

COB NEWSLETTER OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2021



Message from the President

Another month of in-person meetings and great food with a run afterwards to a cooler place, the Red House BBQ in Tehachapi and afterwards a short visit with our members Jack and Yolanda Atkinson and the newest addition to their fleet – a new C-8. We had 15 Corvettes go on the run and many of them were our newest members.

After our July meeting, some of us gathered at Staci and Cole's house for a potluck BBQ, some games and a lot of Corvette Comradery. If you missed it, be sure and join us for a New Year's Eve Party which will be at Staci and Cole's residence also. Look for the sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

Our October meeting has been moved up one week to October 2 due to the scheduling of the Cruzin 4 Charities Car Show on October 7-9, 2021. Those of you who registered in 2019 for the 2020 show which was cancelled, your entry is good for the 2021 show. After our October 2 meeting, we will be doing a short run to the Penny Bar in McKittrick with a stop at Blackwell's Corner for everyone to get their nut and Chocolate fix.

October is also jam packed with Trunk or Treat Events. The event on October 30th at The Crest Bar and Grill has been cancelled. They are looking at options for a parade for residents of Bakersfield Assisted Living facilities. I will keep you posted when I hear more about it.

The Truck or Treats for October 28th at Chuy's and October 29th at Firehouse are still a go. Sign-up sheets will be at the meeting so, if you want to go let us know, we will be saving spaces for those who RSVP.

There is also a Truck or Treat and Car Show at The Lavender Gardens in Lost Hills on Saturday, October 23. I will have sign up sheet at the meeting and will post the flyer with the information and registration on FB and email. I talked to The Lavender Gardens and they are excited to have us

participate. They will park us together, and on the asphalt, so that's a plus, but I do need to give them a head count by October 9.

Also, in October we will have our 1st Sunday Breakfast at Senior Pepe's on October 3rd, the Cruzin 4 Charities Car Show on the 7th, 8th and 9th, and on Saturday, October 16th will be the Taft Oildorado Days Parade. I have sent an email out to the members and so far, have received back 3 members who want to participate. They plan on using some of us to ride the dignitaries in the parade. October 17th will be our 3rd Sunday Brunch and our Meet and Greet on Thursday, October 7th (Mauricio's) and Thursday, October 21st (Chuy's). Look for the flyer with information on all these events on our FB pages and emails.

The Adoption forms have been given out for our COB Adopting Families at Christmas. We have 21 singles/couples wanting to adopt a family and I hope to have the nomination forms back the first week of October, so we can choose our family on October 14th at the Mauricio's Meet and Greet. For those of you who can't make it, I will get with you shortly after that to get your family's information.

Finally, Gambler's Classic is moving forward. I have previously announced, but in case you missed it, our Special Guest and Speaker will be Richard Earl, grandson of Harley Earl, the original designer of the Corvette. He has a lot of information to share with everyone and will be there for all three days of the event to "Mix and Mingle" with everyone. Our next Committee meeting will be October 13 at Senor Pepe's 4 pm. So far, we have 9 COB members who have reserved their rooms and 7 non-COB members who have made their reservations. You do not have to attend the committee meeting to be a participant and help at the event, so if you haven't already and plan to be there, let me know what area(s) you would like to help with.

Hope to see you at some or all of the meetings/events planned for upcoming months.

Linda McNitt, Corvettes of Bakersfield - President

Message from the Secretary

Many a young girl has been swayed by a beautiful car. I was only six when I got to ride in a Corvette for the first time. The neighbor's friend, Dr. Weir and his girlfriend Winnie, came roaring down the street. Not to give away my age, but it was an early Corvette. Winnie must have moved her seat way forward so we little girls could climb behind her seat for a ride. The vroom, vroom, vroom got me hooked on fast cars and handsome men. The rest is history!



Just a few years later, my Uncle Sam was touring the USA with his job on Route 66. Of course, he came by Grandma's house with the Corvette used in the TV series. This time my Dad had the honors to be the passenger. He loved it. But his passion was restoring 1958 Chevys like this one.



Feel free to share your memories with me via email at linda.a.stacey@gmail.com. I will post some with your permission. Isn't this more entertaining than meeting minutes? Let's make our minutes together count.

Linda Stacey, Corvettes of Bakersfield – Secretary

Message from the Treasurer/ Membership

MEMBERSHIP – Our membership has increased slightly to 117. We can do better than that! At the last general meeting, we passed out new business cards to anyone who was interested in keeping a few on hand to pass out to other Corvette owners they came across. If you didn't get any and are interested in promoting the club when the opportunity arises, please contact Diane Wallace.

