

## **National Corvette Museum Report for July 2020**

**National Corvette Museum re-opened on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2020:** After a nearly 12-week closure, the National Corvette Museum reopened to the public on Monday, June 8. Like many businesses, the Museum has implemented recommended procedures to keep guests and staff safe during their visit. The staff has been thoroughly trained about COVID 19 and daily screening has been implemented. Staff numbers have been reduced to allow for social distancing. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is being utilized including masks, gloves, sneeze guard barriers, and hand sanitizer. Cleaning and disinfecting are constantly taking place and social distancing and capacity protocols are in place. There are additional safety protocols in place for the Corvette Café and Corvette Store which have been open since the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>. The Museum Exhibits are now set up for your safety with density rules, sneeze barriers and hand sanitizer. As a museum visitor you are encouraged to wear face masks, with complimentary masks provided for those who do not have one. There are also special tour times available for higher risk visitors. I have all of the specific details of the safety measures being taken by the NCM to ensure visitor safety. So now that they are open again if you are planning a trip out that way (or if you are picking up a Museum Delivery Corvette) just drop me an e-mail and I will be happy to provide you all the details. Meanwhile, here is more news out of the National Corvette Museum.

### **Newly Renovated Museum Galleries Now Open:**

While the Michelin NCM Bash may not have had the same in-person connection opportunities as Corvette fans have come to expect, the camaraderie, enthusiasm and excitement could not be stifled. This year's event took place online in a 'virtual' environment, offering a number of seminars and activities much like those offered in year's past. Thursday, May 28 and Friday, May 29 welcomed nearly 700 registrants to a Zoom webinar platform where they were treated to live interactions with Corvette V.I.P.s including Corvette Mechanic Paul Koerner, Corvette Racing's Program Manager Doug Fehan, GM Bowling Green Assembly Plant Manager Kai Spande, Michelin's team including Lee Willard, Eric Schmedding, Dominique Josson and Jeff Anderson; Mobil 1's team including Doug Hakala, Jeff Valentage and Cam Bower, Tadge Juechter and Harlan Charles with the Corvette team and more. As part of the event, two ribbon cutting ceremonies were held, including walk thrus of two galleries and one new exhibit.



*Photo: Museum President & CEO Dr. Sean Preston cuts the ribbon for the E. Pierce Marshall Memorial Performance Gallery with Museum team members Bryce Burklow, Events Manager, Derek Moore, Director of Collections/Curator, and Amy Hardin, Director of Development.*

In December, the Museum announced that thanks to the generosity of E. Pierce Marshall, Jr. (President and Chief Executive Officer at Elevage Capital in Dallas and an heir to the Marshall Family petroleum fortune) the former Racing and Performance Gallery received a major face lift and became the new **E. Pierce Marshall Memorial Performance Gallery** “The Performance Gallery is one space in the Museum that has been around since the building’s grand opening over 25 years ago,” said Derek E. Moore, Director of Collections / Curator for the Museum. “In the early days an elevated ‘racetrack’ was in place to give display cars a feeling of motion and being on the grid, but due to difficulties changing out the vehicles, was later removed. The space has housed an interactive pit crew challenge, educational driving simulator and various artifacts through the years. We were thrilled that Pierce came on board to make the long over-due renovations a reality.” The Gallery now features digital projection, interactive touch screens paired with artifact display cases, 180-degree video footage, and an impressive lineup of cars. Highlighted front and center in the exhibit is Pierce’s C7.R. “I think the renovation to the Museum is extremely timely,” shared Pierce. “To have something more interactive that will engage younger people will ensure future generations will be able to learn how unique Corvette is in America’s car culture and its racing history.”

Around the corner, a new exhibit in **The Nostalgia Gallery** is waiting to be discovered and enjoyed by visitors. **The Entombed Corvette**. Many Corvette aficionados may remember hearing of a 1954 Corvette that was ‘entombed’ in a brick room in the basement of a grocery store for nearly 30 years. In 1986, the room was dismantled brick-by-brick, and the Corvette revealed. After changing hands a few times, the Corvette was donated to the Museum in 2019.

“The donors, who wish to remain anonymous, donated the car so that we could continue in the preservation of both the car and its amazing story,” said Derek. “We knew we wanted to re-create the ‘tomb’ to tell that story, and thanks to the generosity of Robin and Mary Vann of the East Tennessee Corvette Club, we were able to make that exhibit a reality.”

The new exhibit is designed to replicate in as much detail as possible the actual tomb that the Corvette was once housed in, including the two light bulbs in the ceiling, small hatch in the top, and tiny window on the side where the car was viewable. Of course, for Museum display purposes one side of the tomb is open so that visitors can get a really good view of the car, which remains unchanged from its storied history.



*Photo: The new ‘Entombed Corvette’ exhibit, made possible through the generosity of Robin and Mary Vann.*

Those tuning in live to the Michelin NCM Bash stream were also able to see the progress that has been made on the newly remodeled **Design and Engineering Gallery** which now features **‘The Vision Realized: 60 Years of Mid-Engine Corvette Design.’** – an exhibit highlighting the many prototypes which lead to the creation of the next generation mid-engine Corvette and is planned to be displayed at least through April of 2021.

