



The  
*Queen City Corvette*  
*Gazette*

*Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club*

*February 2012*



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### *In This Issue –*

The President's Vault	Page 3
QCCC Banquet	4
Keith's <i>Crossroads</i>	5 & 6
John's Automotive Route & Track	7
QCCC January Board Meeting Minutes	8 & 9
Chrome Bumper Ride	10
QCCC Diners, Luncheons & Meetings	11
QCCC January Meeting Minutes	12 & 13
Laura's Vault – Social	14
National Corvette Museum	15
Vintage QCCC	16
New Members, Winner & Thank You	17
Track to Street	18
Heads Up & Meeting Location	19
Our President ( Vette Magazine)	20 - 23

*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.**

### *On The Cover:*

The new 2013 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 427 Corvette available as a convertible, in any color. Get your order in now before they are all gone.

QCCC is a non-profit club (501-C7) 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.

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



With Valentine's Day approaching, I thought it would be a good time to talk about our first loves. Sorry ladies, but for us guys it's probably our first car. Now if you're lucky like me and have your first car and the first girl you fell for, you are truly lucky. Enough of that mush, let's get back to the cars.

I've been thinking lately about buying my old Vette and how all the planets aligned for that to happen. Just to get my dad to agree to go look at the car was surprising, let alone buying it. The last year and a half has been a whirlwind of activity for me and the old Vette. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary tent at Carlisle, tracking down and meeting the man I bought the car from 40 years ago, all got me thinking about past events in my life, and made me remember the first time I came in physical contact with a Corvette.

I grew up about 25 miles north-west of Detroit, in a small, rural town called Novi. It isn't so small now - last year it was the site of the NCRS National Convention, but in the 50's and 60's it was a small town. Back in the early sixties, at least in our area, if your parents had a life insurance policy, the insurance man would come to the house every quarter to pick-up the payment. The parents of my friend Jim had the coolest insurance man. He would show up every quarter in a '50's or '60 Corvette, and us kids would gather in the driveway and gawk at the car. I can remember plain as day us kids used to think that what the speedometer read was how fast the car would go, and we were blown away by the Corvette's 160mph speed. That was my first contact with a Corvette, and I will never forget it.

I want to hear from you about your their first contact with a Corvette, or the first car you had. I enjoy the stories, there's usually something that triggers a memory for someone else. We'll put them in the newsletter to share with everyone.

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

*Steve Pelchat*



Editors 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Love



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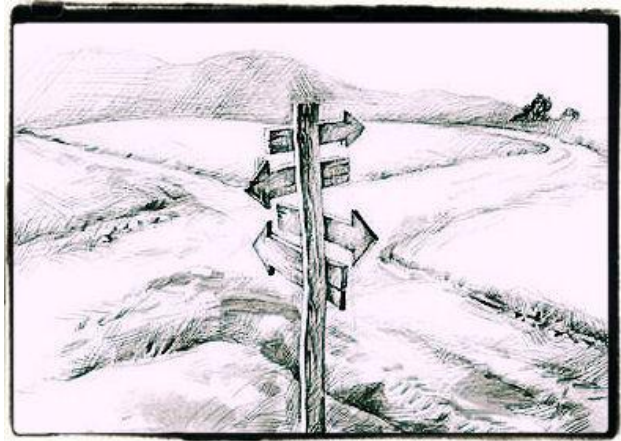
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**2012 QCCC Banquet- Hilton Center City**



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



# Crossroads

With the Vice President

Well January is behind us and we had several nice 60 degree days to cruise in our Vettes. Hopefully February will not freeze us out. But, if it does, we will just keep dreaming of spring. **RK Motors of Charlotte** 5527 Lakeview Rd; Charlotte, NC 28269, [www.rkmotorscharlotte.com](http://www.rkmotorscharlotte.com), will be hosting our February Business Meeting. Make sure you come and check out some really nice automobiles. See the calendar on the QCCC website for details and to view their website. Social: 5 – 6 PM Meeting: 6 – 7 PM. Bring your chairs please.

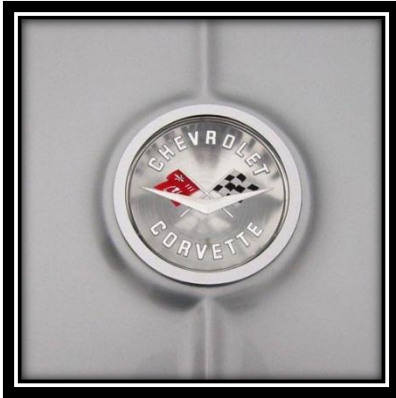
**MAP 2012** is off to a great start. Everyone is eligible and the points have already started adding up if you are attending our meetings and events. Remember, attending 75% of our club sponsored events is your goal. Surprise **Bonus Points** will be available during the year at some events.

Now another "Did You Know".

Corvette styling was substantially upgraded in 1961. Although enthusiasts at the time did not know it, they were being given a sneak peak of things to come. The rear would carry over to 1963, which would be a pivotal year in Corvette history. The "ducktail" design (below) of the 1961 (and '62) would be known as "transitional" years. The exhaust now exited below the body and not via an opening in the bumper as in previous years. The four round tail lights was the start of a Corvette tradition that would continue for more than 50 years.



