

## September!

### This Months Articles

- A SONHC Thank you!
- The Vermont Country Store
- Corvette Clubs
- Harley Earl
- 2024 NCM Caravan
- GM Companies
- Vanity at it's best
- The GM beginnings
- Crosswords

As the age old saying goes! Time waits for no one!.. and boy is it ever true! And.. as we all get a little longer in the tooth it seems that time has a funny way of speeding up even more!

Summer too is disappearing as fast as a 5.0 Mustang in the rear view mirror! But as the 90 degree days of summer slowly fade away, not all is lost, as we turn our attention to what many believe is the best time of year to be in New England!

Fall cool mornings following crisp clear nights awaken the mountain's green colors and paint the skyline canvas with the amazing vivid beauty that most everyone if not all love! Yes our attention will soon turn to putting away our cars for the season! But not before we get to enjoy some of if not the best caravan rides of the season!

The Kancamagus and Bennington trips are almost magical, with the falls colors in display!, The long train of Corvettes passing by all the other leaf peepers who stare and admire with envy! Both of these caravans are expected to be the biggest of the season! So we certainly hope that those of you who have yet to be a part of the magical fun of caravanning will join us on one or both of these great fall time adventures!



### Price Gouging at its Best.

In the past recent days it appears that the questionable practice of dealerships adding a substantial mark up to the Z06 has reared its ugly head once again as there are unconfirmed reports of a Texas dealership adding a \$90,000 dollar mark up on a customers Z06 order While the dealership later apologized to the customer upon his refusal to pay ! The very same dealership sent a separate letter to another Z06 customer the very next day to explain that he would have a \$50,000 mark up..... Capitalism at its finest!

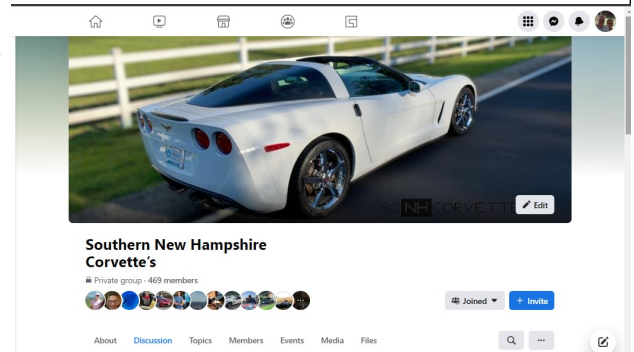
### We're taking Crazy numbers here

As our group continues to grow and we close in on over 500 members on our Facebook group page and approaching 100 members who've joined the SO NH website. We pause and say thank you to all who continue to make this adventure possible! We certainly never envisioned this being what it has become when we started out two years ago.

We know of so many Corvette clubs where it seems the primary objective is that the members support the club or group.. We challenge that theory in every way possible.. As we feel it should be the club supporting its members!

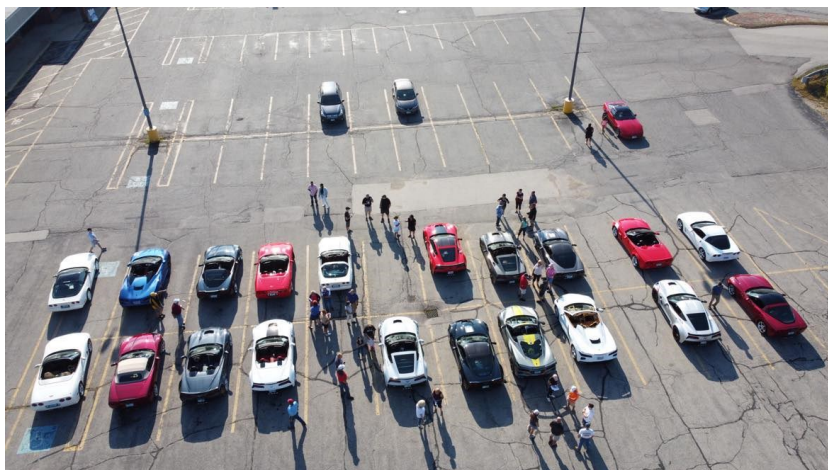
And as we continue to grow.. we'll always hang on to the original ideals we started with, be open to anyone who is a Corvette enthusiast, To always try and drive the hell out of these cars and to have fun! As we transition from the later half of summer and into fall we have some amazing events still on the calendar with the Kanc and Bennington caravans! And who knows, if mother nature cooperates we might sneak in a another ride or two before the 2022 caravan season comes to a close.