Save the Date!!! December 11, 2021 from 5:30 PM – 10:00 PM is the time to get your ugly on!!! The club will be having an Ugly Sweater Christmas Party (sweater optional) at Tina Marie's Downtown Café, 1534 19th St. There will be a prize for the ugliest sweater. Pull out your glue guns, needles, and thread!

We will have a Toys For Tots gift box on hand to collect toys for children in need. Santa will also be in attendance from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM for photos if desired. Dinner will consist of chicken, tri-tip, tossed salad,

green beans, loaded mashed potatoes, rolls, and dessert. A no-host, full bar will be available. We will also have a White Elephant gift exchange (\$25 limit) if you choose to participate. The difference this year, we will only “steal” gifts ONE time to save a little time. The club will also provide security outside.

Cost is still pending due to the fluctuating cost of meat. Again, this year, our member contributions, collected throughout the year, will help keep the cost low. Tina Marie’s hopes to be able to give us an estimate in October. Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for an evening of relaxation and comradery.

At our **November General Meeting**, we will be collecting donations to contribute to our chosen Animal Charity. We will be accepting dog and cat food, animal toys and bedding or blankets for cats and dogs. Please bring what you can to help our four-legged friends.

TREASURER – The monthly Treasurer’s Report can be found in the Members Only section on our website. Tax paperwork for the club has been filed with both the State and the IRS. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact me.

Kim Miller, Corvettes of Bakersfield – Treasurer/Membership

Message from the WebMaster

After a recent club run, I thought it might be a good opportunity to remind members of our club touring rules. On a past run, I had a low tire pressure indication, so I had to pull out of the caravan and find a gas station with an air inflation station. Easier said than done! The first station’s inflator didn’t work, and the second station’s hose was cut off. I finally found one down the road that worked. Now, everything was fine except that I was now on my own, and the caravan had a huge head start. I learned a couple of lessons on that trip: **One**, check your vehicle before you leave, **Two**, be prepared for emergencies, and **Three**, know where you are going.

I now carry an inflator, a small battery jumper (you can charge your cell phone with it too), and a few other things for the unexpected. The latest item I have added is the club roster. It has club members’ cell phone numbers as our radios have a very limited range. The roster can be found in our members only section of the website.

<https://corvettesofbakersfield.org/members-only/>

Below is our club’s touring rules. They too can be found on our website at <https://corvettesofbakersfield.org/events/touring-rules/>

1. **Start of Tour:** Please be on time and make sure your Corvette is prepared and ready for the trip. Start with a FULL tank of fuel and make sure you check your oil level and radiator coolant level. Tires need to be checked and inflated to the manufacturer's recommended tire pressure. Tires cannot be past the manufacturer's recommended serviceability period (depending on manufacturer between 6 and 10 years). It is a good idea to have basic tools and spare parts. It is also recommended to have a two-way FRS radio set to channel 5 for communication.
2. **Obey Traffic Laws:** You must obey the Basic Speed Law. You may never drive faster than is safe for current conditions and never more than the posted speed limit. Remember, fun and safety are paramount, a ticket or accident would spoil everyone's day.
3. **Togetherness:** Keeping the tour together is done by the tour leader with your help. The tour leader slows after going through congested areas or making major course changes. The tour leader knows how many cars are in the tour and is always looking to the end Corvette. You can help by safely keeping up with the Corvette ahead of you. The lead Corvette and the end Corvette should always have a two-way radio and a list of Club cell phone numbers.
4. **Congested Areas:** When going through a toll gate or small town where there may be multiple traffic signals, and if no turns are coming up, it is helpful to occupy 2 or 3 lanes to shorten the length of the group. Get back into position after the congested area (single column). The tour leader will slow the column to allow time to regroup.
5. **Trouble Signals:** To be used only when you must stop. In the daytime, turn on headlights (not parking lights). At night, flash your headlights on and off. On this signal, only the car immediately behind the troubled car and/or the assigned troubleshooter car stops. All others continue with the tour leader who will pull off and stop at the next appropriate and safe turnout spot. Two-way radios tuned to channel 5 are used, if possible, at the front, middle and rear. For road hazards where there is not time to announce on the two-way radio, safely swerve well around the hazard to signal the cars behind you of the hazard. The last Corvette should be assigned by the tour leader as his spotter or trouble car. Depending on the length of the run, one of the two COB emergency kits must be carried by a caravan participant in case of an emergency.

6. **To resume the tour after a stop:** Merge back onto the roadway following the car in front of you and only when safe to do so. If safe, the last vehicle should pull out to block traffic allowing a buffer for the other cars to pull out.
7. **Guests are always welcome:** If your guest is in a Corvette, have him or her stay behind you, and then they only have to keep track of you. Anyone driving a “Tin” car (cars other than a Corvette) must stay at the rear and behind the last Corvette.

