

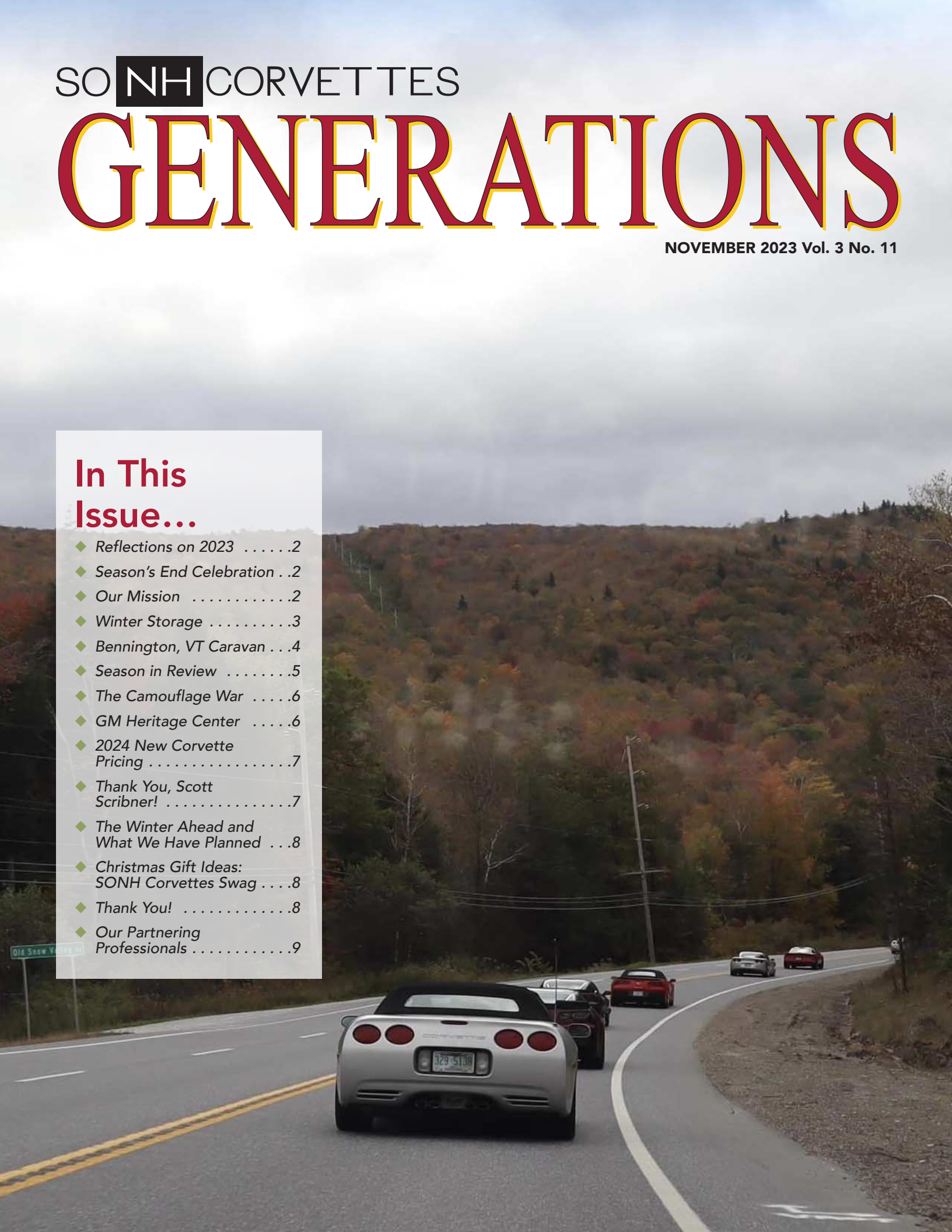
SONH CORVETTES

GENERATIONS

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Old Snow Valley Rd

Reflections on 2023

We have arrived at the time of year many New England Corvette owners really dread: The time to put our cars away in storage! And while we have a couple of events remaining on our calendar, the days of getting out and enjoying our rides will soon be few and far between.

It's certainly been a challenging year weather wise, with the rains of the summer wreaking havoc on many events and shows. Target Cruise nights had more cancelled shows than held shows this summer, and with the shortness of our cruise season, the cancellation of any event just heightened the impact. Yet we endured and still enjoyed many great destinations along with being able to enjoy another great cruise season.

As we look ahead, if this year's November is anything like last year's, we may even be able to squeak out a few more days to get out and enjoy our cars!

