

SONH CORVETTES

# GENERATIONS

FEBRUARY 2024

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# Looking Ahead!

February — the most confusing month of the calendar year. February — the month that means “Purification,” is just 28 days short, and then every four years it’s magically turned into 29! It’s one of those things we just accept and never think about why.

There is a reason behind February being the shortest month, and the adding of one day every four years! Back in ancient times, January and February didn’t even exist on the calendar as it was then 10 months long with each month having 29 or 31 days (even numbered days were considered bad luck). It was March through December! The calendar then was only used to measure crop growth and, since not much was being grown in January and February, there was no need for them. So, the first King of Rome, Romulus, decided on a ten-month calendar to track the crop season. Later on, the second king of Rome, Pompilius, decided to add the two missing months into a calendar to match the yearly lunar cycle of 354.7 days so they got added in after December. Julius Ceasar decided to hire a sun expert in 45 BC to create a calendar reflective of the sun’s cycle, not the lunar cycle. He came up with the Julian 12-month calendar, that later came to be known as the Georgian calendar. By creating this new calendar, based off the sun’s cycle, it eventually added 10.7 days to each year’s calendar with February getting the short end of the stick at 28 days! The .7 day turned into the leap day added every four years to keep the calendar in sync with the sun cycles!

Now you know!

# 2024 Season Kick-Off Event!

The Season Kick-off event on March 23 is set to go! Ms. Sharon has put a lot of effort into ensuring this event will be a memorable night! A little more party will be the theme this year. We have our fellow member Paul Bettinger, AKA: Doc of Rock, providing the evening’s entertainment. Yes, we’ll introduce lots of the details on the upcoming season schedule, including all the clues to the Scavenger Hunt! But the focus of the night will be for the members to enjoy a night of celebrating together for the season to come!



## We’d like to thank the following companies for beings sponsors of our 2024 Season Kick-Off Event!



## 2024 Schedule... A Few Hints!

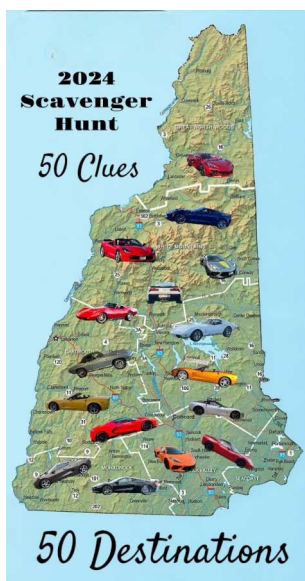
We're excited about the upcoming 2024 caravan and event schedule, and we hope everyone else will be as well. There's something in it for everybody, with our traditional caravans still at the forefront, but surrounded by shorter more diverse events. We will also be tracking everyone's event participation for the first time and rewarding those who obtain the most miles at the end of the season! In 2023, we also learned that lots of people really enjoy tracking their cars... even at lower than top speeds. This year, not only will we be returning to Loudon for several track events, we're also adding a **New England Dragway** night or two for those who want to find out how quick their cars are at full throttle! The upcoming schedule also includes **ten new destinations** we've never been to before!

## Get the Haze Off Your Headlight Covers

There is a great product out there you should be aware of. We've all seen the advertisements that claim a particular product can remove the haze on the clear plastic headlight covers and make them look like new. And while some do work and some don't, many of the ones that do work require lots of labor and materials to just get the lens to look marginally better.

There is one product that we've tested that does make a measurable improvement on all of the cars we've tested it on. Footnote: before you get too excited, it's not going to completely restore your C6 covers to like new condition. But for most all everyone's everyday driver with the clear Lexan covers, it does do a great job and requires zero effort (5 minutes or less).

Its call Meguiars Plastx. It's available at every automotive supplier for around \$10. One cloth to put it on, one cloth to buff it off — and you're done in less time than it takes to make a pot of coffee!



## New This Year: A Scavenger Hunt!!

We're putting a lot of eggs in the Scavenger Hunt basket! Creating this stand-alone season-long event has

been both daunting and exciting at the same time. Daunting from us having to search, find, and then create the unique clues to help you find the hidden treasures that are all around us! The excitement part is for you to first search out and then, hopefully, find the numerous unique, fun, and quirky places that are hidden here in New Hampshire! We hope this event will bring out many new members who, for whatever reason, have never experienced a SONHC event! By making this something you can do on your own, on your own schedule and time, and with whomever you choose to do it with.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SONHCORVETTES, CLICK HERE:**

<https://sonhcorvettes.org/>



Is that Spring right around the corner?

