

SO **NH** CORVETTES

SO **ME** CORVETTES

GENERATIONS

April 2025 Vol 5 No 4



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ISSUE*

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OUR SEASON KICK-OFF EVENT !

April ... The long slow journey towards spring is finally over! April has arrived and based on all the members who have braved the early spring elements to sneak their cars out already, it couldn't come soon enough! Here at the club's event planning headquarters, (we view April as still a very transitional month. 60 degree's one day followed by the threat of an inch of snow that night! But, in reality, the real more pressing issue in April is the frequent rains that have over the past couple of years forced us to postpone several April events. So, for the absolute diehard's, we know the cars will be out in force, however, this year we've elected to adjust our 2025 schedule by holding only a couple of events here in April.

But worry not, as we crank things up in a hurry in May by hosting four great events!

We close the month's introduction with a word of advice to all our newest members. When an event registration goes live, we encourage you to get signed up and registered ASAP as the early season events absolutely will sell out.

We get everything started on Friday, April 11th and can't wait to get going!

P.S. For the record, we don't have a event planning headquarters! Just a small desk in the corner of our home office.

But Event Planning Headquarters sounds way cooler!

Our annual Season Kick-Off Event never seems to disappoint! This despite everyone in attendance having to deal with yet another occurrence of inclement weather for the second year in a row! However, despite Mother Nature's best efforts, the night was still perceived by most everyone's account, as the best version of itself ever! Over a hundred SONHC members all

braved the rain, sleet and snow, with many driving a great distance just to come be a part of the evening festivities. Everyone shared a great night of food, fun and laughs along with taking home some great raffles and door prizes!

Now it's on to the events themselves starting up in just a few weeks!



One of the early season events we are greatly looking forward to, is a visit to our

Partnering Professionals, the **Horsepower Farm** located in Loudon, NH. An informative day spent with owner Rick and his staff as we get to learn about Corvette tuning, how a Dyno can work to improve a car's performance and learn about lots of neat accessories available that can improve one's Corvettes Performance. Mark your calendar for Saturday May 31st as we take members up to Rick's shop for a late morning visit!



Some of the events we anticipate and look forward to the most each season are our visits up to the **NHIS** racetrack for the annual **Laps For Charity Events!** In 2025 we visit the Speedway 4 times commencing in April and finishing up in September as part of the **NASCAR** Cup series race weekend!

OUR COMPLETE UPCOMING SEASON SCHEDULES

Here they are! Our entire 2025 Schedule of events for both **SONHC & SOMEC!** You can find printable versions on both our **SONHC & SOMEC** websites and also they will be listed on the pinned section of both of our Facebook Group Pages. Another year filled with diversity and choices! We hope that you'll consider joining us as we journey across New England together in the coming months!

SO NH CORVETTES 2025 Season Schedule

Friday April 11th <i>New England Dragway Street Night</i> Epping NH	Thursday June 5th <i>Mels Fun Spot</i> Litchfield NH	Sunday August 3rd <i>Calcutta's, Vermont Country Store</i> Ludlow, Weston VT	Sunday October 5th * <i>Woodmans of Essex Castle Hill</i> Ipswich, MA
Sunday April 27th * <i>Airport Café</i> North Hampton, NH	Sunday June 8th <i>NH Veterans Home</i> Tilton, NH	Friday August 15th <i>Laps for Charity Road Course</i> Loudon, NH	Friday October 10th * <i>Parker Maple Barn</i> Mason, NH
Friday May 2nd <i>Laps for Charity NHIS Road Course</i> Loudon, NH	Sunday June 22nd <i>Ben & Jerrys Anniversary Factory Tour</i> Waterbury VT	Sunday August 17 * <i>American Heritage Museum</i> Hudson, MA	Sunday October 19th <i>Bennington, VT The Publyk House</i> Bennington, VT
Sunday May 4th * <i>88 MPH Museum</i> Hubardston, MA	Friday June 27th <i>Laps for Charity NHIS Road Course</i> Loudon, NH	Saturday August 23 <i>SONHC Summer Picnic</i> TBA	Saturday October 25th <i>Trunk or Treat Event</i> TBA
Monday May 26th * <i>Memorial Day Parade</i> TBA	Monday July 7th * <i>4th of July Parade</i> Milford NH	Saturday August 30th <i>Cruising Downtown Manchester</i> Manchester, NH	Sunday November 1st <i>Harts Turkey Farm</i> Meredith NH
Saturday May 31st * <i>The Horsepower Farm Clinic</i> Loudon, NH	Friday July 11th <i>New England Dragway Street Night</i> Epping, NH	Monday September 1st * <i>Labor Day Parade</i> TBA	Monday November 10th * <i>Veterans Day parade</i> Manchester, NH
Sunday June 1st <i>Castle in the Clouds</i> Joint SONHC & SOMEC Caravan	Sunday July 20th <i>Gillette Stadium</i> Foxborough, MA	Friday September 12th <i>Laps for Charity NH Racing Museum</i> Loudon, NH	Saturday December 6th <i>Season Ending Celebration</i>
	Sunday July 27th * <i>Ames Car Museum</i> Marlborough, NH	Sunday September 21st <i>Kancamagus Carvan</i> Lincoln, Bretton Woods, NH	

