

National Corvette Museum Report for August 2020

National corvette museum named a top attraction by USA TODAY: The National Corvette Museum earned top honors in the 2020 USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice travel award contest for Best Attraction for Car Lovers. Twenty automotive attractions were nominated by a panel of relevant experts which includes a combination of editors from USA TODAY; editors from 10Best.com; relevant expert contributors; and sources for both these media and other Gannett properties. The public was invited to vote daily over a four-week period for their favorite. The Museum earned the most votes and subsequently was named the Best Attraction for Car Lovers for 2020.



From March 19 through May 8 the Museum debuted 32 episodes of a new 'Vettecademy' video series geared towards school-age kids, offering at-home educational and entertaining episodes on various aspects of Corvette. The series was so popular that a 'Fully Vetted' series was also launched, offering viewers of any age an in-depth look at various stories behind America's iconic sports car. Vettecademy as well as all eleven episodes of Fully Vetted are available for viewing on the Museum's website.

In addition to sharing virtual video content, the Museum also hosted a virtual online car show, with over 1,000 entries, and a virtual Michelin NCM Bash event bringing together live seminar speakers, produced content and live Museum walk-throughs all via Zoom. The event welcomed over 500 live online viewers.

Upon reopening to the public on June 8, visitors were greeted with a new 'look' of two galleries within the Museum including a heavily remodeled and digitally enhanced E. Pierce Marshall Memorial Performance Gallery, featuring 180-degree video projection; interactive touch screen kiosks with additional photo, text and video content; integrated artifact displays; and a shiny display floor full of iconic Corvette race cars.

"Thanks to the generosity of E. Pierce Marshall Jr. we were able to completely overhaul the former performance and racing exhibit space into a state-of-the-art gallery that truly showcases important examples of high-achieving track Corvettes," shared Museum President and CEO Dr. Sean Preston. "Pierce shared a love of Corvette with his father and continues his enthusiasm as an avid Corvette Racing fan and track competitor himself. His C7.R is an exciting centerpiece to this brand-new gallery."

Continuing the renovations and upgrades, the Museum also gutted the design and engineering area to create a new exhibit in collaboration with General Motors on the history of the development of the mid-engine Corvette. The "Vision Realized" exhibit features iconic prototypes and experimental vehicles including CERV-I, Astro II, XP-895 Reynolds-Aluminum Corvette, XP-819 'Ugly Duckling' rear-engine, XP-987 GT two-rotor Wankel

engine, and the Indy Corvette along with artifacts and a comprehensive storyline of how Corvette's first Chief Engineer, Zora Arkus-Duntov, dreamed of one day offering a mid-engine Corvette as a production vehicle.

"The next generation Corvette has drawn the attention of not only die-hard Corvette enthusiasts, but also fans of other marques. This highly anticipated car and exhibit is something any performance car enthusiast is going to want to immerse themselves in," shared Sean. "What's even better is that visitors can observe as new owners take delivery of their 2020 Corvettes right here inside the Museum. It doesn't get any more exciting than that!"

During the pandemic the Museum also debuted a new exhibit display for the 1954 'Entombed' Corvette which was made possible through a donation by Robin and Mary Vann of East Tennessee. The Corvette Cave-In: Skydome Sinkhole Experience also received an upgrade to the digital technology that powers the sinkhole collapse animation, showcasing the eight Corvettes who fell victim. Finally, visitors to the Museum will browse a special exhibit: "Cartoon Creatures, Kustom Kars and Corvettes: The Art and Influence of Ed 'Big Daddy' Roth" featuring candy-colored fiberglass marvels of the late 50s to mid-60s as well as the subsequent vehicles they would influence, including two Corvettes used in the Transformer films.

"Our goals during the pandemic were to keep as many team members employed as possible and use the time to upgrade our visitors' experience – taking the Museum to another level," added Sean. "Our team worked hard to update the facility so that it reflects the look and feel of the next generation Corvette. We are excited for guests to see it for themselves."

Two rare Corvettes were donated to the Museum in the last month through the Will of former NCM Board Member Greg Mauzy (who sadly passed away in 2015) and his wife Michelle of Midland, Texas.

First was a 1 of 2 1989 ZR-1 SS (ever heard of one?). It was a Corvette designed to compete with the Dodge Viper and ultimately was designated the "Snake Skinner", a factory built highly modified 1989 ZR-1 with a 500 hp LT-5 engine. Only 84 1989 ZR-1's were built but only for testing & analysis, no '89 ZR-1s were ever sold to the public, but a few are in hands of private individuals. There were 2 SS's built, the Snake Skinner I, which Rick Hendrick purchased, and the Snake Skinner II which Greg purchased at a Barrett Jackson Auction in 2009.



