

SO NH CORVETTES

SO ME CORVETTES

GENERATIONS

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February... is Here... One of the

final hurdles we must trudge through each winter season to continue our way towards spring.... And, by most accounts the 2025-2026 the winter so far here in New England has been one to remember! With the cold being locked in for what seems like weeks now and with each week bringing us some new level of snow to deal with across the region! This year probably reminds every one of the many winters we experienced in the past here in NH with lots of snow and cold that we've definitely had a reprieve from over the past several winter seasons.

But, if there is a silver lining in all the snow that we have received so far, once spring does arrive, it should help us with lots of mountain runoff that hopefully will keep any droughts away this summer. But I wouldn't recommend to pull off the car covers off anytime soon!

But, with this year's season, a cold and snowy one, here's something we recommend that you might want to do is use this all this indoor time to formulate a plan. **A maintenance plan!**

So, in this month's newsletter, we focus on a few areas to remind everyone to start planning for any maintenances things you should be thinking about doing come spring time. So, we delve into a few areas that if you plan for now, you'll be ready to perform once the warm driving season finally does return.

For many, the cold winter months are a great time to catch up on some reading, and with that in mind, we encourage everyone to throw another log on the fire, settle into your comfy chair and pull out the **vehicle owner's manuals** and brush up on you car. Yeah, it's not a riveting spy novel... but surprisingly enough, it can actually make for some interesting reading and guarantee you will learn something about your car you didn't know beforehand.

And, if your car happens to be in a heated garage, you can go out and sit in it, turn on the radio and take in all the new info while getting into that summer time vibe again!

We as always, sincerely thank everyone for their continued support and in coming out and participating in our events regardless of the time of year!

Let's enjoy some bowling this month and then a little go-cart track time next month, before we kick off our season in April and then get to the good stuff we all crave with the hopeful return of the good weather! Fingers crossed!

Rick Delano

OUR JANUARY EVENTS:

What better way to start the new year off than by saying so long to the holiday season by taking in the massive holiday light display at the NHMS...all from the comfort of our warm cars! A bitterly cold night was the backdrop of our first ever visit to this incredible display of holiday lights. Someone took a very long time in setting up the 2 plus mile long light displays.

Next, we went from the bitter outside cold to going inside sitting around a warm hibachi grills, as members of both clubs gathered to enjoy some Saki, onion volcanos and shrimps landing in the cap time. Making for some great food gatherings to start off 2026 on the right foot! Ever give Ginger Ice Cream a try?



Our Watkin Glen May 2026 Caravan update!

Hotels are confirmed! Dates have been selected and announced! More than 75% of the caravan spots have been filled! Work is progressing towards finalizing and closing out all the little details that should make for one amazing journey! Once all our plans are completed, the next thing to do, will be to conduct a complete dry run sometime in April to make sure we've got everything right! If you haven't signed up yet to join us, we encourage you to do so NOW as once it's full...It's Full!

Our 2026 SONHC Season
Kick Off Event is now
Scheduled!



It's official, the date and times are now set for our annual SONHC Season Kick-Off Event! Saturday April 18th from 5:00-10:00 PM. We once again return to the Puritan Conference Center in Manchester, NH for the host of this gala event. This year we moved the event out a few weeks into April, as it seems Mother nature was always trying to help by scheduling some sort of winter weather event when we held it in March! Registration to attend is now open and tickets can be purchased through our SONHC website. Details for this event will be released in the coming weeks! And, as has been our past tradition, we will release our 2026 entire season schedule of events at our event that night. We hope you'll consider coming out and joining us.

With our SOME club, Mark & Bill right now are busy planning out another year of great events for the members to enjoy in Maine for the upcoming 2026 season.



We can't wait to see what they have planned! Much more on this to follow in next months March edition!

PP SPONSORINGCOMPANY: HPM INSURANCE: AND WHY YOU NEED TO GET TO KNOW THEM!