So again we say thank you to those of you who have been here since the beginning, who have supported everything we've tried to do since that very first ride across the Kancamagus! And to all the new first time caravan members, Thank you for trusting in us and bringing incredible energy and enthusiasm to our rides! We all are truly blessed to not only possess the greatest sport car in the world , but blessed even more for the circle of friendship's that we've developed because of our love for these cars!





## The Vermont Country Store August caravan





## What's in a Corvette Club and should I join?

So you've got your dream car! You are over the moon excited with finally possessing that incredible man made plastic machine. You're already driving every member in the household beyond crazy by showing them picture after picture of the very car they could simply just go out side and see for themselves. You take so many pictures of it that your phone soon sends you the message that you are at your picture memory capacity! You'll use any excuse to take it and run the shortest of errands!... Even to the end of the driveway just to get the mail! From day one you are quickly possessed by this magical machine and you spend countless hours figuring out how to tell everyone about your new found addiction! I've got to share this feeling with everyone I've ever made eye contact with in my life! So now what? There's got to be more!

Well for many there is..

Did you know.. There are over 3,000 Corvette clubs in North America and 38 accredited clubs here in New England and everyone of them is filled with Corvette people just like you! In fact if you're reading this then you're already a part of one or considering one at least!

So what are Corvette clubs and what can they do for you!

A great analogy would come from the world of golf! There are all types of golf courses and golf clubs. From the ultra private clubs that you must be nominated just to be considered for membership and then upon consideration, dole out money to become a member. To the private golf courses that you can join but again for a admission fee! To the semi-private clubs where you're sort of a member but limited in what you can participate in and be able to do at the club. And lastly there's the old Muni course which is typically run by the locals and is low keyed and can be lots of fun to attend!

Corvette clubs are really no different than golf courses in many ways. You have many different options and while I'm not aware of any Corvette Clubs here in NE that are ultra posh and run you thousands or even hundreds to join, Some of the clubs do have substantial fee's and monthly or yearly dues! So what do you get for your money? Typically you get to participate in that clubs events, Weekly or monthly dinners (still sometimes have to pay for your food and beverages) and some times you'll probably be asked to volunteer for the charitable events or functions the club does to raise money...And some clubs request that you try and attend their monthly club meetings, where they plan and discuss everything form the clubs upcoming schedule of events to the club financial status, Sometimes you'll get to have a say in the leadership appointments of the club. But regardless of the type of club, know you'll be surrounded by others that share the same passion and admiration as you towards owning these amazing cars!

Us.... Well We're a little different than most if not all of the clubs in existence in NE and across the country, We're the beat up 9 hole muni version golf course we mentioned above. We exist for one purpose, to create opportunities for its members to gather, and have fun while driving their cars! Doesn't mean we don't like get together, We certainly do.. But just not to talk about the club we're a part of ... We also believe we're on the forefront of what many future Corvette clubs will become, one that uses social media as it home and communicates via Facebook and through it own website . Social media is to powerful to ignore and using it as a home base platform works too well as its inexpensive to operate and maintain and the communication is constant and can be received at the leisure of the people when they want to receive it . We believe the concept works!

So we're truly fortunate here in the New England area as you have several great options to choose from when deciding to become a member of a Corvette club... or clubs (it doesn't say anywhere that you can only be a member of one group or club)

Regardless of which club you join, be prepared to develop life long friendships as you'll meet some amazing people that you'll form a strong lasting bond with... and isn't that what this is all about ? Forming common bonds!