* Asterisk depict Limited field events

SO ME CORVETTES 2025 Season Schedule

Friday Night April 11th <i>New England Dragway Street Night</i> Epping NH	Sunday June 1st <i>Castle in the Clouds</i> Joint SONHC & SOMEC Caravan	Saturday, July 12th <i>Seashore Trolley Museum</i> Kennebunkport, ME	Monday September 1st * <i>Labor Day Parade</i> TBA
Saturday April 26th <i>Hobbs Harborside Restaurant*</i> Wells, Me	Saturday June 14th <i>Desert of Maine</i> Freeport, ME	Friday, July 18th <i>Yarmouth Clam Festival Parade*</i> Yarmouth, ME	Friday September 12th <i>Laps for Charity NH Racing Museum</i> Loudon, NH
Friday May 2nd <i>Laps for Charity NHIS Road Course</i> Loudon, NH	Friday June 27th <i>Laps for Charity NHIS Road Course</i> Loudon, NH	Friday August 15th <i>Laps for Charity Road Course</i> Loudon, NH	Saturday September 13th <i>Old Orchard Beach Car Show</i> OOB, ME
Saturday May 24th <i>Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens*</i> Boothbay, ME	Saturday June 28th <i>Owls Head Museum</i> Owls Head, ME	Saturday, August 16th <i>Harpswell Point Caravan, Mitchell Field*</i> Harpswell, ME	Sunday September 21st <i>Kancamagus Carvan</i> Lincoln, Bretton Woods, NH
Monday May 26th * <i>Memorial Day Parade</i> TBA	Monday July 7th * <i>4th of July Parade</i> TBA	Wednesday September 3rd <i>Bug Light Car Show</i> So. Portland, ME	Saturday October 18th <i>Fall Foliage Caravan</i> Height of Land
Saturday May 31st * <i>The Horsepower Farm Clinic</i> Loudon, NH	Friday Night July 11th <i>New England Dragway Street Night</i> Epping, NH	Saturday August 30th <i>Cruising Downtown Manchester</i> Manchester, NH	Monday November 10th * <i>Veterans Day parade</i> TBA
			Season Ending Celebration* TBA

* Asterisk depict Limited field events

Blue depicts Joint SONHC & SOMEC Event

Schedule is subject to change and events can be added or deleted as the situations arrive

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 1,700 group members, our media footprint continues to evolve, change, and grow — with the continued goal of making every member experience a memorable one!

FEATURED ARTICLE: *ASSEMBLY LINES & RPO BUILD SHEETS*

Many people associate **Henry Ford** as the inventor of the first automotive assembly line to produce cars for the masses. And they are partially right, but not entirely. In actuality, back in 1901 a man named **Ransom Eli Olds** came up with the concept of building a car

using a fixed assembly line. Turning out a little car called *The Olds Curved Dash!*

Ransom Eli Olds is also a name that would go on to play an enormous role in the early development of the American automobile, starting back in 1897 with his forming of the *Oldsmobile* Automotive company, that along with Buick and Cadillac would go on to form the beginnings of the General Motors Company.

Olds would also later go on to form several additional automotive companies during his career including the *REO Brand* of cars and trucks into the late 1930's



1934 REO Flying Cloud

His legacy extended long past his death as the **REO Truck Company** would survive to become part of the **Diamond REO** truck company and eventually merge with the **White Motor Company**, still existing today under the **Volvo White** brand name! It's ironic that one of his greatest automotive achievements, the invention of the assembly line goes unrecognized with all the credit going to **Henry Ford**. But there is this one other thing... A fact no one can dispute. For some of us old enough to remember a rather well-known band from the 70's called **REO Speedwagon**. The band took their name directly after one of **Old's** early delivery trucks called... you guessed it the **REO Speedwagon**.

