

SONH CORVETTES

GENERATIONS

JANUARY 2024 Vol. 4 No. 1

In This Issue...

- ◆ Looking Ahead2
- ◆ Season Closing Celebration2
- ◆ Make-A-Wish Results2
- ◆ Destinations Aboard3
- ◆ New Travel App: Wanderlog3
- ◆ SONHC Calendars3
- ◆ 2023 Corvette Production Numbers5
- ◆ Zora Arkus Duntov: The Godfather of Corvette4
- ◆ Bowling Green Plant Tours4
- ◆ Our Mission5
- ◆ Share Your Stories5
- ◆ NH Chronicle Airing Corvette Story6
- ◆ A Menu of Corvettes6
- ◆ Admin's Corner7
- ◆ Our Partnering Professionals8

Looking Ahead

As the calendar turns to 2024, it's hard to believe another year is in the history books! When the calendar turns over, it's always a time of reflection and resolutions. For those of us a little longer in the tooth, time somehow seems to speed up faster than a ZR1 launch!

So here we are — January! It's cold, it's snowy, it's generally a miserable time to live in New England unless you're a snowbird! But it's also a stepping stone on the march to Spring! If you happen to be an optimist, there are some positives: the days are getting longer, the Sun is moving higher in the sky, and we're under 12 weeks till Spring! If you're a pessimist, throw another log on the fire and pull up some of our old SONHC newsletters to get you through the month. Who knows, you might even learn a thing or two you could use in future trivia events!

For us at SONHC, January means we're starting numerous projects. E-mails are being sent to host venues and sites to arrange for our potential future visits. We're soliciting our 2024 *Partnering Professionals* list of sponsors. We'll even begin the process of penciling in some events for the 2024 season! Plans for our season kickoff event in March will begin. And we'll add finishing touches to the 2024 Scavenger Hunt! In other words, our short respite is over and we're full steam ahead into 2024!

Season Closing Celebration

Our December Season Closing Celebration turned out to be a great Saturday afternoon spent together! We packed the Red House with 56 invited attending members, each who brought some amazing food dishes along and a whole bunch of members donated toys! We had a little Corvette trivia to stump those who attempted to answer. (To some, Sigourney Weaver seemed to be the answer to every question.) We had some great door prizes, including an amazing beautifully customized knife created and donated to the group by Mr. William Byrnes. (BTW... his knives are available to order for anyone who would like to purchase their own!)

The great music was provided by DJ DOR (AKA Paul Bettinger) and we even had some members getting in a little dancing! (What I was doing I won't call dancing.) It was a great way to close out the 2023 season!



In addition to enjoying lots of great food (above), members brought a mountain of gifts for "Toys For Tots."



SONHCORVETTES

Make-A-Wish[®]
VIP
TIRES & SERVICE

Make-A-Wish Results

Just a few days before the start of December, SONHC announced its intent to create a 30-day fundraising effort to support the **Make-A-Wish** foundation. In just another amazing display of generosity by our members, within the first three days of the campaign, we had four members who each donated **\$50 and \$100** contributions towards our goal of raising \$2,000.

And, as we stated at the beginning of the fundraising campaign, SONHC would match the first \$250 raised and at the end of the month, our *Partnering Professional*, **VIP TIRES & SERVICE** would match our donation dollar-for-dollar, to bring the total donation to **\$2,268!**



New Travel App: wanderlog

One of the things we've been trying to find for a couple of years now is a caravan and travel app that we can use to store the trip information directly on our phones.

We think we've finally found the best one. And it's a free download available for both Android and iPhone users. The app needed to be able to allow us to plan, schedule, include both our selected route with scheduled stops on a map, and then have it be sharable to everyone who is attending the event. This particular app will allow us to put check marks next to most everything we'll need to post the information on a particular trip. It will use existing map programs such as Google Maps or Map Quest. And it will show travel time, miles, scheduled stops along the way, and also give us all the ability to communicate with each other during our journey when radio communications are spotty or unavailable. (There will be an offline version available for a premium.) We're now testing the app and the initial results are promising. Hopefully we'll be able to announce the results at our Season Kickoff event in March and share the information so members will be able to download it and have it ready to use on our first caravan of the season.