Oh and lastly.. If you don't feel like any of the club options are right for you ..then you can always start your own...

## Harvey Earl ..The Father of the Corvette and so much more

We all know Harley Earl as the father of our beloved Corvettes. But long before Earl created our two seat sports car in the early 1950's, He already had established a distinguished career at GM.. Here are just a few of the designs and innovations that were the results of Harley Earls 31 years with GM.

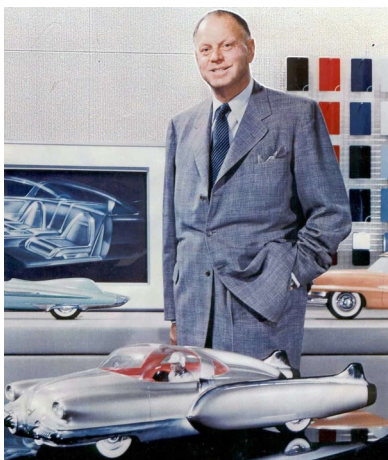
Harley Earl, generally considered the father of American automotive design, was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1893. In the late 1920s, Earl's design talent caught the eye of General Motors Chairman Alfred Sloan, who offered him a position directing the styling of all GM car lines. Earl accepted, moved to Detroit, and soon wielded unprecedented control over GM's new product development.



During Earl's 31-year career with the company, General Motors reigned supreme as an industry leader. Under his direction, designers and stylists pioneered countless innovations which propelled the company to the forefront of automotive design. Some of Earls design idea's and concepts are still utilized to this day

Earl pioneered and introduced the process of using clay models for designers to lay out new car models, saving time and energy n bringing new car models to reality. In 1956 Earl designed In place of rear view mirrors, a functional TV camera that transmitted the rear view to a small screen on the dashboard of the 1956 Buick Century show car.

Earl engineered the groundbreaking 1951 LeSabre concept car that boasted an innovative new windshield design in which the glass curved sharply at the ends to meet the windshield pillars. This gave a futuristic look and a panoramic view. The design soon saw production on the 1953 Cadillac Eldorado and the 1953 Oldsmobile Fiesta, and it quickly became de rigueur on most American cars in the 1950s.



Harvey Earl died on April 10th 1969.. A life well lived for sure!

**Next up! New England Corvette Caravan 2024 "Meet and Greet" event**

**Double Tree by Hilton Hotel – Cape Cod – Hyannis, MA. October 20, 21, 22, 2022**



## More GM Information

We all know The General Motors Corporation is big, They've sold over a half a Billion cars and trucks world wide! But GM has also bought, kept and sold thousands of Multi million dollar companies over the years! Here is a list of just some of the Companies that GM has had fall under and then out of the GM umbrella!

- Chevrolet
- Buick
- Cadillac
- Elmore
- Welch
- Cartercar
- Oakland (predecessor of Pontiac)
- The Reliance Motor Truck Company of Owosso, Michigan
- The Rapid Motor Vehicle Company (predecessors of GMC)
- Frigidaire
- A/C Delco
- Yellow Cab Manufacturing Company
- Allison Engine Company
- Vauxhall Motors
- McLaughlin Motor Car Company
- Opel
- Euclid Trucks later became Terex
- Saab
- Hughes Aircraft Company
- Lotus
- Saturn Car
- Hummer
- Pure Watercraft
- United Motors
- AM General
- Suzuki
- Daewoo
- Fiat
- Holden
- Baojun



This list doesn't include the thousands of additional automotive supply companies they own, with each worth 100's of millions of dollars!

GM's net worth in 2022 is estimated to be 169 Billion dollars

## You're so Vain



Lets have a little fun and test your memory. In our group we have some fantastic vanity plates that adorn some member's Corvettes. See if you can match up the plate with the owners of the car. To make it a little easier we'll only do NH vanity plates this month.