Virgil Miller, Corvettes of Bakersfield – WebMaster

COB Public Relations / Charity Liaison Updates! **Diane Wallace**



COB is Growing!

Corvettes is excited to welcome new members to our club!!! We had a run to Tehachapi after the September General Meeting with 15 cars and several new members participating! I think five cars were new members!!





NEW CLUB CARDS!

Corvettes of Bakersfield now has NEW bright red cards to share when we meet other Corvette owners to let them know about our club and all the fun things we do together! The new cards will be available at most events or you can contact me, Diane Wallace, to get yours!

There are also cool card holders, in colors matching your cars, available on Amazon Prime to hold these cards. Their price is less than \$10. The two companies I ordered from are Padike and Efaithtek.



COB SURVEY - [COB Survey link](#)

Did YOU submit the COB SURVEY to provide input for your club Board and committees to use when planning?? The survey was sent via email. If you did NOT get a survey, please let a Board member know. Or click the link above!

*One survey response requested more activities...Be sure to check your email for event invites, our website or Facebook page for event announcements, and then add to your calendars and join in! There is lots going on and Kim Cobbs, our event director, is always open to members creating runs!! Let her know your ideas!



Blue Bars is an Official Publication of the National Council of Corvette Clubs, Inc.

Watch for your next issue of **Blue Bars**...we have an article being published!! Seems like the west coast is not represented as much as the midwest and east, so COB got on it and submitted an article about our first annual Corvette Birthday Party on June 30th! The NCCC has almost 17,000 members; that's a lot of readers and cars!

NCCC Website: <https://www.corvettesnccc.org/index.html>



COB Charity and Streets Of Bakersfield - Cruizin' Shine (October 7-9, 2021)

Corvettes of Bakersfield is one of six clubs participating in this annual event. Each car club is aligned to a specific charity. COB voted in 2019 to support Wounded Heroes Fund of Kern County which aligns with our recent vote to support local veterans. Funds raised from the event will be presented to COB for Wounded Heroes! COB's members' role in this event is to mark all the parking spots for the event...almost 500 spots prior to Saturday! *Thanks to **Dave Kietly**, our Sergeant at Arms for being the club liaison for Streets of Bakersfield and attending many planning meetings. COB reserved 12 spots for this event. (Tickets were purchased pre-covid) If you are not displaying your car, *you can still be involved by helping mark spots - volunteers needed (contact Dave for info) and just attending the free events Thursday, Friday, and the downtown Chester Ave show on Saturday, October 9, 2021. Link: <https://cruizin4charity.com/>

MEET & GREETs

Have you joined in at any of the bi-weekly Meet & Greets? It's a relaxing afternoon- early evening of "car-maraderie" to see old friends and make friends with our new members! What a good turn out we had at Mauricios on this sunny clear day! That's Terri on the end :)





***Remember our cars are COOL,
but we are the faces behind those wheels...
Smile, spread joy, and pass out our new cards!***

Public Relations / Charity Liaison Update from June 2021



June 30, 2021 National Corvette Day

(More pictures at <https://corvettesofbakersfield.org/>)

Hi. I am Diane Wallace, your 2021-22 Public Relations/Charity Liaison and am excited about the opportunity to help COB promote the image of Corvettes of Bakersfield not only to the public, but at all of our club events! When Corvettes of Bakersfield gather in a group, not only our cars promote the image of our club, we, the members, also promote our club's image. Those of us fortunate to own Corvettes often share our experiences and excitement with others! This helps promote our image. Whether we are alone or at a club function, our cars, our smiles, our words make impressions. We know our cars are eye candy to many! Our First National Corvette Day event at Three-Way Chevrolet was a great example of the happiness and excitement America's Sport Car generates! Our members rallied on this very hot day and we had a great public turnout! There were over 50 Corvettes in attendance! The local press (Channel 17, The Bakersfield Californian, and local radio stations) provided great coverage for our club event! We were also fortunate to have local businesses & many members donate for the raffle. Ronald McDonald House joined us collecting toiletries and pull tabs and Sam's Club brought a booth! Visit our COB web page for more photos of COB Corvettes and visitor's Corvettes taken at this event!







Public Relations Trivia:

Did you know a simple smile is very powerful? Smiling is a universal means of communication and smiles are contagious! A smile can reduce stress, improve mood, and can even make us look younger! Want to read more about smiling...

