

SOME CORVETTES

December 2025 Vol 5 No 12



December ...We extend to you and yours the very best wishes this Holiday Season! We hope that in this time of family and friends, that you are able to gather and celebrate together with all those who are closest with you! Cheer's to everyone's great health, prosperity and happiness throughout this Holiday Season and into the New Year!

And remember...we're just 111 days till spring!

Winter is upon us and it's time for our Corvettes to sleep!

And because they cost so much, I'll ride all winter in a heap!

As I ponder the long cold season ahead!

My thoughts will race to warm weather instead!

And while the days count down to the joys of spring.

I will ponder new cams, tires, and other goodies, Santa may bring.

I've been kind of naughty this year, so no telling what I'll get!

But family knows me well. so I'll surely get something new for the Vette!

So don't dismay at the cold days and mounds of snow!

There's always Florida, you can drive year round down there you know!

NOVEMBER EVENTS:

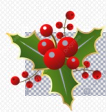


Even with this year's November feeling more like a typical November filled with Cold, raw windy days! It still didn't deter some of us from getting out and enjoying a few last hurrahs behind the wheels of our cars!

The Hart's Turkey Farm caravan on the 1st was a beautiful but crisp fall day as we enjoyed one of the best adventures of the entire season over some freshly paved winding backroads!

We capped off the trip with some great grub and an early Turkey Day experience followed up by of course, Ice Cream to officially close our SONHC caravan season.

And, while for the first time in several years, we skipped the traditional Veteran's Day Parade. Members put together a wonderful cruise over to the coast and a breakfast visit to the esteemed Wentworth by the Sea!



Our SONHC Season Celebration Event



Coming up in just a few days is our SONHC Season Celebration Event on December 6th. An afternoon pot luck gathering is the backdrop, as a way of saying thank you to those who have come out and joined other members on events during the past season! Some great food, some great laughs and a few surprises will mark the day...

We also draw our 3 winners for the season long 10/90 raffle (You do not need to be present to win) and we Award our Season Long Ride Leader award!





One of the things we seem to always be doing, is spend a lot of time thinking about the future. It's a never-ending circle where while we're enjoying the time in the here and now, part of us is always looking ahead, to our next event, be it next month, or yes even next year. Soon after the holidays, we start laying the groundwork for the upcoming season schedules that will be assembled and built in earnest in early 2026 for both the SONHC & SOME C clubs! While certain events sort of take care of themselves, such as our annual SONHC Kanc and Bennington caravans, but even these require a certain amount of tweaking from year to year to keep them fresh and enjoyable. And at other times it takes over a year to pull a particular event together. Especially if it's timed around a certain date or event like the Tall Ships of Boston or Watkins' Glen Corvette Weekend (schedule hints)

It starts up in January as we plot out our baseline schedule of events for the upcoming season! It's has a lot of moving pieces, lots of back-and-forth communications with tons and tons of edits along the way!

And we can't wait to get started...

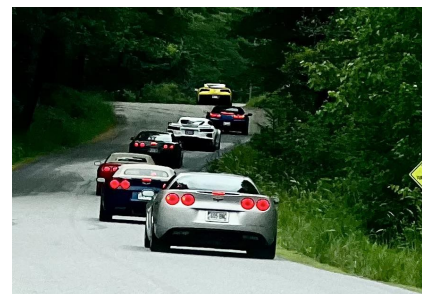
Our 2026 Calendars are here!

They are here, and ready to order! Both our **SONHC & SOME C** calendars are chalked full of members cars in some truly beautiful settings. Lots of calendars have been received already, and the reviews have all been really positive. Great quality, thick stock and full of beautiful cars in front of some great New England backdrops. The order deadline to receive your calendar in time for Christmas is approaching fast, so get yours ordered today!

Deadline for Christmas is December 10th.



Well there you have it! The first complete SOME C season is now in the history books. A season that took members to some great destinations both in Maine and beyond. One that was challenged early on by Mother Nature's spring rains causing a few cancellations and schedule changes. But, once the weather began to cooperate, members enjoyed some great destination visits from one end of the state to the other. As we prepare to put together the 2026 SOME C season, we'll have some exciting new destinations and events that will be added to the upcoming season! As Mark continues to grow his leadership team, with each new addition, the ability to add more events will continue to expand! You might also see more combination SOME C & SONHC events in 2026, as bringing the two clubs together always makes for a fun day! Look for an expanded 2026 season, with more trips, more events and a few new surprises and wrinkles we're introducing to SOME C!