But It was **Henry Ford**, who took the concept of assembly line production and added a single moving platform, creating the most efficient and profitable method of producing cars in volume. This moving assembly line on rails concept would start with the frame of the car being added at the front of the line and would continue to the very end until a completed car was driven away ready for delivery! This simplistic process would allow workers to build a complete **Model T** from start to finish in just over an hour and half. Enabling Ford to drop the selling price of the Model T from \$850 to just \$250 and still remain highly profitable! Many of Ford's early assembly line concepts played a direct role in the makings of today's modern car production!

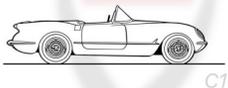


Something Ford knew then as every manufacturer does now, that in order for production to remain efficient and profitable, the lines must be kept constantly moving! Idle lines cost money! And lot's of it!

Something GM has just about perfected at the Bowling Green KY. Corvette plant. Within a good day, producing over 200 new Corvettes! A truly astonishing number considering that so many of them are customized and different variations and all produced on the very same single factory line! So, how does GM do this magical dance efficiently and profitably? The key lies in something that happens long before the first bolt is even needed on the assembly line. It's knowing exactly how each car is to be built long beforehand. They accomplish this using something called "**Regular Production Options**" or **RPO's**. Since the late 1950's on the C1 GM has used this method to assemble their cars. This blueprint comprised of just three 3 letter and number codes tells, all the different departments what exact components will be needed for each car to be built and to have them at the ready on a specific day and time! All the different rims, seats, engines and even right-handed drive components are all pre-scheduled to be available in this incredibly efficient dance! This well-orchestrated process all starts with the sharing of these RPO's with everyone involved weeks and even months before the scheduled assembly and is also shared with all of 200 outside vendors and suppliers GM utilizes to build the

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Corvette. This ensures the correct inventory is available and at the ready on the day the car is scheduled to go down the line to be built.

These RPO three letter designations also provide a secondary benefit long after the car has been built and in the hands of its owners. One can use this RPO sheet, (once you find it) to identify what options your Corvette was built with From paint colors, to trim levels to all the exact individual option packages your car was built with, all from this little sheet. So, now that we know what this sheet is and can do, all we need now is a way to decipher the exact meanings behind these 3 letter codes! And as the saying goes...*There's an app for that....*

Something called **Corvette DNA** is a free mobile download and will answer every single RPO question about your Corvette. Regardless of year, from 53 all the way up to 2025! And, it can also do much more, such as telling you things like how many cars were built in the color and options of your car on a given year. You put your VIN into the app and save it as you use the RPO's to configure exactly how your car was built. Some pretty cool fun stuff....



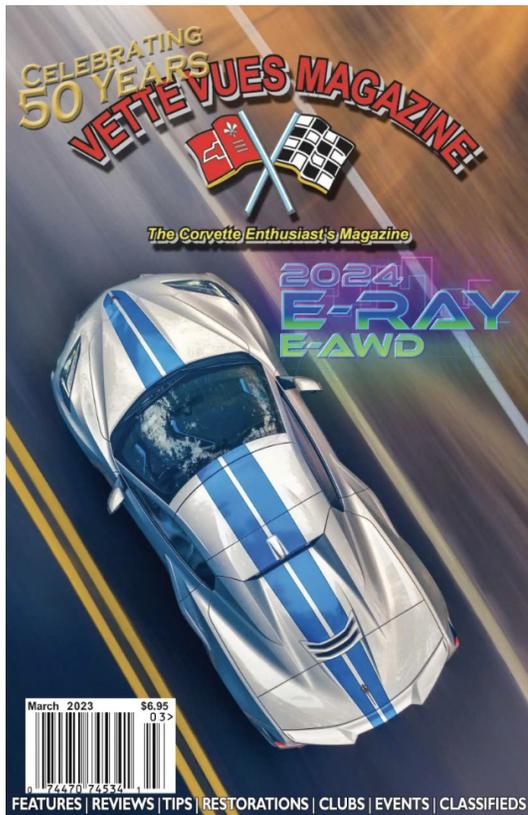
A LOOK BACK ON OUR VISITS TO LUDLOW VT.

As part of our caravan look back series to honor this season's 5-year anniversary. We peek back at some of our more memorable events. This month, we look back on two caravan events that took us to the same areas in both 2022 and 2023. A couple of visits to the Ludlow VT. area for lunch and on the first year, an ensuing visit over to the original Vermont Country Store. This caravan journey takes us across some of the most enjoyable roads New England has to offer and this particular route is always a members favorite.

On the exact date of our 2023 return visit on July 9th, the day turned out to be one that Vermonter's will never forget. As within an hour of our group's departure home from Ludlow, the rains came and didn't stop for 24 hours straight! The resulting flooding absolutely decimated the entire the region for months to come! In fact, within just hours of our departure, the exact place we had enjoyed lunch that day, was under six feet of water! It has taken the area over two years to fully recover! As part of our 2025 schedule, we'll once again return for a visit to this incredibly beautiful area and hopefully this year it will be under clear blue skies!