Other changes for 1961: Body colored headlight bezels began to replace the chrome of 1960. The Corvette style was softened somewhat by the removal of the "teeth" in the grill. Sun visors, an aluminum radiator, parking brake warning lamp, interior lights and the windshield washer were standard equipment. The four speed transmission featured an aluminum case.



The Corvette badging was updated and featured a "V" over the crossed flag. As with previous years, Corvette buyers had a choice of either a hard or soft top. If they wanted both, option 419 was checked and the price went up \$236.75.

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

The last thing I will share with you this month is a photo of the 1961 XP700 Experimental Corvette. What is the old saying... "Thank God for Unanswered Prayers". For those of you that were around during the QCCC Kurt Administration this looks like something "Mr. Sock" would have driven. In fact it looks like "Mr. Sock".

See you at the Crossroads,

*Keith Cross*

Please utilize navigation systems or <http://www.mapquest.com> for exact directions from where you are coming from.



Ready for a Hockey Game



# Route & Track



February, these are the times that try men's souls. Bare branches scrape against wet grey skies. Sleek, fast machines sit under covers, their batteries on life support. How long must we endure such outrage? But look, there is hope! We will challenge the gods! We are planning a day trip to Bennett's Classic Antique Auto Museum in Forest City for **February 25<sup>th</sup>**. By this date, as the sun continues its inexorable journey to its zenith, we may sneak in one nice day, if we're lucky. On the other hand if the gods find out I'm the one planning this thing we're in trouble.

Forest City is on Business Hwy 74, 19 miles past our frequent staging spot in the Ingles' parking lot at the intersection of 74 and 226 north on the west side of Shelby. The Bennett Museum has about 70 vehicles on display, many of them prior to 1940 model year. They also have a nice collection of memorabilia including a couple of Soap Box Derby cars from the 1940's. If we have at least 25 folks attend the cost will be \$5 each. See [www.bennettclassics.com](http://www.bennettclassics.com)

Prior to touring the Museum we can have lunch at the Forest City Diner where Mark, the owner/chef, was previously chef at the Grove Park Inn. While checking them out I had my first chocolate malted milkshake in about 40 years. They will cordon off a section of the parking in the center of Main St., Hwy 74, in front of the diner for our cars. A great photo op. See [www.forestcitydiner.com](http://www.forestcitydiner.com). There are some nice gift and antique shops in downtown Forest City that the ladies should enjoy. Ask Beth about the guitar shaped shoulder bag she bought during our scouting trip even though we are now on a fixed income.

There will be a sign up sheet at the February business meeting or email me at [johna.walton@gmail.com](mailto:johna.walton@gmail.com). March looks like a busy month with the St. Patrick's Day parade and Car Care Day at Wally's.

Remember, they don't write songs about XXXXXXs. (We had a complaint from a Volvo jockey. Apparently they hum some sort of Irish folk tune about them.)

John

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## *Queen City Corvette Club Board Meeting Minutes*

*Date: January 10, 2012 Time: 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM*

*Location: Smith & Stevenson*

**Board Members Present:** Steve Pelchat, President; Keith Cross, Vice President; Chris Wood, Membership Director; Laura Pelchat, Social Director; John Walton, Automotive Director; Florence Prather, Treasurer

**Guests:** Bob & Pat Motta

President Steve Pelchat called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and opened a discussion of the Activity Surveys that are to be emailed to the membership. He then asked for the Officer's Reports.

### Vice President's Report – Keith Cross

Discussed the timing of social time and meeting times.

February meeting to be held at RK Motors. Possible new locations around the region. Asked for input of what physical needs each board member had for meeting locations.

Possible gift cards for drawings at meeting.

Introduction of MAP – Membership Award Program.

Laura to continue printing the sign in sheets, email copies to Keith & Chris. Host for any activity to get sign in sheets to Keith for recording participation.

### Automotive Director's Report – John Walton

Take Labor Day parade off of calendar, no motorized vehicles being used.

Having car show committee meeting Thursday to come up with outline of the show criteria.

Discussion of proceeds from car show going to charity committee.

Will check details regarding BMW tour. Possible February drive.

### Social Director's Report – Laura Pelchat

Will bring snacks and drinks for social time before business meeting.

There will be a sign up sheet for people interested in helping with social.

Picnic and poker run in April at Lake Norman State Park.

Would like to have a sponsor appreciation night, reviewed possible sponsors and meeting location.

Budget for BBQ being moved to Social, meat will possibly be double the cost next year, unless it's on sale again.

Laura will print business cards for John & Keith.

Laura to send revised copy of bylaws to Bob Becker for website posting, and Chris for new members.

### Treasurer's Report – Florence Prather

Copies of proposed 2012 budget distributed for board review.

Presented guidelines for 501c7 status.

2011 final accounting to be sent to membership before February business meeting.

Membership dues - notices for overdue members to be sent out.

Florence will check the post office box.

### Membership Director's Report – Chris Wood

279 members, 24 on the prospective list.

