

## This Months Articles

- Summer is Back!
- Congratulations SONHC members!
- Aviation Museum
- Portsmouth Kittery Caravan
- Bowling Green KY
- GM Test Tracks..  
No not the one at Disney.

### Here's something to Ponder..

The next time you're at a large gathering of Corvettes or on a large caravan.. Take a second and think, every single Corvette you see that has been built since 1982, has rolled off the very same assembly line as the one you are driving. There's a really high probability that the ZR1, Z06, Grand Sport Base and all the Special editions along with your car were all built by the same hands on just one assembly line!

Talk about some family lineage...

If you're a car nut, then this is your favorite time of year. You could literally go to a different car show or event every single day of the week and still miss way more than you could see! As many clubs and organizations have events scheduled each day of the week, it's a wonderful problem to have so many great options to choose from! At SONHC, we're no different, as we start to really crank up things in the months of June and July, Caravanning to some great destinations and holding some pretty unique and fun events. We hope that you will consider being a part of some of them and join us for some great back road caravan adventures!

**Congratulations to the SONHC members who brought home trophies at the 41st Annual GCCC Spring Fling held at Anheuser Bush on May 28th.**



## June



## Happy Birthday

A very Special Happy June Birthday goes out to one of **SONH CORVETTES** founding members.

**Ms. Sharon Delano!** Sharon has been here since day one and has collaborated on almost every element and aspect of this group. From our first caravan to our latest event, Sharon's is pretty much involved in everything that goes on, both behind the scene and at our events.

Simply put, we wouldn't be here without her.



All Vehicle alignments are just \$60.00 everyday for SONHC members at any VIP

## Aviation Museum Visit, Manchester NH

By Debbie Kardaseski

Friday, May 12, dawned grey and threatening. Those of us who had planned to meet and drive to the Aviation Museum of NH thought, "Here we go again, another trip postponed due to rain. Grrrr." However, when the time arrived to head out, the sun was out and the day was gorgeous.

I chose to meet everyone at the museum rather than drive to the Pheasant Lane Mall. When I arrived, there were only two other Corvettes waiting. One belonged to our fearless leaders, Rick and Sharon Delano; the other belonged to newbies Jim and Diane Brown, who had driven down from Wolfeboro!

After introductions we headed inside to be met by Docent Larry, who led us on a very interesting tour. The museum may be small, but there is a lot of history packed inside. Anything related to New Hampshire's part in the history of aviation can probably be found here! There are many folks who have been involved in aviation development through the years and it was amazing how many were from our little state.

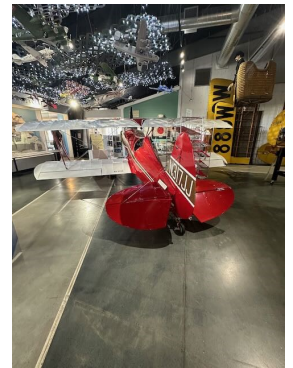
The museum is housed in the second terminal for what was then known as Grenier Field. It is located directly across the runways from the current main terminal. The airport has grown by leaps and bounds, from a total passenger count of 70,000 in 1970 to 162,000,000 in 2004!

Northeast Airlines originated here. If any of you remember the "Yellow Birds," that was Northeast Airlines! The museum has models of all the various aircraft Northeast used while they were in business.

There are also a few hands-on exhibits, including a cockpit from an airplane, which is a big hit with kids of all ages (that included us!). One of the more interesting exhibits is a tire off a B-52 bomber that crashed in Fremont, NH in 1959. All eight crewmen were able to parachute to safety, as the plane broke up and was scattered over the area. Since then, many pieces have been found and can still be found.

If you have kids and can handle driving there in the family car, it would a great way to spend an afternoon.

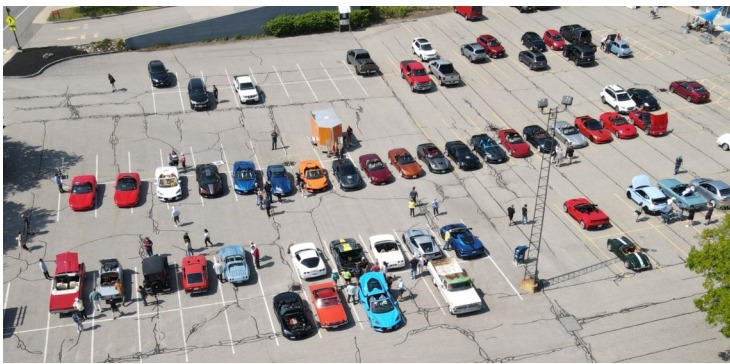
After we'd spent time enjoying all the museum had to offer, we headed to the Red Arrow Diner in Londonderry. After all, driving a Corvette makes you hungry, and lunch with friends, both new and old, was a perfect ending to a great day.



