

August Opening Statement:

Well summer it seems is
BLASTING by quicker than a E-ray
leaving a traffic light! Is August
truly be here already? Seems's like
just yesterday we were anticipating
the early season events back in
April! Yet here we are dab smack in
the middle of our season's event's!
And... don't believe summers
passing by fast! We're inside 60
days to our traditional
Kancamagus Caravan event,
marking the start of the close out
portion of our 2025 scheduled
events!

But between now and then, we've got some great events on tap for everyone to come out and enjoy. If you're new to the groups and haven't come out and experienced our events yet, the question begs to be asked! What are you waiting for? *Now is the time! Many of our events* sell out so fast, and for those who wait... well you don't get to experience the absolute thrill of being a part of a long Corvette presession. And, the good news, is that many of our upcoming events are open field events with no size limits So, pick from any one of one of them and get signed up! Also, over in Maine, our SOMEC club has some exciting things planned over the next couple of months as well to close out its first full complete season of events! Registrations for some of them opens up in the first few days of this month!

In this month's GENERATIONS edition, we're again covering a lot of ground! From Learning about a "Poor Man's Corvette" to a couple of articles hat may directly affect C8 stingray owners along with every registered car in the state of NH. We introduce our latest group Admins joining our amazing leadership team! We're also adding a new page exclusively for new members! So, in closing as always, we thank each and every one of you for coming along and taking this crazy journey along with us!

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST GROUP ADMINS JOHN & SUZANNE HODGKINS!

We can't think of a better way to start of this month's newsletter than with us announcing the addition of John and Suzanne Hodgkins as the newest **SONHC** group Admins! We couldn't be more excited that these two have accepted to take on the role of group admins. John and Suzanne are two of our most active members, joining in on just about every event possible and always doing so with the most positive and upbeat attitude!

Even before officially taking on this additional role of leadership, they have on several occasions successfully led members on fun enjoyable events!

With John & Suzanne joining, Dick, Vicki, Pete and Mark, we've got a fantastic group of leaders in place, with each one constantly working at making every event as enjoyable as possible for members!





July 2025 Events

If there is a reoccurring theme for the 2025 season, it's that Mother Nature seems to want to constantly remind us just how feeble our plans can turn out to be. One of the events we were greatly anticipating was our Patriot Place Caravan... and it went the way of a thunderstorm forecast! The same for our third attempt this year to get back to the Airfield Café! However, July was not all was lost, as both clubs were able to enjoy some fun parade time along with some visits to other great destinations! Let's hope that as we transition into August, we can finally get some of that great NE weather on the actual day of our planned events and not just around them!











OUR PARTNERING PROFESSIONALS: WE WELCOME VAULT MOTOR STORAGE

One of the things we're very proud of here at SONHC is the alignment we have with so many quality service providers in our *Partnering Professionals* program. From the very first company we began partnering with back in 2022, **VIP Tires & Service** to our latest added company, **Vault Motor Storage** here in 2025, each company is at the top or near the top in their perspective service categories. By bringing these product and service options to our members, we hope that it's the beginning of many great personal relationships with all these great service companies.

As a SONHC member, members who utilize Vault Motor Storage for their vehicle storage needs will receive the following:

Free Electric for the season
Free use of VMS Battery Tender
Guaranteed TOP lift
SONH Corvette Club logo on VMS Placard



Statement from Vaults:

As a proud partner of the Southern NH Corvette Club, we understand the passion enthusiasts bring to every vehicle. There is no better place to live and own a Corvette than here in New England! Vault offers the elite protection and cares your Corvette deserves. Vault Motor Storage is here to protect your investment from the elements. Vault Motor Storage offers over 350,000 square feet of heated, secure storage with convenient locations in Belmont & Merrimack. Vault Motor Storage offers annual, seasonal or monthly storage options not only for your Corvette, but for all of your vehicles.

Vault has two storage facility locations available:

526 Daniel Webster Hwy. Merrimack, NH & 52 Higgins Drive, Belmont, NH

603-424-4550

www.Vaultmotorstorage.com

We welcome Vault Motor Storage into our family of Partnering Professionals!