No, we're not talking about the Tom Petty or Pink Floyd Albums. Instead, this year's December featured article, we're electing to take a slight departure from our normal Corvette subjects and fly into (pun intended) something somewhat off beat, yet something that everyone who is reading this article might enjoy!

Drones!

They have become an everyday occurrence in so many areas of our lives. You can't turn on the television and watch any news show without seeing aerial drone footage of something taken from above! If you happen to be looking at purchasing a home, then chances are the home listing will now include drone aerial footage of the property. You probably heard about or saw all the controversy of the hundreds of drones that were being flown over New Jersey earlier this year. So, yes, they are everywhere! Even, sometimes on our caravan events!

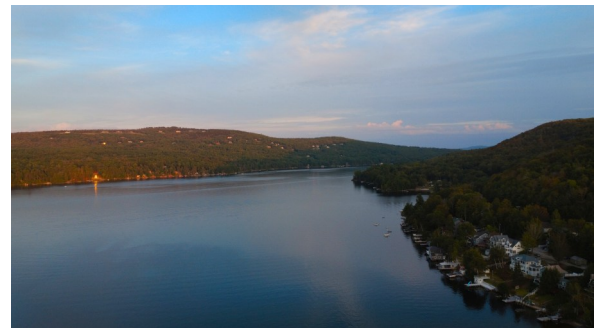
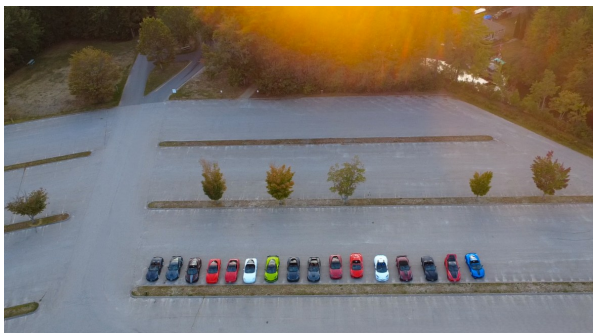
Drones have become a **15 billion dollar** a year industry. Private and Commercial applications for their usage have exploded over the past 5 years, with thousands of entrepreneurs starting commercial drone businesses to earn a living. But it's the recreational area of drone usage that has seen the largest area of growth! And one main reason is that not only are they a lot of fun to fly, once you possess even basic flight skills, the pictures and videos they can produce are something for you to have and enjoy long after the flying is done. With the cost of a very capable drone that can be had for around a hundred bucks, this hobby is taking off (yup I indeed did sneak in another pun right here)

Just think of them as an extension of the super capable iPhone and Androids camera's that we all carry around and constantly shoot pictures of everything and anything without even thinking about it. if it sounds like I am trying to sell you something, I am not! But I am 100% confident that if you gave it a try... some of you will be hooked!

And like most everything else these days, Drones don't come without controversy. Privacy concerns, being at the top. And, with these concerns for upholding privacy, a truly valid issue, the burden of responsibility absolutely falls on the drone operator. Flying a drone or shooting footage over someone's home or property without first having consent isn't a drone issue as much as it's a personal responsibility and character issue. You wouldn't shove your phone camera in someone's face without first asking for permission, and the same applies here. In order to combat and address the privacy issue the industry now has rules and guidelines that cover both this concern along with lots of the other do and don'ts of properly and legally flying drones. And, while our government agencies were late in setting regulations for drone usage, they now have caught up to the industry and are now heavily involved. The **FAA**, short for the *Federal Aviation Administration*, has the lead in regulating drone use, and now has set clear concise guidelines for their operations. These guidelines address everything from the above-mentioned privacy issues, to where you can and cannot fly drones, the limits of their actual flight and of course in controlling what types of aircraft are allowed to be operated. They start by breaking down all drone operations into two distinct types:

Commercial and Recreational.