Did you know...The Chevrolet Corvette that we all own and drive is the longest running continuously produced American passenger car in automotive history! So, the next time you're at a large gathering of Corvettes or on a caravan. Pause and look around and think about this...! Every single Corvette you see that is 1982 and newer all rolled off the very same exact assembly line in Bowling Green! There might even be a chance that the some of the same hands that built your car, probably had a hand in building that new C8 parked next to you!



VETTE VIEWS MAGAZINE

This is an unabashed plug for anyone who still enjoy browsing through a physical magazine. Vette Views! It's a publication that has been around since the 1972 C3 was introduced! Each month the Vette Views publication turns out a great quality read, covering just about every imaginable Corvette subject that can be talked about. It's also an absolute bargain as a 12-month subscription costs you less than a single day's coffee each month! And yes, for those who prefer to receive the magazine digitally, you can do that as well. Another cool part of subscribing is you can place a classified add in their publication for **free** with your paid subscription. They also make available all their past months publications to Carouse and enjoy on-line. They even offer a three-month free trial subscription so you can check them out. If you are interested in receiving a coupon redeemable for a free three month trial subscription, just drop us an email and we'll send one out for you to give them a try.

LIMITED VERSUS OPEN EVENTS

Something you will notice when you look at our schedule of events is that some of them have a set limited number of registration openings available. Something we refer to as “**Limited Field Events**” (designated by the asterisk next to the event name on the schedule) with all our remaining events being Open Events with no limits on the number of people who can register to attend. So, why do we limit the number of people able to register to attend certain events? Simply put, we have to keep the size of our visiting group to what is acceptable by the host destination. It can be caused by several factors, such as the size of the venue parking area, or in many cases, the hosts sites would be simply overwhelmed if we showed up with 70 people and 40 cars. Places like museums are typically set as a limited field event, as they often have restrictions on the number of people they can handle at one time. But... one benefit of a limited field event, is the attending members typically get a more intimate experience with the ability of interacting together in the smaller setting.

But for those who enjoy the larger events, the good news is that many of our events are “Open Events” with no registration limitations. The Open events certainly create a much larger spectacle to everyone around us as we pass by! And, while the size of some of our “Open” events have certainly increased in size, we understand the importance in offering both types of events to best accommodate everyone’s individual comfort levels.

Memorial Day Parade

Saturday May 31st *
Horsepower Farm Clinic
Loudon, NH

Thursday June 5th
Mels Fun Spot
Litchfield NH

Gillette Stadium

Foxborough, MA
Sunday July 27th *
Ames Car Museum
Marlborough, NH

Sunday August 3rd
Calcutta's, Vermont Country Store
Ludlow, Weston VT

Laps for Charity NH

Loudon,
Sunday Sept:
Kancamagu:
Lincoln, Brettor

Sunday Oct:
Woodmans of Es:
Ipswitch

* Asterisk depict Limited field events

Our SONHC & SOMEC Merchandise stores

Now available in our merchandise store are our 2025 5 year Anniversary SONHC T-shirts. they are a bit bold and loud this year but fitting to help mark the occasion of our five year celebration. And for our Corvette family to the north, there is also a new design 2025 SOMEC T-shirt available. Beholding of the state famous for it's Maine Lobster! You can check out both on the club websites and get all the details on these and many more items!

NO POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS
please.
YOUR OPINION MATTERS,
Just not today here with us!



OUR VIEW ON POLITICAL VIEWS

Our events we hope are a great escape from everyday life. An opportunity to be able to completely forget about everything that is going on around us even if for just a short while. Which hopefully also includes a short escape from our country's current political climate. As, there is no doubt in today's times, thru social media and thru the news in general, few things are more polarizing than everyone's differing views and opinions on the subject of politics.

SONHC & SOMEC respects everyone's political perspectives and individual thoughts, even if they differ from anyone else's views. However, we need to make the point of reminding everyone that **SONHC & SOMEC** events are never the correct forum to share or discuss politics around other members. *No, we are not talking about two individuals sharing a conversation on the side!*

We are talking about at any event dinner table or where group members are collectively gathering. While we do not have, or ever want the right or ability to restrict anyone from their own personal beliefs or viewpoints on any subject at any time outside of a **SONHC & SOMEC** sanctioned event. But, within our events, we feel we must have and do have the ability to restrict any specific conversation, be it of political nature or of any controversial subject. This is the right perspective to have out of respect for everyone involved. So, this is something that we require 100% compliance with at every one of our events, as a simple way to show courtesy and respect to all **SONHC & SOMEC** members! As we get ready for our upcoming caravan and event season, we just want to remind everyone of this small but incredibly important point.