(btw no cheating by the way by going on the group page or website )

- |                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| <b>4 CRUSIN</b> | <b>David Papa</b>            |
| <b>BADBOY</b>   | <b>Linda &amp; Big Ray</b>   |
| <b>SEE YAH</b>  | <b>Jimmy Mac</b>             |
| <b>2NASCAR</b>  | <b>Jamie &amp; Brenda</b>    |
| <b>DOINGOK</b>  | <b>Dave &amp; Lorraine</b>   |
| <b>FSTENUF</b>  | <b>Pedro &amp; Brendalie</b> |
| <b>GRMPZTY</b>  | <b>Frank &amp; Donna</b>     |
| <b>WCKDFN</b>   | <b>Thomas &amp; Laurie</b>   |
| <b>SMKNGUN</b>  | <b>Jerry Elnor</b>           |
| <b>-YOLO+</b>   | <b>Rick &amp; Sharon</b>     |
| <b>1HOTZ06</b>  | <b>Kevin &amp; Georgia</b>   |
| <b>NOTVNLA</b>  | <b>Rob &amp; Missy</b>       |
| <b>NORGRTS</b>  | <b>Moe &amp; Carla</b>       |
| <b>MAXIMUS</b>  | <b>Tony Corvette</b>         |

We'll post the correct answers on the website after the Kancamagus caravan on Sept 11th

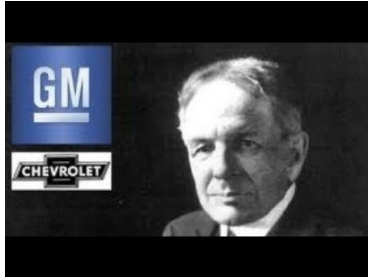


## The Story of GM & Chevrolet

Corvette's haven't always been the showcase center for Chevrolet, in fact while the Corvette has gone on to become a Legendary benchmark for the bowtie company for seventy plus years, much history both good and bad went on at Chevrolet during the beginning 45 years prior to the Corvette's invention by Harley Earl.

Actually in the beginning, Chevy wasn't even a part of GM during its earliest years! In 1908

William "Crapo" Durant and business partner Charles Stewart Mott, founded a company called General Motors. (Durant was in 1900 the largest seller of horse drawn buggies in the country) In naming the company he literally stole the name "General" from The General Electric Company. The corporation was intended simply as a holding company for the Buick Car Company which he had recently bought! With some limited sales success for both Buick and GM,



within two years Durant bought some of the biggest names in the automotive industry including Oldsmobile, Cadillac, Oakland (later known as Pontiac) and the company that produced the predecessor to the GMC Truck and brought them all under the GM umbrella. But it came with a heavy price as in 1910, Durant lost control of the company to a banker's trust as a result of the \$15 million debt incurred through these company acquisitions. As a result Durant was pushed out and left the firm and along with Swiss race car driver Louis Chevrolet created the Chevrolet Motor Company in 1911, and began producing and selling six almost identical models over the next three years. But Durant wasn't happy and still wanted more, he wanted back to the company he had founded 7 years earlier along with revenge for his ouster, and through a stock buyback campaign in 1915 returned to lead GM once again and bringing the Chevrolet company into the GM fold. Still angered by his earlier ouster, not only did he once again sit on top of the company he had founded but upon his return, he had acquired enough stock leverage to allow the Chevrolet company to buy GM! **CHEVROLET ACTUALLY OWNED GM, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND!**

Another interesting tid bit of early GM history, in GM's second year of existence there was an agreement in place between Durant's GM and Henry Ford to buy the Ford Motor Company and also bring it too under the GM umbrella of companies, as long as Henry Ford could keep the farm implement division. However the Banks were still nervous about the evolving automotive industry, and refused to give Durant the 2 million dollar down payment loan to buy Ford. So literally one bank president was the only reason Ford didn't become part of GM. Durant remained at GM until another severe downturn in the economy forced his ouster for the last time in 1920!