MORE PARTNERING PROFESSIONALS: LETHAL PREMIUM CAR CARE CLINIC

SONHC members were invited to sign up and participate in a fantastic detailing clinic put on by **Lethal Premium Car Care** owner George Sheppard and the staff! George shared lots of great valuable information about what it takes to properly care for not only our Corvettes, but our other vehicles as well. Everyone who attended raved about the information that was shared along with all the hospitality! We are very proud of our working relationship we have with **Lethal Premium Car Care**, and we encourage everyone who owns a Corvette regardless of year to reach out to George and his team to find out how they can help make it looking "great and not good" as possible!

www.ethalcoatingsnh.com











AUGUST FEATURED ARTICLE: POOR MAN'S CORVETTE



Most everyone is aware that the General Motors Corporation is one of the most prolific and largest vehicle manufacturers in the world. A company who's history dates back to prior to the start of the 19th century. Encompassing literally hundreds of former and current automobile manufacturers, all operating under the GM corporate umbrella. GM has been and continues to be a worldwide company, not just limited to here in North America, (Also not just limited to automobile manufacturing) but all across the globe. One of these companies that GM at one point owned was a company called *The Opel Car company!*Now chances are you already have a favorite GM brand... and it's probably the Chevrolet! Who obviously was responsible for bringing the Corvette to the world back in the 1950's. The Chevrolet Corvette has almost always been a great money maker for Chevrolet and GM. During the late 60's and

early 70's, in its heyday, the car was enjoying some of its most popular times! And considering that Corvettes were never considered cheap, but in fact rather expensive, relative to the average cost of a new car. And despite the higher-than-Average costs of these cars, Corvettes always sold in good numbers each and every year through the mid to late 70's! Something that GM was obviously thrilled about.

But not all GM divisions shared that same sentiment! Some were jealous of the success of the Corvette and that GM had granted Chevy so much autonomy and control over GM's total sports car market. Resulting in the killing off of several promising sports car projects along the way from other divisions, strictly out of fear that it would distract from the Corvette's popularity. The Pontiac Banshee was just one such project. Several other interesting sport car designs also went the way of the dodo bird because of Chevrolets enormous wielded influence.

But there was one GM division that went the "If you can't beat them, then why not join them" route.

Enter the *Buick Motor Company*. This GM division known better for its 4 door luxury cruisers, attempted to capitalize on the popularity of the Corvette by bringing to market a small import car built in Germany. One that at quick glance shared some of the curved lines of the Corvette and also included the iconic hidden headlights. Yet a car that wouldn't possibly threaten a potential Corvette buyer away from Chevrolet. It was called *The Opel GT*, manufactured by a company of the same name Opel, in Germany. Now Buick also understood that the performance of this little sports car was nothing close performance wise to the vaulted Corvette, with its base model





HP rating being a paltry 67HP. But for those who were attracted to the overall look of the Corvette, they could have their own 2 seat sports car, sans far less performance, but vaguely somewhat similar in appearance for only \$3995... or about half the cost of a Corvette!

And it worked and worked rather well!

The Opel GT would go on to become better known as the "*Poor Man's Corvette*" and while short on performance, its overall looks made many consider it a pretty cool little sports car and it would sell very well for the Buick/Opel dealerships, amassing 70,000 units sold in the US from 1968 to 1972! Today they are about as rare to see as an early C1 Corvette and had GM left well enough alone, these cars would be considered a true collector's item far

greater than they actually are. But GM in their infinite wisdom, elected to try and bring back the Opel GT name in 2009 by rebranding the Pontiac Solstice and Saturn Sky with little to no success.

Both the Pontiac and Saturn divisions were soon dispatched along with the rebranded Buick Opel Gt due to GM's financial hardships and lagging division sales.

In 2017, GM sold the Opel company to Fiat Chrysler which later became part of the Stellantis group manufacturer. Today the Opel company, is still part of the Stellantis company, and continues to sells cars all across Europe, but are not available for import here in the US.



SOMEC: A BRIEF HISTORY LESSON

One of the challenges we face with the **SOMEC** club is the need to constantly tell ourselves that it is still in its still in its early beginning stages of creation. While some might look at the Maine club and perhaps think, that it should be larger, more active and with more events! We think that answer can be found in looking back at the history of our **SONHC** club. Which tells us, that during its first full year, **SONHC** had fewer members, fewer events planned and that in reality it took **SONHC** at least a couple of years to put it on the path towards becoming what it is today!