“General Motors approached us about an exhibit they were developing, which focuses on the key vehicles that built the foundation for the 2020 Corvette Stingray,” shared Derek. “It features original renderings from our Museum alongside photographs, artifacts and ephemera from both the GM Design Archive & Special Collections, and GM Heritage Center. We are excited to be the first location to display the exhibit.”

Among the cars on display are the Corvette Indy, a C8, and the experimental two-rotor Corvette known as XP-987 GT, which was recently acquired by the Museum thanks to the fundraising efforts of Lone Star Corvette Club and Texas Corvette Association. The cars will be joined this summer by CERV-1, CERV-II, Astro II, the Reynolds Aluminum Corvette and XP-819 a rear-engine Corvette known as the ‘ugly duckling’. Derek added “The exhibit tells the story of Zora Arkus-Duntov’s dream of one day having a production mid-engine. We only wish he could be here to see it for himself.”



*Photo: The Corvette Indy concept car on display as part of the new ‘Vision Realized’ exhibit.*

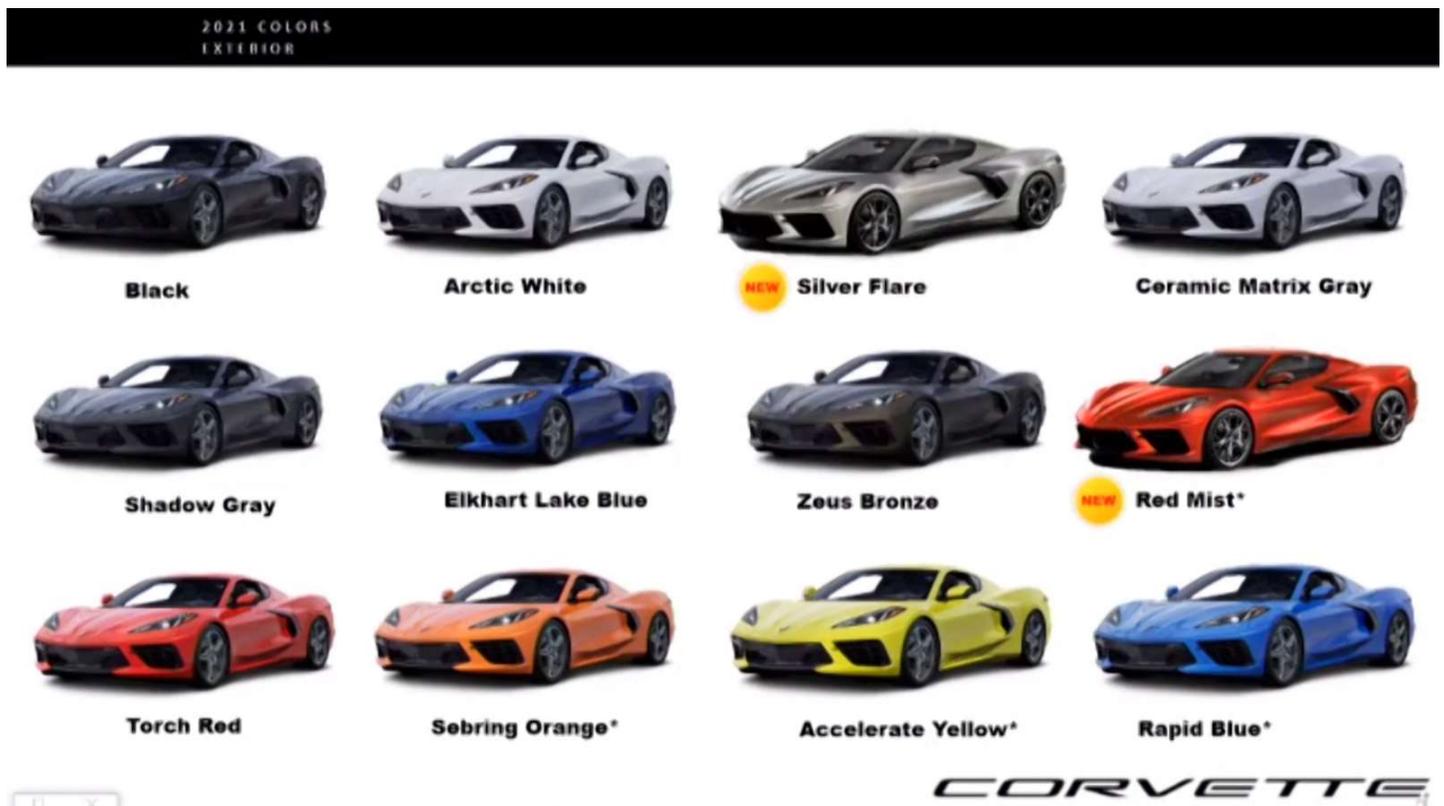
In addition to the many gallery enhancements, the Museum also features a special exhibit for 2020 entitled ‘Cartoon Creatures, Kustom Kars and Corvettes: The Art and Influence of Ed ‘Big Daddy’ Roth.’ The candy-colored, artistic automotive marvels tell the story of Ed Roth and those who were inspired by his work, including GM’s Tom Peters, who co-curated the exhibit and who’s ‘Transformer’ Corvettes are also displayed. Finally, visitors who are intrigued by the ‘sinkhole story’ will have a new attraction to check out. The simulation of the cave collapse has received an upgrade and now features all eight Corvettes as part of the virtual experience. “Technology advances over the past five years have allowed us to work with exhibit designers to really step up our game and provide an improved virtual reality of the actual collapse,” said Derek. “We are appreciative of Pierce Marshall, Jr., the Vanns and so many others for their financial support, which helped us make these amazing improvements to the Museum,” said Dr. Sean Preston, President and CEO of the National Corvette Museum. “This year we celebrate the Museum’s 26th Anniversary, and many of these