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ericsavitz/2011/03/22/the-untapped-power-of-smiling/>

Message from the National Corvette Museum Liaison

National Corvette Museum Update

Greetings fellow Corvettes of Bakersfield Members. September is always one of the busiest months for the Museum because Corvette aficionados from all corners flock to Bowling Green, KY to celebrate the Museum's birthday. COVID forced everyone to skip last year's anniversary so the excitement had really built up. Always up for a challenge, the NCM brought in several presenters for seminars, vendors with new equipment, and even some new and exciting exhibits. Here are some summaries as well as links for further info.

Sharon Brawner Named President and CEO of the National Corvette Museum



The NCM Board of Directors chose Sharon Brawner to serve as President and CEO of the National Corvette Museum. Brawner joins the National Corvette Museum, effective September 1st, 2021. She comes to the Museum from Nashville, TN where she served as the Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. She is a Kentucky native and attended Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

Sharon has always had a love for cars. Her first paycheck came from working in an auto repair shop. She became quite capable and even operated the valve grinding machine. She helped her father during his time of drag racing and one of his racers was a Corvette. She continues to be a Corvette lover and currently owns a 2017 coupe.

Sharon has an extensive resume and if her achievements at the Country Music Hall of Fame are any indication of her capabilities, I expect to see some great new programs, displays, and expanded involvement for the Museum in the future.

She was introduced during the Anniversary Celebration and she gave the audience a presentation about herself. Hopefully the video will be available for you to view.

[The National Corvette Museum Names Sharon Brawner as New President and CEO – National Corvette Museum](#)

27th Anniversary Celebration



On September 2-4th, the Museum hosted the 27th Anniversary of the Museum's opening. I was able to watch some of the activities and presentations via Zoom and will share some of my take-aways. Several of the presentations will be/have been made available for viewing through the NCM website and/or YouTube. Access to some of the videos is limited to attendees, virtual attendees, and Museum members. If the video is not available for viewing, Mariah Hughes, NCM's Senior Media and Marketing Specialist, has done an excellent job of capturing the essence of each presentation in her articles which are available for public viewing on the website.

Jordan Lee, Chief Engineer of Small Block Engines



Jordan Lee was a first-time presenter at the Museum and hopefully will be a returnee at future events. He provided the attendees with the development history of the LT2 engine that powers the mid-engine C8 Stingray.

When I think of engine development, I mistakenly limit my imagination to just the engine itself. I would probably include subjects like power, displacement, and efficiency. Lee's team thought of all those but it seems there were several other factors to be considered and most of those had to do with the car's design.

The whole purpose of the mid-engine design is to achieve better handling including cornering and take-off traction. Because the engine would now sit lower in the chassis and in the middle of the car, the design of the engine itself needed to be shorter and all the related components, especially the exhaust, had to be more compact than previous designs. To further complicate matters, the engine in the coupes would be completely visible through a window in the hatch cover so aesthetics was a priority. In short, they nearly started from scratch.

Jordan calls the LT 2, "the crown jewel of the C8." He is correct. There were several C8s in Pismo recently and I was able to get up close and personal with two, a coupe and a convertible, and the engines were on full display. They were shiny, sparkling, and colorful. The chrome and polished aluminum paired well with the glossy blacks and reds. Interestingly enough, the engine in the convertible is exactly the same as the coupe even though it is covered and there is no window to show it off. Normally, engines finished like this are only found in custom show cars not something that could serve as a daily driver.

I won't bore you with all details of the modifications that were done to the LT1 in making the LT2 but suffice to say that just about everything was closely examined and nothing was immune from redesign. Even the sound of the engine was modified to appeal better to the occupants sitting in front of, rather than behind, the engine. If you are interested, call or email me and I will give you a rundown.

I will share a couple of tidbits though. After trying several different variations of red for the engine, one of the team members came up with the shade everyone could live with. The paint is called Venta Red and it was named after the fellow that came up with it.

The LT2 engine is built at the Tonawanda Engine Assembly Plant in Tonawanda, NY. GM President and CEO, Mark Reuss, was driving to the plant for the press announcement of the new engine and suddenly decided he wanted to acknowledge the plant's history and workers by affixing a plate to each LT2 engine. Corvettes built in the 70's had such a plate but the practice was lost somewhere along the line. He called ahead to Jordan, informed him of such, and asked if that could be designed before his arrival so he could include that in the announcement. Amazingly enough, one of Jordan's team came up with the design in time for the announcement.

Unfortunately, for the 2020 models, no plates were installed. The adhesive holding the plate in place didn't work well and the plates failed to stay put. There was also some confusion as to who would actually install the plates, the plate's maker or the assembly plant workers. All those issues have been resolved and now every LT2 comes with the plate attached to the center of the valve cover.