# GM and Corvette History

One of the things I am completely fascinated with is the historical internal goings-on at General Motors that has helped shape Corvette history over the past 70 years! This is a chapter of that history that, had it come to fruition, might have completely changed the Corvette as we know it today!

Just imagine for a second, standing on the busiest street corner of any city having 20 different coffee shops all next to each other and all vying for the same exact business. Chances are each shop might look a little different and maybe each might specialize in one product over the other. But in the end, they all sell coffee. And all the shops are trying to be profitable and remain in business and sell as much coffee as they can. Now what if the same parent company owned ten or more of these very coffee shops? That would mean that not only would you be competing against the owners of the shops that you didn't own, but also with your very own! Sounds kind of crazy, right? It certainly wouldn't be a very sound business practice...or would it?

Well, replace coffee shop with automotive dealerships and you have the real formula that all car manufacturers operated under during the sixties and seventies. The "Big Three" — Chrysler, Ford, and GM — all offered multiple dealerships and, in every case, these dealerships had to not only compete with the cars from the other Big Three manufacturers, but also with themselves. These "divisions" as they were called, like Chevrolet, Buick, Pontiac, and Cadillac, were all operated as independent dealerships. And all were expected to sell cars and be profitable! So,

the question begs to be asked, why would GM want to compete with itself? The original philosophy was to get a customer and keep them for life, by always having the next car-buying option available for them to step up into! First get them into a Chevy or Pontiac and then move them up into a Buick or Oldsmobile with their luxurious appointments and then finally sell them on the pinnacle of luxury, the Cadillac! And it worked! Cadillac had the highest customer loyalty of any car sold in the US during the sixties and seventies! GM had created each division under the premise that each could offer the customer the specific amenities they were looking for. Oldsmobile's were known for their big size and incredibly smooth ride. Buicks were known for their reliability and styling. Pontiacs were sort of the sporty division of GM, offering first the Tempest then later the GTO, and then the Firebird! At the time, Chevrolet was known for building the reliable family vehicles that America had come to rely on! Not a lot of fanfare just the good old reliable 4-door sedans, wagons, and big SUVs like the Suburban that families would use as the main mode of transporting the family!

So, if Pontiac was anointed by GM as the sporty division, why wasn't the Corvette built and marketed through the Pontiac division instead of Chevrolet? Simple. Power and Money! When the Corvette was first introduced in the 50s, Pontiac was then trying to build the same cars then, that Chevrolet later became known for. Reliable simple family cars. And at that time, Chevrolet was the largest division at GM, selling more cars than all the other divisions combined, so

being the largest division also meant it was the most profitable and allowed for special projects like the Corvette to get the research funding it needed to go forward. The leadership at Chevrolet wielded incredible power and influence at GM!

By being the big kid on the block meant that you mostly got what you asked for. So, when the sales and engineering departments at Chevrolet asked for something, they got what they wanted! When Harley Earl and the engineers put forth the Opel test project, it received all the funding it needed to go forward



Banshee prototype

History — continued from previous page

and later become the 1953 Corvette. But here's where it got interesting.

John Delorian (yes, the same Delorian that later founded The Delorian Motor Company of *Back to the Future* fame!) at the time was in charge of Pontiac engineering at GM. Delorian was personally responsible for the development and release of the Pontiac Tempest, that would later morph into the hugely successful Pontiac GTO. Along with the newly redesigned Pontiac Grand Prix, everything about Delorian was about performance! So, after his success with the GTO, he decided to set out to design and build a car that would compete directly with the Ford Mustang

Called "Xp893," which later was better known as the Banshee! The only problem was, Delorian had a very flamboyant personality and he didn't quite fit into the mold that GM wanted from its division leaders! At every turn, whatever John wanted was not well received and GM fought him on every step of the way, killing multiple performance projects that were brought forth — all because of who he was! Also, the highly influential leadership over at Chevrolet wasn't interested in having any other division build anything that potentially could diminish the Chevrolet Corvette in either image or in sales numbers. GM's board also didn't believe Delorian was being honest in his reasoning for wanting to build another car to compete

with the about-to-be released 4-seat Ford Mustang, especially since the Banshee was a two-seat fiberglass covered sports car. They believed his reasoning was more to flaunt his flamboyant, arrogant personality that was known to ruffle the feathers of GM's Board. So the project was killed before it made its way off the design floor with only two prototypes ever built. I'll bet if it had gone on to have been built, it would have hugged those white lines on the road!