Items to add to calendar – May 26<sup>th</sup> Shelton Corvette Show, NCM Caravan info booth.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, NCM Caravan Kick-off.

New members to pay dues before they receive packets.

Chris to send mass emails except ones regarding meals. Jane & Eddie will continue sending those.

Merchandise for new member packets, other items that club might be interested in having available for purchase,



and sources for these items.

Charity Committee Chairman – Bob Motta


Discussed ways to raise money for the charity fund.

Will ask for volunteers for the charity committee.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted for Linda Lewis

Laura Pelchat, Social Director



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Office Hours By Appointment

**Just a gentle reminder:** QCCC does not send out invoices or bills for your dues. It is our member's responsibility to pay them on time. They are \$24 per quarter or \$96 for the year. If you have not paid them for 2012 they are late. Please send a check to Florence Prather (Treasure). Make check payable to QCCC.

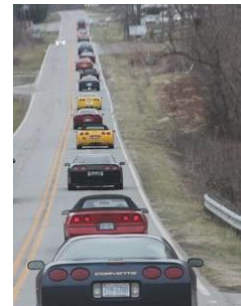
# QCCC Chrome Bumper Ride for January

On Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup> a group of QCCC members headed out to The Depot Restaurant at Cody Creek in Dobson, NC. The weatherman, at the first part of the week, was calling on a nice warm and partly sunny day for Sunday. Well, as you know, it was a cloudy and cold day and the group decided that I was no longer allowed to forecast the weather for future trips. With that aside we still had a total of 11 cars (none of which were Chrome Bumpers) and 20 people show up for the first ride of the New Year. The cruise took us through the back roads of North Iredell past dairy farms, beef farms and the like and, yes as faith would have it, we had a large truck pull out from one of the farms with its wheels loaded with mud and cow s-tuff. You never saw so many Corvettes swerving and swaying to miss as much as we could. Bob Denny brought up the rear and he plowed right through it with Doodles at his side.



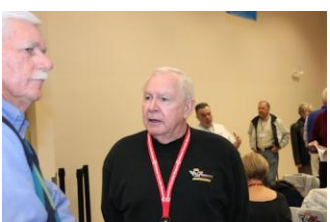
The trip took an hour and a half from Troutman and if you have never been to The Depot Restaurant it is well worth your time. After good fellowship, excellent food and delightful service, we all headed over to the General Store to look at the old stuff on the walls and buy a few items. If you missed this trip and would like to go to The Depot, we plan on taking another Chrome Bumper ride with the old cars when the weather improves. We will put it on the calendar so you can make plans to attend.

Tommy Loftin



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

## ***QCCC Luncheons & Dinners - We Share Good Times with Good Friends***



# Queen City Corvette Club

## Club Business Meeting Minutes



**Date:** January 14, 2012

**Time:** 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm

**Location:** Nascar Technical Institute

**Board Members & Staff Present:** Steve Pelchat, President; Keith Cross, Vice President; John Walton, Automotive Director; Chris Wood, Membership Director; Laura Pelchat, Social Director; Florence Prather, Treasurer. **Staff:** Bob & Marilyn Becker, Webmasters; Boyd & Susan Kurt, Newsletter Editors; Paul Mariano, NCM Ambassador; Bob Motta, Charity Committee Chairman; Paul Pelkey, Database Manager.

**President Steve Pelchat** called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Thanked Nascar Technical Institute for meeting location.

Introduced the Board Members and Staff.

Minutes approved and seconded.

Keith distributed Activity Survey to anyone that needed one.

### **Membership Director's Report – Chris Wood**

New members voted in were as follows:

John & Cala Malcolm – 1985 red coupe

Krissie Furr – wife of existing member Jeff Furr

Charlie & Debbie Meade – our first Provisional Members – 2008 Crystal Red Metallic Coupe

Visitors were introduced:

Jim Nisley with son Chance – 1998 black coupe

Fred & Cheryl Johnson – 2007 silver convertible

Paige Moore (friend of member Paul Mitchell, attending 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting)

The club currently has 282 Active members, 2 Provisional members, 153 families

Thanked Jane & Eddie for all their assistance. They will still be handling the emails regarding meals.

### **Vice President's Report – Keith Cross**

Thanked Nascar Technical Institute.

Our February meeting will be at RK Motors, bring chairs. Details will be on the website.

Described the new point program MAP – Membership Award Program. Geared toward everyone that participates in 75% of club activities. Smaller, ongoing, more inclusive.

Drawing for gift card – Bob Motta winner.

### **Automotive Director's Report – John Walton**

Recognized Nelson's achievement of 100 events in 3 years of Automotive Director.

Clarified some items on the Activity Survey.

Update on May car show, sign-up sheet for volunteers.

### **Treasurer's Report – Florence Prather**

On target for budget.

Not a zero balance account, carryover pays toward banquet. Payments made in January go toward the following year.

Overview of the 501c7 status of our club, a social and recreational club to promote the Corvette. To remain exempt from Federal Income Tax, must meet guidelines. Not for profit, but not a charity organization, charity activities are a side aspect of the club for those who want to participate.

Treasurer report will be sent out to members.

### **Social Director's Report – Laura Pelchat**

Covered the January birthdays for secretary, Linda Lewis.