Hopefully, if you are a NCM member or were registered for this event, you will soon be able to view Jordan Lee's entire presentation on the website under the "Members Only" tab. It wasn't working the last time I tried to view it but Mariah Hughes gives some detail in her article which can be found at: [Chief Engineer of Small Block Engines for GM Presents at Museum Event – National Corvette Museum](#)

New Exhibit: 24 at 20, Earnhardt, Corvette, and the Overall Win at Daytona

A new exhibit honoring Dale Earnhardt, Sr. and Corvette Racing was introduced during the National Corvette Museum's 27th Anniversary celebration and three insider celebrities were on site to provide some background on the exhibit and reveal some private stories about Corvette Racing's historic 2001 run at the 24 Hours of Daytona. The program is called "24 at 20: Earnhardt, Corvette, and the Overall Win at Daytona". One of Earnhardt's legendary black Number 3 NASCAR Chevys and the Number 3 Corvette C5.R that he drove with co-drivers Andy Pilgrim, Dale Earnhardt Jr, and Kelly Collins at Daytona are featured in the display along with lots of memorabilia from that era.



While the Number 3 car didn't win the class, their teammates in the number 2 car did and also got the overall victory in the race. The No. 3 C5.R came home 2nd in class and 4th overall. A great accomplishment for a Corvette Racing team that was just getting started.

The presentation featured Earnhardt's co-driver and current NCM Motorsports Park Pro Driver Andy Pilgrim, Corvette Racing's former Program Manager Doug Fehan, and Corvette Racing's former Marketing Manager Gary Claudio. Each told several back-room stories, some that have never been shared publicly. It was an excellent presentation; at times hilarious and at times so sad the presenters became emotional.

Gary Claudio explained all the negotiations required to convince NASCAR and all of Earnhardt's sponsors to allow Dale to step outside his oval-track commitments and climb into the Corvette for a road-course race. Fortunately, Dale had watched Andy Pilgrim perform a miracle pass to take the win during the recent Petit LeMans race at Road Atlanta and when Dale learned Andy would be one of his co-drivers at Daytona, he was really excited. Dale wrote a letter to Andy complimenting him on the win at Atlanta and how much he was looking forward to working together. If you would like to read the story about the famous "Pilgrim Pass", take a quick side trip to: [Corvette Racing – CORVETTE RACING AT ROAD ATLANTA: Reliving the Pilgrim Pass](#)

Doug Fehan said Dale wanted to be treated like all the other drivers. While excited to be outside their NASCAR comfort zone, after both crashed during a practice session at Sebring just weeks before the Daytona race, Dale Sr. said if he or Dale Jr. were slowing the team down, they would step aside for other drivers more capable on road courses. Doug Fehan responded that both were doing fine but he pointed to a pile of broken parts from their crashes and told them to autograph each piece so they could be sold to collectors to help pay for the damage.

Earnhardt initially complained about having four drivers for each car and suggested it be reduced to just three. After Dale completed his first hour-long practice session on the track, he agreed that four drivers were needed and confessed that maybe he needed to spend more time at the gym.

Fehan said an issue came up during the race regarding tire changes. While the team had several sets of tires, they only had so many of each rubber compound. They were down to the last sets of each tire. Fehan made the decision to put what he thought were the best tires on the lead Number 2 Corvette and the other on Dale's car. Dale questioned the decision and complained that his teammates were getting the good tires and he was getting the bad ones. Fehan explained that it wasn't a case of good v bad but more like fast v fastest and that satisfied Dale.

Fehan reminded the audience that Dale Earnhardt's last checker flag was in a Corvette at this Daytona race. Dale's next race, the NASCAR Daytona 500 would be his last.

Andy Pilgrim said Dale was a true race car driver and always had his mind on winning. Andy said after all the celebration following the race with Corvette finishing first and second, Dale leaned over Andy's shoulder and said, "Second place sucks doesn't it son."

Andy and Dale Earnhardt became close friends. For the first time, Andy shared two letters that Dale wrote him before and after their race together and those are now included in the exhibit. I mentioned the first letter previously in this article. In the other, he wrote that he and Dale Jr. thought racing Daytona with the Corvette team was the greatest experience in racing that either had ever had. He thanked Andy for that and said he owed the team a debt.

Andy was very emotional when he spoke about attending the Daytona 500 race as a guest of Dale's. Andy said he sat in Earnhardt's motorhome with Dale's wife during the race. It was during a yellow caution race delay that Dale radioed into Andy and asked if he had any tips for Dale. Andy told Dale he was doing just fine and to continue doing what Dale did best. Then the fatal crash occurred later in the race. Andy was one of the last people to talk to Dale.



