

SO NH CORVETTES

SO ME CORVETTES

GENERATIONS

March 2026 Vol 6 No 3

IN THIS MONTHS...

MARCH OPENING STATEMENT

MEMBERS FEEDBACK

A LOOK BACK AND AHEAD

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VAULTS VEHICLE PICK UP

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ALIGNMENTS

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OUR PARTNERING PROFESSIONALS

***NEW** SPECIAL INSERT SECTION*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

March...It's almost to the point of being cruel, we're literally just weeks away from springs arrival... and Mother Nature says... Hold my beer!

Let's just dump more snow on the New England area to drag on this winter from hell a bit longer! The trips out to the garage most certainly increased in February, and not to admire our cars, but instead walk past and grab the snowblower and deal with all the white stuff sitting on the other side of the garage door! Regardless of what lies ahead for March, the winter of 2025-2026 will already be one we won't forget for quite some time. But enough about the winter misery we're all going thru.

Let's switch up the subject talk to us starting to prepare for the much-anticipated annual spring awakening of our cars! And with any luck, it hopefully happening sooner rather than later!

There is probably no time of year, we more look forward to than the reemergence of the warmer more enjoyable spring weather. We've gone through months now of separation anxiety, being away from our beloved Corvettes and the anticipation of reconnecting is on most everyone's minds on a daily basis! Now, for some, the spring awakening may entail nothing more than going to the garage and pulling off the cover and firing it up!

However, for others there might be a few things on the to do list that will need some attention in order to be ready to enjoy that first spring drive behind the wheel!

So, in the next couple of month issues, we'll be delving into some common areas that in one way area or another, effect many of us each spring.

This month we delve into tires and the importance they play to all of us. Considering our entire investment contacts the road with only four small little slivers of rubber their condition and age is a pretty important part of our cars. So, we hope you find some tire information that is helpful this month as we work our way from the tires up to try and best help everyone prepare for that first glorious warm spring day!

Thanks as always for reading, as we now happily transition into writing about things other than the down time of winter, and focus on all the great things we have to look forward to in the coming months!

Rick Delano

Recently we conducted an impromptu polled to some of our members as to the content and layout of this GENERATIONS newsletter. And we certainly received some great feedback... First, we wish to thank everyone who shared with us their thoughts and opinions! The overwhelming majority came back stating that we shouldn't change anything. So, for now, we'll run with that! This is a labor of love each month as lots of time is invested in trying to bring subjects that are both interesting and informative to our members. We attempt to include articles that are beneficial to the average Corvette owner when it comes to maintenance, model issues and the latest fixes along with also providing the latest news and rumors in the Corvette industry.

Sometimes we delve in outlying areas that might seem a bit off the beaten track... and that's our goal! To provide information that can only be found on page twelve of any Google search one might do.

Obviously our first priority here is to share our club happenings, both from recapping past events and more importantly sharing what's coming up in the near future. Our primary function has always been and will continue to be to try and inform, communicate with and entertain you, the members. Our door will always remain open for any further feedback, criticism or any ideas for future editions. And, we certainly appreciate all those who hopefully find something each month that is worthy of their time in reading.

February's Not Happenings

If there is one time besides our December Holiday break, where things appear on the outside to be very slow with little happening ... You guessed it, its February and March! And it's that way by design.

As we gear up towards another full season of 30 plus events, this is the time of year where we nail down many of the details on the soon to be released schedules and plot them out on the calendar. All of which takes time... lots of time to get it right!

So, while we're a little light on the events in February and March, know that we're working incredibly hard behind the scenes, at adding in all the finishing touches on the entire year's event schedules for both of our clubs!

Go ZOOM ZOOM... And not go Boom Boom!

We are really excited about our SONHC March visit down to Supercharged

Entertainment in Wrentham later this month, as we get to experience wheel time in some neat go carts that able to go kind of fast! Our first ever attempt at putting members together on a track without pace cars or limits. This could go one of two ways.... Really well with lots of fun, or really not well but still lots of fun. Either way, we will get to enjoy New England's largest indoor go cart track together for a fun afternoon event.

Hopefully the pictures from this event we post in next month's newsletter ,will be of us all going in straight lines and not of us spending the afternoon untangling carts from each other!

Registration for this event will be opening in the coming week!



OUR SEASON KICK-OFF EVENT IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

In seasons past, we've always held our Season Kick Off Event this month in March. And it seems every year, we were cursed with some wonderful winter weather on the actual day and evening of the event. In consideration of our many members who often travel great distances to be a part of the event, this year we decided to push it back a few weeks into April. Now there's obviously no guarantee that we still couldn't get a little late wintery Stuff, the chances drop off significantly the later we go. So, this year it's **April 18th** and dam it if it snows on that date, well, we're

just going to raise the white flag honestly just give up.

This year also will include a first for us, as we will have live music being performed by the very talented **Eddie Sands** and perhaps may even accompanied on a song or two by one or more of our very own musically talented members! We also may have a few more entertainment surprises up our sleeve for this fun member Spring gathering... And for those who have not signed up yet to attend, availability is dwindling fast.