Membership Picture Directory update.

Sign-up sheet for anyone interested in attending Jersey Boys musical at Belk Theater.

Sign-up sheet for Pink Floyd Tour – overnight trip to Floyd, VA, details on the website.

Reminder of the January 20<sup>th</sup> deadline for signing up for the banquet. At the Hilton, January 28<sup>th</sup>, details on the website, email Susan Kurt.

### Charity Committee Chairman – Bob Motta

Asked for volunteers for the Charity Committee, suggestions of places we can help.

Doing things a little different this year, more throughout the year. Also, giving of time and activities, not just money donations.

50/50 drawing winner Staton Boyette. Steve thanked Staton for the donation of his winnings back to the charity fund.

### NCM Ambassador – Paul Mariano

C5/C6 Bash April 25-29 – register soon, Grand Ole Opry is already full.

May – Jeff Crosby will lead anyone interested in the C4 Gathering.

2014 Caravan – Chris Wood is in charge of raising money for our section. Business or personal ads for route book.

Motorsports Park – one acre for \$15,000, tax deductible, recognized on a Donors Plaque. Can be a group, not just an individual. Circle City Corvettes, Inc, a club out of Dothan Alabama, has raised \$90,000 for NCM, they are listed on the NCM website as purchasers of 2 acres.

### Old Business

Steve reminded everyone to let Linda Lewis know when the club needs to send out get well or sympathy cards.

Reminder that yearly membership dues are late as of January 5<sup>th</sup>, per our bylaws.

No other business, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting February 11<sup>th</sup> at RK Motors – details on the website.

Respectfully submitted for Linda Lewis,  
Laura Pelchat – Social Director





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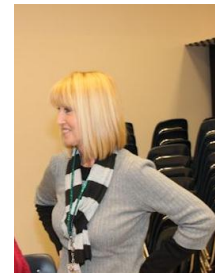
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*Members interested in joining the fun should contact the following to be added to the email list:*

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

*Peggy Wood ([chrisowood@carolina.rr.com](mailto:chrisowood@carolina.rr.com)) – Monthly Ladies' Luncheon*

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





I'd like to thank everyone for taking the time to complete the activity surveys. It looks like we're going to have a busy year, there were only a few items that didn't get enough interest to pursue. I'll put together some details, pricing, etc for some of the trips, and we'll start adding items to the calendar. We're already planning an outing to see Jersey Boys, an overnight trip to Floyd, VA, and John is planning a drive to Forest City to visit the Bennett Auto Museum. All the details are on the website. Tommy Loftin put together a quick drive to The Depot Restaurant in Dobson, and the weather held off long enough to let us enjoy the cars and a good meal.

Several people signed up to help with social activities, so we'll be trying to do some new & fun things. If we get a few people to volunteer to lead some drives or events, we'll be able to put on a lot more activities. If there's anything special you're interested in, let me know. We're already looking at ideas for next year's awards banquet, and are open to your input.

A good time was had by all who attended the QCCC Banquet. The dance floor was full the majority of the evening, music ranging from beach to Lady Gaga, with a waltz included here and there. Susan Kurt, our outgoing Social Director, went out with a bang and we thank her for all her hard work

Matt's Road Rally "11 prizes were quite exciting with Beth & John Walton being the overall winners, receiving a weekend at a Bed & Breakfast of their choice. Top qualifiers for the Cruisers were John & Linda Meadows, for the Working Stiffs, Steve & Laura Pelchat. Second place for the Working Stiffs was David & Dawn Faircloth, third place Tommy & Brenda Loftin. Second place for the Cruisers was Boyd Kurt and third was Bob Denny. Nooks, margarita machines and Super Bowl Party packs – you'd think we were a group that enjoys getting together!! The awards voted on at the December meeting were given out, with Jack & Judy Goodison receiving Rookies of the Year, and Eddie Burt receiving Member of the Year. The Jerry Scienski Memorial (Presidents) Award was given to Nelson Sprague for his tireless service to the club.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next event.

Laura



## National Corvette Museum Corner

You may think that the National Corvette Museum is only about old Corvettes and documents; you may think that unless you have read the latest issue of the NCM magazine, *"America's Sports Car"*. There you would find the many events that the museum and its members use to help others. During the Vets' n Vettes event, a bus load of wounded veterans were brought in from Fort Knox and treated to lunch and tours hosted by Mobil 1 and museum members. After lunch and before returning to the hospital, they were treated to spirited rides in Corvettes. The museum was used as a checkpoint for the Chevrolet Fireball Run which is used to bring attention to missing children. NOTE: To help this cause, go to [www.Fireballrun.com](http://www.Fireballrun.com) and look over the pictures of missing children. You may recognize one. The Kentucky 1 Lap event partners the museum with the Kentucky Highway Patrol to raise funds to send under privileged children to summer camp. All in all, not bad for an old car museum.

Thanks to John and Helen Jensen for selling two orders of raffle tickets for the 2012 Torch Red Coupe to be raffled on February 2. By the time you read this let's hope one of our members is the new proud owner.