So, when we say that this is a marathon and not a sprint, that the beginning stages of building any endeavor worthwhile takes patience and time. We believe this to be the case for the Maine club as well!

As we look to the future for the **SOMEC** club, we're pretty excited that as it progresses, it's going to be able to bring to its members lots more new opportunities at enjoying more fun and exciting destinations along with adding in some other type events! And, while we think it's great that **SOMEC** is following in some of the same footprints that our **SONHC** club took, we also want the **SOMEC** club to form its own identity in line with what the members in Maine want the club to be! After all, the members are the sole reason for the club's existence! Through the leadership of Mark and Whitney, we think **SOMEC** half way through its first full season is on a great path forward and the future of **SOMEC** for its members looks very bright and promising!

IS GM SHOOTING ITSELF IN THE FOOT... AGAIN

Most all have seen and heard about all the many exciting and incredible performance C8 variants that GM has introduced in just the past couple of years, we've seen the release first of the **E-Ray**, followed up by the incredible **Z06**, and then just a few months ago the...**ZR1.** Now it seems that there hasn't been enough time for the ink to dry on the ZR1 spec sheet, then GM goes and releases the **ZR1-X**. there's even rumors base off the recent comments by GM Corvette *Chief engineer Tony Roma* that there are more variants still to come in 2026!

Now history tells us that this is something straight out of GM's century old playbook and has been GM's philosophy for decades and is one of the reasons behind GM having so many different divisions to begin with. To start a customer off in a Chevy and then move them on into Buick with them ending up in a top of the line Cadillac. Always have the next step at the ready to keep someone a GM customer for life. This philosophy it appears is now being applied to the Corvette buyers as well.

But this philosophy does brings questions...starting with, what do all of these new variants do to the values of the Corvettes already purchased and setting in garages and driveways all across the country! Does it dimmish the values of the ordinary base stingray? (And let's be honest there's nothing ordinary about a base C8 stingray)

However what is somewhat more alarming and concerning is... the current trend of the number of unsold new C8's setting on dealer lots. At last check over 5,000 new C8's of all model variants and trims levels (led by 1400 Z06's) are setting unsold across the country! Dealers are for the first time since the close of the C7 actually discounting the C8 MSRP's to try and move them out! Advertising as much as \$15,000 off new Z06's!

If it sounds like we're against all these newer model releases, we're absolutely not! As long as GM doesn't lose sight of its Corvette bread and butter customer. The base Stingray owner! The one that GM sells each year in the thousands, making a hefty profit off of every one And they don't lose sight of the importance of continuing to produce a phenomenal car that is still considered an absolute bargain and has so since its release in 2019!

So while we revel at the thought of these now Super Corvettes, (most of us from a far)! Soon, they will start appearing at car

shows adorned with the plaques stating all of the amazing performance statistics... Including it's top speed of 235 MPH is worthy the hefty investment! However for some of us, we might consider the \$200,000 plus price tag that is attached, is needed as much as mittens on the fourth of July!...

Alex, I'll Take Base Corvettes are the best for 1000!







NH STATE INSPECTIONS

Editorial: ... The opinions that I share here are my own, and they come from spending a professional lifetime in and around the automotive industry! It is my take on something that is going to affect every registered vehicle and law enforcement official in our state. NH has now eliminated annual passenger vehicle safety and emission inspections. And, while some view this as a positive thing... many others like myself still feel more work should be done in the future to have the positive effect the legislature was looking to create when it was drafted. I do applaud the state for finally at least tackling and addressing the subject and listening to many of the state's constituency and complaints about how the current law has forced them to often spend thousands of dollars on things such as an often-silly check engine light! But more work is needed to get this legislation right. Hopefully this will just turn out to be a stop gap situation and the NH legislature will continue to come up with a more sensible permanent solution. There is no question that new cars being manufactured today are far safer than of just 10 years ago. But with the average age of the registered cars in NH now approaching 13 years of age, there should be some sort check to ensure these cars continue to be safe to operate on NH roads.

This is another example of our elected officials mandating a law, then forcing everyone else to figure out all the details after the fact! Now they need to go back, continue to work on fixing it and create a viable working long term solution that makes sense and is good for residents and law officials alike!