Spring Car storage retrieval



If you happened to be one of the lucky SONHC members who utilized one of the **Vault Motor Storage** facilities this past winter season, (One of our great **PP** companies and BTW...this alone automatically qualifies you as one of the smartest people in the room after the winter we've had) Here is their spring car retrieval process they would like to ask everyone to be aware of and follow. It's simple, really straightforward and quick and easy! Just give them a call **three days** prior to the actual day you wish to pick your vehicle up on. This will allow them adequate time to safely get your vehicle moved out of your storage area, and prepped for your pick up. On the actual day, you arrive, just check in with the office, sign some paperwork, look the car over together with a staff member and you'll be quickly getting reacquainted with your car and on your way in just a few minutes.

And, here's something else that Vault can offer you. They can have your vehicle professionally detailed prior to you picking it up so its ready to roll straight right out of storage and straight into your garage! (you'll need to call ASAP and get this service scheduled as their spring detailing calendar is filling up really fast) No having to go home and spending extra time cleaning and then detailing your car yourself. Take advantage of their professional grade detailing services right on the grounds of their facilities! Talk about one stop shopping!

And, there's more! You can even discuss booking your next season storage reservations, as part of your spring checkout process! Giving you great peace of mind all summer knowing that your car will be cared for and stored properly again come fall and winter!

Our Planned Watkins Glen Caravan Update



Time is fast approaching for our caravan trip out to Corvette Thunder happening coming up in May! One of the things about this trip which is exciting is that the group size will be the perfect number of cars for us to be able to stay connected and together! I often state that for me personally, the 15-20 size corvette caravan is just perfect as we are able to comfortably travel in unison, remain in sight of each other at most all times and allow for a closer level of intimacy at the food gatherings.

We are quickly closing in on the event capacity with just a few remaining open spots still available. Trust me when I say this is one trip you will regret if you're not attending. It's a quick four day event, a beautiful ride through the mountains of Vermont and New York and a weekend on one of the beautiful Finger Lakes of New York! Doesn't get much better for the first overnight trip in our club's history!



Industry Happenings!

GM SLAPPED WITH FIVE-YEAR FTC PENALTY IN DATA-SELLING SCANDAL

The Federal Trade Commission just recently finalized an order against General Motors Co. that will ban the company from disclosing consumers' geolocation and driver behavior data to consumer reporting agencies for five years. The agency said in a news release that GM "collected, used, and sold consumers' precise geolocation data and driving behavior data from millions of vehicles without adequately notifying consumers and obtaining their affirmative consent." The FTC alleged in a complaint that GM used a "misleading enrollment process" to get consumers to sign up for its OnStar connected safety service and OnStar Smart Driver feature, which tracked driver habits. The company also, according to the FTC, failed to clearly disclose that it collected and sold consumer data gathered via the OnStar Smart Driver. "GM monitored and sold people's precise geolocation data and driver behavior information, sometimes as often as every three seconds," "G.M. established the Smart Driver program to promote safer driving for the benefit of customers who choose to participate," company spokesperson Brandee Barker told the newspaper. "Based on customer feedback, we've decided to discontinue the Smart Driver product across all G.M. vehicles and unenroll all customers. This process will begin over the next few months."

GM CEO Mary Barra later also addressed the scandal. "We take our customers' data security and privacy very, very seriously," she said in May 2024. "We're going to work hard to be very transparent and be very privacy focused with our consumers, and (we) learned a lot of lessons in this, and we'll get better."

interestingly enough GM was not slapped with any monetary costs or fined any penalties, so as for those of us who were affected, don't be looking for any type of financial compensation other than knowing it will no longer be happening.

This ruling comes from the government Federal Trade Commission, or FTC as it's better known.



Did You Know...

As a follow up to our story last month on all the new Corvettes sitting unsold at Chevy dealerships. We break down the numbers a little further. Did you know... there are currently over 1700 brand new 2024, 2025 and even 2026 Z06 Corvettes sitting on dealer lots unsold around the country!

At last check there were 1000 couples and 700 HTC available!

The discounts off MSRP on these cars is somewhat insane, as some dealers are discounting them over \$15,000 to try and move them!

Considering that just a little over a year ago, buyers were paying thousands above MSRP just to get their hands on one!

With the release of the ZR1 & ZR1X, the level of interest on the Z06's has cooled considerably... I mean if you can afford the \$140,000 for the starting price of the Z06, it's probably not a big stretch to be able to afford the ZR1 starting at \$170,000. Oh... to only have such problems!



Our Mission:

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!

THE RUMORED COMING OF THE GRAND SPORT...THE LATEST NEWS!