Have you taken a kid for a ride lately? Do you remember your first ride in a Corvette or even the first time you saw one? If we want the world of the Corvette to continue and grow, we need to help produce the next generation of Corvette lovers by instilling in the youngsters of today the love and desire to own a Corvette. So, whenever you see a youngster admiring your Corvette, offer him a ride and plant that seed of desire in them to one day be like you. Pass it on.

I have been approached again by several members regarding the "purchase" of an acre for the NCM Motorsports Park. To date, I have a dozen commitments from the past year and they have remained on board to support the track. There are several ways the funds can be raised ranging from one time lump sums to monthly donations over a period of years. I am soliciting inputs from any and all how best to raise the \$15,000 and put us on record as backing this project. The NCM would very much like to have the initial track section up and running in time for the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in 2014. So, please talk to me with your ideas.

Congratulations and thank you to John and Linda Meadows for upgrading their NCM membership to Lifetime Member status. Your support of the museum and all things Corvette is appreciated.

Save the Wave!

*Paul Mariano,*  
NCM Ambassador



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# Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

*Bill Cruthis, Richard Craig, Darrell Kirkley & Travis Meredith*



## *More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past*

In the 70's nestled along East Blvd. was a great Italian restaurant, Riccios, veal and chicken were some of their outstanding dishes. It was a frequent hangout for several QCCC members and on a particular Saturday night Dollar Bill and Shaverstein and their spouses had partaken of a long leisurely meal. They even engaged the table next to them in conversation to a point that they flipped a coin to see which table would pick up both tabs. With Dollar's usual luck, they won so they had eaten and inbided for free. Leaving the establishment they were headed to Shaverstein's home on Hillside Road with the usual no racing agreement. Of course stop lights resembled the tower at the drags and the rest is history. Joe Willie, a.k.a. Dollar Bill had his 72LT1 a/c (1 of 200 ever built) while Shaver was pedaling a big built rat motor in his 72 roadster. As was sometimes the case, we picked bad places to attempt such foolishness. Heading down Hwy 49 on a Saturday night is not the best place to earn bragging rights. Soon after the throttles were hammered the blue lights of an N.C. State Patrol car signaled an end to the fun. Shaverstein pulled over and as the trooper slowed next to him he motioned to stay put as he lit out after Dollar. Danny says he stayed long enough to hear Dollar go thru all the gears headed toward Buster Boyd Bridge, and then he did a U-turn and headed home to safety. Dollar never got caught that night, but on Wednesday, at the clubhouse we asked where his car was and he told us it was in the garage for a while.

At the time Dollar was living at the hot spot apartments on the east side which almost weekly had social events for the younger set. So Joe Willie decided to attend the gathering and, while standing at the bar, stuck up a conversation with a young fellow and the talk soon turned to cars. In the conversation the young man talked about his 911 Porsche. He told Dollar it was pretty fast and was told, by Dollar, that Corvettes were the way to go. At this time, he offered up that, until the previous Saturday, he did not think the new Corvette was that stout. In his patrol car, he had lit up a new gray coupe on Hwy 49, chased him all the way to the bridge but could not catch up to him.

Dollar's salesman skills came thru and he moved on with a deep inner smile, but we did not see the LT1 coupe for about 6 months. Sometimes it is better to be lucky than good.

All who survived the early days are thankful, probably not deserving, but thankful. How could 27 guys have so many close calls?

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# QCCC Newest Members January 2012

Charlie & Debbie Meade



2008 Crystal Red Metallic Coupe

Krissie & Jeff Furr



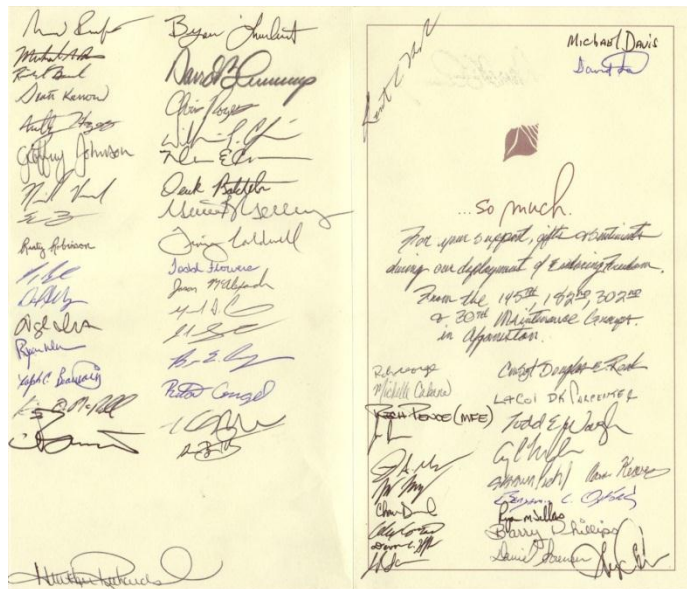
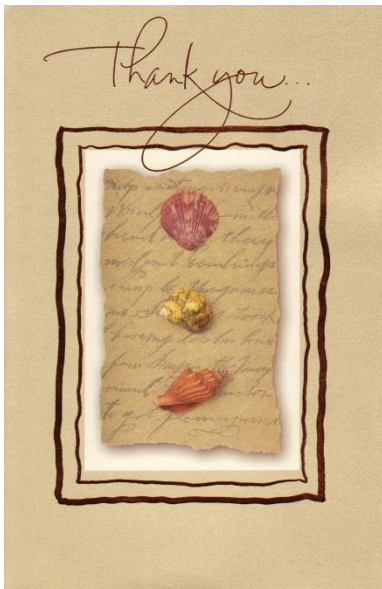
1990 Black & Red Coupe

John & Cala Malcom



1985 Red Coupe

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# From Track to Street

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ALMS.