When we first set out to create a program where we could partner with local companies to bring quality products and services to our members, we honestly didn't at first think about adding in a local insurance provider into the mix. Well, that all changed with one single conversation I had with HPM President and owner, **Lyle Fulkerson**. Not only did Lyle educate me of the importance of having a local agent as opposed to on-line or internet-based coverage, he also convinced me of the importance of having the right local human interaction element involved in providing and protecting all of our assets. Insurance is not always about price, at least not to those who in fact are far more concerned about coverages and the peace of mind in knowing you and your family are beyond well protected.

In a world where we all have a lot to lose, having people close by to look over our asset protection needs is something that no online or phone-based coverage can provide. And, here is the funny thing about insurance. Most people only find out that they have inadequate or wrong coverages after an incident or accident happens. And, only then find out not all coverages are the same. Things like having complete vehicle replacement cost coverage, or vehicle accident depreciation values are things that only a local company will ask about before hand!

HPM will address issues like this by having the right conversations before hand to address your coverage concerns and needs before, and not after when it's too late!

So, something like having these and other benefits one might think would come with a premium cost attached. Nope, wrong... as many members who have made the switch to HPM (Us included) can attest, not only are we getting the best in personalized coverage, but we're getting it all at substantial savings! Go figure!

If you haven't reached out to Lyle's HPM team of great agents, all of whom are local here in our communities. The question then begs to be asked... Why not? All you have to risk is a phone call and who knows it might just change your ideals on what an insurance company is suppose to be!



Our Mission Statement :

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 share the same passion and love for these iconic cars by promoting participation in Corvette caravans traveling throughout New England! As we now have over 2,000 group members, our media footprint continues to evolve, change, and grow — with the continued goal of making every member experience a memorable one!

Never before have we been challenged by the simple question “Is what I’m seeing... even real” ... Yet here we are...

Artificial Intelligence, or AI as it’s called for short is taking over a lot of the daily information we, all consume and see, be it on social media, main stream media or even what is shared with us by our friends and associates. Today’s news and info isn’t coming from a Time or Newsweek magazine. But straight from a computer algorithm!



And, it’s also coming at us at lightning speed from every direction! To be able to produce fake and altered images and video that was once exclusive and only available to high powered editing studios is now at the fingertip of anybody who is willing to engage in AI. Programs such as ChatGPT are available for anyone who can simply add AI to their phone or computer that unlocks a world of make believe. Which brings into question, is what I’m seeing and experiencing truly fact, completely computer-generated fiction or some combination of the two. And to some the dangerous ability to create something not even remotely close to real, yet still tricks our eyes and our minds into believing it is.

Here’s one example. The stupid Byrna banana commercial that is constantly being aired on television. The entire commercial is AI generated. There were no real actors involved in the filming of the ad. Not a single one! It is a 100% AI fabrication from start to finish. And if you didn’t know that it is 100% AI generated, you’d never question if it was real or not. But, Now that you know... the next time it’s on, watch closely and you’ll be able to pick up on some of the subtleties that the AI still hasn’t perfected.... Yet! With a strong emphasis on yet!



So, what is Artificial Intelligence or AI and how does it work? AI is a complex series of computer programs that work in collaboration together, designed to run on modern powerful computers (yes, your phone even qualifies) that is able to use algorithms and images and sounds and piece together scenes, videos and even replicated voices, and do it all to the point that it appears as real, as real gets.

And if that’s not enough, here is the real scary part! AI from all the created interactions actually has the ability to learn all on its own. (cue the Terminator movies) And, moving forward, it’s only going to increase the impact on the information we all absorb and see, and as it continues to learn making it more and more difficult to distinguish fantasy from reality.



So why would something like the AI subject be the feature article for this month’s newsletter? Because not only is it now an everyday occurrence we all face, ingest and experience (knowing and unknowingly). Its now increasingly impacting information being disbursed about the upcoming C9 generation Corvette! (Along with the C8 Grand Sport) Many an image of made up totally fabricated AI C9 Corvettes are now already covering the landscape.