Around Superbowl time, articles starting popping up across the internet about photo's a gentleman in California named **Nick @NJP_moto** captured, showing what appeared to be two C8 Grand Sports being prepared to possibly shoot some sort of promotional ad or commercial. There was a White and Dark Blue in the pictures and it was the Blue one that caught much of the attention. First off, it was much more exposed to the camera, so many of the details of the car could more easily be spotted. So why does this picture point so heavily towards it showing a new Grand Sport. Well, let's start with the double red hash marks above the rear fenders. A Grand Sport tradition! Only this time they appear over the rear wheels instead of the front which makes sense since the motor is now in the rear! This coupled with the fact that GM is returning the Admiral Blue color as a paint option, now calling it Opulent Blue... and appears to be in the same hue and color as the Admiral Blue that has always been considered the traditional Grand Sport color in previous model releases. There is also a hint of the color of the GS interior which traditionally has been red and this one appears to also share that same red interior color. Move on to the exhaust, they are center tipped signifying a possible change in the power plant. Possibly to the rumored 6.7 new SBC. According to Nick who captured this image, the exhaust tone was completely different than any C8 he had heard, with the return of a much deeper old school V8 tone. Interestingly enough, on the Corvette model configure options page, there now is the option to have either black or bright exhaust tips. A new option going forward.



2026 1564HP Stage III YENKO/SC® Twin Turbocharged C8 Corvette E-Ray

For those who feel the paltry 1250 HP of the 2026 Corvette ZR1X isn't going to be enough to cut it. Now you can finally breath. Introducing the 2026 Yenko SC Stage III Specialty Vehicle Engineering Corvette twin turbo E-Ray that one can purchase that will get you the rather ridiculous 1564 Horse power twin turbo 6.2 engine tucked under the rear deck lid! 50 of these fire breathing Hybrids (A slight chuckle at the thought of it being a called a Hybrid) will soon become available. They not only come with all the power that is required to get to the moon, but they also come with a grocery list long of specialty performance and cosmetic options that you can use to truly make it look down upon any ZR1 that are remotely close by. Here's one of the best parts... They all come with 3 year 36,000 mile bumper to bumper warranty! So If the Zr1 is truly now in Supercar territory as may say... what category does this monster fit into... Supercar Killer Extraordinaire ? Maybe you can try and strike a deal for the Stage III E-Ray Corvette and get them to take some money off one of their new Silverado 1000 HP manual6 Speed pickups they also now build... or just bring the estimated \$350,000 you'll need to bring them both home and call it good.



FEATURE ARTICLE: GRAMMY ROSE DOG RESCUE AND SANCTUARY

While our entire season schedule of events doesn't get released until the April Season Kick-Off Event! This is one particular event that we are so excited about, we want to announce it now and get it on everyone radar to come along and be a part of!

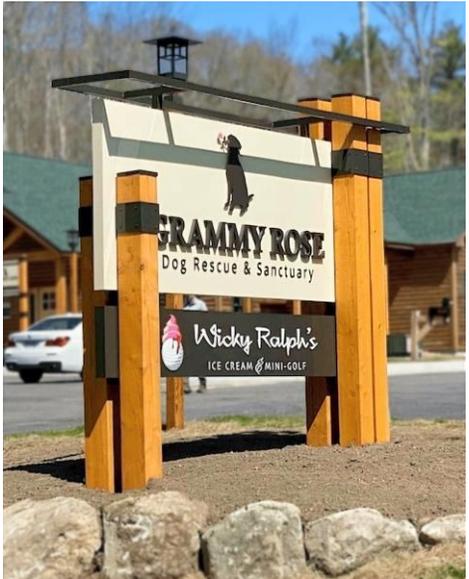
In Coordination with The **Grammy Rose Dog and Rescue & Sanctuary** organization, we're coordinating an exclusive SONHC & SOMEK members visit to their beautiful grounds in Acton, ME. on **Saturday July 25th!**

We're talking about a brand new event that we are adding to the 2026 season schedule of both clubs and one that will join members of both clubs together to enjoy a few hours on their beautiful campus!

The Grammy Rose Dog Rescue and Sanctuary!

This is an organization that has an amazing history and who origination dates back well over a hundred years! and in fact got its roots from a family with ties that go back to *George Washington*. Sitting on land that has been in the same family since the Revolutionary war, this beautiful campus contains a very unique rescue shelter, complete with a mini golf course, their own Ice Cream stand and a Gift Shop that is all solely dedicated for just one purpose.

To help in finding permanent loving homes for these adorable canines while making their time at the facility as enjoyable as possible. The grounds are set up to have these dogs become as interactive with people as possible before they hopefully go on to enjoy life in their forever homes. The numerous volunteers and staff spend every day ensuring their facility is ready for guests to come visit, see and hopefully lay the groundwork to bring home one or more of the dogs they have in their care that are of all shapes, sizes and ages. Every one of the beautiful creatures they foster, have all come to them as rescues, most all which have been rescued and saved from kill shelters all across the country.



over to the Acton, Me campus and coordinating our arrival entering the park together. This is going to be a heavily promoted event with our day's visit captured by several local media outlets.

So this is one, we'll be looking for a big turn out and to fill all the **50 available spots**, as this one, fits directly in our wheel house, where we not only get to enjoy a beautiful cruise and then show off our beautiful cars, but where we also get to help an incredible organization for the good of their cause.

So mark your calendar now, **Saturday July 25th with a Sunday July 26th rain date!**

We'll have much more to share on this one of a kind event, as we get closer to our visit! Should be a Pawfect day!



As we continue to try and further expand on some of the subjects we cover each month, we're announcing a new segment that we will be including in many future editions.

