



The  
*Queen City Corvette Gazette*

*Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club*

*January 2012*



*Santa Chooses Wisely!*

*See Page 4*

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## 2012 Board of Directors and Staff



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*Please visit the [QCCC web site](#) for previous issues of the Gazette*

The Queen City Corvette Gazette is the official newsletter of the [Queen City Corvette Club](#) (QCCC), established in 1968, and is published monthly by volunteers and members of QCCC. Subscription rates are free for members. Guests can receive up to three months of newsletter issues, and then are removed from mailing list if they haven't participated in any QCCC events. Cost for postage and production is paid for through membership dues. Membership list and financial data are not published for guest copies. For change of address and all other QCCC inquiries, write to: **Queen City Corvette Club, PO Box 77153 Charlotte, NC 28271-7002.**

QCCC is a non-profit club (501-C7) social club whose members all share a common appreciation and love of *America's Sports Car – the Corvette*. Dues and donations are not tax deductible. In addition to various social activities for members, QCCC raises money for and participates with various local charities. We strive to promote exciting, safe and fun ways to enjoy our Corvettes. We hold business meetings on the second Saturday of each month. Our monthly business meeting usually incorporates social time. Our socials are always fun and are focused around fellowship, food & drink. We've had swimming parties, bar-b-ques, cookouts, day cruises and weekend trips. We participate in / conduct mountain tours, holiday parades and several homecoming parades at local area high schools. We also support and participate in local auto shows and hold charity Corvette shows each year. After an initiation fee of \$7.00, club dues are only \$8.00 a month, per family, and are to be paid quarterly or annually. These dues go to cover the costs of running the club, mailing newsletters, and subsidizing the costs of our meetings. Club officers and supporting staff serve as volunteers.

### **On The Cover:**

What Santa Claus wouldn't give up his sleigh for a ride in a red Corvette? QCCC members **J.C. & Linda Roberts** got the honor of carrying *Saint Nick* in the **Lake Wiley Christmas Parade**. Seeing Santa in this beauty surely gave the kids extra incentive to be good and leave extra cookies by the fireplace!



To become a member of the [QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB](#), you must own a Corvette and attend at least three (3) monthly business meetings and two (2) events within a six-month time period. *Come check us out – we love to meet fellow Corvette Enthusiasts!* Express your wishes for membership during a monthly business meeting and be voted in, begin paying dues and having fun! If you can't join us, **please WAVE!**



# The President's Vault

Hope everyone had a happy holiday. We're looking forward to the coming year of events. It's important that you get to the January meeting, the board members have compiled a questionnaire, and we want your input to determine the interest level in various activities. Our aim is to have enough variety to catch your interest on at least a few events. I know how easy it is to just sit on the couch; I'm guilty of that myself. So make it your New Year's Resolution to come to a couple of club events this year, meet new people, and have some fun. Half of the people in the club have been members for less than four years, so there are plenty of new people to meet with a variety of interests.



Hope to see everyone at the January business meeting, and then the banquet at the end of January. So plan to attend and have some fun.

Remember the wave, and let's drive 'em and enjoy them!

*Steve Pelchat*

## QCCC Gives Back

Thanks to all the members who donated food and supplies to the *Matthews Help Center* and toys to the *145<sup>th</sup> Air National Guard* families! ***You helped make the Holidays brighter.***



*Nelson Sprague, Steve Pelchat and EO Oakley with a Matthews Help Center volunteer making the 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas food donation delivery.*



Steve Pelchat and EO Oakley with MSgt Barbara Burnett and SrMSgt Van Brewer of the 145<sup>th</sup> ANG during the toy delivery.



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# QCCC Corvettes Close Out The Season at the Lake Wiley Christmas Parade

The last opportunity to “drop the top” and carry the Queens came December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Lake Wiley Christmas Parade. QCCC members enjoyed the day and shared stories at lunch afterwards.

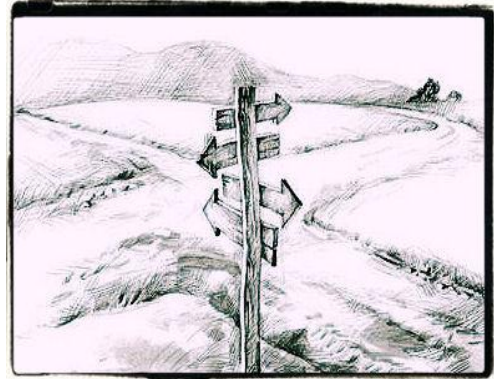


For more photos visit the “Event Photos” section on our [QCCC website!](#)

# KEITH'S CROSSROADS

With QCCC Vice President Keith Cross

On your mark, get set, GO! 2012 is almost here. First I would like to say that I appreciate all the confidence you have in me as I start my position on the QCCC Board. I will do my best to help make 2012 a year that will be enjoyable. Next I would like to say Thank You to those board members that after many years of faithful service to QCCC have decided to take a little rest but will continue to be very active members.



Our January Meeting will be held at the **NASCAR Technical Institute in Mooresville**. At this meeting the board will be handing out a *Membership Questionnaire* as we look for your input on several topics. Also I will be rolling out the *QCCC Membership Award Program for 2012*. The short version is the "QCCC MAP 2012". So as you can see everyone needs to attend the meeting so their voice can be heard and you can start earning your "MAP Points".

Thanks again to the NASCAR Technical Institute for allowing us to meet at their facility in January. The location is:

**NASCAR Technical Institute  
220 Byers Creek Road  
Mooresville, NC 28117-4378**

Make note of our New Start Times. The *Social Time* is 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm and the *Meeting Time* is 6:15pm to 7:15pm. For complete details see the calendar on the QCCC Website.