While Louis Chevrolet has always received the majority of the credit in forming the Chevrolet Corporation, it was Durant who played a much larger role through his financial wealth, savvy leadership and cut throat determination in driving both Chevrolet and GM to success.

As time went on both GM and The Chevrolet division grew both achieving incredible sales numbers and profits during the next 60 years with GM becoming the largest

automotive manufacturer in the US, and in the world until world wide sales were overtaken by Toyota in 1980. In the late 2000's GM once again asserted its presence as the world leader in innovation and design, and to this day sits atop the US automotive manufacturers for profitability and production!

**GM along with Chevrolet has had numerous innovations (And some Busts) to its credit (besides the Corvette) in advancing the automotive industry. Here are just a few..**

**In 1920** then GM President Alfred P. Sloan Initiated the policy of introducing newly designed car models each year.

**In 1921** a GM engineer discovered leaded gasoline by adding a chemical agent to gas that could deter engine knock, a major problem for early internal combustion engines and it also created the ability to build higher combustion engines increasing performance. (GM brass also knew at the time of the health risks associated with the fuel additive called tetraethyl lead but did it anyway) The same engineer also developed something called R12 chlorofluorocarbon, which was the chemical used in every single automotive air conditioning system until the 1980's. R12 refrigerant has since been banned world wide due to the catastrophic damage it has done to the upper atmosphere's ozone layer.

**In 1926** GM was the first automotive company to offer life insurance to all its employees.



**In 1927** Here's a big one .. Sloan hired California coachbuilder Harley Earl to head up its Art and Colour department.. He'd go on to do something pretty big later on. Just can't remember what!

**In 1935** GM's labor force participated in the formation of the United Auto Workers union or UAW. One year later the union went on strike for over 370 days idling 7 GM plants bringing production to a stand still.

**In 1937** Chevrolet produces its 10 millionth vehicle! GM will go on to produce over **500 million** vehicles during its existence!

**In 1939** Oldsmobile introduced the first 2 speed automatic transmission, called the Hydramatic transmission.

**In the 1940's** GM lead the change from automotive production to war time equipment producer critical in helping to defeat the enemy in WW2. However there is also a footnote to this as then GM president was also a supporter of Hitler and in fact many of the German war vehicles were produced by The Opel company, a then owned GM company.

**In 1953** Harley Earl developed a 2 seat sports car called the Corvette... the rest we all know!

**In 1960**, Chevrolet introduces the Chevy Corvair, a rear engine air cooled engine. It flopped due to public outcry over safety issues



**In 1962** GM developed the first Turbo charged engine in the Old's Cutlass Turbo Fire.

**In 1966** GM introduced the first hydrogen fuel cell car ever produced called the Electrován.



**In the 1970's** GM was the first manufacturer to install passenger side airbags.

**In the 1970's** During the Oil embargo, GM produced and marketed more small gas efficient models, such as the Chevy Vega and Chevy Chevette along with the same chassis' offered in other GM lines, but all resulted in poor sales and ultimately failed due to the poor overall quality and workmanship of the cars.

**In the 1980's** GM began pushing the benefits of the diesel engine in its cars. Another industry first! But due to poor reliability, pulled the plug on production shortly after it began.

**In 1990's** GM began the development of electric powered vehicles with the introduction of the GM EV1 and the later release of the Chevy Volt, a somewhat successful first of its kind Electric powered car. For the first time ever Chevy Trucks outsold Chevy Cars for the entire year!



**In the late 2000's** GM reorganizes and eventually filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, borrowing billions of dollars from the US government to enable the company to continue. It emerged out of bankruptcy as a once again profitable company repaying its loans back to the US Government.

