, 17,316 for the 1970 model year, and a whopping 40,614 in the 1980 model year. Sales for the 1990, 2000, and 2010 model years totaled 23,464, 33,682, and 12,194, respectively. And, 34,822 seventh-generation cars were made during the 2019 model year. Leaked documents that surfaced online in March — two days before the factory closed — confirmed the company had stopped taking orders for the 2020 model, and it was going to start selling the 2021 model in late May, or about a month earlier than planned. “Further information will be forthcoming from Chevrolet regarding the handling of sold 2020 model year that we will be unable to accept, and the creation of a replacement 2021 model year sold order,” the company told its dealers. Now it’s reported that the new date for the switchover is November 2. That gives Bowling Green five months to fulfill as many 2020 orders as possible before converting some buyers' orders to cars in the 2021 model year.



In light of all the uncertainty there is still a lot going on at the museum. Here is some of the latest news from our friends at the NCM.

Wrecked C8 Visits NCM for Rotary Engine History: Even with physical distancing because of the Corona Virus, some people just have all the luck, or maybe all the smarts, and are able to pull off something that many of us only dream about. YouTuber Rob Dahm of California made a cross-country trek in May to purchase a wrecked 2020 Corvette. The car had been hit by a drunk driver the day after the owner took possession, but its story doesn't stop there... Rob has big plans for it. After picking up the car in Florida, he traveled to Kentucky, visiting the Holley Performance Products headquarters in Bowling Green before taking a new 2020 Corvette for a spin at the NCM Motorsports Track. Finally, Rob made a stop at the National Corvette Museum to learn the history of the rotary powered Corvettes, checking out XP-987GT, a two-rotor Corvette owned by the Museum, and learning the history of the Aerovette, a four-rotor Corvette and the inspiration for Rob's project. Rob plans on putting a four-rotor engine into the C8 Corvette he just picked up. If you've got 22 minutes to spare you can watch Rob have a great time driving the new 2020 Corvette on the track, then you can watch him enjoy time at the NCM doing some research on GM's rotary engine history. His enthusiasm is contagious!

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/wrecked-c8-visits-ncm-for-rotary-engine-history/>



2020 Michelin NCM Bash Bash goes virtual: After postponing the 2020 Michelin NCM Bash from April to May, the museum finally made the decision to go completely virtual this year. Held on Thursday 5/28 and Friday 5/29 the registration was only \$20. Registrants had access to TWO full days of:

SEMINARS - Seminars offered multi-camera views of presenters interspersed with presentation slides and exclusive video. Seminars offerings included:

- Corvette Update with the Corvette team
- Corvette Racing update with Doug Fehan
- Michelin tech talk
- Q & A with the Corvette Mechanic Paul Koerner
- Behind the scenes walk around of Corvettes

Virtual attendees had the capability to ask questions of the presenters, and chat with other Corvette enthusiasts participating in the event.

OTHER EXPERIENCES

In addition to seminars the event offered:

- Michelin giving away SETS (each set up to \$1500) of NEW MICHELIN passenger / light truck tires!
- Ribbon cutting for the new E. Pierce Marshall Memorial Performance Gallery with walk through
- Auction of memorabilia and unique experiences through eBay
- Corvette Store fashion show
- Damsels of Design exhibit rendering reveal
- LIVE Corvette raffle and more!

While the event looked somewhat different from previous years', it still offered the same great content, friends and unique offerings only the National Corvette Museum can deliver.

NCM revealed two Corvette Related video series: As I reported last month the museum debuted two free video series, offering educational and fun content for all ages. **Vettecademy** offers topics related to Corvette, the Museum and other automotive areas with a new video debuting each weekday. Vettecademy is targeted to all age groups and is especially great for children. There are currently 32 sessions posted on the Museums website. They vary in length between 2 to 12 minutes.

(<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/explore/educational-programs/vettecademy/>)

and on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5Syfif2eF-NmzTLVdEHmSUZozO8RvN27>)



For Corvette enthusiasts wanting even more deep dives into the history of America's iconic sports car, the Museum launched a second video series entitled **Fully Vetted**. Currently there are 11 Episodes, ranging from 5-21 minutes. These are not child focused and are also available on the NCM website at:

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/learn/about-corvette/fully-vetted/>



I hope you've had a chance to take a look at some of these while social distancing.

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:

	<p>2020 Blade Silver Corvette Convertible Limited to 1500 Tickets Price: \$200 Drawing: June 18, 2020 - 2:00 PM</p>
	<p>2021 BYO Corvette or \$60,000 Limited to 1500 Tickets Price: \$250 Drawing: July 16, 2020 - 2:00 PM</p>
	<p>2020 Torch Red Corvette Coupe Unlimited Tickets Price: \$20 Drawing: September 5, 2020 3:00 PM These are the least expensive tickets by far!</p>

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:

- MiM Colorado Springs: July 12-17, 2020; Pikes Peak Drive (**SOLD OUT**/Waitlist)
- MiM Northeast Ohio: August 2-7, 2020 (Registration opens Spring 2020)
- NCM 26th Anniversary Celebration & Hall of Fame Induction Sep 3-5, 2020 (Reg open late Spring)
- MiM Dragon Run Presented by Michelin @ Biltmore (NC) Estate Sep 7th -10th, 2020 (**Registration Open**)
- MiM 'Branson Experience' Sep 8th -12th, 2020; Branson MO; (Registration is Open)
- 2020 NCM-MiM Le Mans Tour: Re-Scheduled to Sept.11-22, 2020. England & France (**Just Cancelled**)
- 2020 Le Mans Viewing Party at NCM: Re-Scheduled to Sept 19-20, 2020; (**Just Cancelled**)
- MiM National Parks Tour: Sep 20-26; AZ & UT; (**Registration Open**)
- 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 National Corvette Museum offers Insurance policies for your collector car, any Corvette new or old, Race Cars, and for High Performance Driver Education (Track Time)? They offer very competitive rates and have been writing policies for the last 10 years. You can get Agreed Value Coverage, Mileage Options, 9 to 5 coverage that lets you drive your collector car to work a few days a week, and roadside assistance with towing. Give them a call at 1-877-678-7626 or check them out on the web at:

<http://ncminsurance.com/>

That's all for now – Save the Wave!