

## March Madness !

### This Months Articles

- Introducing *Partnering Professionals*
- *What goes into a caravan*
- *Your mind is in the gutter (And your Balls)*
- *A new members perspective*
- *Business*

It's always the last miles on our journey home that seem to take so long, Similarly March feels the same way as we turn the corner from old man's winter to the coming of spring's rebirth, the last days seem to drag along at a snails pace. But blue sky's, green grass and 70 degree days will be here before we know it.

And we'll be ready! In April we kick off our caravan season and begin to enjoy the rewards of a long New England Summer! But not before we enjoy our Spring Kickoff event this month! A one night celebration of who we are and what we have planned for our 2023 season!



### Introducing *Partnering Professionals*

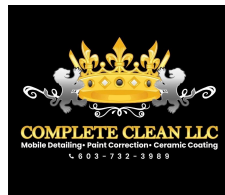
SONH CORVETTES is pleased to introduce a new program for its members called *Partnering Professionals*

We're joining forces with some of the very best automotive related service providers in New England to bring to our members, special programs, discounts on tires and service and additional benefits for our group! We ask that you consider these companies when thinking about any of your next service, detail or tire needs and take advantage of the programs they have put in place just for us!



**Our flagship Partner:** We're joining forces with one of New England's premier automotive service providers, **VIP Tires and Service!** With over 67 locations throughout New England, this family owned business is ready to take care of all your automotive needs and provide you with the very best service possible!

They have much to provide us with, when it comes to our Corvettes. **Michelin** tires for every generation, **Mobil One** oil services, Hunter vehicle alignments... these are just a few of the products and services they can now provide regardless of where home is! We're honored to have them join us as our Flagship sponsor in our *Partnering Professionals* lineup and in the coming months we'll try and share more about all the features and benefits they are extending to our group!



As spring is literally right around the corner, many of you are starting to think about getting your Corvette out of storage, it's once again time to think about getting it cleaned up and detailed. And while some of you enjoy doing the work yourselves, there are others that don't and we have a solution! SONHC is joining forces with **Complete Clean Detailing LLC**,

another one of our *Partnering Professionals* located here in Southern Central NH. They are a full professional detailing service provider and will take care of everything to get your Corvette in pristine condition and looking amazing for that first days ride and beyond. We already have member's that have used their services in the past and have raved about the results. We recommend you give Justin and his team a call to learn more. Oh and they offer mobile full service detailing as well!

As we move forwards with the new *Partnering Professional* program, we will be looking to add additional new companies and services to benefit our members. We ask that you support these great companies as they are already here.. supporting us!

## What goes into a Caravan?

This is an article from one of last years newsletters, and we included it once again for both new and old members alike. It gives you an insight into all that goes into a planned caravan. Thank you to Kevin LeBlond for sharing his experiences of numerous years as a group ride leader. The saying "It takes a village", is entirely true when it comes to pulling together a caravan. Hours of behind the scene planning and communications goes into organizing and holding a successful caravan.

Article by: Kevin Leblond

*It's Sunday morning, our local Corvette group is meeting in the designated parking lot to start a fun day of cruising.*

*It's 9:00am, the ride leader has a quick driver meeting going over where we're headed, the approx. time/miles to the first stop, lunch and the final stop before getting back to home base. Designates who will be the caboose (last car in the caravan) and communicates what radio channel we'll be using for the group to stay in constant communication.*



*It's now 5:00pm, we're all home safe & sound after running a couple hundred miles of great twisty back roads. We stopped at a wonderful restaurant for lunch, the reservation was for 12:30pm, we arrived within a few minutes of that. The tables were all arranged and the wait staff was ready for us.*

*After lunch, we continue on our excellent adventure. The roads we traveled were in good shape, no dirt roads, no construction areas, light traffic, no need for U-turns and we avoided (where possible) high congestion areas and highways. As we put our feet up for the evening our thoughts drift back to the wonderful day we had and thinking about washing our cars in the morning.*

*There's a lot of time and effort on someone's part to ensure today's ride ran smooth. We all thanked our ride leader and appreciate his/her efforts, but how many of us realize what goes into making our experience fun? Organizing a full day group cruise takes a fair amount of time & planning to pull it off with minimal headaches and maximum fun for everyone.*

**So, what goes into a well-planned day of cruising? Here are a few things your leaders factor in as they start the planning process, Often months in advance**



