



April 2003

If you stand on your tiptoes, you can see summer from here, and by golly, it's about time.

History was made in March at the Amelia Island *Concours d'Elegance*,... the 5 original '63 Grand Sports gathered for the first time.



Photo by Tim Barnes – Grand Sport Registry

See Page 14

A few of our members went to Amelia Island to see the historic event of the 5 Grand Sports gathering. From our official QCCC newsletter weather satellite we saw there was a tropical flood, but it didn't ruin these guys' trip.

We had a bunch of cars show up to haul butt through downtown Charlotte in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Our guys chauffeured some city dignitaries and some aspiring beauty pageant contestants. Here's Ken "Dr. Suess" Smelter getting into the spirit of the day.



Photo by E.O. Oakley



To the left is a beach in Barbados where a few of our members went for nude sunbathing. Shock & Awe is all we can say! Page 16 has their story & pictures.

Don't forget the AutoFair on April 5th & 6th. The Corvette will be the featured car for the event.

Queen City Corvette Club, Inc.

2003 Officers

President	Robert Morgan	844-0205 –H	rmvette@aol.com
Vice Pres.			
Treasurer	Gary Artis	846-6730 – H	gartis@artisinc.com
Director of Social Activities	Kay Weisberg	708-5073 – H	
Director of Automotive Events	Ben Horack	588-0169 - H	landtramp@msn.com
Director of Membership	Eddie Burt	846-7130 – H	eddieburt@carolina.rr.com
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Queen City Corvette Club (QCCC) newsletter is published monthly by volunteers and members of QCCC. For change of address and all other QCCC inquiries, write to: **Queen City Corvette Club, P.O. Box 473072, Charlotte, NC 28247**. QCCC is a non-profit club (501-C7), which raises money for and participates with various local children's charities. Dues and donations are not tax deductible. We strive to promote exciting, safe & fun ways to enjoy our Corvettes. We hold business meetings on the second Saturday of each month. Our monthly business meeting usually incorporates a social time afterwards. Our socials are always fun and are focused around food & drink. We've had swimming parties, bar-b-ques, cookouts, day trips and weekend trips. We participate in mountain tours, holiday parades and several homecoming parades at local area high schools. We also participate with several sister Corvette clubs in car shows, drag racing, and autocrossing. After an initiation fee of \$7.00, club dues are only \$8.00 a month, per family, and are to be paid quarterly. These dues go to cover the costs of running the club, mailing newsletters, and subsidizing the costs of our meetings. Club officers 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. Express your wishes for membership during a monthly business meeting, be voted in and begin paying dues.



March 25, 2003

Dear Fellow QCCC Members:

Since we last met, we have had changes in our country that may have affected us directly or indirectly. We've been inundated with newscasts showing up to the minute coverage of war, and we all pray that our military men and women make it back safely to their families. We can only hope for a speedy resolution.

I'm looking forward to our first day trip of the year to the Red Rocker Inn on Sunday March 30th. The Red Rocker Inn is an all you can eat, stuff your face 'til you hurt restaurant in Black Mountain, NC. The meal is served family style with the most fabulous cobbler desserts you can imagine! We normally take a leisurely drive through the country before we chow down. It takes approximately 2 hours to get there. Seems every time I've gone I add inches to my waste. Come join us and see who eats more than one dessert!

The rain held out for most of the St. Patrick's Day parade this year. We had a great turn out with many cars that didn't carry anyone. However some drivers got a little frisky in line showing the crowd that their car can make a lot of noise and spin tires! Tisk, tisk!

Warmer weather means unpacking your car from its winter hibernation and getting it ready to show. And what better way to show off your car than to attend AutoFair! If you haven't signed up, please let Ben Horack know of your interest so he can distribute the passes. In addition, the club was asked by Lowe's Motor Speedway to supply eight cars for under the tent in calibration of the 50th anniversary of the Corvette. This is a great honor for the club to be chosen and we thank the Speedway for asking us.