## Corvette Racing Announces 2012 Driver Pairings

*New Driver Alignment to Optimize Performance in Sprint and Endurance Events*

A new alignment of drivers will pilot Corvette Racing's new Compuware Corvette C6.R race cars when they make their competition debut at the season-opening 60th Anniversary Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring. With additional testing following the announcement of the 2012 driver roster, the team has now finalized the lineups for the twin Corvettes.

Jan Magnussen and Antonio Garcia will be full-season drivers in the No. 3 Corvette C6.R, joined by Jordan Taylor as third driver in endurance events (Sebring, Le Mans, and Petit Le Mans). Oliver Gavin and Tommy Milner will co-drive the No. 4 Corvette C6.R, with Richard Westbrook joining them as third driver in the three long-distance races.

"As part of our comprehensive review of Corvette Racing, we considered every element of the program, from the chassis and engine to the driver pairings," said GM Racing Director Mark Kent. "Preseason testing and data analysis suggested that a revised driver alignment could improve the team's overall performance. Certainly physical size is a factor in minimizing the time required for driver changes during pit stops, but we also evaluated the drivers' individual styles and their preferences on chassis setups. With these pairings, we can minimize compromises and maximize driver confidence.

"This new alignment also combines experienced and younger drivers," Kent added. "We expect the veteran drivers to mentor the younger drivers, accelerating the process of learning and development."

This new driver alignment sees Magnussen, 38, return to the No. 3 Corvette C6.R that he drove from March 2007 to August 2010. The Dane will co-drive with Garcia, 31, who moves from the third-driver role he began in 2009 to a full-season campaign in the American Le Mans Series and the 24 Hours of Le Mans. The team's newest member, Jordan Taylor, a 20-year-old from Apopka, Fla., joins Magnussen and Garcia as the third driver in the No. 3 Corvette C6.R.

Tommy Milner, 25, of Lake Mary, Fla., joined Corvette Racing in 2011 as a full-season driver in the No. 3 Corvette C6.R. Milner now moves to the No. 4 Corvette C6.R alongside Oliver Gavin, 39, a Corvette Racing driver since 2002. Richard Westbrook, 36, will mark his second year as third driver in the No. 4 Corvette C6.R.

## ALMS Week in Review

**VIR**                      **ADDED**                      **TO**                      **2012**                      **EVENT**                      **SCHEDULE**

The American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patrón will make its debut at [VIRginia International Raceway](http://www.virginiainternationalraceway.com) in 2012. The race will be a four-hour enduro on the track's impressive 4.1-mile, 31-turn Grand Course, marking the first time a professional race series has competed on that particular layout. ESPN2 will broadcast the race. Tickets will be available starting Feb. 1 at [VIRnow.com](http://www.virnow.com). Race to be on September 15, 2012.



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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.bowlinggreen.ky.hamptoninn.com](http://www.bowlinggreen.ky.hamptoninn.com) or see Chris Wood or Wade Sticksels for details.

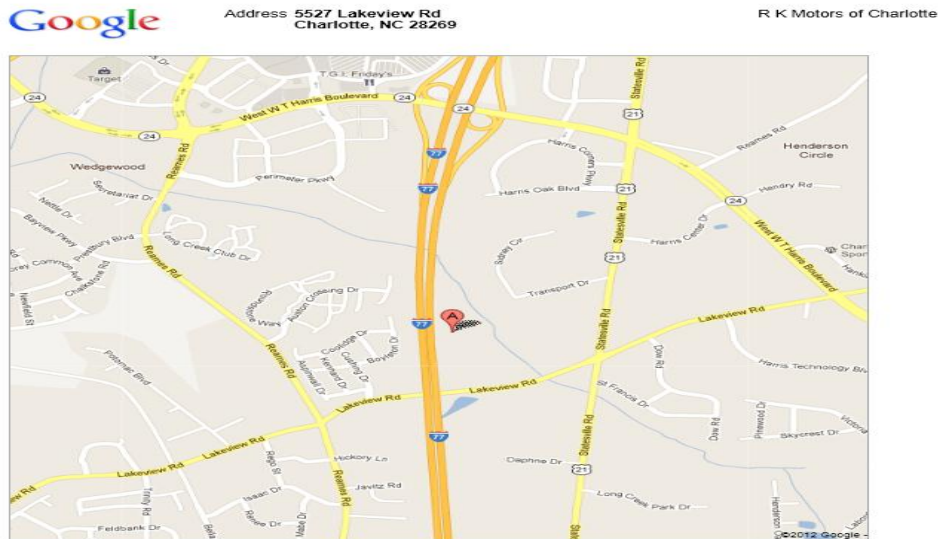
Shelton Vineyards 2nd Annual Corvette Auto Show  
Saturday May 26, 2012 / 10:00am - 6:00pm