1. Find a destination that would be interesting and appealing to the group.
2. Layout the days ride utilizing the most interesting and best back roads available..
3. Finding a starting location for that days ride that is as central to the group as possible, to avoid some members either having to backtrack or travel a great distances to just arrive at the starting location (sometimes with large number of participants this cant be avoided) Also the starting location is chosen to avoid as many lights and intersections as possible when starting out. Determine what type of ride the day will be. Is it a destination ride (an end location that culminates the ride) or a loop ride (leaving and arriving back in the same approx. location);
2. If the ride involves a destination like a museum, should they be contacted ahead of time to make necessary arrangements for us, like scheduling a group tour or securing venue entry discounts; (this happens many times, months in advance)
3. How many miles or hours does the group typically like to do on a day ride;
4. Once a draft of the route is done, where along the route are bio/coffee stops for the morning and afternoon breaks;
5. Given the route and time traveling the route (adding in time for each morning stop), where will we be around lunch time? Selecting best restaurant option for our group. Contact that restaurant and schedule our visit, attempt to negotiate a private area or service and discuss menu options. Keep in mind, we typically won't have an accurate headcount until the morning of the cruise, so we need to find somewhere that can accommodate a large group and can adjust the count a couple hours prior to arrival if necessary.

Selecting the right restaurant for our social hour (or two) is one of the most important elements in the planning process and also involves the most amount of back and forth communication. In addition since 2020 a new element that is real, is the impact of COVID and the effects it has had on the restaurants, do they have the wait/cook staff to handle our group along with their normal dally business. Your ride leaders try very hard to make the overall day and cruise experience pleasurable and the meal planning is a huge part of the day!



**Planning the route.** Some of us have route creation tools such as (Basecamp) that gives us the ability to create the route on our computers then transfer the data (route) to our handheld GPS's then mounted in our



cars. Others use Google Maps or even Mapquest that allow you to print out turn-by-turn instructions. Some of you use Waze to get you from point A to B, the nice thing about Basecamp it provides you the ability to draw your route on a map. It can also find things like gas stations, hotels, restaurants and any other POIs you need and import them into your route. Once downloaded into the GPS it acts the same as your car navigation with maps showing your progress and voice turn by turn direction.

**Doing a Dry Run.** Why a dry run you ask? Simply to ensure the roads we travel are in good shape with no major construction areas/detours, we'll stop at the morning and afternoon breaks to check out the parking lot & bathrooms, travel onto the lunch stop again checking out the parking lot, meet with the manager if possible, making the

final meal arrangements confirming the menu and any additional details!

Does all this need to go into every day cruise? Certainly not, but the more your ride leader plans the more likely your day will run smooth and more likely everyone will really enjoy the day. Ride planning and leading is challenging, it can be stressful and consumes time but at the end of the day it can be rewarding when the ride went off without a hitch and there were many miles of smiles.

In closing, we just ask you arrive in the morning with a full tank of gas and an empty bladder. We'll do the heavy lifting... **ENJOY THE DAY & THE RIDE!!!**



**Kevin & Georgia LeBlond are the NH State Captains for the National Corvette Museum 2024 Caravan**

### Want to be Top Dog for a day?

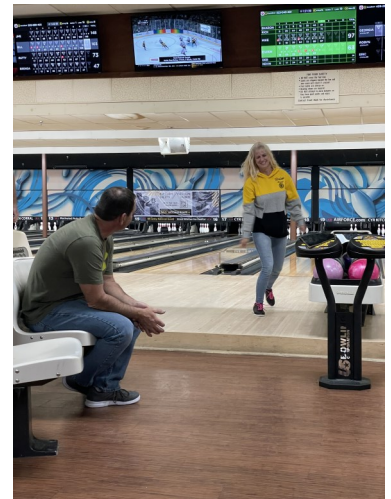
As we have increased our 2023 caravan and event schedule substantially, we're going to be looking for additional ride leaders and tail cars to lead some of these events. It's truly an amazing feeling being out in front and the lead car of a long precession of Corvettes! We will be offering training classes in the spring for anyone who is interested in becoming a Ride leader and chase car for a day. It really is an amazing experience!





## You're In the gutter!

A first for SO NH CORVETTES... A Bowling night ..or something that loosely resembles the sport, took place on February 18th. We had a great night out with some members at Yankee Lanes in Manchester NH. The night was full of some laughs, a stolen bowling ball and some great food after. We'll definitely do this again and some of us might even practice before hand. Thanks to all that came out and supported a fun night together!