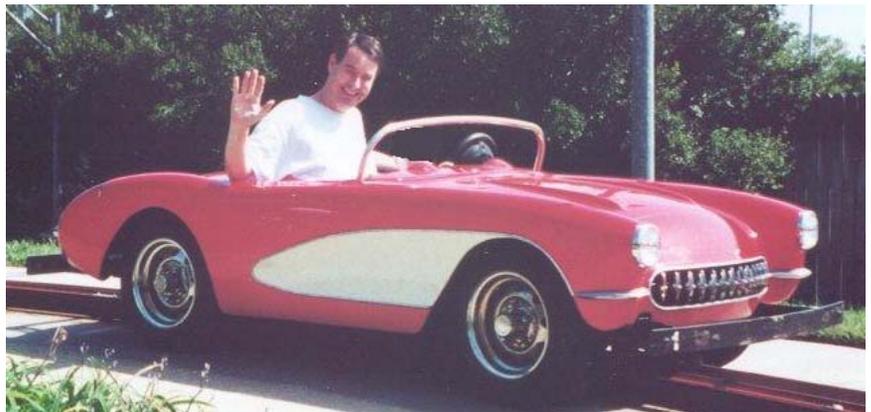
Nice weather also means car shows that raise money for our charity fund. Car shows are an easy way for the club to raise money showing our cars at local dealerships. Car shows also builds future enthusiasm for Corvettes. Who knows, the twelve year old that you're talking to one day might be encouraged to buy a Corvette in the future. So don't think there's only one place to show off your car. Sign up and enjoy your car with others.

At the last board meeting, we discussed the bylaws review committee's progress. Eddie Burt who is the chairman of the committee, showed proposed changes in form of amendments that will be distributed to the membership for review. We will discuss these proposed changes hopefully at the next club meeting.

The calendar is full of events this year. Kay Weisberg has spent a lot of time organizing day trips, weekend trips, and a whole lot more. Check our QCCC website at www.queencitycorvette.com to see what might interest you. We can always learn a lot about our fellow club members on these outings!

Until next time, save the wave!

Robert





V-P REPORT

Item First: April Meeting Location

The April business meeting of the QCCC will be at City Chevrolet, 5101 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte. (Map Page 9) They will have the Service Area open for our meeting. We plan on parking in the inside service aisles, so

if all goes well just drive up as if you are coming for service. Come at 6:00 PM for the social half-hour and the meeting starts at 6:30 PM. Be sure to bring your own non-alcoholic drinks and chairs.

Item Second: Technical Article on Gasoline

Later on in the newsletter you will find the beginning of a series report on gasoline. I found this report to be very interesting. I cannot attest to the author's credentials and/or the accuracy of what is in the report, however, it is logical from a technical viewpoint. Due to the length of the article, the report will be presented in Chapters in the next 5 newsletters. The chapters are:

Chapter I:

OCTANE
BASE GASOLINE

Chapter II:

BLENDING COMPONENTS VS. ADDITIVES
BRAND OF GASOLINE
WHICH ADDITIVE IS BETTER?

Chapter III:

INSIDER'S TRICK ON GASOLINE ADDITIVES
SO WHAT'S A VETTE OWNER TO DO?

FAQs – Part I

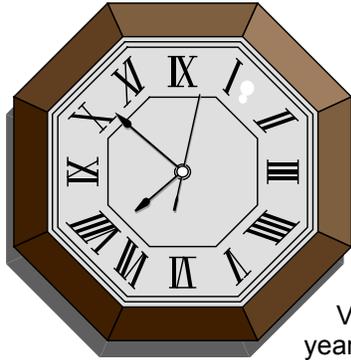
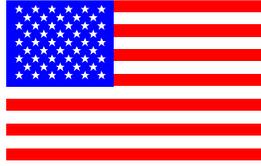
FAQs – Part II

Enjoy!

That's all for this edition of the Newsletter, and

Hey, Let's Be Careful Out There!
E. O.





Minutes from the QCCC Meeting Saturday March 8, 2003

The March business meeting of QCCC was held at Northcross Medical Center, Huntersville, NC. Officers in attendance: Robert Morgan, E.O.Oakely, Gary Artis, Kay Weisberg, Ben Horack, Eddie Burt, and Jane Burt. President Robert Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Visitors were asked to stand up, introduce themselves, and tell what year Corvette they have:

Bill Hogan – 1986 Red Coupe, **Steve Connelly & Theresa Spalding** – 1967 Convertible & 1996 White Coupe, **Bill & Meryle Elko** – 1999 Red Convertible, **Fred & Rox Mudge** – 2001 Pewter Convertible, **Randy Huff & Renee Robertson** – 2002 Black Z06, **Tim & Andrea Worman** – 1998 Black Convertible, and **Patty Wright** – Skip Koskie's guest.