## Finally a "Did You Know":



All 1953 Corvettes were Polo White with a red interior and a black canvas top. There were two options offered: a signal seeking AM radio (\$145.15) and a heater (\$91.40). Although listed as options, all 1953 Corvettes were equipped with both items. The base price was \$3,498.00, including the federal excise tax and \$248.00 for shipping and handling. The radio had an interesting feature: since fiberglass is electrically inert, the antenna was simply incorporated in the trunk lid. This would not be possible with a conventional steel body. The first Corvette reached the end of the assembly line on June 30, 1953. The first two were engineering test cars and according to official records, were destroyed. Of the first 300 Corvettes, approximately 225 are known to exist today.

Source: The Corvette Story  
<http://web-cars.com/corvette/index.php>

Remember to "Save the Wave" when we meet at the Crossroads.

*Keith*



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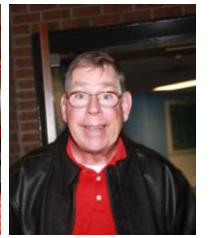
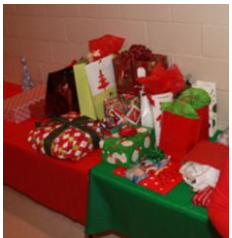
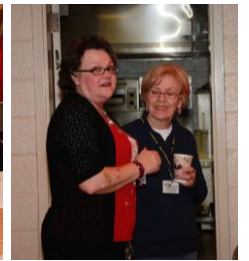
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# Queen City Corvette Club Celebrates the Holidays with the Annual Christmas Party and Final Meeting of 2012

The many attendees enjoyed great food and fellowship while helping the *Matthews Help Center* with donations and the *145<sup>th</sup> Air National Guard* families with Christmas gifts for the children. Many thanks to all who helped decorate and coordinate this fun event!



# QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB

## BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES



Date: December 10, 2011 Time: 7:00 PM – 7:35 PM  
Church

Location: Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church

### BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF PRESENT

**Board Members:** Steve Pelchat, President; Matthew Deiger, Vice President; Eddie & Jane Burt, Membership; Nelson Sprague, Automotive Director; Florence Prather, Treasurer; Susan Kurt, Social Director; Linda Lewis, Secretary; **Staff:** Bob Denney, Club Photographer; Bob & Marilyn Becker, Webmasters; Paul Mariano, NCM Ambassador; Chris and Peggy Wood, Newsletter Editors

### Christmas Party from 5pm to 7pm

**President - Steve Pelchat** - Called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

- 🚩 Introduced the Board Members and thanked them for serving this past year
- 🚩 Introduced the new Board members: Keith Cross, Vice President; John Walton, Automotive Director; Laura Pelchat, Social Director; Chris Wood, Membership Director; and Boyd Kurt, Newsletter Editor.
- 🚩 Minutes approved and seconded.

### Membership Report - Eddie Burt

- 🚩 New members voted in were as follows:
  - Dave & Gail Megenis – 1966 Nassau Blue Convertible
  - Heath & Jill Traphagen – Modified 1975 Black Coupe w/ Flames
  - Merrill Quintrell (*Former QCCC member*) – 1973 Green Convertible, 1973 White Coupe
- 🚩 Prospective members were introduced:
  - John & Cala Malcolm – 1985 Red Coupe
- 🚩 The club presently has 279 members.

### Vice President Report – Matthew Deiger

- 🚩 Rally Update. Seven awards will be given out at the banquet – 3 for the Working Stiffs, 3 for the Cruisers, and 1 overall.
- 🚩 Gift certificates – Bill Davidson & Jill Traphagen.

### Automotive Report - Nelson Sprague

- 🚩 Thanked everyone for their support over the past three years and urged all members to participate.
- 🚩 John Walton gave an overview of the new car show rules and asked for volunteers.

### Treasurer's Report - Florence Prather

- 🚩 Reviewed the bank balance. It is time to collect dues for 2012. Membership dues are \$96 for the year.

### Secretary's Report – Linda Lewis

- 🚩 Announced the December birthdays: Beth Walton, AnnaLuree Wright, Vernon Maher, Caroline Lentz, Judy Armstrong, Wendy Krupowicz, Brenda Loftin, Linda Meadows, Wally Crawford, Bob Becker, Bill Cruthis, Barney Peterman and Dena Deiger. If you want to be included in the birthday list, please email Linda at [lhlewis@comporium.net](mailto:lhlewis@comporium.net).

### Social Director's Report - Susan Kurt

- 🚩 Thanked everyone who helped with the decorating for the Christmas party.
- 🚩 January 28<sup>th</sup> – Banquet at the Hilton in uptown Charlotte. Bill Hogan is our DJ. If you have a song preference, let him know. We need to know if you are spending the night, so email Susan. We will have a hospitality suite for members. DO NOT bring Snacks!!! The club will provide all the snacks. Cost is \$70 per couple and \$50 for a non-member.

### National Corvette Museum Ambassador's Report - Paul Mariano

- 🚩 Wished everyone Merry Christmas.
- 🚩 Please support the National Corvette Museum and become a member.

### Chrome Bumper Group Report – Tommy Loftin

- 🚩 No report.

### Other Business –

- 🚩 No other business. Meeting was adjourned.

*Next meeting is Saturday, January 14th at the NASCAR Technical Institute. Social at 5:30 pm, meeting to start at 6:15 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,

*Linda H. Lewis, Secretary*

## *Welcome to Our Newest Members!*

*We're glad you joined us! We all come in as strangers and soon become family!*



*Gail & Dave Megenis  
1966 Nassau Blue Convertible*



*Merrill Quintrell  
1973 White Coupe &  
1973 Green Convertible*



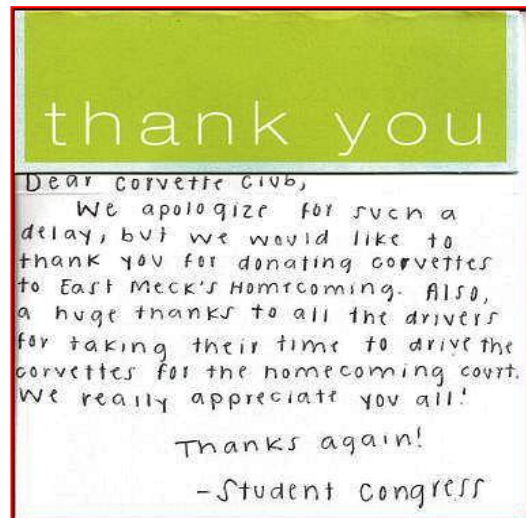
*Jill & Heath Traphagan  
1975 Black Coupe*

### **Queen City Corvette Club 2011 End-of-Year Inventory**

#### **QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB**

**Queen City Corvette Club** Bylaws require that an *inventory* be published annually. Following is the **Annual 2011 End-Of-Year Inventory**.