In reflecting on our 2023 season, we've been blessed with another year of great destinations, fun events, and amazing people! Ah, the people — those who have been with us since the beginning and those who just joined us for the first time, together made

this season our best yet! Our cars certainly are the reason we come together, but it's the friendships that have resulted that make what we do so special!

As we look forward to the winter hibernation and the short cold days that winter brings, we have one more special event to enjoy in early December. Our 2023 Season Ending Celebration (see details below), which is open to those who came out and participated in any one of our 2023 events. This is our way of saying thank you to those who continue to support our efforts!

Season's End Celebration

SONHC's growth over the past season has simply exploded as we close in on a thousand members in our Facebook group alone! As we've stated several times in the past, being the biggest has never been our goal, but trying to be the best version of ourselves has — and always will be — our goal! We strive to ensure that every member who participates in one of our events has a great experience! And while our group truly has drawn huge interest from the Corvette enthusiasts in our area, it's the members who turn out time and time again at our events that is what this group is really all about: **Our participating members!** With that in mind, we're holding a season-end celebration for those who have participated in any of our 2023 caravans and events to say thank you and also allow us all to gather one final time for the year!

Our Season End celebration will take place on **December 2nd between 2:00–6:00 p.m.** at the beautiful Red House on Isaac Frye Hwy., Wilton, NH. Invitation is open to anyone who participated in any one of our 2023 caravans or events!

Come on out and celebrate one final time in 2023 and enjoy some great food! It's a Potluck event, so pull out your best recipe's, enjoy some time with your fellow members, have some laughs, enjoy some music, and a few surprises! Registration is now available on our website! We hope to see many of you there!

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

<https://sonhcorvettes.org/>

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

Winter Storage



It's that time again to start having the conversations about winter car storage. There are varying thoughts on some parts of storing our cars during the winter months. For instance, some say to keep the cars full

of fuel, while others say store them with half a tank of gas, but most everyone agrees there are five key areas that most everyone focuses on: **TIRES, FUEL, BATTERIES, PAINT** protection, and **RODENT** repellent. Over the next two months, we'll delve into each of these five subjects and express what the most popular opinions are in caring for our cars during the winter hibernation.

Tires: A very important, and sometimes overlooked subject, is the care of the tires!

Michelin, whom many consider to be the leader in tire technology, states: "If your tires have been subjected to long storage times while loaded and over-inflated, and with fairly high or low temperatures, the tires could develop a "semi-permanent" flat spotting. This flat spotting will eventually go away, but it may take a good bit of driving. Tires should not be stored loaded (when the car is parked) or over-inflated while subjected to extreme heat and cold.

Tire Storage Tips: Do not overinflate the tires, keep them at the manufacturers' recommended pressures!



If you are storing the car for an extended period of time, it is best that the car be moved occasionally, by even just a few inches to change the position of the tires which come in contact with the surface below. If possible, put some sort of barrier between the tires and the concrete surface, such as foam insulation pads, to soften the firmness between the tire and the surface below. If you are removing your tires and storing them separately (not recommended), lay the tires down on a flat, padded surface. If the car is being kept on jack stands, the suspension should be kept in a neutral position, (the same height as if the tires were on the car) and not left unloaded or compressed. Additionally, there are products available as shown in the picture that you can buy and drive onto that will keep your tires in their natural contoured shape."

Fuel Storage: This one is open to debate among many: which is the best method to store your Corvette during the winter hibernation months? Some say to fill the tank to the brim, add a fuel storage stabilizer, and you are all set until spring time. Others say to store with a 1/4 tank gas with stabilizer added. Yet others say 1/2 full with stabilizer. However, there are a few things that most everyone agrees on!



1. Always add some sort of fuel stabilizer regardless of how much gas you decide to keep in the tank.
2. Add premium high-octane fuel when you store the car for an extended period of time. Most everyone already runs premium high-octane fuel year-round.
3. Today's fuel tanks and systems are a sealed and closed system and are not prone to any condensation build up in the fuel tanks. (Most modern cars have a closed system.) Here's the one that the majority of the experts think makes the most sense: Fill your tank between 1/4 and 1/2 full with a good stabilizer. Then in the spring fill your tank with fresh high-octane fuel and it will mix with the stored fuel giving you a healthy mix of fuel going through your system.

Bennington, Vermont Caravan!

One of the highlights of our season each year and one we greatly look forward to, is our annual trip out to The Publyk House in Bennington, VT. This year's visit didn't disappoint and introduced a first for our group. We invited another Corvette club to join us! Members of **Corvettes United of Central Mass** came out and enjoyed a great day with SONHC members together at the Publyk House.



