

SO NH CORVETTES



SOME CORVETTES

GENERATIONS

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5th
ANNIVERSARY
SO NH CORVETTES

July...

It's here! We've patiently waited months for its arrival, and dare we say the summer season is finally upon us! And there is absolutely no place anywhere in the country as enjoyable as our New England summers! If you a beach lover, then there are miles of beautiful coast to revel in the sun! More of a Mountain type person? The Mountains ranges across New England offer you numerous exquisite peaks to enjoy full of hiking trails that are second to none anywhere in the country!

Very few places along the entire east coast can boast of offering beaches and mountains within an hour's distance of each other.

And if you happen to be a car person namely a *Corvette* owner, then the twisty winding roads between them will absolutely let you get lost for the day and be beyond happy about it! With summers arrival, our opportunities to do just that are now upon us!...

So, between the hot dogs, burgers, apple pies, BBQ's, summer picnics, and school graduations...!

We invite you all to come along and spend some quality time, "topless" in your favorite car as we journey together to some of New England's most appealing destinations!

Remember, summer seems to take forever to arrive, but goes like a flash!

There's just 11 Weeks until Labor Day! So, let's all make the most of each one!

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

One of the events we look greatly forward to each year, is our participation in the ***Merrimack NH 4th of July Parade Celebration.*** One of the largest in the state, this parade is lined with kids and grownups alike with crowds

sometimes 30 deep in some spots along the parade route. It's certainly an honor to be able to help celebrate our country's birthday with all of the parade revelers making the day just about as Americana as it gets! This year's parade rolls off on Friday July 4th!



June 2025 Events

What a way to help mark and celebrate our SONHC 5-year anniversary month! First our visit to the Castle in the Clouds certainly didn't disappoint. Yes, it was a bit chilly, yes, the wind was a nuisance, but the day still turned out to be an amazing gathering of both SONHC & SOME C members. Personally, it was an accomplishment five years in the making as Castle in the Clouds was the actual place that inspired us with the concept of starting SONHC. So, five years later for the club to be able to gather 50 plus Corvettes back to where it all began, made for one truly amazing memory! And June also offered much more!

SOME C enjoyed a fun visit to the Maine Wildlife animal park and a visit to the Maine Desert and concluded the month with a trip Downeast to the Owls Head Museum! SONHC had visits to Kimball Farms, NHIS for another Laps for Charity installment, and closed out the month with our first ever Old Home Days parade and Car show in the great small town of Walpole NH!...It was quite a Month!

(See Page 4 for just a few snapshots from our June Events)

NH Veterans Home visit

We pay no higher honor than that to our veterans. To those who have sacrificed for us all and have continuously answered the Call to Duty. It was truly an honor for SONHC to be once again invited back to the NH Veterans home in Tilton, NH and to spend a little time with some of our most revered NH residents. Our beloved Veterans!

(Pictures from our visit on Page 3)

5 YEARS IN THE MAKING



Our Five Year SONHC Celebration!

The thought that all this started with a simple conversation still boggles my mind. When Sharon said “Well why don’t we start our own Corvette club” Never in my wildest dreams did I envision that conversation leading to all of this!

Being able to share our passion for these amazing cars with so many of you is truly the gift of a lifetime to Sharon and myself.

We could say a lifetime of Thank You’s to everyone who’s paths have ever crossed ours and still not show all the love and appreciation that we have in our hearts. It’s been an incredible journey so far and with each new passing event, the feelings continue to grow.

This has been and continues to be a true labor of love! The countless hours we’ve put into SONHC & now SOME in creating, planning and holding the events has returned far more to us than it has to all of you! Have we been perfect? Not even close, yet you have all stood by us time and time again when something didn’t work out the way it was drawn up or envisioned. A testament to the incredible character of each of you, our group members!

To all of our Admin’s, both past and present... It is truly humbling to have you all believe so deeply in what was first created. To give of yourselves time and time again, offering to step into whatever role is need for the betterment of the group. That makes you all some very special selfless individuals. As none of this could have been done without your much appreciated efforts and sacrifice. To our current Admin’s, you make this fun for us to be able to share in all the conversations we have and the laughs that accompany so many of them! Yes we do poke a little fun at each other from time to time!

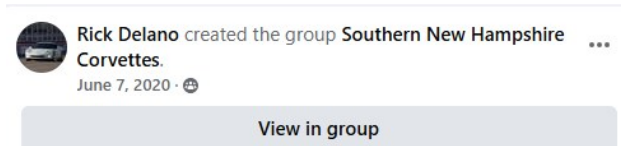
Now with the advent of SOME, we have much to look forward to in the coming years! Having roots in Maine, being born there, the creation of SOME brings a special feeling to my heart, as I know from spending so much time growing up there, on how many incredible people call Maine home. And the one’s that also happen to be Corvettes lovers, well... they are even more special to us!