<b>Quantity:</b>	<b>Item:</b>	<b>Inventoried By:</b>
3	Microphones w/ Bag	Steve Pelchat
1	Amp and Speaker	Steve Pelchat
1	Bullhorn	Steve Pelchat
2	Boxes of misc. paperwork	Steve Pelchat
1	Cordless Microphone w/ Receiver	Steve Pelchat
1	E-Z Up Instant Shelter	John Walton
2	QCCC Banners - 6 ft X 2 ft (for City Chevrolet)	John Walton
2	Frames for Banners w/ Carrying Case	John Walton
1	RubberMaid Roughneck Container - 31 Gal.	John Walton
2	Line Pennants w/ Chevrolet Bowtie & Checkered Flag	John Walton
1	Box - Poker Run Cards & Punches	John Walton
1	Partial Roll of 50/50 tickets	John Walton
1	Box w/ Chevrolet Plastic Giveaway Bags	John Walton
1	1997 NCCC South Sectional Trophy	John Walton
5	Clipboards	John Walton
1	QCCC Club Flag (John Meadows)	John Walton
1	Banner w/ QCCC Logo rcvd. from NCM after 2010 display	John Walton
1	Fire Extinguisher	Eddie Burt
1	Easel Stand	Eddie Burt
1	Blackboard	Eddie Burt
4	20 inch Box Fans	Eddie Burt



*East Mecklenburg High School's Thank You to QCCC members for carrying the Homecoming Court.*





# *John's Automotive Nuts & Bolts*



QCCC Members,

Well, here is my first attempt at an Automotive Report. Wish me luck. First, on behalf of QCCC, thanks to Nelson Sprague for three great years as Automotive Director. The tour of the Hendrick Heritage Center that he and City Chevrolet set up for us was an outstanding event that not just everyone gets to do. Dozens of beauty queens transported along dozens of parades owe Nelson their thanks for a lot of work. If he will just trade his coupe for a convertible he can be the Grand Marshal of the parades of his choice. Thanks Nelson.

Barring a 2012 shift of the earth's axis, the weather will be bad in January. My cars are nestled all snug in their garage with their car covers pulled up over their head, so I haven't scheduled an automotive activity for January. There is, after all, the banquet. I do plan to conduct a survey at the January business meeting to determine what sort of activities the club is interested in having this year. Right now I am looking at a museum/collection visit for late February. If there is one you would like to see let me know.

Mark your calendar now for May 5th. This is the date for the inaugural (as far as I know) QCCC car show sponsored by City Chevrolet at the Hendrick Motor Sports Complex. With over 100 cars in the club now, and not a barker in the bunch, we can put on quite a show by ourselves. City/Hendrick has access to lots of special cars and the plan is to bring some to this show. With exhibits by the Carolina Antique Car club and/or the Carolina Solid Axle Corvette Club, this has the potential to be a special show. It will require a strong commitment from QCCC and City Chevrolet. Twenty-eight QCCC members have already signed up to pull this thing off. If you have not had a chance to sign up yet there will be a sheet at the business meetings. There are a lot of important jobs associated with this show, enough for anyone who can participate.

They don't write songs about Volvos.

*John Walton*  
Automotive Director



*When You Drive a Corvette,  
the View is Always Nice.*



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## QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: **DECEMBER 6, 2011** TIME: **6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**  
LOCATION: **SMITH & STEVENSON**

**Board Members:** Steve Pelchat, President; Matthew Deiger, Vice President; Eddie Burt, Membership Director; Susan Kurt, Social Director; Nelson Sprague, Automotive Director; Florence Prather, Treasurer

**Guests:** Jane Burt, Laura Pelchat, Bob Denney, Barbara Sprague, Keith Cross, John Walton and Chris Wood

### DISCUSSION

 **President Steve Pelchat called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. He welcomed the 2012 Board Elect and then asked for the Officer's Reports**

 **Vice President's Report – Matthew Deiger**

- › The Rally Miles have been updated and prizes will be awarded at the banquet.
- › VP information has been passed to Keith Cross, 2012 Vice President, who will need to announce his "points program" (if any) at the January Meeting.
- › Need to determine who will be responsible for the sign-in sheet at the meetings.
- › December 10 – Christmas Party and Meeting at Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church.



 **Membership Director's Report – Eddie Burt**

- › Five visitors will attend the next meeting and all will be eligible for membership.
- › The number of members is 274.
- › Led a discussion regarding current advertiser requesting a larger ad in the Gazette Newsletter and on the website. The Terms & Conditions for Advertising state that all ads are the size of a business card, at a rate of \$120 per year. The size benefits the Newsletter publication, and the cost allows us to retain our 501 C7 status. Therefore, based on these restrictions, a larger ad cannot be allowed.
- › The Membership information and supplies will be passed to Chris Wood, 2012 Membership Director on December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- › Mass emails should now be sent to Chris Wood, 2012 Membership Director, for forwarding.
- › Gave the QCCC Post Office Box key to Steve Pelchat.

 **Treasurer's Report – Florence Prather**

- › Reviewed budget and bank balance.
- › One couple owes dues since the second quarter.
- › Will present the financial information and 501 C7 status to the Membership at the January meeting.

