

..... JUNE 2020

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### AND SO WE CONTINUE ON...

Although we continue to be stuck in an ongoing COVID 19 bad dream, I am heartened by the many efforts to continue on despite the current restrictions. Despite the altered nature of our current reality, the Corvette Community still seems to find a way to get together, social distantly, and have a little fun. I have enjoyed a few cruises, some spirited driving with a few other supercars or foreign manufacture and some extra time to put a few extra coats of sealant on my paint. In addition, I have found a few more car projects to put on the list and learned that additional time spent surfing Corvette sites will likely lead to a collapse in my wallet as new ordered items arrive from far and wide. The great thing about having a Corvette to drive is that you can still social distance in your car and take part in things. So, stay safe out there, save the wave and drive it like you stole it!

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### CAR-ONA VIRUS SHOW UPDATES!

Here are a few notes on the impact of the current situation.

- The 24 hours of LeMans has been postponed until September 19-20.
- The Circle City Panama City Beach Caravan has been rescheduled for October 29th-31st
- St Armand's Corvettes on the Circle has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>
- The 12 hours at Sebring was postponed until Nov 11-14.
- NASCAR is back racing with no fans in the stands.
- The Wakulla Springs Car Show has been postponed until the fall
- Cars and Coffee is back up and running.
- The Michelin/NCM Bash was held virtually
- Celebration Father's Day Car Show is moving to the afternoon of October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Currently the National Corvette Museum will reopen on June 8..
- Bloomington Gold at Indianapolis has been rescheduled for September 11-12.
- **Cruisin Corvettes Street Dreams Car Show – October 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

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### DONATION FOR THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE!

As most of you know, the Club supports three charities each year with the proceeds from our car show. This year, the final donation was made to the Ronald McDonald House. On Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> during a club cruise around the city, the group made its final stop at the Ronald McDonald House to present a check for \$1000. During the visit, Executive Director Traci Proctor spent some time behind the wheel of Rick and Donna Raffensperger's C6. Not sure she was planning to give it back....



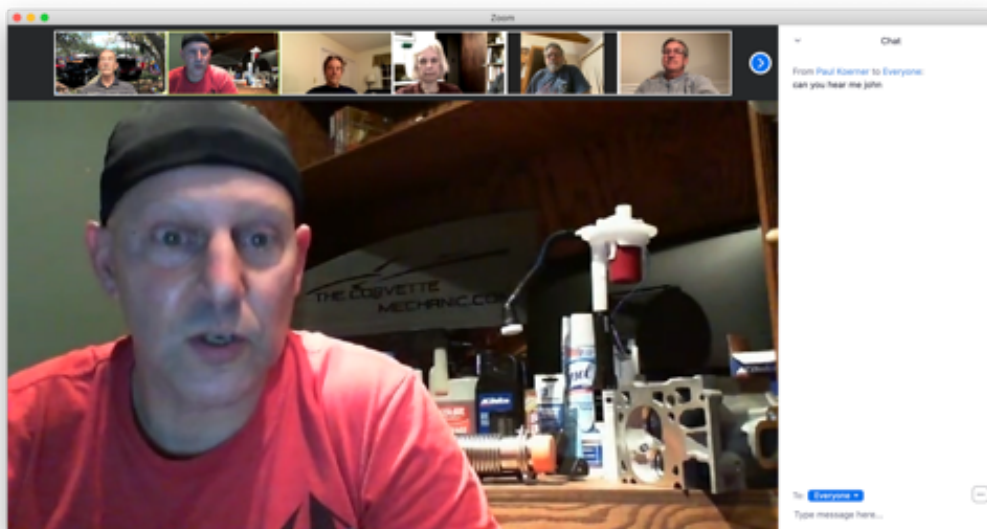
## **“VIRTUAL” CORVETTE MECHANIC!**

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Many of you have heard me talk about Paul Koerner, known as the Corvette Mechanic, who does seminars at Bloomington, NCM and Carlisle. The man is just fun to listen to and watch diagnose and solve Corvette problems on the fly. I always learn so much by spending an hour with him. I have attended several of his paid workshops and others offered while at Bloomington Gold and the NCM events. Not to be stopped by the virus, I recently learned that Paul was doing some virtual seminars using Zoom and I was able to attend one on Sunday evening, April 19<sup>th</sup>. As you might expect, he session as enlightening and I learned quite a bit. So, here are a few tidbits from this session which was focused on fuel and fuel system issues.