Commercial usage is considered to be anything where someone is profiting from their usage or as part of a business application. And, if you are planning on using a drone for any type of commercial use: You will need to apply for and pass a special commercial pilot's license, issued by the FAA. Something that is called the **FAA 107 Test**. Information regarding this process is all over the internet and is covered at nauseum. There are study tests that you can purchase that will prepare you for this somewhat difficult test in order to pass. You will need to possess all the same information and knowledge as a small single engine plane pilot! (you wouldn't want an unlicensed pilot flying your commercial plane?) The test includes detailed subjects such as weather maps, complete navigational skills, proper flight planning and detailed aviation information. The test currently costs \$175 pass or fail! ...continued on page 5





Recreational usage: This is for those who are only looking to enjoy flying for fun or to just take pictures for yourself, you do not need any license as long as your drone weighs below 250 grams or .55 lbs. and you are not receiving any compensation for your flying activities. (Photo's that are taken and later sold for instance would fall under the commercial usage) And, the usage of drones on our caravans still fall under the recreational side, as we never sell or profit from their use!

Now, for those who only want to fly a drone recreationally but still are looking for some sort of accreditation, there is a FAA issued UAS Safety Test called (TRUST) that you can take and once you pass, receive a FAA Certificate of Registration recreational drone pilot's license. The test covers many of the same issues and rules that the commercial license side does, just contains less of the formal pilot flight training information. And while it is not a requirement, it does carry accreditation, and if your drone usage ever caused any controversy to arise, it will provide authorities with both your knowledge and flight abilities, your registered specific drone information and can go a long way in keeping you out of potential hot water!

Most all of the drone manufacturers now are designing recreational drones to weigh less than the FAA weight limit in order to get around the commercial license requirements. Most all of the quality drones come with flight software that you load onto your phone or on whatever device you use to fly them and will include GPS location tracking that will alert you if you are trying to fly in either in a restricted flight area or even prevent you from taking off in the many no-fly zones. (And there are tons of no fly or restricted flight zones you would never know about)

Personally, I've been messing around with drones for several years now, even longer if you consider the toy one my wife gave me on one Christmas and upon opening it up, I immediately flew it into the lamps inside our house, knocking them over and breaking them (haven't flown **any** drones inside since)!

But what at first started out as a fascination into both photography and of air flight now has turned into a full-on hobby. My iPhone has over 14,000 pictures of Corvettes on it...along with now close to a hundred captured drone videos! (got to love the iCloud) and Don't judge!

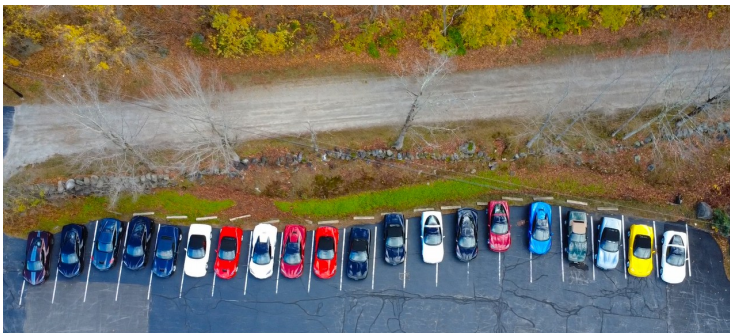
My drone goes everywhere I go, and while most days it never comes out. But just knowing it's at the ready at moment's notice if the setting is right, it's available to capture almost anything I want from an overhead perspective.

Now, flying one does take some practice and getting over the initial fears and apprehensions of either crashing it, losing it, or looking simply like a fool staring up at the sky searching for where exactly overhead the dam thing is. And like anything else that is a worthwhile endeavor, learning to fly a drone def comes with a learning curb, but all the apprehensions will slowly subside as your flight confidence begins to grows. And, while I still consider myself at the beginning stages of becoming a skilled drone operator, I now do so, with more confidence, and on the path to hopefully reach my goal of becoming an accomplished drone operator. And btw, there is a secondary skill that you will need to become somewhat proficient at. Learning to shoot aerial photography and videography at the same time as flying! The more skilled you can become in shooting pictures and video while at the same time as keeping the drone safe, in position and aimed where you want to be, the less time you will spend on the video editing of your results later on!