 **Social Director – Susan Kurt**

- › December Meeting and Christmas Party – received 85 RSVPs so far.
- › Discussed the Banquet –
  - ✓ Confirmed the DJ and price – he'll take requests beforehand and during the Banquet
  - ✓ Hotel room is \$119 per night.
  - ✓ QCCC pays for overnight parking.
  - ✓ Sit-down dinner with choice of beef, chicken or fish, along with a dessert bar.
  - ✓ Check-in and cocktails will be in the hallway in front of the Banquet Room.
  - ✓ Hospitality Suite will be downstairs with QCCC providing the snacks.
  - ✓ Eight people per table, larger dance floor than last year.
  - ✓ Thirty-four couples have signed up so far.

 **Automotive Director's Report – Nelson Sprague**

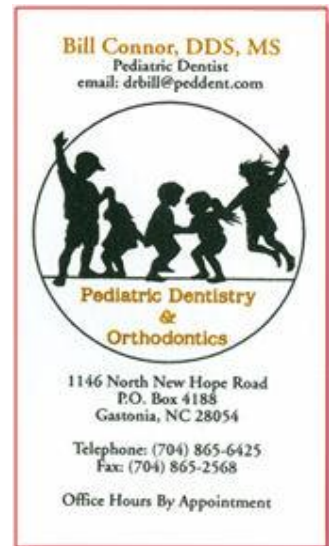
- › All parades have taken place.
- › Has received a Thank You Note from the Matthews Help Center for the November food donations.
- › E.O. Oakley will help with the December food and ANG gift collections which will be delivered Monday December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- › The Automotive and Charity information has been passed to John Walton, 2012 Automotive Director.

 **2012 Automotive Director – John Walton**

- › Discussed a questionnaire to be distributed to the membership and decided to combine it with one that Laura Pelchat, 2012 Social Director, wants to distribute.
- › Discussed our 2012 Car Show for City Chevrolet to be held at Hendrick Motorsports Complex in Concord and decided on a date of May 5, 2012. Since this will be an open show, a Committee will have to be created to iron out the details. A sign-up sheet will be at the December Meeting for volunteers.

 **Club Photographer – Bob Denney**

- › Discussed his need to have back-ups for taking pictures at QCCC events since he's been doing it for many years and wants to slow down and enjoy being a member. A few members with photography skills were mentioned for a possible Photo Committee.





### 2011 Newsletter Editor / 2012 Membership Director – Chris Wood

- › Requested for the January 2012 newsletter:
  - ✓ 2012 QCCC Board contact list
  - ✓ Picture for each Officer's Report page
  - ✓ Consolidated end-of-year 2011 inventory list



### President's Report – Steve Pelchat

- › The By-Laws have been revised with the recent changes and will be posted on the website. Laura will email the By-Laws to the Board.
- › The pictorial directory will be printed and presented to the Members attending the December meeting.
- › Discussed an Advertisers Appreciation Night at a meeting in 2012 where our Advertisers can each have a display of their goods and services for our members to see.
- › A budget for 2012 will be prepared in January and presented for approval by the Membership at the February meeting.
- › A wireless microphone has been purchased for our PA system to help with prospective member introductions.

*A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 8:00 pm.*

*Respectfully Submitted for Linda Lewis*

*Jane Burt, Member*

## Does This Photo Give You Spring Fever?

***Congratulations to QCCC Members Jack & Betty Brunton! Their Z06 was chosen by the C5/C6 Registry for their 2012 Calendar. This beautiful photo will be the December "pin-up" and will surely make viewers wish for warmer weather! Thanks, Jack & Betty, for sharing!***





I'm excited about the coming year as Director of Social Activities for the club. The board is working on the calendar, and I have a few outings ready to announce at the January meeting. We are putting together a survey of interest and need your input

for some guidelines. I hope to have some surprises at our meetings throughout the year, to keep things fun. I'm looking for people interested in helping on the Social Committee. If you have an idea to pursue, a place of interest, or an activity, let me know. If you're willing to help with meetings or an activity, that's a good way to get to know more people in the club.

Our next event will be the *Awards Banquet*, January 28<sup>th</sup>, which is always a good time to catch up with friends. Don't miss out, RSVP to Susan Kurt by January 20<sup>th</sup> at [skurt7167@mindspring.com](mailto:skurt7167@mindspring.com). Complete information is available on the website. Remember to also make your room reservations if you are planning to spend the night. The club rate is \$119, but it's possible to get a better rate depending upon specials the hotel might be offering.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next event.

*Laura*

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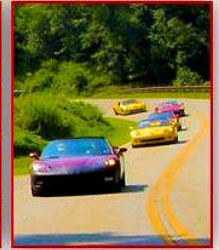
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## National Corvette Museum Corner

Jeff Crosby has graciously agreed to lead the contingent to the NCM for the *CA/ZR-I Gathering*. This event will be held on May 17-19 in 2012. Jeff will be leaving on Wednesday, May 16, as to not miss any of the activities on Thursday and returning home on Sunday. Please let Jeff know if you are planning on attending this event so he can start planning the hotel accommodations and the travel logistics. It always helps to confirm your intentions by e-mail, so shoot one to Jeff at [Jeffreycrosby@msn.com](mailto:Jeffreycrosby@msn.com).