New Members voted in – **Bill Hogan, Steve Connelly & Theresa Spalding, Bill & Meryle Elko !**

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the February meeting minutes.

E.O.Oakely, Vice President

- Asked if there were any questions regarding the inventory of Club property
- Not sure where the April meeting will be held, but the May meeting will be at the Northcross Medical Center (enter through the side door), & the June meeting will be at the Burt's for BBQ
- Asked everyone to sign the Sign-in sheet

Gary Artis, Treasurer

- Asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer Report
- Second Quarter dues are due April 1

Kay Weisberg, Social Director

- Received applause for providing appetizers for a pre-meeting get-together
- Sunday March 30 – road trip to Red Rocker Inn for family-style lunch at 1:00 pm. Cost \$20.50 per person. Needs to know by March 21 who is going
- Sunday April 27 (tentative) **Robert Morgan** is arranging a day trip to the Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, SC
- Saturday May 17 (tentative) BBQ dinner at **Sandy Welsh's**
- July – progressive dinners
- Future events: Reed Gold Mine, Linville Caverns, Beach, and Christmas Party

Jody Austin, Trip Coordinator

- Saturday April 19, meet at exit 36 at 8:30 am & drive to Bluefield VA for lunch. Should return by 5:00 pm
- Feel free to submit articles to Jody for the newsletter (or become the Editor)

Eddie Burt, Director of Membership

- Handed out ballots and pens for secret ballot voting of new member candidates
- Let Eddie know if you want to be listed in the Car Log - **Paul Pelkey** updates the log
- Currently have 176 members – lost 6 and gained 6
- Vector Shirts provides items with our logo - see the QCCC website for details

- Bylaws Amendment Committee met last week and reviewed 4 items presented to them by the Board. (Requirements to reinstate former members, Allow lifetime members, Address hardship issues, Allow the Board to sign contracts) These will be in an e-mail to all members to review and vote on at the next meeting. The Bylaws were completely rewritten last year, this is to amend those Bylaws. Any member can make a suggestion to amend the Bylaws at any time. Other ideas can be submitted to the Committee members

Ben Horack, Director of Automotive Events

- Saturday March 15 – St Patrick’s Day Parade – need at least 16 cars to carry dignitaries, 6 Miss Mint Hills, and 8 Miss Mecklenburgs. Meet at 8:30 at the Hal Marshall Building
- Saturday & Sunday April 4 & 5 – Auto Fair – MUST have at least 30 cars. The theme will be the 50th Anniversary of the Corvette and some of our cars will be in the display tent! We will be in the grassy area in front of the Winners Circle with other Corvette Clubs. Be there by 8:00 am! Will make arrangements to distribute car/people passes.
- May – Parade of Lights
- Car Shows: (tentative) City Chevrolet May 3 & Parks Chevrolet October 25

John Meadows, Member

- Reported on **Linda’s** progress after knee surgery
- CORVETTES IN THE QUEEN CITY is scheduled for the weekend of September 27. The Committee has gotten commitments from key sponsors so the event is a “go”! The goal is to draw 100 cars from 5 states to the Westin Hotel. Friday - reception. Saturday - road tours around Charlotte with 10-15 cars led by QCCC members, with destination of DEI for lunch & a tour. Then on to Hendrick Motorsports. Need volunteers to help coordinate! A Banquet will be held Saturday night. Keynote speakers are being invited. This is going to “be big”!

Caroline Lentz, Member

- Reported on **Fred’s** progress after knee replacement surgery

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Burt, Secretary

QCCC OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2003

The March officers’ meeting was held at Artis & Associates office, Charlotte, NC. Officers present: Robert Morgan, E.O.Oakley, Gary Artis, Kay Weisberg, Ben Horack, Eddie Burt, and Jane Burt. Guests: Jim Weisberg and John Meadows. President Robert Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Robert:

Welcomed visitors John Meadows and Jim Weisberg

Working on trip to Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia for Sunday April 27. Tentative plans are to meet at 9:00 am and eat lunch at 11:00. Admission to the zoo is \$6 & we will invite the Columbia Capital City Corvette Club to join us.

