



2019 National Corvette Museum 25th Anniversary Celebration
2019 ATLANTIC CORVETTE CARAVAN
NEWSLETTER



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**Atlantic Caravan
Co-Captains**

John and Mary Nist

E-mail: AtlanticCaptains2019@gmail.com

Website:

www.corvettecaravan.com/atlantic

Facebook: Atlantic Corvette
Caravan 2019

John's cell: 609-752-9290

PA State Leaders
 Marty and Laura Hegyi
 E-mail: PACorvetteLeaders@gmail.com
 Laura's cell: 610-730-2695



PA Local Leaders
 Dave and Susan Bossart - Erie PA area
 E-mail: DBossart@roadrunner.com
 Dave's cell: 814-899-5305



Delaware State Leaders
 Larry and Beth Bishop
 E-mail: 479larry@gmail.com
 Cell: 845-443-1799



**NJ South Jersey Local Leader &
Point Person**
 PT Williamson
 E-mail: peetee@comcast.net

**GREETINGS FROM YOUR
ATLANTIC CARAVAN CO-CAPTAINS**
 John and Mary Nist



**A LITTLE ABOUT THE NATIONAL
CORVETTE MUSEUM (NCM)**

We hope we have begun to provide you with some information through our past 12 newsletters to get you started on your journey. We want to continue to build our caravan to better prepare you for this wonderful experience. So, let's talk about the *Corvette*, its history and to get better acquainted with the *National Corvette Museum* which is our main destination.

Whether this is the first time to experience a 5-year *Annual Anniversary Celebration* of the *National Corvette Museum* or you have already done so in the past, here are a few known facts and pieces of information that we feel would help you to obtain a better understanding of the *National Corvette Museum*.



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The Birth of a Legend... the Corvette

In October 1950, GM chief designer Harley Earl attended a sports car race in Watkins Glen, New York. His friend Briggs Cunningham, who had raced a Cadillac at the *24 Hours of Le Mans*, playfully wondered when GM would build him a proper sports car. Earl's answer was revealed in the form of the striking *Corvette* at the 1953 *Motorama*, GM's first nationwide tour of concept cars. The fiberglass-body car was such a sensation that it was rushed into production just six months later. Like the sports cars of the time, it was a stylish but simple roadster with an in-line six-cylinder engine.



The Power Takes Shape

Earl wanted more power for the *Corvette*, so Chevrolet's first V-8 engine was earmarked for the car in 1955. That's when Ed Cole, Chevrolet's chief engineer, found a kindred spirit in Zora Arkus-Duntov, a European-educated engineer who became the leader of the *Corvette* team. The following year, the 1956 *Corvette* had a fresh new look wrapped around both a 210-horsepower, 265-cubic-inch V-8 engine and a recalibrated suspension. When fuel injection was adapted to the V-8 engine in 1957, the *Corvette* began its long run as a showcase of GM's most advanced technology. Cunningham took a team of *Corvettes* to the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1960, where one car finished eighth overall.

Source: GM Media Archives, Copyright 2002 GM Corp.

Corvette Production

The first *Corvette* was produced on June 30, 1953 in Flint, Michigan. In 1954 *Corvette* production moved to St Louis, Missouri where production took place from 1954 to 1981. In 1981 GM transferred production of the *Corvette* from St Louis to Bowling Green, Kentucky. Since then, the facility has doubled in size, and Bowling Green has remained the exclusive home of the *Corvette* for over 30 years.



The *Corvette* has been produced for seven generations over the past 66 years. Known throughout the world as "America's Sports Car," the *Corvette* embodies the concept of innovation.

The National Corvette Museum is a not-for-profit foundation with a mission of celebrating the invention of the *Corvette* and preserving its past, present and future. The NCM Museum, includes exhibits, a resource center, *Corvette* store, static and changing displays. The museum has over 115,00 square feet of history. The *National Corvette Museum's* website is: <http://www.corvettemuseum.org>

The Museum is located in Bowling Green, Kentucky “Home of the Corvette” and is between Louisville and Nashville. Bowling Green goes by Central Time (CT). It will be one hour earlier when we arrive in Bowling Green, KY. Remember to reset your time before we leave Lexington, Kentucky on Wednesday August 28, 2019.

Prior to building the NCM at 350 Corvette Drive the museum was housed at an Annex on Scottsville Road in the town of Bowling Green, KY. This was a small store inside a mini-strip mall where one could purchase various souvenirs and articles dealing with the *Corvette*.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE VISITED BEFORE, AND FOR OUR FIRST-TIMERS

At present, the *Corvette Admissions* area is being remodeled along with the *Gateway Museum's Entrance*. The *Corvette Boulevard* (main hallway) is being repainted. So, you will notice a significant difference when you enter the museum.