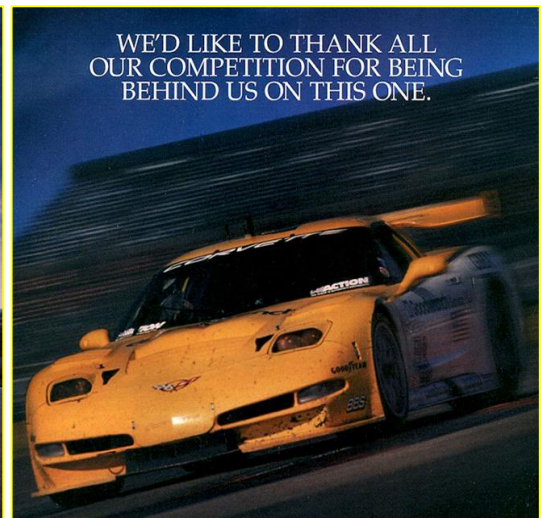
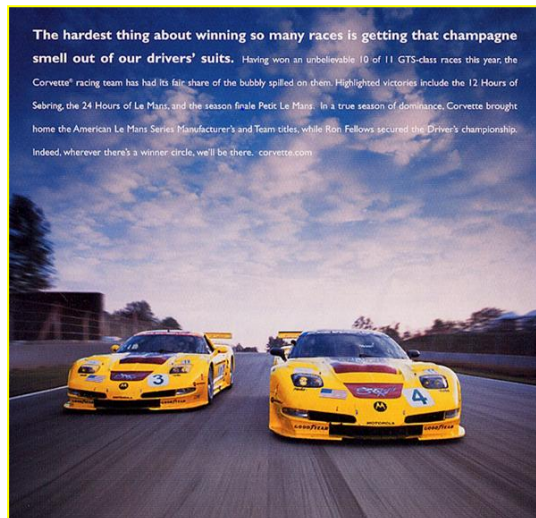


I have received inputs from a good number of our members asking to be included in the group going to the NCM for the *C5/C6 Bash*. I think I have everyone listed correctly as to the day of departure, hotel preference, and attendance at the Wednesday evening dinner at the Montana Grill, but just to make sure, I will send my list out to all on it. It's still not too late to join in, so send me an e-mail at [vetltd@aol.com](mailto:vetltd@aol.com) saying you would like to go. The dates for this event are April 26-28 and as usual we will leave on Wednesday and return on Sunday. If you plan on going on some of the planned tours, the sooner you register the better the chance you have of not getting left out. They fill up quickly, so don't lag.

I encourage everyone to visit the *Corvette Caravan* website at [www.corvettecaravan.com](http://www.corvettecaravan.com) and click on the *NC/SC/VA* section. As usual, the captain for this part of the caravan, Frank Sancineto, has been most attentive in keeping that page updated. And the "Fund Raiser-in-Charge", Chris Wood, has presented all the info you will ever need to see how it will be funded. All of us ask you to help in securing sponsors or even buying a personal ad for yourself for inclusion in the Route Book. You can always use it for your claim to fame. Regardless of how much money or effort you can devote to this effort, just be sure you make your plans to participate in the *National Corvette Caravan in 2014*.

Save the Wave!

*Paal Mariano,*  
NCM Ambassador



**Camaraderie:** "A spirit of friendly good-fellowship, the feeling of closeness and friendship that exists between companions" to quote Mr. Webster. What Mr. Webster probably doesn't understand is how much greater that feeling of friendship is when combined with the Corvette Lifestyle and those friends who share the same passion for their favorite sports car. The hectic holiday season did not keep QCCC members from enjoying our own version of **Corvette Camaraderie**. For those who do not understand, the smiles on these two pages show what happens when QCCC members get together with

## **Great Friends, Fellowship, Food and Fun**



## More Corvette Camaraderie...



Members interested in joining the fun should contact the following to be added to the email list.

Nelson Sprague ([barnel@carolina.rr.com](mailto:barnel@carolina.rr.com)) – Monthly Men’s Luncheon

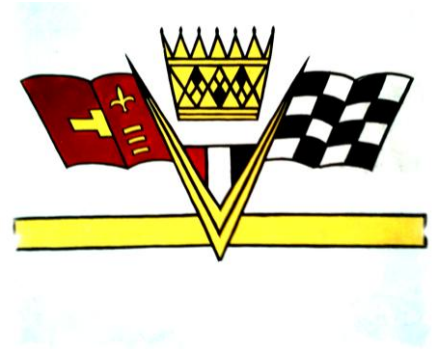
Peggy Wood ([chriswood@carolina.rr.com](mailto:chriswood@carolina.rr.com)) – Monthly Ladies’ Luncheon

Eddie & Jane Burt ([eddieburt@carolina.rr.com](mailto:eddieburt@carolina.rr.com)) – Monthly “Up Yonder” Dinner & Weekly Wednesday Night Dinner

# Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Richard Craig, Darrell Kirkley & Travis Meredith



More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past

## "Gears & Greer"



Shuffletown, USA



Greer Dragway, SC

During the heavy racing in the mid 70's, QCCC had two favorite drag haunts, Shuffletown in the Mt Holly - Rozelles Ferry area and Greer, SC, which is a small town between Spartanburg and Greenville. Greer was a hot spot for us as it was just a short drive down I-85 and the South Carolina Corvette clubs were good competition.

This particular weekend involved 4 of QCCC's most avid drag racers. Travis Meredith, who cut his teeth in North Charlotte with a Mercury Comet, Melvin Pace of "Pop Top" fame (*monster big block '68*), Big George Mcleod (*early '70's radical big block*), and Bill Henderson (*a.k.a. Spiderman*). Big George had one wicked big block and just whipped everybody on a regular basis. He showed up in Greer with a huge set of drag slicks and once again pounced on all. Late in the day a discussion came up involving Melvin wanting to try the big slicks on his '68. Now Melvin already had huge fender flares on "Pop Top", so he rolled the car part way up on the trailer and proceeded to try to get the slicks on. It turns out they were too big to fit without rubbing. Someone said that was too bad as they really thought Melvin could match George's time with the slicks. If you know Melvin you know he does not like second place, so he proceeded to borrow a hack saw and right there in the staging lot whacked a whole bunch more fender off "Pop Top" until those big ol' tires would clear.