We’ve gone from CG (computer graphics aka green screen) to now AI in the blink of an eye. Leaving us all to wonder, if what we’re being presented with is real or not real! Same with regards to the rumored C8 Grand Sport! Images are all over the internet showing

pictures of this real or not real model that GM is supposedly working on for the 2027 model year. And, AI is right at the forefront in leading the charge when it comes to fueling the rumors of this model.

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It's incredible abilities also opens up a plethora of questions that will all need to be addressed and answered. With the first pressing question of... by whom! You see at this point in time, the only ones who are attempting to regulate this incredibly fast-growing technology, is sadly, the industry itself. Not that government involvement would mean anything different than any other subject they try and regulate. A mitigated disaster, full of regulations, and laws that don't work and causing any number of other self-created issues.

So, the next time you see or hear of something that makes your brain question what you are seeing, just remember one key thing that perhaps might help you determine if it's real or fake... Who is the original source of what you are seeing coming from. Is the information provided by let's say GM itself (but be pre-warned, GM uses Ai as well) or is it someone who is dreaming up some concept they like and sharing it as truth to others! As the Bob Dylan classic goes... "Oh The times They are a Changing"



LAPS FOR CHARITY EVENTS ARE RETURNING FOR 2026!

A series of events we look forward to each year with great anticipation is the return of the Laps For Charity events that are held annually at the NHMS. Something that if you have never tried, you don't know what you are missing out on. Some people refer to them as parade laps, but if you have ever been to a parade where you can go well over 100 mph, then please tell me where to sign up. Members who do go out on the track are many times reaching the end of their driving expertise when reaching the end of the straightaways. And that's not to be taken as a criticism, just a statement of the lack of experience going rather fast in these cars. And every lap taken helps to raise critical funds that go directly to help the children of the New England Area in need. In 2026 while the schedule has not been finalized, it's been communicated that there will be 4 events planned on the 2026 calendar, and we'll be there for each and every one!



OUR 2026 MAINTENANCE GUIDE PAGES:

As we all seem to be currently surrounded by cold and snow, we thought that February might be a good time to start to think about Corvette maintenance and in making a plan on what we should do to help keep our Corvettes in top running condition. come warmer weather! So, this month, here are just a few reminders as to what areas we think you might want to look at and consider maintenance wise on.

That Big Black Brick in your glovebox

As mentioned in our opening February statement, let's talk about that big black encased brick in your glove box. The one that fills the majority of it and sits unused and maybe 1 in 10 owners ever pull out and open!

Reading it is something that truly should be a requirement for every Corvette owner of both new and used cars alike to read. The information contained is not only incredibly detailed and covers every possible subject related to the car, It is extremely accurate to the information about your particular Corvette. Every option is called out in the book and every sub model option is also listed. If there is something you have a question about, chances are it's contained in the owner's manual. There is an easy to find index in the front that will help you find exactly the subject you are looking for. And now if you prefer, every Corvette owner's manual is available as a downloadable PDF file that you can put on your desktop, laptop or even your smart phone. And all that knowledge is then right at your fingertips... and the next time you are bored and decide to watch a cute video of some baby goats on your phone, instead just take the plunge and open up your Corvette owner's manual and dive it. You'll be thankful you did when some question comes up later and you already know the answer!



Corvette fluids!