galleries have not changed since the opening of the Museum in 1994. We're excited to welcome visitors back to our facility and can't wait for them to see all the new displays."

**Two New Colors Announced for 2021 Corvette:** During the Michelin NCM Virtual Bash, both GM Corvette Assembly's Kai Spande and GM's Corvette Team Members Tadge Juechter and Harlan Charles led seminars providing viewers with updates as to what's going on. Kai's seminar shared the safety measures that were taken to open the plant back up, with production having started back on Tuesday, May 26. Kai indicated it will take a few weeks to ramp production back up. Shipping will resume after at least a two-week holding period.

During Tadge and Harlan's presentation, the team shared statistics on the 2020 Corvettes that have been ordered. To date, Torch Red is the most popular color at 25%, followed by Arctic White at 15% and Black at 12%. Sebring Orange and Elkhart Lake Blue are at 7%, Rapid Blue, Ceramic Matrix Gray, Blade Silver and Shadow Gray are at 6%, Long Beach Red at 5%, and Accelerate Yellow and Zeus Bronze at 3%.

The team shared images of the two new colors for 2021. Replacing Blade Silver is Silver Flare Metallic. Blade Silver debuted for the 2009 model year. Replacing Long Beach Red is Red Mist Tint Coat Metallic. Long Beach Red debuted for the 2016 model year. Here are the 12 exterior colors available for 2021:



**NCM revealed two Corvette Related video series:** As I reported the last two months 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/>

If you are still stuck at home, these are a couple great Corvette related resources from the NCM.

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

	<p><b>2021 BYO Corvette or \$60,000</b>                  Limited to 1500 Tickets                  Price: \$250                  Drawing: July 16, 2020 - 2:00 PM</p>
	<p><b>2021 Shadow Gray Coupe</b>                  Limited to 1500 Tickets                  Price: \$150                  Drawing: July 30, 2020 - 2:00 PM</p>
	<p><b>2020 Torch Red Corvette Coupe</b>                  Unlimited Tickets                  Price: \$20                  Drawing: September 5, 2020 3:00 PM  <b>These are the least expensive tickets by far!</b></p>

**Latest Winners:** Lori Ballen of Brookville, NY – Won the May 29<sup>th</sup> raffle for the 2020 Elkhart Lake Blue Corvette Coupe with ticket #198. All 2,000 available tickets were sold.

Richard Williams of Glastonbury, CT – won the June 18<sup>th</sup> raffle for a 2020 Blade Silver Corvette Convertible with ticket #22. All 1,500 available tickets were sold.

**Current National Corvette Museum Events:** Here is the current schedule of events and adventures, both on the road (Museum in Motion events - MiM) and at the museum (NCM) for the year and a new Cruise (on a ship, not in a Corvette) was just added for 2021 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 (**Just Cancelled**)
- MiM Northeast Ohio: August 2-7, 2020 (**Just Postponed Until 2021**)
- NCM 26th Anniversary Celebration & Hall of Fame Induction Sep 2–5, 2020 (**Registration Open**)
- MiM Dragon Run Presented by Michelin @ Biltmore (NC) Estate Sep 7th –10th, 2020 (**1 space left**)
- MiM ‘Branson Experience’ Sep 8th –12th, 2020; Branson MO; (**Registration is Open**)
- MiM National Parks Tour: Sep 20-26; AZ & UT; (**Full, call to be waitlisted**)
- 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 (Summer Reg)
- MiM Lap of Kentucky tour 4: 10/26-10/31 (Registration opens Summer 2020)
- MiM 9 Day Caribbean Cruise: 5/14 - 5/23/2021 (depart & return Fort Lauderdale FL) (**Registration Open**)

**Did you know:** There are a good number of Track related videos available on the National Corvette Museum Motor Sports Park web page? Including Corvette Racing & NCM’s very own Andy Pilgrim who provides News & Reviews on many hi performance cars, including thrashing them around the NCM Motor Sports Track.

<https://www.motorsportspark.org/media/>

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