After all, you can't kill fiberglass. During this trip, Travis had brought his newest effort. Trav had, and still has, his '64 coupe. But once we started the *Porsche Corvette Challenges*, he had picked up a basket case '68. He had Billy Coates (*a.k.a. "the Car Doctor."*) build a stout motor, then bought an old trailer and this was one of his first outings. Spiderman also had installed a radical rat motor in his '72 coupe. Spider fell victim to racing's "go fast or go broke", and he blew the darn thing up that day. Now the problem, he had driven to the strip. So spiderman asked Trav if he would trailer the broken '72 back to Charlotte. Travis was always willing to help but said he had no tag or insurance on the '68. "No problem" said Spider, "we will just put the tag from my '72 on your '68." So Trav had Bill drive the '68 behind Trav who towed the '72 on the trailer on the 2 hour trip back to Charlotte. Trav told Bill if he got caught, HE was going to jail, not Trav. To this day Trav says he was nervous as a long tail cat in a room full of rockin' chairs. Luckily, Trav had some header mufflers with him that day, otherwise Bill would have had to drive the '68 back with open exhaust.



Racin'---it gets in your blood and crosses over the blood / brain barrier. How did we ever survive the early days of QCCC? If you got the beer we got the memories. It sure gives us something to talk about in our "old age".

(A sad note to those who knew him, Billy Coates passed a couple of months ago. We will miss him and will always have fond memories of his efforts to help anyone in QCCC get their cars race ready, often times out of his own pocket. A true friend and Corvette guy at heart. R.I.P. "Car Doctor.")

**HAVE YOU HUGGED  
YOUR CORVETTE TODAY?**



# “Heads-Up”

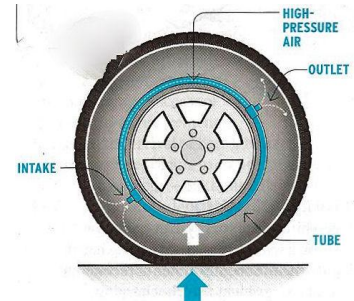


**NCM Motorsports Park Update** – National Corvette Museum members who have been too busy with the holidays to read their latest edition of *America’s Sports Car* magazine have missed the latest update on the NCM Motorsports Park.



But your Gazette wants you to know the latest as the excitement continues to build. Phase I is well underway with the goal of completing the purchase of the 114 acres by April 1st, 2012. Once this purchase is completed, the NCM will own 184 acres to be used for the development of a 2.94 mile road course and a 10 acre autocross / skid pad area. So far, 38 ¼ acres have been “sold” to 14 Corvette Clubs / organizations and 27 individuals. What happens in 2012 will be key to opening the park in 2014. And as you can see, this 2014 “Grand Opening” date coincides with the 2014 National Corvette Caravan. What an incredible way to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the NCM, the introduction of the C7 Corvette and the 2014 NCM Caravan than to open this 1st class facility during the same events! If you want more information or want to be a part of this piece of Corvette history, see Paul Mariano. Paul is still coordinating an effort among QCCC members who collectively wish to purchase an acre of the NCM Motorsports Park. See Paul at the next club meeting or email him at [VETTLTD@aol.com](mailto:VETTLTD@aol.com). For more info on the NCM Motorsports Park, [click here>>>](#)

**We Have Now, Officially, Heard It All** – A tire that inflates itself? Goodyear hopes to send flat tires the way of the buggy whip with its new Air Mtce. Technology (AMT). The elegantly simple idea positions a small tube inside a groove molded into the tire sidewall. As the tire rotates, atmospheric air entering the tube through an inlet port is pressurized by sidewall deformation and pumped through a check valve into the main tire cavity. AMT is self regulating and requires no electrical power or electronic controls.



**Speaking of Tires** – Bridgestone has announced it is working on an airless



concept tire that will be more environmentally friendly than conventional tires. With a unique structure of spokes stretching along the inner sides of the tires supporting the weight of the vehicle, there is no need to periodically refill the tires with air, meaning that the tires require less maintenance. At the same time, the worry of punctures is eliminated. The spoke structure within the tire is made from reusable thermoplastic resin. The synthetic resin becomes flexible when heated, can be processed into a variety of shapes, and becomes hard when cooled. Who will win out in the “Tire Wars” – Goodyear or Bridgestone?

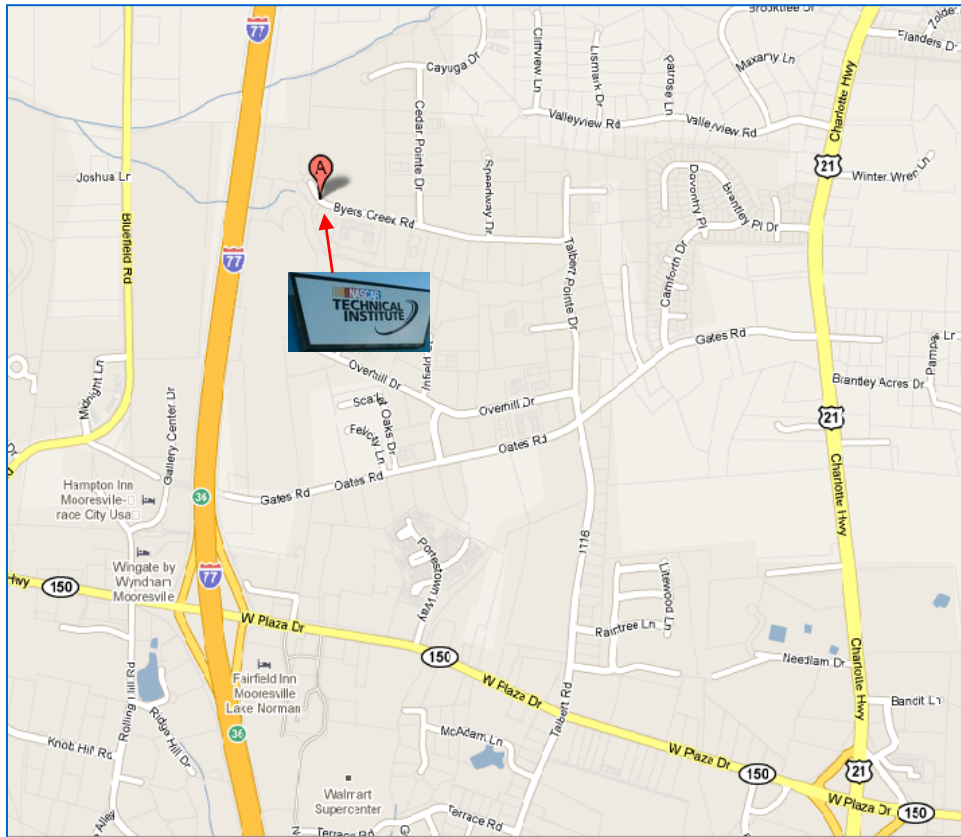
**Stay Tuned For Some Exciting Announcements Concerning the NC/SC/VA Corvette Caravan** – As Paul Mariano mentioned in his [NCM Corner](#), the planning is almost behind us. Now we’re getting ready for our “KICK-OFFS” and exciting events coming in 2012. More information will follow soon on the when, where, what, and how you can get in on the action in preparation for the [2014 National Corvette Caravan](#). You do not want to be left out and NO, it is not too early to get rolling! If you want to assist with fundraising or any part of our portion of the caravan, see Chris Wood ([2RedVettes@carolina.rr.com](mailto:2RedVettes@carolina.rr.com)) or Wade Stickels ([wjstickels@aol.com](mailto:wjstickels@aol.com)).

**JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT  
BUSINESS MEETING**

**Saturday, January 14th 2012**

**NASCAR TECHNICAL INSTITUTE**

220 Byers Creek Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117 704-658-1950



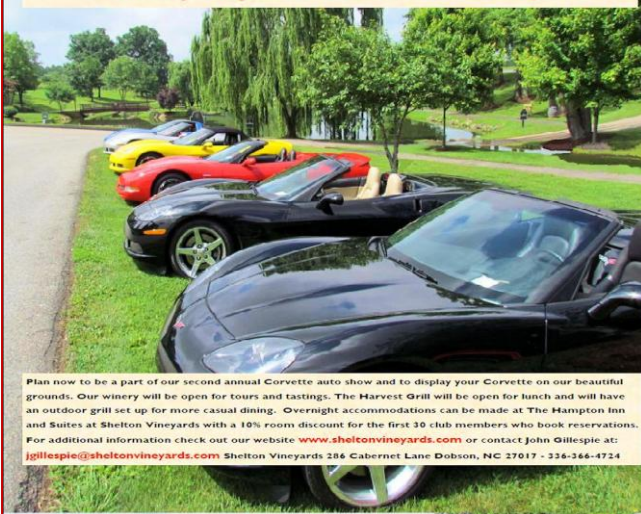
**5:30 pm ~ Social**

**6:15 pm ~ Business Meeting**

**Please see our [QCCC Web site](#) or [Keith's Crossroads](#) for more details.**

***Please join us as we  
kick off the  
New Corvette Year!***

**Shelton Vineyards 2nd Annual Corvette Auto Show  
Saturday May 26, 2012 / 10:00am - 6:00pm**



Plan now to be a part of our second annual Corvette auto show and to display your Corvette on our beautiful grounds. Our winery will be open for tours and tastings. The Harvest Grill will be open for lunch and will have an outdoor grill set up for more casual dining. Overnight accommodations can be made at The Hampton Inn and Suites at Shelton Vineyards with a 10% room discount for the first 30 club members who book reservations. For additional information check out our website [www.sheltonvineyards.com](http://www.sheltonvineyards.com) or contact John Gillespie at: [jgillespie@sheltonvineyards.com](mailto:jgillespie@sheltonvineyards.com) Shelton Vineyards 286 Cabernet Lane Dobson, NC 27017 - 336-366-4724

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**Announcement:**



If you plan on attending the 2014 NCM Corvette Caravan and also plan to visit the National Corvette Museum anytime during 2011, 2012, and/or 2013, check out the special offer from the Hampton Inn to Caravan participants. Any stay prior to the Caravan will result in a savings off the room rate during the Caravan. Example: Stay during 2011, receive \$10 off per night during the Caravan, stay another night during 2012, receive another \$10 off the room rate during the caravan. A stay during 2011, 2012, and 2013 gets you \$30 off the normal room rate per night at the 2014 caravan. Visit [www.howlingrockky.hamptoninn.com](http://www.howlingrockky.hamptoninn.com) or see Chris Wood or Wade Sticksel for details.

## ***IN THE REAR VIEW***



⊖ **Wait, I've Got to Do What?** – Costa Rica is new to speed cameras. So new that they are creating confusion and consternation in the capital of San Jose. Arguably, the most ill-conceived part of the new speed camera enforcement is that in Costa Rica the tickets aren't mailed to the offender's homes because the concept of a nationwide address system is as new as the speed cameras. So in lieu of sending the citation, the government expects drivers to look up their license plates every day in the government's online list to see if they have been issued a ticket. With nearly 16,000 tickets issued in the 1<sup>st</sup> month alone, this may take awhile!

⊖ **Another C7 Artist's Rendering or Buck Roger's Latest Mars Rover?** – The little thingy at right is GM's EN-V, a concept vehicle designed for areas with high population density. It's compact, operated by a lithium-ion battery and has the ability to move without anyone in it (autonomous). You can direct it to a parking spot and retrieve it with your cell phone. It has collision avoidance technology and the ability to platoon with similar vehicles, keeping a set distance apart. No word, yet, on whether it has "heads-up display." Rumor has it the aftermarket vendors are hard at work designing an ultra-light trailer for it to pull your in-laws, the family dog or groceries.