A segment where we search out, find and then explore some of the very best Corvette related websites we come across and what they have to offer. We'll explore and rate the content of a some of the websites that we think might be beneficial to both our members and to all Corvette owners in general. Some of which many of you may already be familiar with and yet others that we may be introducing you to for the first time.

We'll rate them all on a scale of 1-5 and grade them on things like useful content, and inform you about things such as their policy on collecting browser info, and what their privacy policies are. In this day and age, always a real legitimate concern. We'll also share information like if you need to register in order to gain full access to their site, and or if there are any costs associated with the site.

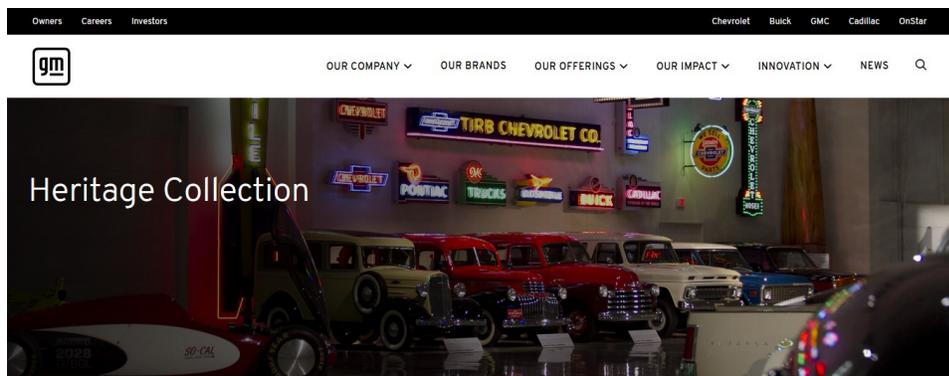
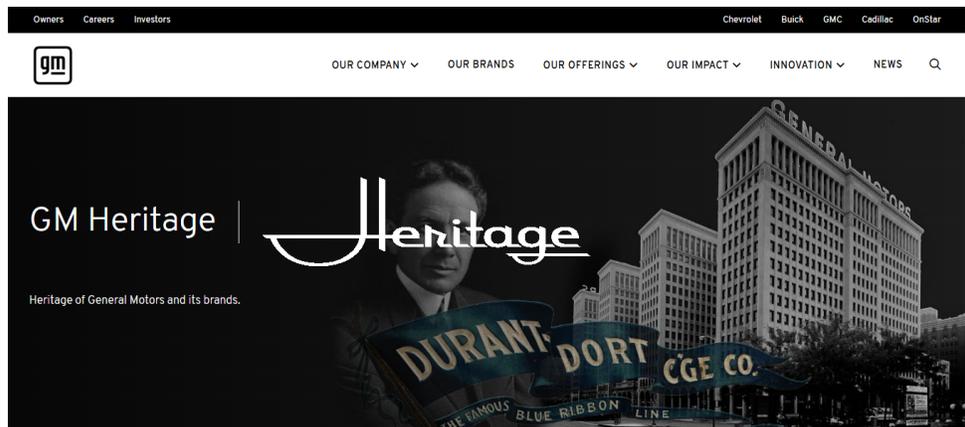
This month we start off with a website that most everyone should be familiar with already and we've already covered to some degree in previous months newsletters. The GM Heritage Centers website.

The GM heritage Center site is owned and run by the GM corporation itself. Its website is well organized, safe to visit and if you invest a little time looking around, you can find lots of great information not only about your Corvette, but of all their multi-brand product listings from over the past 50 years.

The site purpose is part a GM product promotion, part informational history and in part vision and viewpoint for the future. Many of the official C9 artistic concept renderings come through this sight and their affiliation with GM's official design studios, The General Motors (GM) Global Design Center.

The GM Heritage Center website is a comprehensive digital repository for researching General Motors' history, offering access to over 1.5 million digital media files, including historical sales brochures, vehicle build sheets, and dealer invoices. It is primarily used for obtaining technical specs, VIN decoding, and locating restoration information on vintage GM vehicles.

We give this Site: **A strong 5 out 5 rating**, and recommend it whenever you are looking at either historical GM data on a particular vehicle or as a source to learn about GM's history. You can create an account with them, if you choose to keep track of your search history other articles, but is not required. And as a bonus, the majority of the information is free to view and use! There are sections where you can purchase certain historical information for download. We recommend you check it out!