So We humbly say Thank You to each and every one of you who have come along on any of our journeys, from the very first one across the Kanc to the most recent ones this past weekend! Now some 5 years later... 110 Events and counting... 2,000 members.... And all the countless friendships created. It’s safe to say... we stumbled upon something pretty special way back in 2020!

Rick & Sharon Delano

Founders

SONHCORVETTES & SOME CORVETTES



JUNE 8TH 2025 NH VETERANS HOME VISIT



June 30th Happy Birthday to the Corvette! Looking pretty good for 72



Here are just a few pictures from our SOME /SONHC June Events!



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! We continue this pursuit of excellence with our newest club, SOME, Est. in 2024



No, not the four-legged kind which btw we love! For this article, the term “mule” is a phrase that in the automotive industry is what manufacturers call cars (or platforms as they are sometimes referred to) that they use to create new components or complete new car designs for a model in development. Most all of this work using these Mules is conducted undercover and away from the prying eyes of the public and the press! Before eventually making their way out



in the open, heavy camouflaged to confuse those who are all trying to be the first to expose the highly kept secrets of a new model release. Everyone has seen pictures of some of the new upcoming C8 variant models wearing this heavy camouflage to disguise its outward appearance.

The actual modern-day camo that GM uses is a story on to its self as there is huge science built into the “**Dazzle Camouflage**” adorning these cars, all of which was created and designed to trick a and blur the camera lens.

To say that we’ve come a long way since the introduction of the Corvette C1 generation in the mid 1950’s to the latest C8 ZR1X just announced for 2026 would be a rather gargantuan understatement!

But, how did we get here? In this article we take a deep dive look at how the concept of the C8 architecture first began and led to the completed 2020 C8 that set the automotive world a blaze in 2019! Test Mules have been around for a very long time. Since the Mid 50’s Chevrolet has built and used these mule test cars to explore and develop performance and specific model designs. The General Motors corporation like most all automotive manufacturer in the world is comprised of individual departments, each having a certain responsibility connected to a cars production. From Financial, to Engineering & Design and Marketing to Production to the hundreds more smaller but equally important departments. It takes the coming together of all of them to successfully introduce and then produce a new car to the world. Sometimes these departments are made up of thousands of people collaborating on a certain aspect of the process... *Continued on Page 6*



FEATURED ARTICLE... MULES CONTINUED

...Continued from Page 5 ... and sometimes its just a few people...which was the case for the C8. The initial engineering department in charge of developing the new C8 platform was made up of just 12 people!

Just 12 people! ... Were involved in the start phase of this new model that was kept so secretive that even the top-level executives at GM did not know anything about it. In 2014 when the next generation C8 mid-engine design concept first started, for the first 8 months design team engineers rented an airport hangar facility far away from the GM design center in Michigan and worked on the mid-engine basics of the test mule without anyone batting an eye at the corporate level other than *CEO Mark Russ* who was in on the secret.



This very small group of people involved in the initial development and testing had to swear secrecy even to their own families!

The initial platform Mule car was called “Blackjack” and used components such as the chassis, the front grille and lights from an Australian Holden Ute. It truly was a Frankenstein as it had a Porsche transmission mated to a C7 LT1 engine and had a hacked up C7 interior and custom formed fiberglass body panels. It looked more like



a pick-up than a sports car. But the work that this mule accomplished was incredibly important as it completed 90% of the suspension geometry and exhaust work for the next phase of development. There was just one “Blackjack” and it did all the early heavy lifting on the initial C8 design. GM decided to not destroy or crush this one, perhaps knowing just how important this car would later become to the C8 lineage! The next test Mule looked a little more like the traditional Corvette shape, although due to its heavy camo, it could have been confused with just about any modern-day sports car. 11 of these Mules were built

and they took the initial results learned from Blackjack and built upon them adding many of the design features the C8 would have when later produced. These mules were still somewhat Frankensteinish, as they still had some C7 components, a cardboard dash along with some newly molded specialty pieces distinct for the C8 .

Thousands of test hours were done behind closed doors using these not fully functional cars to be able to continue forward on creating the next design platform which involved building over 100 functioning mules that would make their way out into the real world for testing. In 2017 the first recorded pictures captured these final test Mule cars with the now familiar silhouette of the C8 camouflaged on the streets across the country. Eventually leading to the final finished product, released in 2019 as a 2020 model year car! And of these final 100 test mules, all but one were also crushed and destroyed. Today all three of these iconic test cars are at home at the GM Heritage Center (Not open to the Public) and at certain times the first mule ‘Blackjack’ is rotated on display at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green.