⊖ **This Month in Corvette History – January 1, 1975:** Zora Arkus Duntov officially resigns from Chevrolet. David McLellan takes over as Chief Engineer; **January 6, 1997:** Chevrolet unveils the 1997 Corvette, dubbed the "C5". A new small block V-8 engine is introduced, the LS1, with 345 hp; **January 21, 1962:** GM Chairman, Frederic Donner issues a policy memo, re-iterating the company's compliance with the 1957 AMA company-sponsored racing ban. This officially cancels production plans for the Corvette Grand Sport, with only 5 of the intended 125 cars built; **January 1956:** Zora Arkus Duntov, sets a two-way record breaking average of 150.583 mph at the Daytona Beach Raceway in a modified 240hp V8 powered Corvette; **January 1999:** At the 24 Hours of Daytona race, Chevrolet debuts the GT2 class C5R Corvette race car. Ron Fellows and Chris Kneifel drive one to third in GTS class.

⊖ **The Chevrolet Corvette & Johnny O Among 2012 Inductees Into Sebring Hall of Fame** – The Chevrolet Corvette is an American icon that has proven itself over six decades of competition at America's greatest sports car race. Since its first appearance at Sebring in 1956, Corvette has earned an incredible 17 class wins. Corvette joins Porsche, Audi and Ferrari as automotive makes to be inducted into the Sebring Hall of Fame. Johnny O'Connell is Sebring's all-time winner with seven class wins and an overall victory in 1994. He holds the Sebring record for podium finishes with 12. His string of 20 consecutive starts is also a Sebring record. While his early victories came with Nissan, he is best known for his success while driving for Corvette. Induction ceremonies will take place Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

⊖ **An Incredible Website for Car Guys & Gals** – Fred McCoy sent us this link to a website that contains vintage ads and brochures for all makes and models of cars. Check out the Corvette ads through the years: [American Car Brochures](#)

⊖ **Thank You!** – To those of you who have sent us photos, emails, Corvette trivia, and general "gee-whiz" info for the Gazette each month, we thank you! We strive to make the Gazette entertaining and informative and you've helped us do just that.

## **Upcoming Events - 2012**

Jan 14 - *QCCC Business Meeting & Social*  
Jan 28 - *QCCC Banquet*  
Mar 13-17- NCM Museum-in-Motion @ Sebring  
Apr 26-28- NCM C5/C6 Bash  
May 5 - *QCCC Car Show @ Hendrick Motorsports*  
May 26 - Shelton Vineyard's Corvette Show  
Aug 24-26- Corvettes at Carlisle  
Oct 20 - NC/SC/VA 2014 Corvette Caravan Kickoff

### ***QCCC Sponsored Events in Italics***

***For more events & details, see the [QCCC Calendar](#)***



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Race your way to the 2011 QCCC Awards Banquet

WHEN: January 28, 2012

TIME : 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Hilton Center City  
222 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
704-377-1500

DRESS: Business Casual to Formal, Your choice.

PARKING: Club pays for self-parking, overnight or just for the banquet. vouchers will be given at banquet check in.

FOOD: Sit down dinner your choice of Fish, Chicken or Beef and Dessert Bar.

COST: \$35 per member (\$70 per member couple) \$50 for non-members.  
Money and Reservations due by: January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Make checks payable to QCCC and mail or give to Florence Prather – Treasure

MUSIC: Provided by our own club DJ- Bill Hogan.

OVERNIGHT ROOMS: \$119 per night. Call Hotel and tell them you want the QCCC rate. You may find cheaper rates at Hilton or other web sites.

Hospitality Suite available before and after Banquet. Snacks provided by QCCC. Come early and stay late.

VERY IMPORTANT:

Please email Susan Kurt with your information: Food Choice and whether you are staying overnight by January 20<sup>th</sup> [skurt7167@mindspring.com](mailto:skurt7167@mindspring.com)

Happy  
New Year  
2012

*A Happy New Year! Grant that I  
May bring no tear to any eye  
When this New Year in time shall end  
Let it be said I've played the friend,  
Have lived and loved and labored here,  
And made of it a happy year.*

*Edgar Guest*

## The Night Before Christmas – Corvette Style

*'Twas the night before Christmas and in the garage,  
There wasn't a trace of a Ford or a Dodge.  
The presents were wrapped and the lights were all lit,  
So I figured I'd mess with the 'Vette for a bit.*

*I popped the release and I lifted the hood,  
When a deep voice behind me said "look's pretty good."  
Well, as you can imagine, I turned mighty quick,  
And there, by the workbench, stood good ol' Saint Nick!*

*We stood there a bit, not too sure what to say,  
Then he said "don't suppose that you'd trade for my sleigh?  
I said "no way, Santa" and started to grin,  
"But if you've got the time we could go for a spin!"*

*His round little mouth, all tied up like a bow,  
Turned into a smile and he said "hey! Let's go!!"  
So as not to disturb all the neighbors' retreat,  
We pushed the 'Vette quietly into the street,*

*Then, taking our places to drift down the hill,  
I turned on the key and I let the clutch spill.  
The sound that erupted took him by surprise,  
But he liked it a lot, by the look in his eyes.*

*With Goodyears a' cryin' and sidepipes aglow,  
We headed on out where the hot rodders go.  
And Santa's grin widened, approaching his ears,  
With every shift up as I went through the gears.*

*Then he yelled "can't recall when I've felt so alive!"  
So I backed off the gas and said "you wanna drive?"  
Ol' Santa was stunned when I gave him the keys,  
When he walked past the headlights he shook at the knees!*

*Then the small block exploded with side exhaust sound!  
Santa let out the clutch and the tires shook the ground!  
Power shift into second, again into third!  
I sat there just watching, at loss for a word,*

*Then I heard him exclaim as we blasted from sight,  
"Merry Christmas to all, it's been a great night!!!"*

Thanks to Staton Boyette & Larry Prather for this Christmas treat!

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