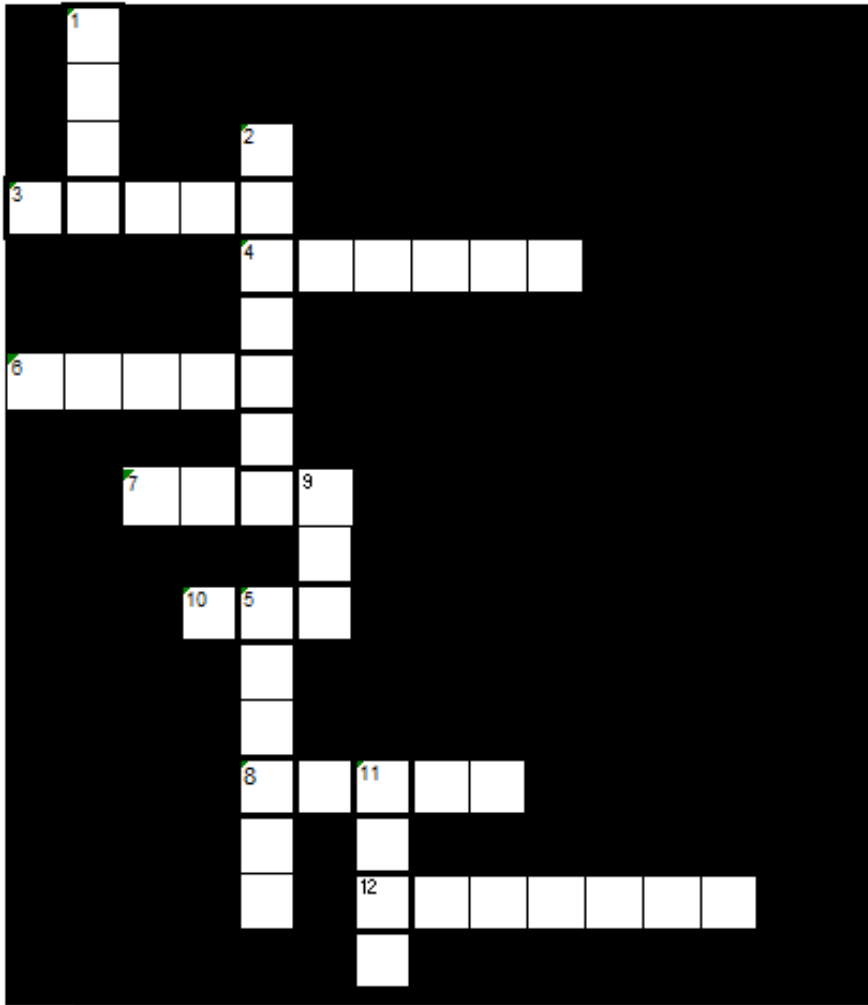
**Today** GM is once again sitting on top of the US auto manufacturers as the largest most profitable manufacturer in the country.. Oh and it builds a pretty neat little sports car too!

Where did the Iconic Chevy Bowtie come from?



The co-founder of the Chevrolet company, William C. Durant, was a world traveler. During a visit to Paris, he was struck by the mesmerizing design on the hotel wallpaper. He tore a piece of the wallpaper and brought it back to the States, where it served as inspiration for the Chevy bowtie logo.

Lets closeout the newsletter with a some fun and a crossword puzzle.



## Across

- 3. Where was the original production plant for the Corvette?
- 4. What was one of only two RPO options on the original 1953 build Corvette
- 6. What is the middle name of the founder of SO NH CORVETTES
- 7. What was the original color "blank" white of the 1953 corvette?
- 8. what was the official name of the Corvette removable top .
- 10. What's another word for asphalt
- 12. What was the name of the 1970's Pontiac experimental 2 seat sport car that almost demised the Corvette.

## Down

- 1. Who created the Corvette last name only
- 2. What does the "E" in E85 gas stand for
- 5. What is the name of the "blank" white on the 2013 C6
- 9. What's another word for paddle
- 11. The 40th anniversary model in 1993 came in one color called "black" Red exterior

Thanks for reading the September newsletter and we hope you enjoy some of the articles. If you have an idea or suggestion that we can cover in an upcoming newsletter, We'd love to hear them! Drop us a note at [sonhcorvettes@gmail.com](mailto:sonhcorvettes@gmail.com)



2022 Picture of the Year