A MUST SEE: THE SINKHOLE SIMULATOR AND EXHIBIT!





The picture shown above shows the main entrance to the original NCM which opened in 1994. NCM doubled the size of the museum and officially opened the addition by the *2009 NCM 15th Anniversary Celebration* (See the picture below). The addition was added to the back of the museum. There is a noticeable difference as you enter the main entrance. Directly ahead is the *Corvette Boulevard*. At the end of the Boulevard is the *Corvette Café*, designed as a 50's theme style diner. Some of this is being remodeled and updated as of this publication. Along the hallway there is the Library, Archives and the entrance to the Showroom as well as meeting rooms, etc.

This expansion included not only the Library and Archives, but also includes the Corvette Store, the PDI/Delivery Prep area and offices, Admissions, the Hall of Fame, Conference Center and Café, as well as providing additional exhibition space, restrooms and storage.



The *Corvette Boulevard* has the capacity to hold 12 new *Corvettes* waiting for their new owners to take Museum Delivery. *Corvette Boulevard* is an old fashioned main street scene with “store fronts” including a library and archives, a store (*Corvette Store*), a diner (*Corvette Café*), and a marquee (Conference Center). The *Corvette Club Room* provides space for *Corvette* clubs/chapters wishing to meet at the museum, as well as other activities. The Conference Center serves as a versatile space. This space can seat up to 400 for dinners, can accommodate approximately 30 cars for display, and conducting seminars and special events.



The *Corvette Café* provides breakfast and lunch as well as refreshments. It seats approximately 80 people with additional capacity outside and along the Boulevard. They make yummy milkshakes - when our captain (John) is working there. You must try their specialty ice creams made from a local Bowling Green *Chaney's Dairy Barn Ice Cream*: **Duntov**: Creamy Vanilla Ice Cream with Carmel Swirl and Heath Bar pieces.

The Library and Archives continues to serve as a primary repository for historical *Corvette* related memorabilia, literature, art, and research documents for all ages and interests. The museum emphasizes preservation and education. Additionally, the Library and Archives store significant amounts of unique materials by the *National Corvette Restorers Society* from various resources including items from many *Corvette* clubs.

History of **SAVE THE WAVE!**

Excerpts from: *Corvette News*, August/September 1969, Volume 12, No. 6

Ever since *Corvette* No.00001 first met *Corvette* No.00002 on the road, their drivers saluted each other with waves. It's one item of standard equipment that comes as a pleasant surprise to every new *Corvette* owner – even today. It's the instant wave of recognition he or she receives when meeting one of its kind on the road. The first time it happens, you are taken by surprise. One immediately thinks: “Are my lights on?”



Soon, however, the new *Corvette* owner anticipates, indeed even relishes encountering other *Corvettes*. During this period, one experiments with different waves, running the gamut from a nod to the ultra-cool "two-finger flip." The perfection is all about the timing, sometimes being too eager, too early or too late variety.

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Have you ever experienced the following?

1. When you begin a wave motion at what appears to be an approaching *Corvette*, but soon realize it is not a *Corvette*!
2. When you forget you are not driving your *Corvette* and wave anyway?
3. When *Corvettes* pass in opposite directions that is one thing. Greetings are exchanged, and that's that.
4. What do you do when you pull up next to a *Corvette* at a traffic light? Do you wave, nod, or smile?
5. What do you do when you pull up to the same *Corvette* at the next traffic light? Wave again, nod bashfully, grin self-consciously, ignore or take the turn down the side street prior?

The answers to these questions and more will not be answered here.



SAVE THE WAVE!

**LET'S KEEP THE TRADITION
GOING! SAVE THE WAVE AND
WAVE TO YOUR FELLOW
VETTERAN! BE PROUD OF YOUR
CORVETTE AND USE THE WAVE!**



OTHER PLACES TO VISIT WHILE IN BOWLING GREEN

You can also visit Historic Riverview at Hobson Grove, or the Kentucky Museum, Beech Bend Race Park, Chaney's Dairy Barn, Mammoth Cave National Park, Lost River Cave Distilleries, Shaker Museum at South Union, National Quilt Museum at Paducah, Historic RailPark and Train Museum, Fountain Square Park, Aviation Heritage Park, Basil Griffin Park, Kentucky Museum, SKyPAC, plus many more campgrounds and recreational lakes.

You can go onsite for more information about places to visit in Bowling Green, KY at: <https://www.visitbgky.com/>

Be well everyone and look for our APRIL Newsletter - John & Mary
Layout and graphics by Dave Kinsey