Destinations Abound

As we begin to put together our schedule of events for the 2024 season, it was apparent rather quickly that some of our 2023 events will be returning in the upcoming season. Why? Well, first they are just too good to leave off the calendar! As we continue to grow and evolve as a group, we're always looking to add new and different events to appeal to both seasoned members and newer participants. 2024 will be no different, as we introduce new destinations along with new type of events that we've never done before! Never mind the season-long Scavenger Hunt that should put butts in seats in order to find answers!

Do you have a destination or event idea? We love participation and ideas by our members. Have a destination you think the group might enjoy? Send us your thoughts and we'll look into it! Have an idea for an event we could bring the group to? Let us do the legwork to see if it would work! Send us your ideas at sonhcorvettes@gmail.com and we'll get back to you with the results. Who knows, your idea or destination might make it into the 2024 schedule of events!

SONH CORVETTES

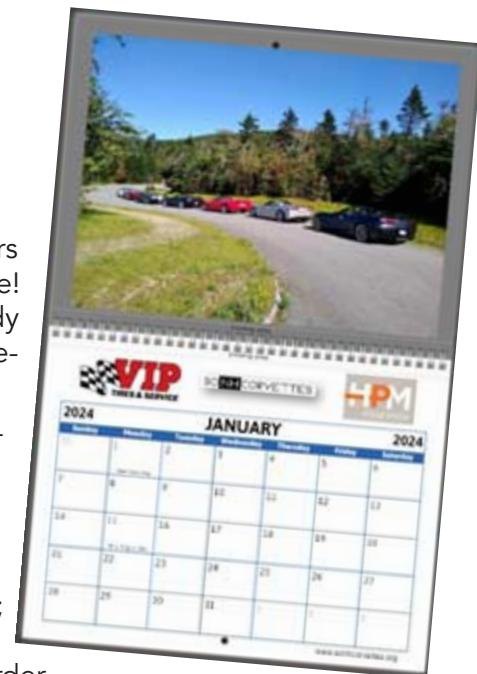
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
SONHCORVETTES, CLICK HERE:

<https://sonhcorvettes.org/>

SONHC Calendars

Our first ever members Corvette calendar is here! Many of you have already ordered and hopefully received your copy!

We still have some remaining calendars available for anyone who hasn't ordered one yet! But they are going fast and once they are gone; they're gone until the 2025 edition! You can order your calendar here: <https://sonhcorvettes.org/sonh-merchandise>



Zora Arkus Duntov: The Godfather of Corvette

When something is around for over seventy years, there's most certainly going to be a lot of interesting history to look at. And no aspect of that history is ever realized without the people behind that 70-year history! There are numerous men and women who have played a huge role in the history of the Corvette: Harly Earl, Ed Cole, Bill Mitchell, and numerous others. But no name is larger than the name **Zora Arkus Duntov**!

Zachary Arkus was born in Brussels on Christmas Day, 1909. After spending many years in Europe,

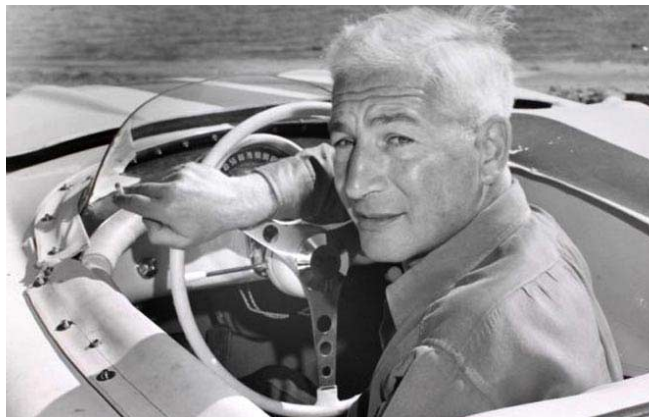
Zora, his bride Elfi and their families migrated to America to avoid Germany's advancing army. Zora and his brother Yura both were pilots in the French Air Force. While in Germany, Zora had received a degree in mechanical engineering that would play a huge role later in his life. During his time in Germany, Zora wrote numerous articles on the advantages of four-wheel drive and steering in racing cars.