If you happen to live in NH, then tighten up your belt buckle come January 31st 2026, as the state has now mandated doing away with the annual NH vehicle safety and emission inspections! NH now joins 30 other states that do not require registered motorists to have their vehicles annually inspected. Did NH get this one right...? The jury is still out!

First, let's cut straight to the one question that is on everyone's mind. Is there a direct correlation between the states that have eliminated state safety inspections to higher accident rates... And that answer is no, according to those who track vehicle accidents and their causes.

A 2019 report by the National Highway Safety Institute states, only around 2% of all automotive accidents can be directly attributed to unsafe vehicles.... Numerous studies over the years by both the states and federal government have also reaffirmed this. And, accident rates due to faulty equipment in states that currently do not have state mandated safety inspections are pretty much exactly the same as those remaining states that do require safety inspections!... Read that again! There is no difference!

The majority of all accidents are caused by the top two reasons, distracted and impaired drivers! Regardless of any inspection laws or lack of! So, this is not a... the sky is falling situation; however, it does raise as many questions and concerns as it does answer! Who beyond the vehicle owners is now going to responsible be enforcing and keeping unsafe vehicles off NH highways? The answer is no one yet knows. The majority of elected officials will be looking at state and local police departments to enforce some of the vehicle safety laws, but also knowing full well it will be virtually impossible for them to enforce them! Things such as bald tires, burned out light bulbs, loud exhausts or broken windshields will all be easy to spot and address. But things far more important such as faulty suspension parts, worn out brakes and other things hidden away from plain view will be most certainly missed. And we're now going to be asking our law enforcement officials to do something that they have not been properly educated in doing. Becoming automotive technicians on the fly and adding to their already extremely busy daily duties and responsibilities. And to be clear, law enforcement has always had the ability to take a vehicle off the road for obvious apparent safety violations. But now they are going to be tasked with going well beyond this and carrying the burden of being the only safety interpreters to help keep NH roads safe. Simply from a sheer number's standpoint, it will be impossible to do. Even now with annual safety inspections required, one out of every 150 vehicles on NH roads still have an expired inspection sticker! And many of them drive around for months or even years without ever being pulled over for these expired stickers.

f it sounds like I'm against the inspection elimination, I'm not... But I do believe had this legislature properly vetting this change instead of it being shoved at the last minute into the state's annual budget turning it into law! They could have properly addressed the situation in just one attempt!

But on a totally positive note, the new law that goes into effect on January 31, 2026 does directly address one of the biggest automotive scams of the past 30 years! The dreaded "check engine light"! Something automotive manufacturers put into place a long time ago as a way to force people into their dealerships to get service work performed. And, let's be honest, it's never truly been about emissions, but instead about making money....and lots of it!

One thing we do know for sure, history has shown that when something is left unchecked to the masses, it most always fails miserably. Lets hope this one, which is far from perfect goes on to become nothing more than a good first step towards a final workable inspection law that makes total sense for everyone involved over the coming years...





A LOOK BACK: CRUISING DOWNTOWN CAR SHOW

One event we look forward to each year is our participation in the *Cruising Downtown Manchester Car show*. And there's one main reason why we enjoy this event so much. Yes, seeing all the different cars and customized creations is amazing. Being surrounded by other car enthusiasts certainly heightens the show experience. But it's actually something else that keeps drawing us into participating in this event year after year.

It's the ability to be able to spend some quality time with all the members in attendance. As often as we get out together on events, many time's, we're not able to spend much more than a few minutes together just due to the nature and design of our events.

The Cruising Downtown Manchester show enables us, once we get our cars set, to spend some time catching up with other members! To just relax or do whatever anyone wants to do. One can check out the literal thousands of incredible cars, lining Elm St, or grab something to eat, or our favorite... pull out a chair cop a squat and enjoy an early morning cup of coffee together over conversations!

Members can stay for the whole day, stay for a couple of hours, or do whatever works individually! But under the cover of a tree top canopy, the option to spent time just relaxing is unmatched all season long, and offers a unique change of pace! We hope you'll consider joining us on this years event, scheduled for *Saturday*, *August 30th*.













DID YOU KNOW...