So, does this hobby sound like something you might enjoy? You probably won't know unless you give it a try. And, the good news is that it's not an expensive hobby to get into. Many really decent drones can be purchased for around a hundred bucks, (Amazon would be my recommendation) and while they are often lacking in some the features of the more expensive drones, (camera quality first and foremost) they all fly very similarly and allow you to learn the nuances of flight controls first before investing in a higher quality one. After several trial and errors, I've personally settled on the DJI Mini 4k (\$299.00) as my current drone of choice. It's a great little drone (fits in the palm of my hand) and I would recommend to everyone! It's as easy to fly as any on the market, comes with some great navigational and operational software that will prove to be extremely helpful in both getting you started flying and also after you've acquired advanced flight skills! Perhaps at some point, I will invest and upgrade to the next drone in line that will literally follow me where ever I go simply from a voice command... But that's further down the road, long after my skills far surpass

those of the actual drone I'm flying.

So, if you're looking for something new as a hobby, one that can be gratifying and enjoyable I would encourage everyone to consider taking up drone flight as your next new hobby. And would you look at that... Christmas is right around the corner!



Many Corvette owners do enjoy the luxury of a garage to keep their car tucked away in during the long winter months or even may elect to put their car into

storage. However, some of us don't have access to a garage and or choose not to pay storage facility fees. Instead, we keep our cars outside during the winter months. And while this may not be a perfect scenario, there are only just a few things we need to do in order to minimize the effects that the snow and the cold can have on our cars, and there is an added bonus that we'll get to at the end.

You have to remember that when GM designed and built these cars, they used the same engineering mindset that they use in building every single car they

manufacture: the ability to withstand the elements. They come with windshield wipers to be driven in the rain; they have the ability to add snow tires for them to be driven during winter; the paint is designed to withstand the harshness of the environment: all in the same manner that every GM vehicle is built.

So, while we like to think of our cars as being unique and different, from a

manufacturing standpoint much is not. So, while the 70-degree heated garage is a perfect storage scenario for any car, keeping your Corvette outside isn't considered abuse or blasphemy.

So, what can you do to minimize the effects winter can have on your Corvette when stored outside? First, it is recommended that you must invest in a good quality

outdoor cover, one that is specifically designed to be exposed to the elements. They are somewhat inexpensive and will do a great job of protecting your car's exterior finish. (Do not use an indoor cover outdoors, as they are designed completely different). Second, make sure you have a good coat of wax or paint sealant applied prior to hibernation as this will allow the cover to move over the paint without leaving any marks that you'll have to deal with come spring time.

Next, deal with the potential rodents looking to make a home (same as indoor storage). The steps you take to minimize this problem are pretty easy and straightforward. Use a deterrent such as a product called Fresh Cab placed both in the cabin and under the hood and around the car. This will make your car an uninviting habitat.

(Just remember to both replace them every 30-60 days and also remove them from under the hood before starting or driving the car!) Place some stainless steel in your exhaust tips (you can use balled up aluminum foil). Together these steps should effectively deter your car from becoming an unwanted home.

Fuel storage should be the same as indoor storage. Keep the fuel tanks at half or below and add a fuel

stabilizer. Lastly, start the car every two to three weeks and allow the car to run up to temperature for 30 minutes or so, and when doing this, move it a few inches to keep your tires from flat spotting.

Lastly, if you happen to catch that stretch of beautiful dry weather in winter before they apply any salt or brine to the roads— then by all means take it out and enjoy it, even if it's for just an hour or two!



We would be remised if we didn't take a moment and acknowledge and thank all of our amazing Admins for their efforts and contributions for our recent 2025 season. I have stated time and time again, that without them, SONHC & SOMEK would look and feel entirely different, and not in a good way. The sacrifices, time and energy that they all devote to the club, its members and to every single one of our events is truly astonishing and beyond humbling. It starts with each of them individually all just being some incredible people and for them having a willingness and belief in all that we do. So, to...

Dick & Vicki Lemire

John & Suzanne Hodgkins

Pete Langlois

Mark & Whitney Hensley

We extend our heartfelt Thank You, full of appreciation, admiration, gratitude and Love!



*Also, We wish to extend a warm welcome to **SOMEK** Corvettes newest Admin...*

Mr. William "Bill" Taylor who will be assisting Mark in the upcoming 2026 season and beyond!

Welcome aboard Bill!



As we enter into the final month of 2025, informational rumblings are starting to slowly get louder on the development of the next C9 gen Corvette. While we still don't have many actual hard facts on what GM has up its sleeve when it comes to the next Gen Car. If there is any truth to the rumor that the new C9 will be released in 2028-2029, then there certainly lies the possibility that one or two more C8 variants might still be in the works for the final C8 2027-2028 production years.