Many of us are all told by our cars when it's time to get the engine oil changed. Maintenance lights blink at us, warning messages flash across our dash, all urging us to get to the dealership as soon as possible and get this maintenance issue item taken care of. Thankfully most Corvette owners are more than pro-active when it comes to keeping the oil in our engines changed and clean. Many times, long before they are at the end of the fluid's life cycle. But one thing that Corvette owners also share with metal car owners, is the lack of information in knowing when the maintenance of all the other fluids in our vehicles need to be serviced and changed. There are in all vehicles today, several other wearable lubrication and functioning fluids that do require periodic servicing. Transmission fluids in the C8 are one of the first things that every owner is made aware of at the time of purchase. Specific mileage intervals are critical in maintaining and ensuring the continued proper operation of this extremely complex transmissions. But there are others that sometimes can fall by the wayside, such as the cooling antifreeze, brake fluid, clutch fluid for older generations, and finally the differential fluid. Each of these have recommended service intervals that must be adhered to as closely as the engine oil and transmissions service intervals. Every fluid in our cars has a life cycle and not only do they keep the moving mechanisms operating smooth and cool, they in fact keep these components from failing. As they age, they become deluded, the chemical compounds break down as moisture forms and the effectiveness of their lubricating properties drops off dramatically. Depending upon which fluid it is, the service intervals will vary, with replacement required typically between 30,000 and 50,000 miles. And you'll not only keep the performance of your car to peak levels, you'll ensure a long healthy life for all its critical components. And guess what, all these intervals are called out in your... you guest it... owners manual!



Filters and Wipers

Just a few more simple easy to perform maintenance things you can take care of and perform yourself. Change out your engine air filter and cabin filter each new driving season! Both you and your car will breath better if you do! And even though most of you who proclaim will never drive their Corvettes in the rain, throw on a new set of high quality wiper blades, each spring just in case you ever happen to get caught out in the unexpected shower which in itself is annoying enough, but doubled by streaky wipers going back and forth you can't see through!

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Tires and getting old... the tires that is!

I see it more often than I'd care to think about. Corvettes with tires that appear when visually inspecting them from the sides appear to be in like new condition. But a little more digging reveals that they are not new at all. And, in fact many of them carry a DOT production date code that is far removed from present day!

And, these older tires all should be replaced regardless of the amount of tread still showing. Tires over 5-7 years old regardless of tread depth should be replaced. No matter if you own a garage queen or an everyday driver. Every tire produced since 2000 carries a manufactured date, which tells you the month and year that the tire was produced in. It's always the last four numbers that can be found on only one side of the tire sidewall as part of the DOT manufacturing information stamped into the sidewall. If you don't see it on one side then look on the other... it's there!

It shows the week and year that the tire was produced. 2624 for example, means this tire was produced in the 26th week of 2024.

Tires today are made up of a multitude of compounds and differing materials, many of which are susceptible to the harshness of our environment. The ultraviolet rays from the sun, (the biggest culprit) to the effects of the unseen gases in our atmosphere all take their toll on the tire compounds over time. Additionally, these tire compounds eventually dry up and develop outer stress cracking as shown in the pictures. Something you don't want to be thinking about while enjoying a afternoon cruise out on the highway... or worse, enjoying some spirited driving. And while the chances of these stress cracks causing a tire to actually fail are low, it can and does happen! So, why risk everything on something that is totally preventable. Just Get em replaced! And remember the stress cracks can also occur on the sidewalls as often as in between the tread blocks!

And, one final footnote on the **Michelin** tires that many of us have on our cars. If you happen to have newer tires, say 2-3 years old and you find they are developing stress cracks. Then reach out to **Michelin** and file a warranty claim, as many times they will stand firmly behind their products and offer you a credit towards replacement **Michelins**. They are a customer service first company and will always work with you to resolve this issue, or any other, many times being extremely generous in the amount of credit they may offer.



The Back to The Beach event update

It was with a great deal of sadness that we learned of the passing of Sandie Bergeron, from an illness back in December of 2025. Sandie along with her fiancée Ralph Quaglietta were the driving force behind the 21 years of the Back to The Beach Corvette weekend long event held in Old Orchard Beach, ME. Each June We send along our deepest condolences to Sandie's family and to her fiancée Mr. Quaglietta on her passing. The Corvette community lost a great voice and advocate with her passing. It was recently announced that the 2026 Back to The Beach 2026 version will be a modified shortened event, coinciding with a celebration of Sandi's life taking place at the conclusion of Saturday's event festivities. Also, it was recently announced, that our friends over at Corvettes United of MA will be organizing and returning the full weekend long event in 2027. **Mark Reil**, the club's president and many of their members who have always been strong advocates and participants in the event will now continue on with this traditional Maine Event! Information is now available on both this year's celebration event along with plans for the 2027 return for anyone who is looking for more information or to sign up to attend. A new Facebook group page called "Back to the Beach" is now available for anyone who would like to learn more and or sign up to attend either this coming years event or the 2027 event.