The aviation Museum is located adjacent to the Manchester Boston Reginal airport in Manchester NH. It is open to the public Friday & Saturday 10-4 PM & Sunday 1-4 PM

## Portsmouth Kittery Caravan 2023

60 SONHC members came along on what turned out to be a fantastic day weatherwise for our first caravan of the 2023 season, journeying from Manchester over to Pierce Island, Portsmouth for a picnic and then on to Kittery ME. SONHC was invited to attend a first time held event, the Kittery car show. This event was held to benefit the local food kitchens and pantries by accepting donations and canned and dry goods. With the help of SONHC members, whom all made some very generous donation's to the cause, the event was able to raise over \$3,000 dollars! We finished the day off with a great drive along the Atlantic ocean down Route 1A in our search for the exclamation point of the day. Ice Cream! We thank everyone who came along and participated, including many new first time members joining us on their first caravan.



## Home is where the heart is...

The next time you venture off into the attic or the basement and you happen to see that old A/C unit probably covered up or sitting on some of the other useless things you keep saying you'll eventually take and throw out. Just remember before you toss that a/c to the curb, it has something in common with that beautiful Corvette sitting in your garage.

You see before the Bowling Green Corvette production plant was busy churning out the Great American Sports car, it was the production plant for air conditioning units for the Chrysler company... yup that one, .



Built in 1970, the Bowling Green plant was the home of Air-Temps commercial air conditioning production. It was one of

over 600 manufacturing plants that Air-Temp had at the time around the world and as the saying goes, timing in life is everything and in the case of the Bowling Green ac plant, the timing was awful. More modernized companies were coming out with newer a/c technology that didn't require the bulky units the BG plant was producing and the Chrysler owned Air-Temp was quickly sold to the Fedder corporation in 1976. A month after the purchase, The Fedder corporation closed the Bowling Green plant and it set idol until GM purchased the plant and the surrounding 212 acres of land and retrofitted it to begin producing the 1982 C3 Corvette.



modernized plant in KY. Since 1983, the plant has been the exclusive home to the GM Y body chassis (the Corvette & the 2003-2009 Cadillac XLR chassis). Since the plant purchase, GM has invested well over a Billion dollars in both upgrades and modernization to the facility! The plant is home to over 1000 hourly and salaried workers operating on a Monday thru Friday dual shift schedule. (There are occasional Saturday shifts when production requires). The plant is both rich in history and in tradition as every single Corvette produced since 1983 has rolled off the plant's assembly line regardless of model or configuration. In May 2015 GM invested almost a half a Billion dollars alone on a new state of the art paint facility on the grounds



of the plant ensuring the Corvette would continue to have the highest quality finish of any car manufactured. (Ever seen a bad paint job on a new Corvette?) Today the plant continues to modernize at every available turn, from investing in future energy green house gas reduction, by adding a 1.2 kilowatt solar power array. When it is completed in the fall of 2023

the shared solar panel field will generate enough energy to produce 1000 Corvettes alone, completely on solar power. GM is collaborating with several companies in both building and utilizing the Logan County solar farm.

Plant tours have resumed in 2023 once again allowing lucky visitors to see the amazing Corvette assembly process that happens only in Bowling Green.

With the 2024 NCM Caravan fast approaching, and thousands of Corvette owners descending upon Bowling Green area in 2024, the plant tours will be at a premium for sure.



### Plant tour information.

Tickets can be purchased through the National Corvette Museum.

Currently, tours can only be booked through August of 2023.

Individuals must be ages 13 and up to participate in a plant tour.

No bags, cameras, or open-toe shoes are permitted inside the building.

Plant tours are scheduled Monday thru Friday 8:30 Am, 11:30Am & 2:00 PM no weekend dates are available .



Moving production from the very old St Louis production plant to the newly refurbished and



We all know that the Corvette, regardless of generation has always had for its time, incredible performance characteristics straight from the factory. From the late 50's to the present day, GM has attempted to always build into the car, great durability, beautiful looks and incredible performance! And while a lot of what has made its way onto the production line has come out of the engineers design room, non of it would be possible without the designs being thoroughly tested and proven capable. Gm has over the years invested 100's of millions of dollars of facilities designed to do just that. These huge parcels of land are called proving grounds, and GM has several of them. All equipped to test, evaluate and break every element that goes into the final production of a model. The Corvette is no different.

GM has three proving grounds with multiple test tracks in each that they own or co-own: They also have partnerships in several other s located in Canada, Germany and China each with specialized facilities.

Desert Proving Ground Yuma - co-built and leased by General Motors located within the US Army's Yuma Proving Grounds, near Yuma, Arizona has 40 miles of roadway. One of the main reasons that this site was chosen was the already imposed no fly zone which helps prevent unwanted photography of pre-production prototypes undergoing testing. The facility is also used by the US Army for their own testing requirements.



Milford Proving Grounds - the industry's first dedicated automo-



bile testing facility when it opened in 1924. It is located in Milford, Michigan and covers 4,000 acres. The proving ground includes the equivalent of 132 mi (212 km) of roads representative of conditions found on public roadways and other specialty surfaces for vehicle testing. Some roads are open only to drivers who have



We encourage everyone to visit our SONHC dedicated website to learn more about who we are and what we're all about. Our latest group news can be found there as well. You can also view our upcoming schedule, register for an event and even shop for registered official SONHC gear. Thanks for reading, and hope to see some of you at one or more of our upcoming schedule events!

[www.sonhcorvettes.org](http://www.sonhcorvettes.org)