Here is a YouTube video link to learn more about all the C8 test mules.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdzeNarBBrg&t=657s>



A LOOK BACK

New England Loves football... and more specifically our New England Patriots! Our visit last July down to Patriot Place in Foxborough made for a perfect memorable day! Blessed with beautiful clear blue skies and 70 degree temps, our group was able to enjoy much of what Patriot Place offers. The Patriots Hall of Fame, the enormous Patriots pro shop and an elevator ride to the top of the tallest lighthouse in America rising 22 stories above Gillette Stadium, along with all the variety of great food options that everyone enjoyed!

Our return visit is scheduled this month on July 20th as we once again journey down to Foxborough to spend another day taking in all this amazing complex offers!



PREDICTING WHAT'S NEXT!

When might we anticipate seeing the first glimpses of the newest designed **C9** generation Corvette? Now that it appears that all of the C8 variants have been announced. Will it be long before the attention turns to what's coming next?

Our answer may lie in the history of the new model Corvettes revealed over the past 20 years, having all the next model design start dates and release date histories for every new Corvette generation dating back to the C5 release.

And one observation is that the amount of time between the release of a new generation Corvette and the start date for commencing work on the next one is definitely speeding up!

In fact, sometimes it's even happening beforehand! Going back to the introduction of the C4 generation in 1983, it was only 4 years into C4 production that the work began in earnest on the next C5 Gen.

In the case of the C6, it was only 3 years into the C5 run that GM turned its attention to creating the C6.

With the C7, work on it began just a scant 2 years into C6 production in 2007.

And with regards to the C8, work on it began in 2011 ***even before the release of the C7 Gen*** in 2014! So, The process is definitely speeding up and GM is getting much better at working on and perfecting the new technologies for the next gen series faster than ever!

So, what should we expect with the next Gen C9?

Well, if you read the article on Test Mules, work is already well under way on the next C9 platform! and, there are already test mules somewhere doing the initial development of the next Gen series Corvette! With GM's announcement that they are investing almost a billion dollars into the development of the next new small block engine configuration, it is pretty much a given that the C9 will remain an ICE (Internal combustion engine) driven design. and rumor has it, design work has been happening since 2019, yes again, even before the introduction and announcement of the current C8 model!

With the advancement of today's super computers, the introduction of **AI** and with all GM learned in developing the C8 platform, *we should start to see evidence in the form of C9 camouflaged test mules out in the real world sometime later this year or in early 2026 at the latest!*



According to industry experts and GM insiders, the new C9 platform is slated to be introduced in 2028 as a 2029 model as either a straight ICE based platform or perhaps even with some sort of hybrid variant not unlike the current E-Ray as an optional model.

So now with most all of the current C8 variants announced, (all, if you believe the ZR1-X is truly the Zora) will it be much long before we get our answer to what's coming next?

But just how far away from the current C8 design departure the C9 platform will look is the real question, and so far no one currently is letting on or leaking anything about it to the

automotive press. GM has also gotten very good at keeping its design secrets well kept... until they want them to slip out... Such as the teaser concept photo's released by the British GM design center...

But we already know, testing the C9 design mules has to take place at some point out in the real world! Typically a couple of years prior to the official announcement of the new model.

The fact that Road & Track and Motortrend magazine has already announced the 1 million dollar bounty for the first one to capture confirmed C9 shots out in the wild, also tells us this necessary development step is not long away from happening!

So, get your phones at the ready just in case you happen to be the one to catch that what, the hell did I just see moment!



DID YOU KNOW...

Need a turn signal switch for your 2004 Corvette... Sorry... *you're out of luck...* that part has been discontinued! Need to replace the info screen on your C7... again... *not available, discontinued!*

This is a scenario that plays out time and time again. Manufacturers discontinuing replacement parts for cars. And there are numerous reasons behind it.

Automotive manufacturers have a tremendous burden with every new car they produce. Not only do they need to source or produce themselves every part that makes up that new vehicle model when it's built, but to also having the required replacement parts available when something gets damaged or no longer works. In GM's case we're talking about literally hundreds of different model vehicles that they have produced over the past 20 years! And each one requiring thousands of parts needed to build them. We're talking about massive parts inventories! Then you then add in the ability to provide dealerships and customers alike the needed replacement parts needed to keep a vehicle working. It's a monumental task. So, much so that GM has an entire division dedicated to nothing but replacement parts! So how does the process of deciding what parts remain available long after the production of a particular vehicle has stopped? Lots of things play a role on determining a parts life cycle. Government mandates are one consideration, as US manufacturers are required by law to provide replacement parts for up to 10 years after a vehicle production

has stopped. But there also many more constraints that can affect the availability of a part. Sometimes a particular outside vendor who GM originally contracted to produce a component may no longer even be in business. As many of these outside supply vendors, their sole existence was to build just a few components for a particular GM model car or truck. When that production stopped, their customer chain dries up and they end up closing their doors. For the companies that do remain in business, they've moved on, now producing the more current parts needed for today's production.