The exhibit will be on display in the Skydome through December 2021. If you are a NCM member or were registered for this event, hopefully soon you will be able to view the entire presentation on the website under the "Members Only" tab. If you are able to eventually see this, I would really encourage you to watch the entire presentation. I have only touched on some of the interesting stories and maybe you too will see Dale Earnhardt Sr. in a different light. I know I sure did. [24 at 20: Honoring Earnhardt, Corvette, and the Overall Win at Daytona – National Corvette Museum](#)

Corvette Team Update by Harlan Charles



Harlan Charles, the Corvette Product Marketing Manager, was on-site at the National Corvette Museum to present a Corvette Team Update. Charles began his presentation by reflecting on the many awards that Corvette has won in the past year, like the 2021 JD Power IQs Study that placed the Chevrolet Corvette as the highest-ranked vehicle in the Premium Sporty Car category.

He summarized the sales stats from the 2021 model run and pointed out the changes and upgrades coming in the 2022 models. He did draw the line when it came to the soon to be released Z06 and the speculation regarding a hybrid model. He was responsive to the crowd's request that the Z06 be unveiled at the Museum by saying he was unaware if a location had been selected.

During the Q&A, Harlan did field some interesting questions from the audience. Here are some examples. Why three versions of silver and gray? What factors does GM consider when deciding what paint colors will be offered or dropped? Can I get stripes painted on the roof of a C8? Will we ever see a pearl white color offered? What prompted chrome wheels to be deleted? How about offering a white interior option? Will there be a special 2023 Anniversary Edition? For the answers to these and other topics brought up, check out this article and then click on included link and watch a YouTube video of the entire presentation.

[Harlan Charles Gives a Corvette Team Update at the Museum Anniversary Event – National Corvette Museum](#)

Vets and Vettes Celebration November 4-6th

For about the last 13 years or so, the NCM has had a tradition of honoring our veterans with a special event called Vets 'n Vettes. Thursday kicks off with a full day at the NCM Motorsports Park. Complimentary lunch served to all! We will celebrate Friday and Saturday with road tours, the Bowling Green Veteran's Day Parade, and lunch at the local VFW. This event offers veterans, servicemen and women and those who want to support them, a comfortable place to meet and share stories and experiences. Vets don't need to own a Vette to participate. There will be plenty of Corvettes present with open passenger seats at all the events. While I have not seen an announcement yet, typically all vets, military, and first responders along with their families can tour the Museum for free during the month of November. To register on line, go to: [NCM Member Services - Login \(corvettemuseum.org\)](#)

Tunnels to Towers Exhibit at NCM

The 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit by the Tunnels to Towers Foundation will be coming to the National Corvette Museum November 3-9, 2021 during the Vets 'n Vettes Annual Event. Admission to the exhibit will be free to event attendees. The Tunnels to Towers Foundation was created by the Stiller family in memory of their brother, Stephen, a New York City firefighter who sacrificed his life to save others on September 11th, 2001. The 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit is a 53-foot tractor-trailer that transforms into a 1,000 square foot exhibit! This

amazing space is a tribute to the thousands of innocent people who lost their lives that fateful day, and to the 343 members of the FDNY who sacrificed their own to help save others.

The exhibit provides education through interactive guided tours carried out by FDNY firefighters who share their firsthand accounts of September 11th. Included in the interactives are artifacts, documentary videos, and recordings of first responder radio transmissions. The National Corvette Museum looks forward to having this very special exhibit on-site for Museum visitors to experience and encourages everyone to come see it for themselves. The NCM is proud to support the Tunnels to Towers Foundation's commitment to ensuring WE NEVER FORGET.

NCM Awarded 2021 Travelers Choice Award by TripAdvisor

Each year TripAdvisor looks at the review data submitted by folks in search of the most favorable sites so that vacationers can include those destinations on their bucket list. TripAdvisor takes into consideration both the features offered and the reviews by those having visited in granting these awards. As one reviewer wrote, "A place where dreams come true." We, as Corvette lovers, can certainly relate to that comment. [National Corvette Museum Wins 2021 Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Award – National Corvette Museum](#)

AmazonSmile: Donate to the NCM Without Costing You a Penny

You have probably heard me talk about this in the past but since we have so many new members, I thought it appropriate to mention this program again. If you shop on Amazon, either through the Amazon App or through Amazon.com, you can adjust the settings to allow Amazon to make a donation of .5% of your qualifying purchase directly to the National Corvette Museum. While that doesn't sound like much, it can easily add up to a sizable amount. Just during the last quarter (April, May, and June), Amazon gave \$837.55 to the Museum. Participation costs you nothing, the prices of purchases are the same as Amazon, and Prime members still get all their perks. You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

What qualifies for the donation? Just about everything except "subscribe and save" purchases and renewal subscriptions. Everything I have ordered was noted as "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" under product details.