First, use top tier rated gas in your Corvette. Top tier gas is a specification and is the most reliable and best fuel that you can get for your car. The difference in deposits and other residue inside your engine over time is very measurable. Locally, Costco is a top tier fuel distributor.

You can also find other top tier rated fuels by checking out [toptiergas.com](http://toptiergas.com)



Second, what about storing your car or when it sits idle for a period of time? Do you fill the tank, empty the tank or not worry about it? In the past, quite a few sites have suggested using a fuel stabilizer and filling the tank to eliminate moisture build up. After showing the

typical modern Corvette C5 and up fuel sensor assembly that lives in the tank, Paul jumped on the issue. His recommendation is to leave the tank at the ¼ full or less. The reason is that above that level places the actual fuel level sensor, which is subject to a corrosive build up when sitting idle, submerged in fuel. When the car is in use, this does not matter because the sensor, which has a mechanical component, moves with the change in readings and build up does not occur. When sitting idle, the sensor cannot clean the contacts through movement and the buildup will destroy it over time. You would see this in jerky, inconsistent reading on your gauge or no readings at all. What does the fix cost? Replacement involves removing the tank and because of where it is above wheel shafts in the rear, it is a 15-hour job! Ouch! So, what should we be doing? If storing the car for a long period, leave it only a ¼ full or less. Second, every few months, pour a bottle of **Techron Fuel System Plus** in the tank. This can help with build-up and is one of very few, pour in the tank solutions that actually does a good job for the fuel system. If you do have some issues with the fuel gauge reading pop up, try using Techron Fuel System Plus and see if that help as a first resort.

Finally, a few quick takes for the question and answer round to the session. Got a C7 but really like the 2013 C6 wheel design? You can use them. Same wheel design and they will fit. Got a harmonic balancer wobble problem? This springs up in the C6 space often. Paul's advice – don't replace it with the OEM part. Instead us the Summit Racing Balancer Part # C2501. He has installed quite a few and they have been reliable. Looking for some OEM wheels? Check out Detroit Tire and Wheel.

Paul and his dealership, Key Chevrolet, will be doing more virtual seminars. For more information, check out Paul' site, The Corvette Mechanic, on the web.

## **C8 UPDATES!**

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The NCM had a special visitor recently picking up his new Long Beach Red C8! As some of you know, Brad Paisley has long been a Corvette enthusiast, Last week he stopped by for the museum delivery of his new ride. Enjoy Brad! See you out on the road.



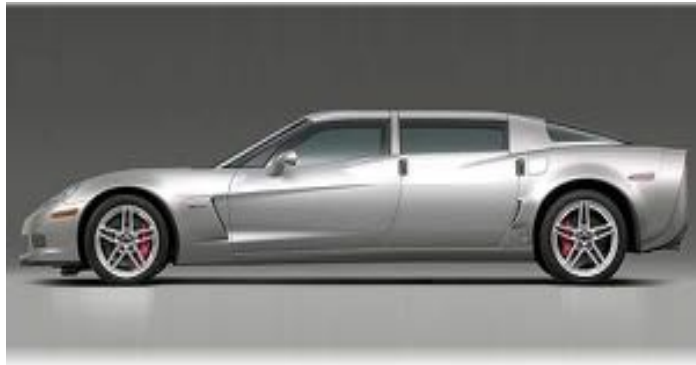
During the NCM-Michelin Bash in June, there was an update on what's coming for 2021 in Corvette. First, some of the ordering and equipment groupings have been freed up so you can order certain options without committing to the whole a whole group like the Z51 package. Other news concerned two new colors for 21. Red mist metallic tint coat which has been described as "almost a glowing red" and Silver which has been described as a "liquid metal look". There was lot of excitement about the new colors but perhaps the best news was that Chevrolet will NOT be increasing the price of Corvette for 21. Many had predicted that the price would most certainly increase but surprisingly they are holding the line. Many of you may have also seen some of the posts I pushed to our Facebook page regarding the factory reopening process and the status of orders. The factory seems to be back running hard and trucks of new Corvettes are heading to dealers for delivery. The 2021's have been pushed out a bit to allow some of the 2020 orders to be fulfilled but rumor has it that some of the 2020 orders in the system will be filled with 2021 cars. We will see what develops. No official word on the C8 Z06 but the spy shots have been showing up on the web increasingly showing a pretty exotic rear wing and big tires.