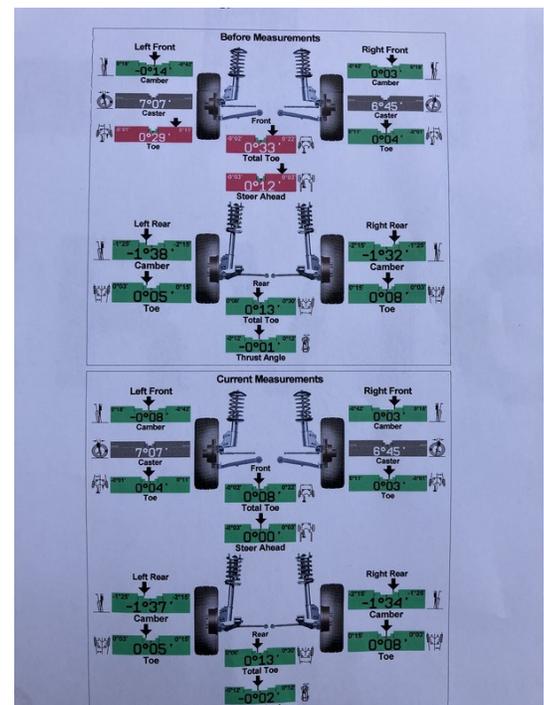
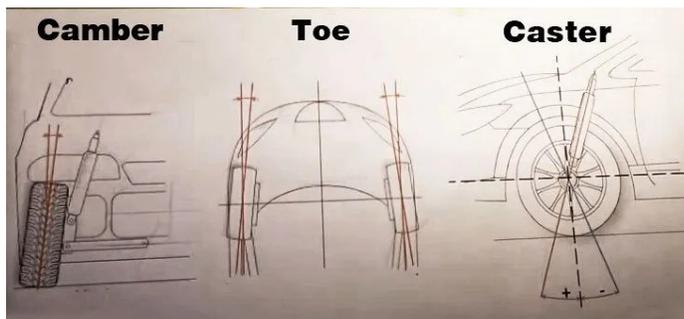
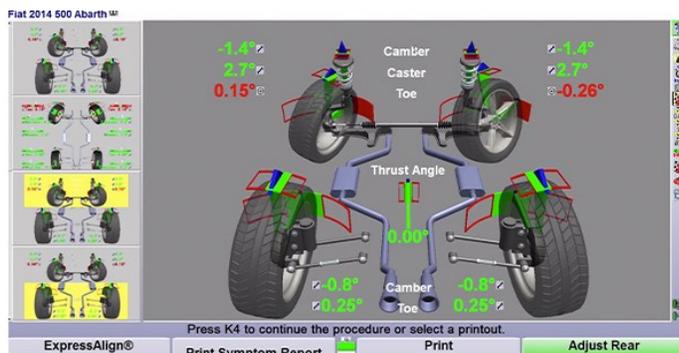
Car Alignments and why you always need to have it checked

If I was to have a hundred Corvettes show up at my shop and if I was to check each of them for vehicle alignments, I would not be surprised to have the vast majority of them with one or more of the alignments angles out of adjustment! Very rarely when I perform an alignment check on a late model Corvette, will I see only all green (Green is good) when I look at the alignment printout. Meaning either the toe, the camber or the caster (the three main angles we measure) on one or more of the four wheels will be out of the ideal range the car needs to both drive correctly and more importantly, stave off premature tire wear. We all know just how expensive replacing the tires on these cars can be. The longer you have to go in between that replacement, the more money you will save over the lifetime of your car. Simple math! Well alignments are also nothing more than simple math as well. Angles in numerical percentages make up the specs that correctly and incorrectly show what the car is doing as it's traveling down the road. The ideal objectives are to have all four tires rolling in a straight-ahead line (Not pigeon toed) and to also have the largest percentage of the tire tread to be contact with the road evenly from the inside edge of the tire to the outside edge. This spreads the tire wear evenly all across the tire and also maximizes the tires grip and performance. Part of the problem is that one will never know by simply driving the car if this is actually happening or not. It takes the precision of being measured by a machine that utilizes the accuracy of lasers to measure these angles down to 1/100 of an inch and equates out where the technician needs to make the adjustments to bring the angles into the green or within the correct specs. An incorrect angle of less than 1 degree can and does cause tires to wear unevenly forcing early replacement and also effects the handling performance of the car, especially during any spirited driving. I often see Corvettes in my shop that when looking at the outside edge of the tire, they appear new and show little to no wear on them. But upon further inspection up on a lift, reveals the inside edge of the tire is completely bald. This is not a defect in the tire, or caused by how you drive, it's simply from the car being left out of alignment.

So, now that you know the importance of this, what should you do? Well first, know how frequently you should have your cars alignment checked? The correct answer is at least twice a year. Typically, in the spring prior to driving season, and again during the middle or end of the summer once you are out racking up miles enjoying the Car. And here is the best part! With our great Partnering Professional's relationship with VIP Tires & Service, alignment checks are always free to our members! You can make an appointment at any one of their 77 locations and have the alignment checked! And, you never have to worry about the skill or experience levels of any tech who is performing the check, as the machine will both tell them exactly where the car is to start and all the adjustments that will need to be made to bring it back into alignment. It also shows them exactly how to perform each adjustment, step by step that will be needed.

Also, Chevrolet designed the Corvettes to have two distinct different standard alignment settings. One for the street and everyday driving and also one for those who often track their cars. The camber settings for the track brings the top of the tires a little bit more inward than at the bottom for better cornering... but it will come at a price... Tire wear! So, we always recommend for most Corvette owner to have the car set with the zero-camber setting. And, BTW, these alignment recommendations also should include your everyday drivers as well, not just your Corvette!