There're also are the financial implications as well. Parts inventories in order to remain profitable, must turn over, meaning they need to be sold and then reordered in order to make that part profitable. When they set on the shelf and don't sell, it both ties up working capital that could be better invested in keeping parts for more newer model vehicles that are far more abundant in

numbers and require a higher demand for replacement parts. Keeping a part that may only sell a handful of times a year doesn't make sense for many of these smaller companies. In other words, it comes down to the same thing as most everything else...

Money!

But there is good news! This parts life cycle process has spawned literally hundreds of new companies that specialize in providing many of these hard-to-find discontinued parts. We're fortunate to have on board with us a couple of these aftermarket suppliers as part of our **Partnering Professionals** program. **Eckler's Corvettes and American Muscle!** They can get many of the obscure and hard to find items needed to keep your Corvette both running and looking great. Another option of course is **E-bay**. As it too can be a great source to search and find those hard-to-find discontinued parts, if you're willing to do a little leg work in determining if the part listed is the right one for your particular car and the exact one you need.



Gone in 60 Seconds!

The last thing any of us ever want to think about is being involved in a car accident. The consequences can and sometimes are devastating. In 2023 alone, there were over 6 million accidents in the US involving over 40,000 fatalities! On US roads, an accident occurs once every 60 seconds, or over 16,000 each day! Couple this with the statistic that the average driver will be involved in 3 to 4 accidents in their driving life. Chances are pretty good that most all of us will at some point be somehow involved in an accident! The good news however is that 90% of all accidents reported are minor fender benders without ever involving injuries. But even when these minor occurrences happen, they can lead to a huge financial impact well beyond the repair costs. The average cost of an accident repair bill last year in the US was over \$4,500! And, something that unfortunately many people only learn about long after an accident and their car has been fully repaired is the lingering financial effects that never go away!



In today's world of information, every vehicle has a history attached to it, from the day it is manufactured and sent to the dealership, to how often it has been sold and resold and registered. Its entire maintenance history is cataloged...**Along with** any accident occurrences it has had during its life. Every step of the car's life journey is well documented and tracked and this information is always available to someone who wants to see the history of any car. This information is often used to determine the value of a car at the time of trade in or sale. This tracking of cars history is an entire industry upon itself, with services like **CARFAX** making hundreds of millions annually off selling this information to dealerships and other facilities around the world.

And, it's an undisputable fact that a damaged car will always be worth less than one that has never been involved in reported incidents or accidents. Even after the repairs have made it as good as new! Even something like a minor fender bender can literally take thousands of dollars off a cars value long after any damage has been fixed. This can leave an owner in a very precarious situation. A Corvette that was worth \$50,000 before an incident, now with an accident history permanently attached to it, can depreciate in value by the thousands!



And there's more... Let's say the accident damage on a car is a little more substantial and the insurance company elects to total the car involved in the accident. If you happen to still have an outstanding loan against the car, the value the insurance company assigns to the car's payoff value may be substantially less than what you owe, leaving you with no car and an outstanding loan balance to still pay off!
So, what's the solution?

Do your homework before waiting to be involved in an incident. Talk with the experts! We absolutely recommend you reach out and contact our *Partnering Professionals* at **HPM Insurance** and discuss any of these concerns. They specialize in offering solutions and can provide coverages that virtually eliminate the financial effects of being involved in an incident, such as replacement car value coverage or "Gap insurance" and also accident depreciation coverage. DON'T wait until it's too late to learn you had options! Call **HPM Insurance** today and start the conversation about all your accident concerns! They have offices scattered all across NH to address all your coverage needs!

Is this available in my size?

*We know one size doesn't fit all when it comes to what our members like when it comes to caravan sizes. We are aware that some like the more intimate feel of a 15-20 car caravan events and yet others like to be a part of the larger spectacle sized ones. As the saying goes, Variety is the spice of life and that's the approach we try and take when we plan and schedule our events. The vast majority of them are on the smaller scale, with cars counts limited to around 20 or so cars. Yet a few, are designed to be much larger in size. The recent **Castle in the Clouds**, the upcoming **Patriots Place visit**, the September **Ride across the Kanc** and the **Bennington trip** all are designed around accommodating a larger number of Corvettes travelling together. When you have as many active members as we do in NH, (in 2024 just under 350 members came out on at least one event) offering a variety is an absolute must. Or... many interested members would never get the chance to come along and experience an event.*

From a planning standpoint, while they differ slightly, in reality the planning is much the same regardless of the caravan size. We tell you this so you can rest assured that even when an event is on the larger scale, you can still come and be comfortable, relax and enjoy the day! We've got you covered either way!



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!



AMERICAN MUSCLE



Thanks for reading our July 2025 GENERATIONS