## APPRECIATING THE FINER THINGS!

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*"If you would've hit a regular car I would've given you a ticket. Since you hit a Corvette, you'll get 10 years."*



The rare, elusive Florida red stingray

## 2020 ANNUAL CAR SHOW!

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Our annual car show is scheduled for October 3rd at the Southwood shopping area off Merchant's Row. The year will mark a significant departure from our usual format. The show will be expanded to include many other manufacturers cars, additional awards and other activities. In addition, the location will be in Southwood just off Merchants Row in the area near the current location for the Southwood Cars and Coffee event. The 220 show – All American Street Dreams at Southwood – should be an exciting new adventure aimed at getting more people interested in the car hobby. However, do not fear, Corvettes will be well represented with separate judging and awards categories so while there will be a lot new; some familiar and popular things that made our show what it has been will remain. The show will be held on the morning of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 so begin thinking about completing all those upgrades and enhancements and keeping that finish pristine for a busy fall. To top it off, many will go from our show over to the Celebration Show later that day in Killlearn. So why not make a full day of it?

## NCM VIRTUAL CAR SHOW!

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The National Corvette Museum, in an effort to reach out and keep the spring car show fever alive, offered a virtual car show this spring. The idea was simple. There were several categories according to generation and then others like Best Story, Mod or Judges Selections etc. All you had to do was submit an entry form with the small fee and a picture. I entered my

C6 and OSKER (our C3 difficult child) and enjoyed a week of looking through photos of the many entries. The show was great idea and it was fun to read about the different cars, look at the pictures and wait. Well, I didn't win anything but one of our club members – Brian Walsh – won for Best Story and got a great spread in American Sportscar Magazine. Congratulations Brian! And if you have not heard his story about how he met up with his car, it's a good one.

### **RUN TO THE DOGS!**

Sausage dogs that is.... Seems that several of the club members have been joining into some impromptu quick cruises during the quarantine. Several of these runs through our lovely canopy roads have ended up at Bradley's for a sausage dog. And why not? Also, there have been some berry picking runs as well as just a few plain old laps around town just to get out of the house. Social distancing policies have all been enforced. And no, that does not refer to the distance behind Chris during the cruise.....

### **ARMOR!**

Several of you have asked about the seat cover towels I have on my C6. They are made by a company called Seat Armor. I have had them for more than 7 years and they have served me well. I just run them through the washer like a regular towel. The install is as simple as can be since they just fit over the headrest and tuck in. recently, I saw two new products on the web and since I had such a good experience with the seat covers, I jumped in on these. One is a steering wheel cover with the Corvette logo made of the same terry towel materials and the other is a cover that lays over your rear deck to protect the paint when loading the rear compartment. They are not overly expensive and easy to clean and use. Give them a look if this fits your needs. I have enjoyed mine.