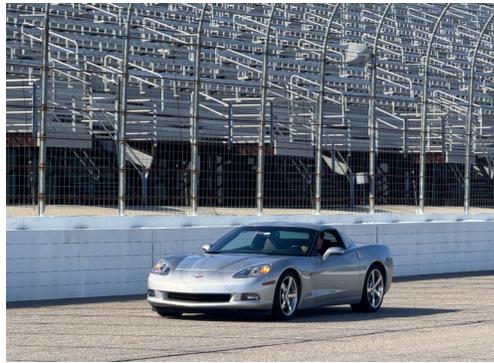
Knowledge is power and knowing that your Corvette is tracking down the road straight and keeping your tires wearing evenly is something that every Corvette owner should always keep as a priority. You'll enjoy a smooth straight ride and your wallet will thank you later.



Our New Members Page

It's getting close to the time to start thinking about making some summer time Corvette plans! After all, there's a pretty good chance you bought your Corvette to be able to get out, drive it and enjoy it! So, we invite you to do so while being surrounded by others who share the same love and passion for these cars as you. We're just literally a few weeks away from the start of our next cruise and caravan season. Once the good weather hits, the events will come fast, and event registrations will be added almost on a weekly basis! So if you haven't already made your commitment to come out and join us? Then consider this your invitation to do so! We guarantee that at any event you choose to come to, you will be warmly greeted, accepted for who you are and welcomed into the extended 70 plus year Corvette Family we are all a part of! And all you have to do is remember to wave!

This is Coming Soon!



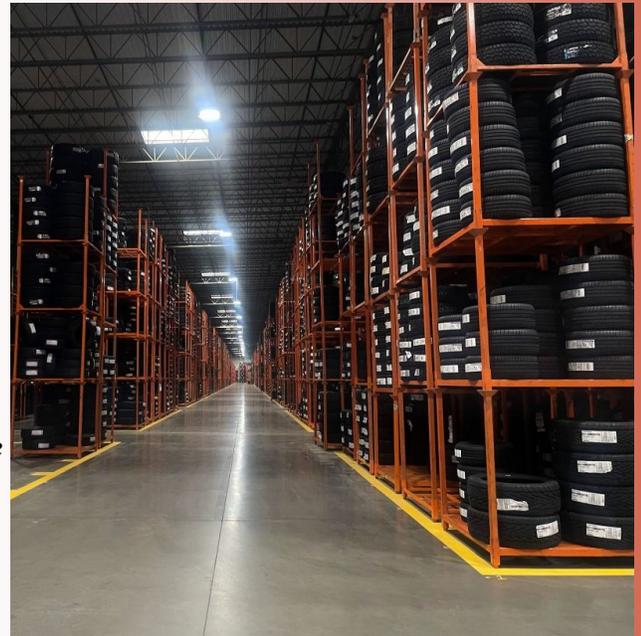
Our returning Season-Long *Partnering Professionals*





Welcome to a first of its kind, newsletter Insert! I came up with this idea after I recently made the decision to replace the tires on “Vetty White” And while for me the decision as to what to put on her for replacement tires was a easy one. I got to thinking that there may be others with questions when it comes to choosing and buying replacement tires for their Corvettes.

With spring right around the corner, I decided to come up with some Corvette specific tire information along with a list of some popular tire questions and appropriate answers to try and address and help those who might be in need of some new sneakers soon.



1. How big is the tire replacement industry here in the United States?

Each year on average, **250 million** passenger car replacement tires are sold just in the US alone. It's an unbelievably large industry, and one that accounts for over **60 billion dollars'** worth of annual sales and one that gets repeated year after year. It's an industry that is comprised and made-up of thousands of tire component manufacturers from all around the world. Most all modern-day tires are made utilizing over 200 differing materials and components. They're simply not just made straightly from rubber anymore, but instead have natural/synthetic rubber, carbon black silica fibers, steel belts and nylon polyester cords that together make up and form a modern tire... Like the cars themselves they are installed on, tire performance today has increased dramatically to match that of the newer car's enhanced performance characteristics themselves. They're certainly are not our grandfathers bias plied Goodyears!

* While there are no specific statistics in regards to how many of the 250 million tires sold each year are designated as Corvette specific type tires, It is estimated that over **100,000** Corvette tires get replaced in the US each year. In our shop alone we installed new tires on 67 Corvettes of varying generations in 2025.



And speaking of Tire installs... this is obviously an area of major concern for all Corvette owners who have beautiful expensive rims that they don't want damaged when having new tires installed. The solution? Is for you to ask lots of questions beforehand. How experienced is that shop and the person doing the install at dealing with wide rims and very low profile tires? How many do they do in a year? What's their shop's policy if a rim does get damaged or scratched during the install? You should be able to draw a strong conclusion from the answers you get back. And, if a shop is even remotely hesitant during any part of this conversation... or says well we can probably do them but we don't do a lot of them.... then find another shop! And also, just because a shop refuses to do a particular Corvette model tire, such as some of the latest monsters like a 345/25/21 on the C8 Z06 or ZR1, it doesn't preclude them from mounting your C6 or C7 or even C8 Stingray tires. They are just telling you they either have tire machine or tech limitation and they know them well enough to share this with you upfront. Being honest is better than giving it the old college try and having both parties regretting it later!