## ***A Member's View***

We've all been there... that first time you arrive in your Corvette joining in on a caravan, and as you pull in, you look around and you don't know or recognize a single person. All you see is a parking lot filled with beautiful cars! Talk about an intimidating feeling! Well rest assured you can leave your worries at home. You will quickly learn that the members of this group are the most warm and welcoming bunch of people you will ever get to meet and that within 2 minutes of stepping out of your car, you'll feel right at home. And don't feel insulted if the first thing anyone asks about is your car... We are after all a Corvette group, and regardless of year, condition or color, everyone will want to know your cars story.

Thoughts from a new member...

By Debbie Kardaseski (DEBSKI2)

At the January 21 dinner at 603 Bistro, Rick asked me to write an article about being a member of SONHC. I've had a Corvette for a few years and have greatly enjoyed riding around the state, either by myself or with my dog, Opus. However, it seemed like it would be a lot more fun with others. In my "past life," I'd been a biker and really enjoyed riding with a group. I missed that camaraderie.

Last summer I started looking for a Corvette group on Facebook. The attitude of the SONHC page was refreshing. So, I thought, "What the heck — I'll give it a shot." My first caravan was the one to the Lakes Region. I got in touch with Rick and found I could meet the group in Weare, saving me the trip to Milford. Wahoo!

It was an amazing day! I had so much fun driving with like-minded people. I met Linda and Ray at lunch and found she and I are (so far) the only two female drivers, so we bonded immediately!! Everyone was friendly and it was a very fun group. I spent the rest of the summer going on each caravan and even went to quite a few of the Nashua Target Cruise Nights, until we had to, sadly, put our babies to bed for the winter.

I must admit I had some reservations about joining a Corvette group. I figured everyone would be "richer" than me (a single, self-employed graphic designer and starving artist). I'm a t-shirt and jeans kinda girl. I saw from the online photos that there were some pretty pricey cars (read: newer than mine) in the group and wasn't sure I wouldn't be considered the "poor relative."

I could not have been more wrong!!! I love you folks. Jamie has been very helpful with hints to take care of my car; others have given me tips on keeping it clean and shiny. (I live on a dirt road, which just appalls some of you! And we have a water ban, so I can't even wash it! I did offer to cover it when it was really dirty at Cruise Night! LOL)

One of the fun challenges has been figuring out the vanity plates people have. Most are pretty straightforward, but NRGRTS really had me stumped. I could not imagine what "nor grits" meant. I finally asked Pedro, who informed me it was "no regrets"! Of course!! (But I keep seeing "nor grits." Sorry, Pedro!)

As a "newbie," I was thrilled when Rick and Sharon suggested name tags. I remember faces but can't remember names for beans. There have been many others who have made our caravans special and fun. I know who they are when I see them! Thank you to everyone who spends their time planning these trips. I am looking forward to 2023. My goal is to go to every event — we'll see how I do.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon! Thank you all for being such a warm and welcoming group!



## SONH CORVETTES

*Partnering Professionals*

We're forming alliances with some of the best automotive service and parts providers in the Southern New Hampshire area to bring to our members special pricing, and availability of product and service packages. Additionally you may also see some non-automotive partners here as we try and bring onboard other services that have nothing to do with our cars and everything to do with us. Credit Unions, Pet Sitters, Insurance providers just to name a few. We're excited about this new program and we encourage all our members to support these businesses as the need arises.



You're going to hear a lot about **VIP tires and Service** in the coming months, as they have signed on as our premier partner for the 2023 season. We very excited to be aligned with one of New England's finest automotive service provider! With 67 locations throughout New England there's a good chance there is one right down the street from your home. We encourage you to give them a call for all your family's automotive service needs.

**Have a business you think might be of benefit to our members? Get in touch with us!**

We're looking to add more and more service providers to our growing list of companies.

House Cleaning Services

Pet Sitter Services

Specialty parts providers

Handyman Services

Insurance companies

Credit Unions

Paint & Body Shops



Another featured partner and just in time for spring's arrival is **COMPLETE CLEAN** Detailing Services. They are a full service **IDA** certified detailing shop serving the Southern and Central New Hampshire area! They have a full line of services available to get your car ready for the upcoming season! They also offer a complete line of mobile services as well. Give Justin and his team a call to learn more about all that they can do to help get your Corvette ready for that first spring ride!



In these volatile times of rising and falling Corvette prices, wouldn't it be nice to have an expert be able to tell you what your classic is really worth? Well now you can, as we have a professional appraisal service available that is here to help! Reach out **Classic Auto Appraisal** to learn more about all the benefits of really knowing what your ride is worth.