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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February 11, 2012 QCCC Meeting: R K Motors of Charlotte; 5527 Lakeview Rd; Charlotte, NC 28269 Social 5:30PM Meeting 6:30PM !!!!!!!!!!!Bring your Chairs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

[SPEED READING] TOP-PEED RUNNER

# '60 GOING ON 16

## THIS ONE-TIME HIGH-SCHOOL RIDE IS NOW A RESTORED CRUISER

SCOTT ROSS WORDS JERRY HEASLEY PHOTOS

**R**emember when you were 16? Can you recall what you drove back in those days—or do you want to? Steve Pelchat remembers very well what he drove back then: It's the '60 Corvette you see here.

While a student at Novi (Michigan) High School, Pelchat bought it from its second owner. "That's why I think it didn't get all ragged out," he says from his Charlotte, North Carolina, home. "He bought it from a guy who was a little bit older than him. He said he purchased it in 1964, and I bought it from him in 1970."

That 10-year-old C1 still wore its original

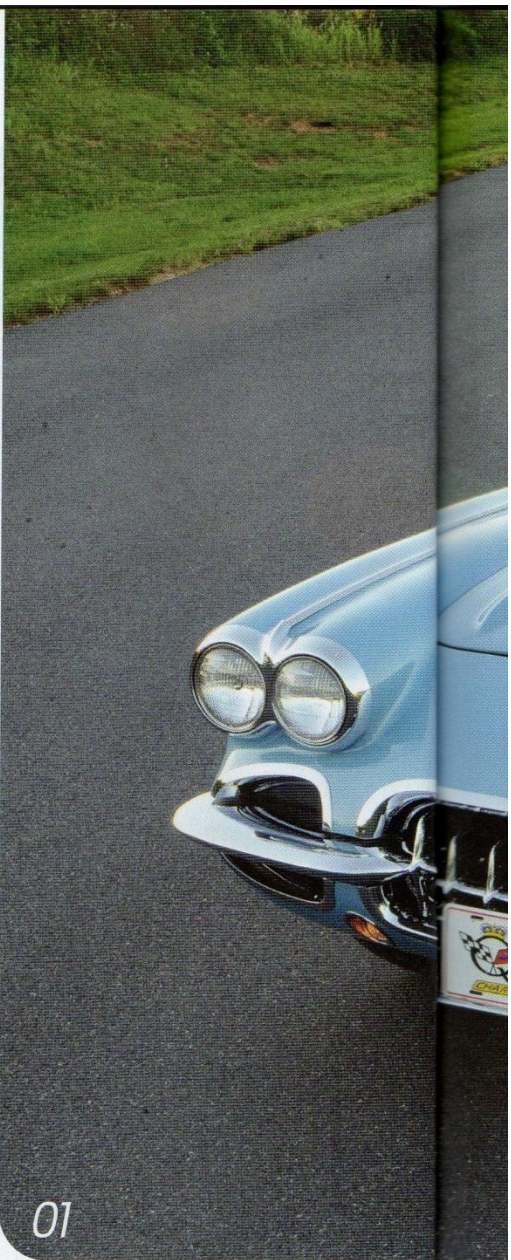
Horizon Blue/Ermine White two-tone paint, and it had its original, numbers-matching 283 under the hood. It wasn't one of the optional 2x4-barrel or fuel-injected ones, but its 230 horsepower at the flywheel was plenty to move the 2,985-pound Vette around.

It also didn't have many factory options, other than a signal-seeking "Wonderbar" AM radio, a Borg-Warner T10 four-speed transmission, and a heater/defroster.

Unlike many young car guys' rides, Pelchat's '60 stayed with him over the years, accompanying him as he relocated from Michigan, eventually settling in North Carolina.

In 1992, he decided that the 32-year-old C1 deserved a restoration, so he began a body-off resto project. "I had it painted, and I had someone rebuild the engine," Pelchat recalls. "But my brother and I put the car back together, hung all the chrome and stainless, and put the interior in it. With Corvettes, you can pretty much buy the kits, and you put it all in."

Like many Corvette restorers, he had a deadline to get the project completed. Unlike many restorers, that deadline didn't involve a show like Corvettes at Carlisle or Bloomington Gold. "My wife and I dated in that car while we were in high school, we both graduated from Novi in '72, and 2002 was going to be our 30-year class reunion," says Pelchat. "So, I was pushing to get it done for that, and we did. We trailered it up to Michigan and drove it to our 30th reunion. It was a pretty big deal, because a few of my buddies knew I still had the car, and they flipped out





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**01** → Steve Pelchat's '60 Corvette's been his since his high-school days. A 10-year, body-off resto made it the gem you see here. **02** → The '60 Corvette's base 283 wore painted, stamped-steel valve covers, with the finned aluminum ones going on the optional fuelie and 2x4 barrel-equipped engines.

when they saw us come driving up in it."