TIRES CONTINUED....!

2. What happens to all the old tires that come off the vehicles when new tires get put on?

I'm somewhat glad to be able to say that for now, the vast majority of them no longer end up in landfills 100% of the time as was the case in the 80's and 90's. Instead, today they are primarily recycled into new products, used as fuel, or repurposed for civil engineering projects. Roughly **80%** of the 280 million tires discarded annually in the US are now being recycled, rather than just dumped into landfills and adding to the already **4 billion tires** scattered and buried across the world.

Yet there is still much work to be done here in the US to get that recycling percentage closer to the net zero goal. Tires are one of the worst items we put into the ground.

Each of them takes **50–80 years** to decompose, and as they do, all the chemicals and materials that went into creating them, becomes part of the land they are now buried in. ***Used tire disposal still remains a major issue for both the tire industry and the world in general.***



*I am however also proud to state that our Partnering Professionals company VIP Tires and Service take tire recycling very seriously and they recycle every single tire they take off customers cars! And not adding a single tire to the **17 million tires** that are still ending up in our landfills each year.*

3. Why are replacement tires so expensive to buy today?

The tire industry like many other manufacturing industries underwent a tremendous change during COVID, with some of the resulting effects still in place today. The components that are used to manufacturer tires are sourced from every corner of the globe. And when COVID hit, the costs of moving these goods across the seas in shipping containers to the tire plants increased in some cases by well over 250% And while the shipping restrictions have all eased, the container shipping costs haven't gone back to anywhere close to what they were at pre-COVID levels. And today still remain double or more of what the shipping costs were just 5 years ago. This along with increased costs of materials together add up to the now skyrocketing prices on all tires, with most all brand pricing up **40-50%** above what they were being sold at pre-Covid.



4. So what are a some things I need to be consider when buying tires for my Corvette?

First off, you will find lots of options when deciding on choosing new replacement tires for your Car! Most all of the major brand tire manufacturers now offer the majority of these uniquely sized tires that are standard on these cars. But even before choosing a tire brand.

One of the first decisions you will need to make is do you want to put on Run Flat or non Run Flat tires. This is a long hotly debated Corvette owner question as to which is the better way to go. For those who do not like the stiffer ride feel of the reinforced run flat sidewalls, they will often elect to go with the non run flat tire. However for those who prefer to have the the cars original performance characteristics and also of the security of knowing that if something were to happen causing a tire to loose air, they know they can at least get 50 miles closer to home (and at 50 MPH BTW) before having to deal with replacing that tire. Some manufacturers now will even offer the same tire in both run flat and non run flat versions.

Here is are my thoughts on this. The cars performance characteristics where designed and built with the car only having Run Flats on them. Chevrolet and Michelin tire engineers specifically designed the tires with just the right amount of side wall stiffness to maximize the cars cornering performance and braking capabilities. When you replace the tires with a tire that has less sidewall stiffness (non Run Flats) you are in essence changing the performance characteristics of the car. The small difference in ride quality between the two is at best minimal, and not worth compromising one percent of the great performance we all love having in these cars. Especially in one particular area that many of us never think about, until we have to perform a panic stop and 5 feet can end up making a huge difference between safely stopping and disaster!
Continued...

TIRES CONTINUED....!

...Continued

Something else you should know when shopping for tires. Does the tire you are considering carry **the correct speed rating** of that tire? Speed ratings are what tell us how fast a tire is designed and rated to go. All Corvette tires should have a minimum rating of either a **Y** up to a 186 MPH or a **(Y) or ZR** rating of above 186 MPH. And don't fall into the trap of well I'll never go that fast so I could use a lower speed rated tire. Wrong! This speed rating also effects the cornering and above mentioned important braking distance capabilities of the tire.

So if you happen to shop on-line when looking at new tires, remember to always check the speed rating of a particular tire you are considering. This is one area that you can perhaps find an incredible price on a tire only to find out it was designed for another model car such as a big luxury sedan that just happens to have the same tire size as your Corvette!

Speed Symbol	Speed
L	75 mph
M	81 mph
N	87 mph
P	93 mph
Q	99 mph
R	106 mph
S	112 mph
T	118 mph
U	124 mph
H	130 mph
V	149 mph
W	169 mph
Y	186 mph
(Y)	186 mph+

5. So if I decide to go with run Flat tires and I get a nail in my tire, Can it be fixed?

And the answer is... both Yes and No. As long as the puncture is within the top tread area of a tire which is the same as a non run flat tire. And while the tire industry recommends that run flats never get punctures repaired, its not because they can't be, as they can be just like a regular tire. It's the more not knowing how long that run flat tire was driven without air being the concern. Run Flat's have a unique sidewall construction that allows them to be driven for up to 50 miles with little to no air. But the longer they ride with out air the more destruction can occur to the sidewall compromising the tires integrity. Run Flat Tires were originally designed as a one time usage tire, that when they become punctured, the customer was to just buy a new tire. Now with many priced at over \$350-\$400 a tire, the option to repair them is one that many tire shops will just perform and as

they do, inspect the sidewall integrity ensuring the tire still has its original construction integrity.