A concerning trend or real opportunity

As the calendar has turned to February, there is a trend that is still occurring at Chevrolet dealer lots all across the country. The growing inventory of unsold new Corvette C8 Stingrays and yes includes even some ZO6's just sitting there unsold on the lots! At last count, recorded by industry insiders there were close to 5,000 new unsold Stingrays littering Chevrolet lots. And this trend has been this way throughout most of 2025 as sales have cooled for new Corvette base models. This is by far the biggest level of inventory of not only C8's but of Corvettes in general ever! Not since the 2019 C7's, have so many new Corvettes just been setting around unsold on dealer lots and in that case, knowing the new C8 were about to be released explains why that happened. Why is it happening again now and should this be an alarming concern? The answer is well...both yes and no. It depends on for who. For GM and the dealerships, it should raise some eyebrows and a bit of concern as nobody makes money when new cars sit unsold. No matter the model car. In fact, it costs money each month for new unsold cars to just sit on the lot. Dealerships still have to pay something called a floor plan for all the inventory they possess. And, on an average size dealership, the floor plan costs each month can add up to \$30-50,000 as a direct out-of-pocket expense as its simply put, the interest costs to borrow the money that pays for the car inventory they keep. Some of this money is captured back from the manufacturers, but it's still a very hefty expense. And while every car not special ordered has a certain floor plan dollar amount built into it, the longer the car sits unsold, the more these costs increase and eat into the vehicle profit the dealership makes when it does eventually sell.

For those who are in the market for a new C8, this can and will definitely affect the price of what dealerships are willing to accept in order to sell you that car. And, also long as you are willing to perhaps compromise on some of the options you are looking for, it can be a great way to save thousands off the MSRP asking price. Have some flexibility in the interior and exterior colors, and then ask the dealership which Corvette they have had the longest on their lot and work towards making a deal on that car to happen! Trust me, if the car has been there long enough, they'll work really hard towards putting you in the driver's seat! Especially during these winter months when dealer foot traffic and interest in sports cars is at the lowest point of the year, and plan your visit at the end of the month when the next floor plan bill will soon come due.

Grand Sport Update

One of the things that it seems in this day and age of instant information is it's virtually impossible to keep a secret. And even more so when something requires lots of people to be involved in it. Take for example the much-rumored new Corvette Grand Sport model! Article after articles have been flying around for months now about a potential upcoming Grand Sport to round out the C8 lineup and take us into the next generation C9 sometime in 2028-2029. Throw in the much-maligned AI information that we mentioned earlier and you have a whole bucket full of true and false information being dispersed! So, lets add to it! The Grand Sport is going to be released sometime in the coming 2026 year as a 2027 model. It will come with an all-new 6.7 V8 powerplant... and here is the mind-blowing part. It's looking like A manual transmission is going to be an available option! Yup! Lots of information is currently being disseminated down to the dealership level as they are being told to prepare for this upcoming model announcement. A all new 6.7-liter, 409 cubic inch displacement motor will produce somewhere around 550HP and 510 ft. lbs. of torque, placing is squarely in between the 495 HP of the standard stingray and the 670HP of the ZO6. I'm also being told that GM is holding off an making the official announcement as long as possible, in order to try and relieve the backlog of current new unsold Stingrays setting on dealer lots, which with this announcement could potentially further prolong! many of which are 2LT & 3LT models with prices approaching close to what the new GS will be announced at. One question that will arise is will the new standard powerplant transition to the 6.7 in the Stingray as well. Doesn't make much sense for GM to offer the new motor in just the GS. But then again, it is GM...