How's this restored first-gen Corvette to drive? Pelchat says it's fun. "It's a way-back machine. The first time we went for a ride in it after it was completed, my wife said, 'I feel like we're 16 again!' and I said, 'Yeah, so do I. Just don't look in the rearview mirror!'"

Like many a C1, Pelchat's '60 rides rougher than a modern-day car does. He's installed Coker's wide-whitewall radials in place of the original-size 6.70-15 bias plies, and he says



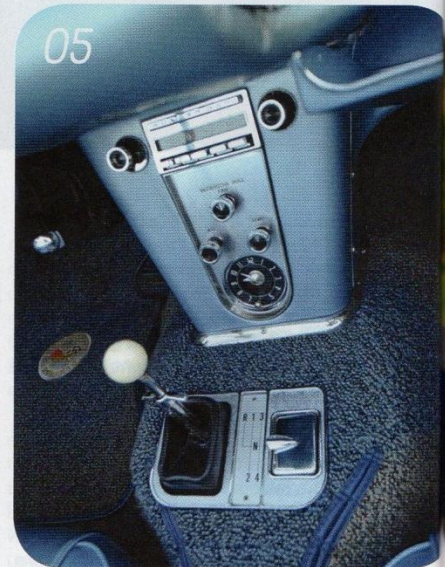
[SPEED READING] '60 GOING ON 16



03



04



05



**03** → The '60 model year was the fifth (and final) one for the rear-end styling that debuted for '56, including the through-the-bumper exhaust tips. **04** → Inside, reproduction blue-vinyl seat covers from Al Knoch replaced the well-aged originals. A

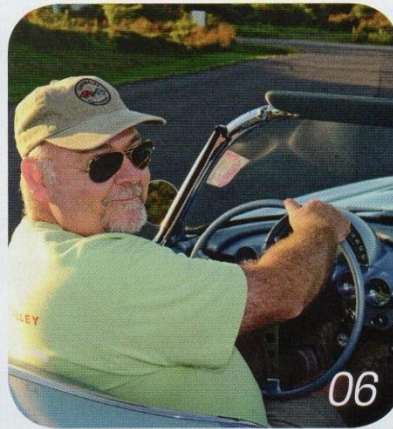
signal-seeking radio and a heater/defroster are among the few interior options. **05** → Restored stock shifter kept its reverse-lockout toggle. "Salt-and-pepper" coloring was common to all 1960 Chevrolet factory carpets, not just those on Corvettes.

**06** → This Chevrolet is an original choice.

# SPEC SHEET

## '60 CORVETTE

<b>OWNER</b>	Steve Pelchat; Charlotte, NC
<b>BLOCK</b>	Stock cast-iron (casting No. 3756519)
<b>HEADS</b>	Stock cast-iron (casting No. 3774992)
<b>DISPLACEMENT</b>	283 ci
<b>VALVES</b>	Stock
<b>CAMSHAFT</b>	Stock hydraulic 230hp grind
<b>PISTONS</b>	Stock
<b>CRANKSHAFT</b>	Stock
<b>RODS</b>	Stock
<b>INTAKE MANIFOLD</b>	Stock cast-iron
<b>CARBURETOR</b>	Stock Carter 2818S four-barrel (PN 3756676)
<b>IGNITION</b>	Stock AC/Delco non-electronic with points-style distributor (PN 1110891)
<b>EXHAUST SYSTEM</b>	Stock with cast-iron manifolds
<b>TRANSMISSION</b>	Stock RPO 685 Borg Warner T10 four-speed manual
<b>DRIVESHAFT</b>	Stock
<b>SUSPENSION</b>	Stock
<b>BRAKES</b>	Stock drums, non-power-assisted
<b>WHEELS</b>	Stock 15x5-in stamped steel with chromed steel "Spinner" covers
<b>TIRES</b>	Coker Classic wide-whitewall radials, 205/75R15 (front and rear)
<b>CURRENT MILEAGE</b>	Approximately 85,000



**06** → Pelchat drives the restored C1 to just about every Vette show and club run near his Charlotte, North Carolina, home. **07** → Coker's wide-whitewall radials give this C1 an original look while helping its ride and driveability. Original 15x5-inch steel wheels wear OEM "spinner" covers. **08** → Horizon Blue was the third-rarest '60 Corvette color choice, whether by itself or with the RPO 440 two-tone treatment that Pelchat's C1 has.

those make a big difference, especially on long trips to shows or club runs.

"I'm in a couple of Corvette clubs here in Charlotte, and we drive the car," he says. "It doesn't sit in the garage. If there's an event, and it's within 100 miles, I'll jump in the car and go." He also takes it to some farther-away events, like Corvettes at Carlisle, which is where contributor Jerry Heasley saw and photographed it.

Pelchat's advice for anyone planning to buy or build a Corvette? Get one you can drive and enjoy. "The one thing I hate is, when people get so tied up with keeping it perfectly original that they're afraid to do anything with it," he says. "I have a buddy who just recently did that. He was so scared to death that he'd do something to it, that he didn't use the car, so he sold it. I don't see doing that.

"I'm enjoying this car, and I have a 27-year-old son, and his name's on the title. When I'm gone, it's his car, and we'll have to find another one for my daughter." **VETTE**