This btw is the same in all tires run flat or not, that when the sidewall begins to break down, and compromised, there will be little rubber pellets on the inside of the tire similar to small pieces of popcorn. When this is present, run flat or no run flat, that tire is then junk and must be recycled.



6. So do any tire companies truly stand behind their tire products and mileage warranties?

Absolutely! There are still some companies that truly do try and stand behind both their mileage and product warranty's and will provide great customer service when the tire falls short of your expectations.

*Top companies like **Michelin** are not only committed to wanting you to buy their brands today, but also again tomorrow and also for every car in the family's fleet. And they try and use customer service as one way at accomplishing just that. Michelin is by far and away the best tire customer service focused company in the business. And this carries across their entire lineup of tires, Michelin, Uniroyal and BF Goodrich, all of which fall under the Michelin name umbrella. You will receive the same great level of customer service on every line they offer. They sincerely want you as their loyal customer and they want you to keep you coming back in the future. Survey after survey always return the same results. Michelin has by far the highest brand loyalty in the business and their customer service piece is a big reason as to why!*

Goodyear, and their other lines of tires, Kelley Springfield, Dunlop and Coopers can be also be pretty good manufacturer when dealing with tire wear issues. With them, just be prepared to have all your alignment and rotation history on paper as they may ask for copies before approving any mileage warranty credit.

The vast majority of the other major tire manufacturers can somewhat be hit or miss. Sometimes they will work with you if they see a trend on a particular tire model issue. But be prepared for a lot of back and forth and it often can turn out to be a lot more work and persistence on your part to arrive at potential credit settlement from them.

Continued....

TIRES CONTINUED....!

7. So is there one of particular brand of tire you would recommend for the Corvette regardless of generation?



You probably already know the answer to this question... **But Yes!** And I would like to be clear... when it comes to our beloved Corvettes, there is really only one clear choice tire that I always recommend. Its **Michelin!** And here's just a few reasons why?

First, they're what come originally standard from the factory. Hundreds of factory production engineers have evaluated and even had a hand in developing the specific Michelin tires than come new on each of these cars. In each case they are tailored to match and enhance the performance characteristic specs for each particular model Corvette they come on.

Second, their quality and consistency from tire to tire is unmatched. Each one of their tires is designed and made to perform exactly the same regardless of size or style as the next within a specific series of tire models. Something that is not a given in today's market. One example of this is the diameters of each tire of the same size and model, are all manufactured to be built within a single hundreds of an inch of each other, an important but much overlooked aspect of tire performance.

Next, the Michelin tires just straight up perform! They give you the best option when it comes to maximizing the cornering and braking performance of these cars. Its been proven time and time again by numerous ongoing tire testing. Michelin has it's own tire proving grounds and test their tires against the competition over and over again. I personally know of one car manufacturer that has their own a testing grounds just outside of Atlanta, and many times they are the host for other tire makers to conduct tire testing. And as soon as those tests are concluded, they take off the other tires and put the Michelins back on their cars for everyday use. **Ron Fellows Driving School** will only mount **Michelin Pilot Sport 4s** on all their C8 Corvettes they use in all of their driving sessions.

And lastly, I've seen and experienced their customer service when there have been possible tire issues. And I've witnessed them going far above what they could have done when it comes to taking care of their customers... So while I will gladly sell whatever tire any Corvette owner wishes to put on their car, unless its about saving money (Michelins don't come cheap) I always will recommend sticking with what is proven. And that is **Michelin Tires**

And one footnote... as I mentioned earlier, I just replaced the **Michelin As/3's** on "Vetty" ... and did so after getting over **50,000 miles** of usage out of our last set! Something that is unheard of on most cases when it comes to these performance cars!

8. Is there one company to choose, when it comes to purchasing your next set of tires for your Corvette?



The answer to this one is also easy: Buy all of them through **VIP Tires & Service**. Our sponsorship agreement with them affords us the very best level of pricing across all brands of tires 99.9% of the time. The pricing we receive through this partnership program is the very best, most affordable way to purchase your new tires. **Tire Rack**, which is considered by many to be the industry leader in tire pricing does not and cannot match the pricing we receive

through our exclusive partnership with **VIP Tires!** Most all sizes are stocked and kept in our numerous local warehouses and can arrive in just a day or two to any store location for installation. And, most all of the **77 VIP** locations has an experienced professional tire tech installer to safely and correctly mount and install theses monster sized tires. And, if you can't find one close to you that will agree to do them, (they will be honest upfront and tell you if they can't) then give me a call at my shop and make the drive over and I will get them installed at my Milford, NH store.

And finally after you've purchased your tires, getting the most out of them kind of falls on you, or at least you play a big role in maximizing the life out of every set. By **keeping them consistently at the proper inflation levels** indicated inside the driver's door (don't overinflate them or keep them under inflated because someone somewhere told you they would perform or ride better, unless of course you happen to have a higher mechanical engineering degree than the person who designed your car)

Rotate them every 5-6,000 miles (yes side to side on a Corvette) and always always make sure **your car is kept in proper alignment.**

I hope this helps shed a little light into the tire buying decision making process. Be it for your beloved Corvette or other family vehicle.

Rick Delano