While I am hoping that you choose to support the NCM, the list of charities includes over a million 501.3.c organizations. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations from your future eligible AmazonSmile purchases. No matter what organization you choose, this is a great opportunity if you

are an Amazon shopper. For more info and how to participate, go to: [About AmazonSmile: Program details and FAQ](#)

Raffles

Below are all the currently active raffles. For additional information and rules regarding National Corvette Museum raffles including how to order tickets and to view the number of tickets remaining available in real time, go to <https://raffle.corvettemuseum.org>.



2022 Hypersonic Gray Corvette Coupe 10/21/2021

Price: **\$100.00** Tickets: 2000 Tickets



2022 Build Your Own Corvette or \$70,000 11/11/2021

Price: **\$250.00** Tickets: 1500 Tickets



2022 Arctic White Corvette Convertible 4/30/2022

Price: **\$20.00** Tickets: Unlimited Tickets

Assembly Plant News



2022 Corvette Production Starting Up

2021 Production is a wrap and 2022 production is set to begin during the week of September 6th. Some of the production stats have been released by GM to either the media or by Harlan Charles, Corvette's Product Marketing Manager, during his presentation at the NCM Anniversary event. A total of 26,216 cars were built (28.7% increase over 2020 models) with 42% of the buyers choosing the convertible model. The most popular colors were red, white, red mist, and black (in order). More of the convertible buyers sprang for the 3LT option package whereas the 2LT package was more popular among the coupe buyers.

Kai Spande, the Assembly Plant Manager, told the audience that while a shortage of computer chips has closed most of the GM factories and/or limited option packages in some GM models, the Bowling Green Assembly Plant has remained open, is running two shifts, and is building cars with fully functional computer systems. [Convertibles Account for 42 Percent of 2021 Corvette Production - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle \(corvetteblogger.com\)](https://corvetteblogger.com/2021/09/06/convertibles-account-for-42-percent-of-2021-corvette-production/)



It looks like some of first 2022s coming down the assembly line are bound for export. In the photo above, you will note that the steering wheel is on the right side. Yes, C8 Corvettes are being built in right-hand drive (RHD)

for places like New Zealand. These appear to be 2022 models as the car in the photo appears to be painted in amplify orange, a new color for 2022.

During the Anniversary Celebration, Kai said the Assembly Plant Tours are still on hold for now. The major concern is COVID and GM's efforts to keep all of their workers safe and well. The only real way to do that is to not open the plants up for public tours. He said 27 workers are currently ill with COVID right now and not working.

Kai provided the audience with a lesson on why the finish on the C8 Corvette is so much better than in past models. Corvettes get the privilege of being painted in one of the most sophisticated paint shops in the industry using the latest methods and materials.

The paint shop is now 800,000 square feet, and has three floors, nineteen vertical displacement lifts, 51 robots, 240 employees, three-panel suppliers, and uses only Axalta paint. All the paint is formulated in the shop exclusively and not shared with other GM lines.

The process is such that no contaminants or lint is allowed inside the paint area. Everything including the staff, the robots, and the physical plant is squeaky-clean. Everyone wears a lint-free suit including the robots.

I bet you didn't know that each panel is painted separately during the process and while it is suspended in the same orientation it will be attached on the car. Cars are not painted in like-color batches. The panels are painted in the same order as the cars for which they are destined will be built. Only Corvette body panels are wet-sanded by hand after they are primed and before they are painted. If the front and the back of a panel will be visible when attached to the car, both sides of the panel are painted. The "front" side will be the color of the car and the "back" side will be painted a special black.

To see the entire presentation, a link is provided in this article. Go to: [Bowling Green Assembly Plant Update Features Inside Look at Paint Shop – National Corvette Museum](#)

More Awards for Corvette

First, J.D. Power just released their survey findings for initial quality. They measure the number of problems experienced per 100 vehicles in the first 90 days of ownership. Corvette was rated highest in its class, Premium Sporty Cars, beating out Lexus LC and Porsche 718 (note the Porsche 911 didn't make the top three). The biggest complaint concern was the infotainment system (Nav, radio, CD, and other controls) which is found throughout the GM car lines. I can relate to that complaint as our GMC pickup has had its share of issues with its infotainment system. Phone connectivity or lack thereof was another concern among those surveyed. [The Chevrolet Corvette Ranks Highest in Class in the J.D. Power 2021 Initial Quality Study - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle \(corvetteblogger.com\)](#)



Secondly, CarGurus just released their choices for the 10 Best Cars for Dogs Award and the C8 Corvette was included. Now I am troubled with this one. During the C8's reveal in Tustin, I was able to chat with Harlan Charles, the head of Corvette's Marketing Division. During our conversation, I noted that the mid-engine design might not appeal to couples with pets. Unlike the front-engine Corvettes, neither the trunk nor the frunk are open to the passengers or the heating/air conditioning system. I would think the pets would not enjoy being couped up, no pun intended.