SEASON IN REVIEW



owner gets to experience! Having parents bring their kids out just to see our caravans passing by is a testament to the interest and affection that outsiders have with our beloved Corvettes!

From our first caravan to the Portsmouth/Kittery area to our last visit to Ben-

It seems like just yesterday, we were gathering together at the Season Kick-off event and making plans for the 2023 season! But, as the day's light grows shorter, it's hard to believe the season is now mostly in the rear-view mirror. One of the themes of the 2023 season has to have been the weather, with Mother Nature deciding to schedule rain on many of the spring and summer weekends. We certainly fared better than many car shows and other clubs that had their events postponed or cancelled. We certainly feel blessed that while many of our weekend caravans didn't have full sunshine, and contained an occasional passing shower, we were able to enjoy most all of our scheduled caravans with pretty decent weather.

Ludlow certainly comes to mind as one situation where luck was certainly on our side as just hours after our visit, the area was devastated with once-in-a-century rains and the accompanying flood waters which completely devastated the area. Our lunch location, Calcutta's, was completely under six feet of water by the end of the day.

Somehow we managed to sneak in a few perfect weather events between all the rainy weekends!

Our growth this past season has been amazing, with many new first-time members getting to experience what our seasoned members already knew: being a part of a long procession of cars is just about the coolest thing a Corvette



nington, VT, members got to enjoy a variety of events, enjoying both familiar destinations along with some new ones.

As we switch gears to the dormant driving season, and after our season-ending celebration, we'll take a short pause to enjoy family time and the holidays. Once we get past the new year, we'll slowly start to ramp up our group's activities again with some indoor event such as bowling, trivia night, billiards, and dinner nights!



The Camouflage War

One of the things that car manufacturers have always struggled with is how to keep secret a new model car prior to introduction. We've all seen the pictures of heavily camouflaged vehicles, both running around on private test tracks and out on the public roads.

Did you know...

There is a science behind the camo that now adorns these cars. It's called "Dazzle camouflage" and the purpose isn't completely to hide what the vehicle looks like. Instead it's designed to confuse the camera's lens when photographed by blurring angles and the sharp edges that the car has. Manufacturers spend millions on coming up with the latest "Dazzle camo" technology to keep adoring eyes (both the public's and, more importantly, rival manufacturers) from seeing all the specific details their new model will have.

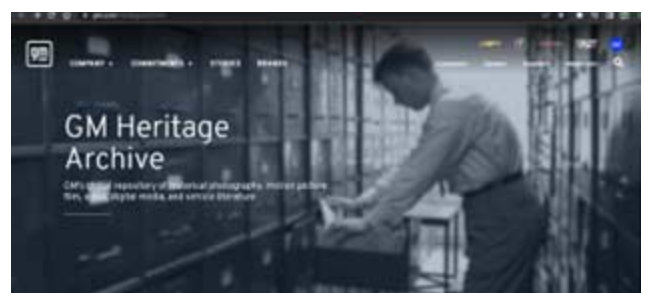
By using the latest Dazzle Camo, all the juicy details of the new model get somewhat distorted and leaves a certain level of uncertainty in the car's details. Sometimes, like with the release of the C8 generation, this process gets taken to a whole new level. First, the car was seen covered by a material better known as "Heavy Panel Camo," which is basically black solid panels that cover the car in all the areas GM didn't want spying eyes to see. Sometimes these versions were actually driven out on the streets across America. When they were, they were guarded 24-7 by security details not allowing anyone to get near the cars.

As the real-world testing progressed, the Heavy Camo was then replaced with the latest Dazzle Camo. A Corvette profile isn't something that any type of camo would ever hide, so when word of the new design got out, it was such an engineering departure from the past that the interest was unlike anything seen before. Rumor was that Ford offered a bounty of a million dollars for the first and best pictures of the newly-designed C8. In fact, when the C8 was first being readied for testing, GM worked on the camouflage so intensely the first testing was delayed by weeks to get the camo just right to hide as much detail as possible. With each release of a new C8 variant, the arms race continues to escalate, with more elaborate camo adorning the cars and higher resolution camera's chasing all the juicy details.