The SS's were sold by GM (from the Heritage Center) back when they had to declare bankruptcy and clear many cars out of the Heritage Center to receive a bailout package from the Government. The ZR-1 SS never went to market as it was deemed too expensive, with the regular ZR-1 starting at \$63,000 in 1990.

The second Corvette was a 1 of 3 "Active Suspension" Corvette prototype. Defying the laws of physics – that was the promise of Active Suspension. Instead of using springs, dampers and anti-roll bars to react to and manage a vehicle's dynamics, Active Suspension systems used sensors, computers and high-pressure hydraulics to completely control a vehicle's behavior. An "active" automobile could lean into a curve while preventing any bumps in the road from upsetting the steering and cornering dynamics of the car. CPC (Chevrolet-Pontiac-Canada) Engineering established a program to evaluate the technology by building a fleet of 50 Active Suspension Corvettes with the ZR-1, 32-valve engine. The hydraulic fluid, circulating at 3,000 psi, required extra heat exchangers and vents for cooling (bringing durability into question), while the added components brought the total weight of the Corvette to nearly 4,000 pounds. With cutting-edge electronics, aircraft-grade pumps and actuators, the cost of just the Active Suspension on the ZR-1 was estimated at \$35k-\$40k – yielding what would have been the most expensive Corvette ever made. An additional issue would have been high-pressure hydraulics allowing no room for error when it came time to service the car. Despite the shortcomings of Active Suspension, it did help pave the way to new technology in automotive design, including Active Handling in '96 and Magnetic Selective Ride Control in '03.



Greg ended up buying 26 cars from the GM Heritage Center through various auctions. In all he had 150 vehicles in his collection, 80 were Corvettes.

2021 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray offers carryover pricing with fresh content: Corvette has always represented iconic American design, performance, technical ingenuity, and attainability. The 2021 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray retains carryover pricing – the same as the introductory model – with MSRP starting at \$59,995 for the coupe and \$67,495 for the convertible. Both models include destination freight charge.

“Our mission was to develop a new sports car, combining the successful attributes of Corvette with the performance and driving experience of mid-engine supercars,” said Tadge Juechter, Corvette executive chief engineer. “We are thrilled with the enthusiasm the mid-engine Corvette brought following its launch and are keeping it fresh with new content for the 2021 model.”

NEW FOR 2021

- Magnetic Selective Ride Control suspension available without Z51 (FE2)
- Standard Wireless Apple CarPlay/Wireless Android Auto

- Red Mist Metallic Tintcoat exterior color
- Silver Flare Metallic exterior color
- Sky Cool Gray/Yellow Strike interior color
- New Full Length Dual Racing Stripe Package colors: Blue, Orange, Red and Yellow
- Stinger Stripes in three colors: Carbon Flash/Edge Red, Carbon Flash/Edge Yellow and Carbon Flash/Midnight Silver
- Driver mode on-screen visualization and new track digital tachometer
- Standard Buckle To Drive, a safety technology that, when active, can prevent the driver from shifting the vehicle out of Park if the driver's seat belt is not buckled for up to 20 seconds; this feature is designed to help remind all drivers to buckle up before driving

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>2021 Black Corvette Coupe Limited to 2000 Tickets Price: \$100 Drawing: August 20, 2020 - 2:00 PM</p>
	<p>The 1.75 Millionth Corvette!! 2020 Artic White Corvette Coupe Limited to 1500 Tickets Price: \$200 Drawing: September 4, 2020 3:00 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>

Latest Winner: Shaun Dawkins of Lees Summit, MO won the July 16th raffle for the **'Build Your Own' 2021 Stingray Corvette or \$60,000** with ticket #913. 1142 of the available 1500 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:

- NCM Pro-Touring Truck Shootout 8/8/2020
- NCM 26th Anniv. LIVE Celebration & Hall of Fame Induction Sep 2–5, 2020 (Reg closes 8/14)
- NCM 26th Anniv. VIRTUAL 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; (Registration is 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 (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: If you feel like it's time to part with your cherished Corvette and you know that no one will care about it as much as you do, you can donate it to the National Corvette Museum? If you are interested, you can find more information here:

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/support/donate-your-automobile/>

In addition, the NCM is also interested in donations of:

- Vintage Garage Signs and Gas Pumps
- Vintage Corvette Car Brochures and Manuals
- Corvette books, videos, DVDs
- Mechanic/Repair Manuals
- Automotive Collectibles
- Vehicle Accessories
- Automotive and Corvette back issues of magazines (contact us for a list of our current needs)
- Any Corvette memorabilia in good condition

That's all for now – Save the Wave!