Banshee prototype

## *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 1,100 group members, our media footprint continues to evolve, change, and grow — with the continued goal of making every member experience a memorable one!

## Share Your Stories

Each month we hope to share some of the interesting and exciting things that are going on with some of our SONHC members. After all, it's the members who really are SONHC. If you have a story you'd like to share, go to: <https://sonh-corvettes.org/members-stories> and submit it.

And while you're sharing and if you're an Admin, don't forget the new GENERATIONS section called **The Admin's Corner**. Beginning in January 2024, each month one of our groups' Admins will have an article on the subject of their choice. It can be anything from receipts to destinations to their experiences as group leaders!

# Who You Gonna Call? John's Corvette Service, That's Who!



One of things that constantly we get asked, both on our Facebook Group page and on the website is, hey, where do I take my Corvette to get... you can insert ten different subject questions (repaired, upgraded, looked at or maintained). And for us, the answer is always the same. John's Corvette Service in Laconia! They are simply the best, most honest, and the most knowledgeable people around when it comes to these cars!

If you've ever talked with John or Cheryl, you already know they are two of the most down to earth people you will ever encounter. SONHC and John's Corvette Service has developed a great working rela-

tionship that we place a high level of importance on. So, we always encourage any member who is looking for the answer to whatever their dilemma is or to get their Corvette issue resolved to reach out to John's! But remember that anytime you are the best at something, you are always in high demand, so plan accordingly, call to get the issue process started. I promise you won't be disappointed! The direct link to John's Corvettes is available on our website!



*We  
Are  
Family!*

While we have numerous first-time corvette owners here as members (which we love)! We also have numerous members that are on their 3, 5, and 10th or more Corvettes! From C1s to C8 owners, they're all here. So, what is the correlation? Well, the abundance of knowledge for a first-time owner to either learn more about their car or to get help in resolving a particular issue is right here within the group. One of the things we're most proud of here at SONHC is the abundance of respect everyone always has for someone else's Corvette. Be it a project or a brand new one coming off the showroom floor, you will never be subjected to "oh, you have a 79?... well then." (I had a 79 so I can use that year.)

Everyone, regardless of the year, condition or any other statement is always treated the same. You own a Corvette so you're considered family! If you ever have a question about your car, don't hesitate to post your question, without fear of ridicule or an unruly comment! You might even get the answer you're looking for!

# What To Expect When You Join Us At A SONHC Event

So, you've made the decision to attend and enjoy a SONHC event for the first time! You'll probably pull into the meeting destination and you'll see a whole bunch of Corvettes parked and people standing around talking.

You immediately have the overwhelming sensation of, "Oh boy, now what!"

What can you expect? Well... nothing is the true answer!

You'll see as soon as you get out of your car; I guarantee you will be approached and greeted by another member with a hand extended and a hearty "Hello there, I'm so and so...." This will be repeated by several others doing exactly the same thing.! And I can tell you after doing this for the past four years, there is no finer group to make someone feel immediately welcomed and at ease than the members of SONH CORVETTES! Any level of anxiety you may have felt will instantly be a thing of the past and you'll feel right at home! Which you will be! I've seen time and time again without a single exception, our members going out of their way to make you feel welcomed to the group from the very first moment! Now just remember to not sit on the radio with an open mic!



## A Corvette Dealership?

"Honey, I'll be back, I'm taking the car down to the Corvette dealership for an oil change." "Oh you're going to the Chevrolet dealership?" "No, I'm going to the new Corvette dealership they just opened." Say what? Rumors are more than swirling that in 2025, the Corvette marque name will adorn stand-alone Corvette dealerships. This also means that there will be several new Corvette variations coming that are already in the pipeline. A Corvette SUV, a Corvette Sedan, a EV version along with the traditional sports car we all already know! This going to happen, whether we like it or not as Chevrolet is looking to expand on the success and revenue the C8 is bringing GM. Imitation is the highest form of flattery, and as Porsche, Maserati, and several other high-end manufacturers have capitalized on their name brand to introduce cross-over platform vehicles, GM will be no different! Money is to be made and after all, as much as we'd all like to think differently, profits are why they've continued to produce the Corvette in the first place...one model already makes them a boat load of money, so if one is good, then two or more must be better!



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# Our Partnering Professionals

We wish to thank each and every one of our Partnering Professionals companies that continue to believe in what we do and who we are. They have chosen to be a part of our SO NH CORVETTES group. They continue to make commitments to be here for us at every opportunity. As always, we ask our members to support these business as they continue to support us!

## SO NH CORVETTES *Partnering Professionals*