### **TALES FROM THE DRIVEWAY AMATEUR MECHANIC!**

I am sure that many of you have found yourselves out on the driveway or in the garage confronted with a Corvette or other car repair or enhancement project. Tools and equipment spread out on the concrete, bench or nearby rolling cart while that task that should have only taken an hour or hour and a half max has now extended into half a day with at least one additional trip for parts or a tool you either did not have or that you had, can't find and now own two. Yes, it happens to the best of us. This week it was me working on my wife's truck that would not start and when it was running it made a horrible whine. So, after some diagnosis, I found a bad battery a very old alternator, weak belt tensioner and failing idler pulley. Battery was warrantied out, so I just decided to replace the

alternator, tensioner, idler pulley and belt and just get it all out of the way. After replacing the alternator (about 40 minutes) I moved on to the tensioner and pulley which are easy to get to and a single bolt each. No problem. Feeling pretty good about things, I went to put the new belt back on. Well, after 15 minutes of threading and weaving the stubborn belt across all the pulleys and making sure it was just right, I found that it simply would not fit. I checked the pathway, the diagram for the proper route and then just cranked the belt tensioner all the way over and tried my best to muscle it on. No luck. All this went on for an hour and a half while I tried to figure it out and finally decided that I would put the old belt back on and go from there because they had obviously given me the wrong size. Nope! Old belt did not fit either. Called it a day and decided to go at it again the next day after checking the Internet.

An Internet search yielded a number of folks with a very similar experience. The reason has to do with the way car parts are being manufactured these days. Seems that, as you might expect, alternators, pulleys and tensioners to name a few are being manufactured to be more “universal fit” and as a result may not exactly match OEM parts. In my efforts to improve things, the parts I replaced had very slight differences in the circumference of the pulleys. As a result, all three parts together altered the distance needed for the OEM belt to stretch. I also suspect that an AC compressor replacement some years ago also contributed further to this scenario. The solution for me was to go back to the parts store and substitute for a slightly longer belt. New belt in hand and ten minutes later – repair complete and lesson learned.

While I have not had this situation happen to me with Corvette parts, I have encountered poorly made Corvette replacement parts (AC hoses and trim parts for a C3) that were returned because of improper fit or poor performance. Be careful out there. It may not be your mechanical competence but the parts in your hand.



## **NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM UPDATE!**

**Virtual Bash!** – The NCM converted the Michelin NCM Bash to a virtual event this year. The cost was only \$20, and it was well worth it. If you have been to the Bash before, you know it is like many of the events at the museum with sessions, displays and lots of good conversation. Well, some of that was lost but there were some new benefits. For example, everyone online had a front row seat. In addition, no lines, no waiting and good food and air conditioning at home. The NCM also made the recorded sessions available the week after so if you missed something, you could go back and watch it on your own schedule. From sessions with Paul – The Corvette Mechanic to in depth interviews with GM Engineers on what coming for Corvette, factory updates and Corvette Racing Q&A. This was a thoroughly enjoyable virtual event and the NCM did a great job organizing it.

**Collections Building Dedicated** - Last summer the National Corvette Museum acquired the former Fraternal Order of Police Lodge on Corvette Drive. The 8,000 square foot facility, which opened in 2002, sits on 7.5 acres and adjoins existing Museum property. The Museum had originally owned the land. On Wednesday, June 24 the building was officially

dedicated and named the Chuck, Sharon and Kimberlee Fast Collections Campus. Members of the Museum Board of Directors were on hand for a ribbon cutting ceremony and tour of the facility. Chuck, who is also a member of the Museum and Motorsports Park Boards, was happy to be a part of the project. "Once we accomplished acquiring the building, Sean asked me if we would consider sponsoring the collections building itself. I ran the idea by Sharon, and we decided this would be something our late daughter Kim would like to do or have named after her."

**Taking Care of Your Corvette – Museum Delivery** – Curious as to how the professionals at the NCM detail Corvettes for delivery and display at the museum? Wonder no more. While everyone has their own process and products they like to use, here is a nice video showing the process used by the Prep and Delivery Team.