Once in America, he and his wife started a company in NY called **Ardun Mechanical** that built Ford flathead engine heads to address the overheating problem they had during the war. Oh, and they also added 200HP to the engine's performance...go figure!

In 1953, while visiting the Motorama in NY City, Zora saw the prototype Corvette that was being

introduced to the public for the first time. He was so impressed with the car that he wrote a letter to Chevy's Chief engineer Ed Cole proposing a method to accurately calculate the top speed of cars. Cole was so impressed, he offered Zora a position as an Assistant Staff Engineer at GM. Fast forward a year and, with the introduction and later disappointing sales of the first year Corvette, Cole was ready to pull the plug on the Corvette project and discontinue production after just one year! Zora once again stepped in and wrote another letter to Cole, stating that the Corvette could secure Chevrolet's future by promoting the car to America's youth! Cole listened to Zora and the Corvette lived on!

continued on next page



Bowling Green Plant Tours

The announcement came last month that the National Corvette Museum's Corvette production tours were being suspended in early February 2024. The reasoning was somewhat vague in its description: "Due to manufacturing advancements." One of the rumors swirling around is that the reason behind the pause in the tours is the plant is being retooled for the soon-to-be-released ZR1 model.

Zora — continued from previous page

In just a few short years, Cole saw the genius in Zora and would later go on to promote him to Chief Performance Engineer in 1968, which set the wheels in motion for the Corvette to become the world-class sports car it went on to become!

Zora developed just about every performance Corvette that GM ever built until the early 70s! He drove the first Corvette over 150 MPH and developed the cars racing heritage at Sebring and Daytona! He spent years developing cutting edge technology including the first ever mid-engine Corvette way back in the early 1960s. He, along with Bill Mitchell, would go on to build the Aero Vette II in the early 70s (another mid-engine design) which proved the performance viability of a mid-engine designed Corvette! Because of Zora's early vision and expertise, many innovations remain to this day. Some of them include the Grand Sport model, the importance of an independent suspension, the introduction of the V8 engine in the Corvette, along with fuel injection, and many more ideas, and lastly the mid-engine C8 car!

These are just a few of the reasons he is known as **"The Godfather of the Corvette."**



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!

At Last: NH Chronicle Will Air SONHC Story Jan. 2

If there has been one thing members have looked forward to with heightened anticipation, it's been airing of the **NH Chronicle's** SONHC segment. While it seems like the filming of the episode happened last month, in truth it's been over four months since the 50+ Corvettes (including all 8 Generations!) and members gathered that beautiful Monday afternoon to speak with WMUR's Sean McDonald and videographer Fred Falco. It's finally happening and at what I think is the most appropriate time...the dead of winter! What better way to help us all get through the long days of not being in our cars than by showing these beautiful Corvettes in a gorgeous summer day setting! And then having 30-plus members coming together to see the release at the watch party...certainly a day we'll remember for some time!

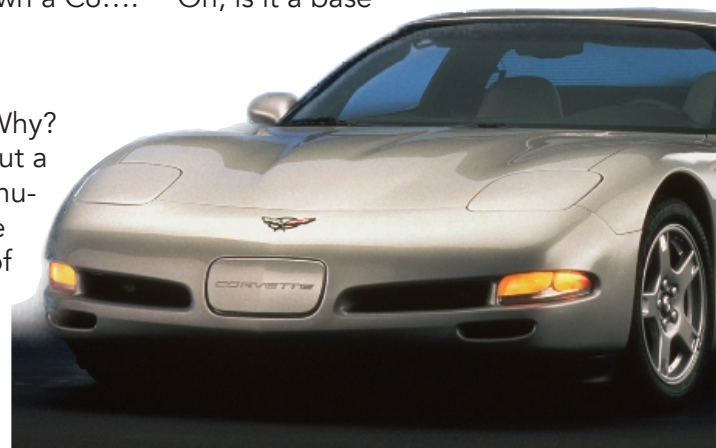


❖ A Menu of Corvettes ❖

"Oh do you own a Corvette?" "Why yes, I'm lucky to say I own a C6...." "Oh, is it a base model?"