Or... as we're now into the sixth year of C8 production, have we seen just about every variant that the C8 chassis will bring? Grumblings about the Zora and Grand Sport variants continue to float about, the information on these variants is similar to what little we truly know about the upcoming C9! Not Much

But, what we DO know so far... GM just recently announced that they have begun testing the new Gen 6 ICE small block engine, in order to have it ready for their release of the new pickup models coming in 2027. An almost 900-million-dollar investment in the Tonawanda powerplant outside of Buffalo confirms that the small block is here to stay for the distant future. So, we can most assuredly assume that the Gen 9 will continue to have a small block variant as its primary powerplant. Information on these upcoming 5.7 & 6.6 displacement engines is starting to come into focus, as they are due to be the new replacement v8 powerplants in the Silverado remodel. In the past, GM has put into their pickup trucks a detuned version of the 6.2 engine that the Corvette has come standard with. All be it a much different configuration.

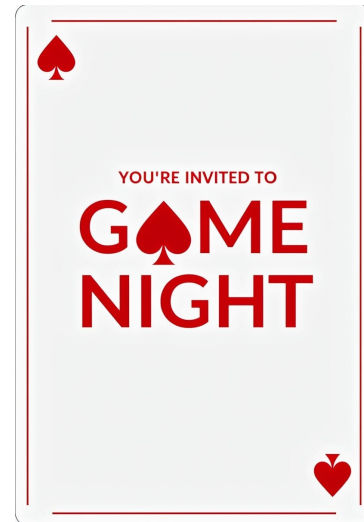
The very recent sightings captured in pictures out in the wild, show a camouflaged C8 (or is it a possible C9?) with a completely covered engine compartment, fueling the speculation that the new V8 is already in its testing stages. And while GM has teased us with several design variation releases from their design studios, it would appear that they are all just far to extreme to be anything close to what the C9 production car will truly look like. They seem to all be the results of more GM stylists showing off their design talents rather than what the next gen car will remotely look like.

And, there is also another concern about the C9 development that actually have nothing to do with the Corvette platform itself. But rather stems from the litigation that is pending in the form of billions of dollars in class action lawsuits against GM for the faulty Silverado and Sierra 6.2 engines and automatic transmissions. One such lawsuit in particular focuses on the faulty 6.2 (same detuned engine as in the C8 base) that have been failing at an alarming rate at extremely low mileage. This subject is something we're going to be hearing a lot about in the coming months as some of these class action lawsuits have been given the green light to proceed in some courts. Time will tell, with how the outcomes will turn out, but they have the potential to cost GM Billions! And typically, manufacturers will pull the money need to satisfy and settle these law suits first from some of the fringe departments such as design and product development.... So, we do not know if or how much this litigation could effect the C9 developments time line!



New Members Page:

Yes, we are first and foremost a Corvette driving club. And, unless you happen to be one of the few that throws on winter snow tires, there not a lot of Corvettes out and about and driven during the New England winter months. So, as a group, we transition into our indoor winter season and enjoy some quality time together in the warmer indoor environments. As soon as the Holidays pass, we start up in January with a couple of events each month that we will hold through spring, that not only are welcome to new members, but new members are encouraged to come out and join with us and attend. It's a great way to meet existing club members in surroundings that are much more conducive to conversations than in our cars and helps break the ice when spring does arrive! So, when these events get posted on our website, we encourage our newest members to get signed up and come out and join us!



Update on **Our Make-A-Wish Campaign!**

As we hit the half way point of our annual Nov/Dec Make-A-Wish campaign, Through the amazing generosity of our members, so far we have raised over **\$1,200** towards our ultimate goal of raising **\$5,000**! While we still have a way's to go, to reach our goal, we have to acknowledge the generosity shown so far by our membership. We ask that every member think about making even an small contribution towards our goal for this wonderful organization and the work they do!

Members can make their contribution through our website on the Charitable contributions page:

<https://sonhcorvettes.org/charitable-contributions>



SONH CORVETTES



Our Season-Long *Partnering Professionals*

Thank You Group Sponsors!

As we conclude our 2025 season, we must stop, acknowledge and thank our many incredible club sponsors.

Our *Partnering Professionals* are all some of the very best in their perspective fields and we are so fortunate to have such great working relationships with them all. Many of our members took advantage of the special programs they have in place for us, both saving thousands and also received the best in needed products and services!



Thanks for reading our December GENERATIONS