<https://www.facebook.com/corvettemuseum/videos/688832018516914/>

**Raffle Tickets are Available!** Currently raffle tickets are only available through the mail, by filling out an order form, or through purchase at the museum or in the State of Kentucky. There are a range of vehicles and raffle types underway, so I encourage you to take a look at the website for a complete listing. I have not won yet, but I remain hopeful. You can't win if you don't play as they say. Here are some of the upcoming raffles.

**2020 Torch Red Corvette Coupe**  
**Drawing Saturday, September 5, 2020 at 3pm CT**  
*Tickets \$20 | Unlimited*

*Proceeds from raffles support the operations of the National Corvette Museum, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation.*

## Upcoming Museum Events

- [Museum in Motion Northern Ohio](#) | August 2-7, 2020
- [Museum in Motion 'Dragon Run' Presented by Michelin](#) | September 7-10, 2020 (SPACE AVAILABLE)
- [Museum in Motion Branson](#) | September 8 - 12, 2020 (SPACE AVAILABLE)
- [Museum in Motion Colorado Springs](#) | July 12 - 17, 2020 (SOLD OUT)
- [26th Anniversary Celebration](#) | September 3 – 5, 2020
- [Museum in Motion National Parks Tour](#) | September 20-26, 2020
- [Museum in Motion One Lap of Kentucky](#) | Sept. 28-Oct. 3 | Oct. 12-17 | Oct. 19-24 | Oct. 26-31
- [Corvette Racing Weekend in Hershey, PA](#) | October 23-24, 2020
- Vets n Vettes | November TBA

Additional Museum in Motion and On-Site Events to be added.

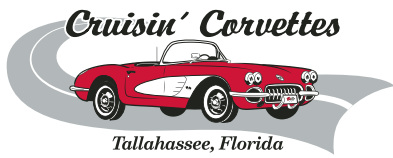
View a complete list of events with more information and links to register on our [website here](#).

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**Check the Events Calendar on the **UPDATED** website for more upcoming activities!**

If you have any questions or suggestions about the newsletter, please contact:

**John Opper**  
[ccotnews@gmail.com](mailto:ccotnews@gmail.com)



[www.CruisinCorvettes.Com](http://www.CruisinCorvettes.Com)

# Save the Date

## All American CAR SHOW



Sponsored by



## Saturday October 3, 2020

Registration 8am -11am • Judging at 11:15 am -1pm • Awards at 2pm

**Awards Presented for Each Major Manufacturer + Corvettes Only**

*(Cruisin' Corvettes Club Members do not compete against Participants)*

**Awards for 1st - 2nd - 3rd & Best of Show**

**Refreshments and Lunch Available**



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**Annual Car Show** - Corner of Centerville Road  
and Shamrock South in Killlearn Estates

**Show Proceeds Benefit the  
Big Bend Hospice, Refuge House,  
Ronald McDonald House**



Ronald  
McDonald  
House  
TALLAHASSEE



**Refuge House**  
*Stop the Violence!*

**Registration Form** Registration \$20.00 • Car Related Vendor Inquiries Welcome

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print phone and email address clearly)  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year of Car: \_\_\_\_\_ Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club Affiliation If Any: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Form with Fee to: **Cruisin' Corvettes of Tallahassee, Inc.** • Post Office Box 15762 • Tallahassee, FL 32317  
 For more information contact: **Chip Perkins** ([chipperkins20@gmail.com](mailto:chipperkins20@gmail.com)), or [www.cruisincorvettes.com](http://www.cruisincorvettes.com)

\*By execution of this form, entrants and participants release Southwood, Nauman Real Estate Group and Cruisin' Corvettes of Tallahassee, Inc. and anyone connected with this event from any and all unknown damages, losses, claims or judgments, from any cause whatsoever, that may be suffered by any entrant or his/her property. ABSOLUTELY NO alcohol or illegal substances allowed on premises.\*  
 Cruisin' Corvettes of Tallahassee, Inc., Inc. is a registered, 501(c)3 public charity. Gifts to Cruisin' Corvettes of Tallahassee, Inc. are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.





**Congratulations to Corvette racing for its 100<sup>th</sup> IMSA Win at Daytona!**