We Thank You for understanding and for your cooperation.

Caravan Guidelines & Caravan Rules

There is one major thing that we have learned in creating and hosting so many caravan events over the past four years. The level of preparation that goes into an event most often correlates directly to the enjoyment level that everyone gets out of that event. And, as we proudly continue to do all the heavy lifting at every one of our events and wouldn't have it any other way. This preparation can only take us so far. The rest is actually up to the attending members! As a participating member, you play as big a role as we do in helping creating the enjoyment level AND SAFETY of everyone involved. Long successful processions of Corvettes require cooperation from everyone involved! Everyone! By becoming totally familiar with and abiding by the group rules that are in place, you are adding directly to an events success and to everyone's overall enjoyment. Sounds simple, but in reality, one of the biggest obstacles that can lead to disappointment is when the rules are ignored for any number of reasons. "I don't like to drive that fast or care to be that close to someone in front of me", are just a couple of the major hurdles that can lead to caravan issues, spacing issues and opening up all the possibilities of some very bad things to happen! The importance of following the group rules cannot be overstated, regardless of personal preferences and the adherence to these guidelines and rules is an absolute must! It starts by first being aware that they exist. Then committing to abiding by them at every event. We'll never ask anyone to operate their Corvette in a way that would be considered dangerous on any of our events. (Track events, you're on your own to know your limits) We as a group will always operate within the set speed limits and adhere to all the rules of the road without exception! So as we begin to host events, we ask that everyone is totally familiar with these group rules and 100% commit to following them! We always keep a copy of these Caravan rules posted on our websites, and they can be found at the top of our event registration page.

Rules & Safety Guidelines

1. **DO NOT GET SPREAD OUT!** Keep the correct proximity to the car in front of you. **We cannot emphasize this enough!** YOU CANNOT ALLOW THE CARAVAN TO GET SPREAD OUT! It's imperative for everyone's enjoyment AND safety to stay close to the car you are following. If not, something called the **Boomerang effect** takes place and it's a major cause of accidents in caravans, **As the cars in the back are speeding up to make up distance with the cars in the front, the cars in the front may be slowing down and that is never a good scenario!** Also try and know if the car in front of you is an automatic or a standard, as those of us with standards don't always use the brakes alone to slow the car!
2. **USE YOUR TURN SIGNAL AT ALL TIMES!** Every Car, Every turn! Cars as close as three back from the ride leader will not be able to see the leader's turn signals and it's imperative that you help out the riders behind you by giving them a heads up! **use your turn signals!**
3. **Be considerate of all your fellow Corvette's,** No burn outs, engine revving or any behavior other than, us all behaving like choir boys and girls on our first day of drivers Ed!
4. **There is never any passing within the Caravan and we'll try and stay close to the speed limits at all times!** We travel a variety of different types of roads and sometimes we will encounter traffic lights! Don't despair if you get separated by red lights, The group leader will pull over at the first safe place large enough for the waiting cars to stop and remain waiting till everyone gets through the lights. **DO NOT RUN traffic lights!**
5. **At our designated stops, remember to pull all the way into any parking area** as quickly and safely as possible to get the stopped cars behind you off the highway. Due to the size of our group, every stop will take time to get everyone off the Highway! Always try and back into your parking spaces as it makes it easier when we leave the location.
6. **If at any time you encounter a problem,** go ahead and pull over and the caboose car will stop and check on you and the caravan will continue and you can catch up at the next scheduled stop.
7. We will use **channel 5** for anyone bringing their own radios. **If you get separated, don't despair,** as the group will pull over and wait for you as soon as there is a safe location to do so.
8. **When you pull over to the side of the road, stop with your wheels turned out towards the road** so that when you see it's all clear to proceed, you can pull back into formation quickly. Look for the car behind you to enter back into traffic and proceed in front of them! **The caravan goes back into traffic from the back to the front! If we stop, do your part and pull off the side of the road and watch behind you for the cars to pull back into traffic.**
9. **DO NOT EVER TAKE OFF IN FRONT OF THE GROUPS LEAD CAR!** Unless you are leaving the caravan and heading straight home! And if you are leaving, please communicate with the ride leaders so we are not looking for you!

Our Season-Long *Partnering Professionals*

We wish to acknowledge and thank each of these incredible companies who have signed on to join with us for our 2025 season! We ask that you



AMERICAN MUSCLE



Thanks for reading our April GENERATIONS