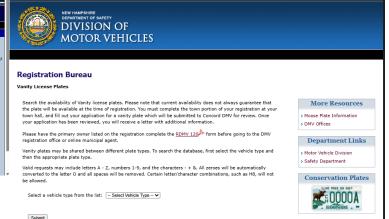
We've all seen the ultra-creative vanity plates adorning so many member Corvettes at events and car shows. Some make immediate sense, other's perhaps make you scratch you head for minute to grasp the intended message.

DID YOU KNOW... NH has the highest percentage of vanity plates in New England and is second in the country in percentage of Vanity Plate's. 13.99% (Virginia has the highest 16.19%). One out of every eight cars in NH are adorned with some sort of creative personalized message. And, Maine is second in New England in percentage 10.2 % of vanity plates, and has had the distinction of being somewhat more liberal in what has been allowed to be displayed in the past, including what some would consider straight up vulgar. Rumor is they are starting to crack down on some of the vulgarity that has been approved in the past. Interestingly, Vermont has a higher rate of vanity plates 6.1% that does MA at only 3.6%... and only slightly behind Connecticut at 8.4%. who would have guessed! RI comes in around the same percentage as MA at 3.7%! So, there's certainly a lot of creative minds hard at work to bring a unique rolling billboard message on their cars.

And, there are tools available for those that need a little help and inspiration in creating their plates! In both NH and Maine, there are on-line search tools to help you create your own personalized vanity plates for not only your Corvette, but for any of your rides. Sitting in front of your computer or even on your portable device you can quickly search if a particular set of numbers and letters are available for you to create your very own personalized message. And it gets even better! In both cases in NH & Maine, if something that you want is already taken, not all is lost because you can change the base license plate format from say the Pine Tree plate design in Maine to the Lobster plate and you can see if your creation is available there. Maine currently has 10 different plate designs to choose from with each one allowing your customized plate to be created in. In NH there are six different categories' as well.

But just remember, just because something might make sense to you, when put on a vanity plate, it may not to anyone else... unless you feel like creating some serious head scratching moments for those around you on the road.











an official NEW HAMPSHIRE government website









SHOW TROPHIES AND WHY WE'RE NOT FANS.

(This is a reposted article we did last April, and we're reposting it now for some of our new members who may wonder why we do not ever hold or sponsor trophy car show events).

Something you will never see our **SONHC & SOMEC** clubs directly involved in is holding car shows that involve trophies! Don't get us wrong, we love and enjoy car shows! We're just not fans of those where trophies are involved! And there is a reason behind our sentiment.

First, the meaning behind a trophy? It's a word whose origins date back to the 1500s. The word itself was translated to English from the phrase "A prize of war" — a way of recognizing someone for achieving something significant. And there's certainly a lot of recognition being handed out, as the trophy business is a 3 billion dollar a year industry! Trophies are handed out for everything and anything! Yes, even for just participating! Which brings us to the real subject in hand. Car show trophies — and the distain we hold towards shows that involve judging and handing out trophies.

We live in a world of opinions, judgement calls, political incorrectness, and numerous human uncertainties. And judging and choosing car show trophy winners certainly falls into the category of subjectiveness. Trophies typically create lots of emotions, both good and bad! The good usually comes from the party that happens to be on the receiving end of the trophy. The bad is from literally most everyone else! And those "bad" feelings usually form a list a mile long as to why. The judge was biased, the judge was the winner's second cousin from their third marriage, the judging was already

predetermined who was going to win. My car always looks better than the winner, but Bob the judge always liked Tom better so I had no chance! In other words, judging is full of human subjectiveness, and often does nothing but promotes ill feelings and undermines the very purpose of handing out awards!

In most cases, many cars show's hand out trophies, most often not for the cars themselves, but for the cleanliness and outward appearance.

Now some people might truly enjoy taking their wheels off and cleaning the inside of the rims... or spending hours with Q-tips in hand...But we feel that's not the average Corvette owner or the vast majority of our membership!



For a club like ours where we encourage every Corvette owner, regardless of year or condition to come out and be a part of who we are, something like judged car shows doesn't make much sense for us to ever be directly involved in. Now, with that said, if you happen to be a fan of trophies, then we certainly would never want to discourage any member from participating in a trophy judged car show or event! We totally understand that it's an individual decision and one we respect always. But to us, you already have something far greater than the biggest trophy you could ever win and that's the Corvette setting in your garage or driveway!