New Members Page

One question that comes across a lot of people's minds at some point after realizing their dream of taking ownership of a Corvette. Is becoming a member of a Corvette club right for us? What will they have to offer that can enhance our Corvette ownership experience!

And, many times the correct answer in deciding is usually found, in what are one's expectations in joining any club?

Becoming a member of any club or organization regardless of the subject entails becoming a part of a community of likeminded people. Ones who share the love and appreciation for whatever the club's purpose is. You happen to like pickleball, then you are going to search for and find a club that caters to people who enjoy pickleball! Do enough legwork and chances are you'll find the pickleball club that exactly matches what you are specifically looking for, be it to find people to play with or against, or to just to share "Pickleball" talk together.

Corvette clubs are no different, they just happen to be centered around a pretty unique and cool car. Yet there is a lot of myths and misinformation about Corvette clubs! Especially for those on the outside looking in.

So, we're going to address just a couple of the biggest myths about Corvette clubs in general in order to help you decide if you want to take the plunge and with which one.

So, one of the first myths to overcome is that all Corvette clubs are pretty much all the same! And this is absolutely not true!

Many Corvette clubs can and do differ in both their approach and the level of activity levels they'll offer. What they do, how they do it and what their end purpose is, all can be as diverse as all the colors on the cars themselves.

There are approximately 500 active Corvette clubs in the United States currently. And, while each share the same passion for these iconic cars and is the backdrop of the club's formation. Their structure and purpose can and does vary greatly.

One of the first big questions should be... Does a particular club's intended purpose and level and type of activities match what we think we would enjoy?

Some clubs can simply be small groups of people who occasionally like to gather to talk Corvette shop and perhaps enjoy a meal together surrounded by their cars. They tend to be a more relaxed and while having some level of organization, are based off the premise of being an informal club. But they can still be very enjoyable to those who are looking for a low commitment type of club to join. You still get to enjoy time around other Corvette enthusiasts and develop friendships together, you participate when you want and don't require you to make an all out yearly commitment or spend money to be a part of.

Others are national organizations, that have very large memberships and hold or sponsor national events throughout the year. Most of these clubs are on-line based and typically don't hold local events for members to attend. They require some sort of fee to join and they host centrally located national large group gatherings a couple of times a year. There is extensive travel usually required and involves big crowds gathering over a weekend.

Then the third type is what makes up the vast majority of the Corvette clubs on the landscape, yet can still vary when it comes to activities and purpose. Many of these types of club typically charge some sort of annual membership dues and their intended purpose can widely vary. But in all cases, you will get to experience what being a part of a Corvette community is like.

Next, aren't all Corvette clubs made up of just old people? No!

The average age of club members actually mirrors that of the average age of Corvette ownership. Which is around 58 years young! And, since GM first introduced the C8, this number has dropped significantly, as the C8 is the number one selling sports car of people under 35! So, the average club's demographic makeup is changing drastically as well.

Next, what is the structure of the club? Some clubs are centered first around the social aspect of Corvette ownership, with lots of dinners out together, an occasional ride and a philanthropic approach at giving back to the community. All of which are good things BTW! Other clubs like ours center much of their activities around driving these cars and while the end results do add a high level of social element, it's secondary to the time spent together behind the wheel of our cars. So, no matter the reason, we always encourage every Corvette owner to consider finding and joining a club that matches their own interests. You'll open up a whole new world of fun, comradery and developing friendships.

And lastly, don't forget to join and become members of the Nation Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY. Considered by all... to be The home and Holy Grail of Corvettes!

Our Season-Long *Partnering Professionals*

Its that time of the year, when we align both our returning Partnering Professionals and bring on board any new companies into our mix. So far we've received commitments from three of our Title Sponsors who will be back for the 2026 season! We're thrilled to have each of them as they are three of the very best service and product providers and also some of the most member utilized companies in our program! Look for more in the coming months as we add to this great group of Service providers



Thanks for reading our February GENERATIONS