A Base model? It's a Damn Corvette!

This exchange is one that takes place over and over again. Why? Well, just blame Chevrolet! It wasn't enough for them to turn out a car that has become a world-class sports car! They had to continuously take it to a whole new level with variant models! Over the past 40 some years, Chevy has introduced numerous variants of the "Base Model." These started in the latter years of the C3 and with the introduction of "Special Edition" variants, such as the '78 "Indy Pace Car," and then again with the '82 and '96 "Collector's Edition" cars. Many of us remember the monster '90 ZR1 that changed the performance landscape with its introduction!



GM learned that, by developing these somewhat unique editions (BTW...many of these unique editions were produced in the 1,000s), it could both bolster the bottom line with the accompanying premium prices the cars carried and also create additional excitement for the Corvette in general! Time and time again, Chevrolet has introduced new buyer's options, beyond just a "Base" Corvette. The Grand Sport, the Z06, the ZR1, and now the E-Ray! There is no denying the fact that, with the introduction of each of the latest new model releases, Chevrolet has accomplished what it set out to do — to continue to attract a new Corvette audience.



Just remember, for those of us who simply own a "Base" Corvette, our car has been the backbone of the Corvette line for over 70 years. So we shouldn't get upset when Chevy introduces the latest new variant, but worry that, at some point, Chevrolet stops producing a simple "Base Model."

ADMIN'S CORNER



By Rick Delano
SONHC Founder

When I was a kid, I remember enjoying a trip to the supermarket with my Mom. As soon as we hit the market's front door, I would jet off and head straight to the magazine racks that were the norm in every store. Magazines on just about any subject adorned these huge racks. There were numerous daily newspapers, crossword puzzles mags, *Life*, *US News*, *Sports Illustrated*, and literally hundreds of other magazines covering every possible subject!

But the area I was automatically drawn too were the car mags — usually on the bottom of the rack in a corner.

Hot Rod, *Motor Trend*, *Car & Driver*, *Road Test*, *Hot Rodding*, all were just a few of the popular publications I would get lost in while mom shopped for the week's groceries. I would spend every minute I had hopefully trolling the future month's edition (most all were monthly publications) that would have the latest news on cars about to be introduced.

When I would spot a new one that hadn't been there on my last visit, I grabbed it and became enthralled, first in the cover and then on the articles! Of course, whatever magazine had a Corvette on the cover (every month it was always on one or more covers) was always my first and only preference. I filled my head each week with (at the time) all the useless information about the latest Corvette model like I was diligently researching to buy one at 10 years old! Now, at that moment in time, even more so than now, the Corvette was considered the pinnacle of American automobiles! Muscle cars certainly had their place, but were on the decline. European sport's cars were just that — European — and they couldn't even put the steering wheel on the correct side! Yes, the Mustang had a following, but no one really got as excited about putting one in the garage



as they did about having a shiny new Corvette in that garage!

So, my interest started and ended with every Corvette

article I could find! From my time in front of that magazine rack, I committed to memory everything and anything about the Corvettes of that time!

If I had put the same time and energy in studying mathematics in school as I did in front of the that rag rack, I'd have graduated Valedictorian at MIT! But I digress.

From that time spent in front of the magazine rack in the grocery store, I made the promise that, at some point in my life, I was going to own one of those beautiful Corvettes, just like the ones that adorned all those magazine covers!

A promise made must be a promise kept!

So, the next time you wonder where all the useless Corvette information I have stuffed in a small corner of my brain, you now know where it all started from. For more info you can always "Google" Corvettes in *HOT ROD* magazine!

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