GM Heritage Center

There is a division of GM that does nothing but archive the build history of every vehicle they produce... including, yes, every Corvette! They have copies of build sheets, dealer invoices, plant notes, and vehicle spec sheets. You can download copies of your owner's manual or order a printed copy, or learn if there are any active recalls and or service bulletins. It's an interactive site and has lots of hidden features that can provide insight into any issue you may be having with your car, along with maintenance tips and sales brochures for your year car. Just go to www.GM.com/heritage/archive



2024 New Corvette Pricing

2024 Chevrolet Corvette / MSRP

From \$68,300



Year	Base Coupe Price
1984	\$21,800
1997	\$38,060
1998	\$37,495
2004	\$44,535
2005	\$44,245
2013	\$51,825
2014	\$51,995
2019	\$55,900
2020	\$59,995
2024	\$67,895

GM recently released updated pricing for the 2024 C8s. And, as is with everything these days, there is a price increase coming! The new starting price for a C8 1LT coupe is now \$68,300 — a \$2,000 increase above the 2023 pricing. Hardly anyone is debating that, even at the new price, it's still an incredible value for such a world-class automobile. It is, however, disappointing that it's inching towards the \$70,000 price plateau.

One of the hallmarks of the Corvette's long history is it has always been an affordable (a relative term) option for someone wanting to own America's only true sports car. No, they've never been priced to compete with our everyday cars, nor should they be. But they've always carried a low enough starting price that if someone wanted to stretch the budget, they were within the grasp of many people.

GM should absolutely be applauded for keeping the starting base price low on the Corvette over the past four generations! The pricing increase percentage between the introduction year of a generation to the last year has actually been decreasing percentage-wise all the way up thru the C7 generation and even continuing on with the 2020 C8 introduction!

This is a remarkable tribute to GM's cost management and as we look ahead, is the Corvette market changing? Are the days of having a somewhat affordable base model within the grasp of Americans shrinking? Probably so, but not because of GM's greed, but more so because of other outside influencing factors, like increasing material costs, the struggling economy, and the rate of inflation, along with other things, such as the ongoing UAW strike. The strike will eventually be settled, and when the dust clears, the agreed-upon wage and benefit increases will result in higher production costs and that will be passed on to the end consumer walking into the showroom.

Factor in the price for both the 2024 Z06 and the E-ray, both starting way north of the six-figure mark,

and the soon-to-be introduced ZR1 price touching just over \$200,000, our beloved Corvette pricing landscape is, if nothing else, rapidly changing!

Thank You, Scott Scribner!

Many of our members, along with hundreds of other car enthusiasts, have always had one car show each week that we could count on as the go-to show — the Target Cruise Night in Nashua. And for the past few years we've been blessed to have the show's host and fellow SONHC member Scott Scribner at the helm running the show! Scott has decided to step back in 2024 and hand over the reins to someone else's control. And while we hope that many of the same things that has drawn us to the show remain, we need to take a minute and thank Scott for the sacrifices he's made each summer Friday night in helping to both grow the event in popularity and in also making the show into the success it has become! It's no small feat deciding to dedicate every Friday to an event all summer and fall long, along with the much time and effort needed to organizing and managing events like these!

So we say thank you, Scott, for giving car enthusiasts an amazing event to gather together and enjoy each Friday night, week in and week out, the past few years! With you stepping back, you'll now be able to bring that beautiful ZR1 and let it take its place in line with all the other beautiful SONHC Corvettes at the show!

The Winter Ahead And What We Have Planned

What's in store next? After we close out our 2023 season with the season-ending celebration on December 2nd, we'll take a short well-deserved break to focus on the Holidays, time with family, and, quite honestly, taking a short break to recharge our batteries. For some of us, the long summer season, while extremely rewarding and enjoyable, is also very draining and a short respite is needed to re-energize and refocus on the upcoming season. While we won't plan on holding any events through the Holidays and early 2024, we'll still be working hard behind the scenes putting together the 2024 season. Once we start to put some events on the calendar in 2024, we'll schedule some fun indoor events to get us through the cold days of winter! Remember we're only around 150 days or so till the 2024 Season Kick-off event!



Christmas Gift Ideas: SONH CORVETTES Swag

If you're a Corvette enthusiast or Corvette owner, there's few things under the Christmas tree that excite us more than receiving anything Corvette related. With that in mind, we added several new great affordable gift ideas on the Merchandise page on our SONHC website just in time for Christmas! (www.sonhcorvettes.org)



Thank You!

On behalf of the entire Admin team, Sharon, and myself, we humbly thank everyone for your continued support of this group! Simply put, it is the members who make SONHC what it is and it's an absolute privilege to have each and every one of you along on this incredible journey together!

So Thank You again SONHC members!

Our Partnering Professionals

We wish to thank each and every one of our Partnering Professionals companies that continue 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! And as always, we ask our members to support these business as they continue to support us!

SO NH CORVETTES

Partnering Professionals