Evidently, I was mistaken. I had not thought it through. I guess small pets will always be welcome in a C8, as long as they can sit in the passenger's seat. People passengers can stay home. [The Best Cars for Dogs - CarGurus](#)

Rumors and Tidbits

Corvettes Queued for Museum Delivery



The Museum can only deliver about 55 Corvettes each day to customers who have requested that option. Because of the increased demand for this service, there can be a short wait which results in new Corvettes being stored at various locations. One of those locations is behind the garages at the Motorsports Park across the freeway from the Museum. Here is a link to an article that includes a video walkthrough of the cars waiting to be delivered. I enjoyed seeing the different color combinations and stripe options that customers have ordered. Check it out at: [\[VIDEO\] 2021 Corvettes Awaiting R8C Delivery at the National Corvette Museum - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle \(corvetteblogger.com\)](#)

In Closing

To learn more about the Museum, it's mission and purpose, upcoming events, exhibits, membership, and to plan your next visit, please contact me directly or visit the NCM website at www.corvettemuseum.org. In the meantime, drive safe and enjoy the Corvette experience.

Don Allen, National Corvette Museum Liaison

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2021

1st	6:00 pm	Firehouse Rosedale Station
2nd	8:00/10:00am	Board Meeting/General Membership Meeting-Tina Marie's
2nd	After meetings	Club Run/Event Penny Bar
3rd	9:00 am	COB Breakfast@ Senor Pepes
7th	4:00 pm	Meet & Greet-Location at Mauricio's/Pick your family to adopt for Christmas
7th	6:00 pm	Chuy's
8th	6:00 pm	Firehouse Rosedale Station
8th	6:00 pm	Chester Avenue Downtown Cruise
9th		Cruizen for Charities (Streets of Bakersfield)
14th	6:00 pm	Chuy's
15th	6:00 pm	Firehouse Rosedale Station
16th	TBA	Taft Oildorado Parade
17th	11:00 am	COB Brunch at Mauricio's
21rd	6:00 pm	Chuy's
22th	6:00 pm	Firehouse Rosedale Station
23rd	10:00 am	
	meet at 8:00am	Lavender Garden's Car Show and Truck or Treat
28th	4:00 pm	Meet & Greet-Location Along with Trunk N Treat @ Chuy's
29th	4:00 pm	Trunk N Treat @ Firehouse

November 2021

4 th	4:00 pm	Meet & Greet-Location Mauricio's
6 th	6:00 pm	Club Run/ Event
7 th	9:00 am	COB Breakfast @ Senor Pepes
11 th		Veteran's Day TBD
13 th	8:00 am/10:00 am	Board Meeting/General Membership Meeting-Tina Marie's
13 th	After Meeting	Club Run/Event TBD

18th 4:00 pm

Meet & Greet-Location Wiki's Wine Dive & Grill

25nd

Thanksgiving

December 2021

2nd 4:00 pm

Meet & Greet-Location Mauricio's

11th

COB Christmas Dinner-Tina Marie's

TBD TBD

Board Meeting –Location TBD

16th

Meet & Greet-Location Wiki's Wine Dive & Grill

19th

COB Christmas Family Distribution

24th

Christmas Eve

25th

Christmas Day

31st

COB New Year's Party at Downs/Sarver Residence

Birthdays

October

Curtis McFadden – 5thTeresa Joslin – 14thNicole Gutierrez – 16thBetsy Slauson – 27thKim Miller – 28thDonnie Hansen – 30thBruce Stanton – 31st

November

Dale Frye – 2ndChevy Garza – 4thMyna Stewart – 7thHenry Gallego – 8thMarilyn Owen – 9thPenny Young – 10thMelanie Mitchell – 11thLinda McNitt – 13thYolanda Atkinson – 15thVon Schipper – 25thAndrea Howard – 28th

December

Julie Brown - 3rdCraig Lincoln – 4thJan Wright – 7thAlexandra Davis – 12thButch Joslin – 14thMichael Rouw – 15thChristine Medina – 24thTina Pucilowski – 28thAlan Banks – 31stCheryl Young – 31st