Who's leading this rodeo anyway:

SONHC & SOMEC Founders:

Rick & Sharon Delano

SONHC Group Administrators:

Dick & Vicki Lemire Pete Langlois John & Suzanne Hodgkins

SOMEC Administrators

Mark & Whitney Hensley





NEW MEMBERS PAGE:

This is a new page we've looking at possibly including in each months GENERATIONS newsletter. A page solely dedicated to our newest members who have just recently joined us and are now looking for the how things work, why we do them the way we do and most importantly, where to find the needed information to be able to become active participating members. Starting next month in September, each month we will highlight one new aspect of becoming a new SONHC & SOMEC member! We start however with the most important element that we think new members need to know, our Mission Statement!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"SONHC & SOMEC is a place that is open and inviting to anyone who owns a Corvette regardless of year or condition and is located within the greater New Hampshire and Maine areas! It is our mission to foster a community of all Corvette enthusiasts and promote participation in Corvette activities, particularly through group gatherings and caravans traveling throughout New England. SO NH CORVETTES was created in the summer of 2020, originally starting as an online Facebook group. It was our hope that, through the power of social media, we could bring together like-minded people who all share the same passion and love for America's only true sports car, The Chevy Corvette!

Our motto is that everyone is equal here, regardless of stature, length of membership or by whatever particular Corvette you happen to own or drive! We consider members as part of our extended family and as such, our intended goal is to make each and every member's experience, a fun, positive, memorable one at every one of our events!

- SONHC was established in June 2020, and was formed starting with just two Founding Members.
- Our SONHC club now encompasses over 1700 members!
- In 2024, over 375 active members came out and participated in at least one SONHC club event during the season!
- SONHC has successfully hosted over 113 caravan and special events in the clubs 5 year history!
- We currently have 9 group administrators that both lead and support our group and all its members!
- Membership is free for anyone who elects to join! No annual dues, or required monthly meetings are required to remain part of the groups.
- Our SOMEC was established over the winter of 2023 and continues to grow at an astonishing rate!
- Current combined 2025 SONHC & SOMEC club memberships is now comprised of over 2,000 members!

So now that you've made the decision (we think a wise one) to join either SONHC or SOMEC or maybe even both! Now what happens? Well we think information is obviously important, and knowing where first to find it is vital! We promise, all the required information is available to you! But you must first must know where to look to find it! So in this months first installment of the new members page, we're going to try give you the specific place you need to go to find out about all our scheduled events and then if interested in participating in one, to get signed up to attend.

But first... SONHC & now SOMEC are in reality simply an online based Corvette club, or group, or association, or whatever you choose to define us as. And as such, all our communication methods are indeed online based! We utilize **5 main communication** methods and accompanying tools to communicate with our members. Our dedicated **SONHC & SOMEC** club websites, a unique conversation portal, our private **Facebook Group Pages**, our monthly **GENERATIONS** newsletter and finally through direct dedicated emails. For this month, we're going to focus on just one. *Our dedicated websites*.

www.sonhcorvettes.org & www.somecorvettes.org

It is here that you will find a bevy of information, including direct links to our amazing *Partnering Professionals* members, an area to look back on some of our more memorable recent events and most importantly, to find all the information about upcoming scheduled events, and to register to come along. Each website has a page tab breaking down all the different subjects. The 2025 Event Registration Page tab is where you will want to go to find our upcoming schedule of events and to register to come along! Once you are on the Event registration page, scroll down and you will first find our schedule. Below that, there are windows describing each scheduled event. If you click on the pictures in the boxes, you will be taken directly to the appropriate event where you fill out the registration and get added to that events roster. You will then receive a confirmation email directly to the email address you used during your registration. That's it! On the Monday of the same week the event is scheduled, we will post the Event Itinerary in this same place, (and also via a group email) which includes all the needed information such as our starting location and time!





Our Season-Long Partnering Professionals

We wish to acknowledge and thank each of these incredible companies who have signed on to Partner with us for our 2025 season! We ask that you consider each of them whenever your need should arise!























Thanks for reading our August 2025 GENERATIONS