E.O.:

April meeting might be at City Chevrolet

Gary:

Reviewed 2003 dues payment status

Kay:

Going to Red Rocker Inn 3/30

Working on Mountain trip in August & Beach trip in October

Eddie:

Reviewed the recommendations of the Bylaws Amendment Committee

All visitors have been assigned a mentor

John:

Reviewed the progress by the Corvettes in the Queen City Committee. Goal is 100 cars and 200 people. There will be an Event Treasurer who will keep a separate ledger for event funds and expenses.

Ben:

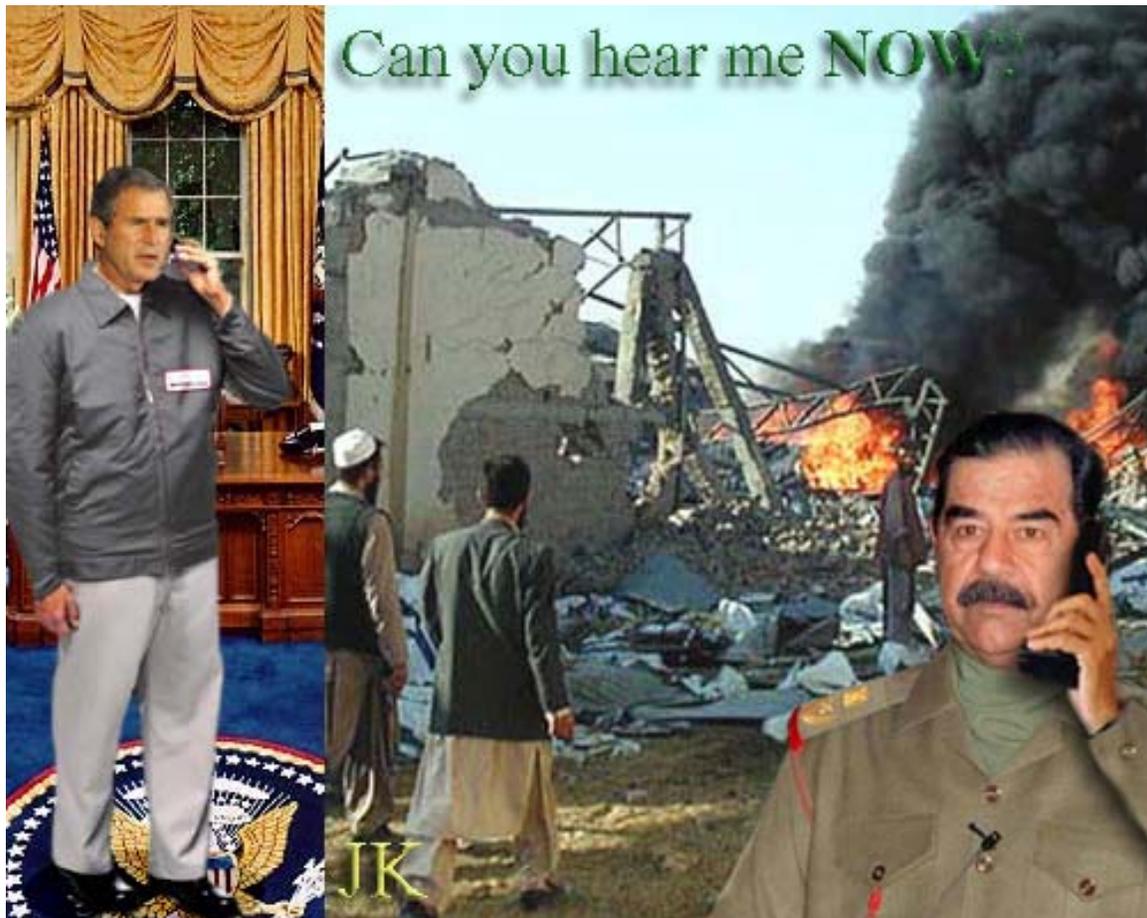
Will pursue getting a lifetime indemnification form for members to sign

Events: 3/15 - St Patrick's Day Parade, 4/5 & 6 - Auto Fair, 5/3 - Parks Chevrolet Car Show @ N Tryon, 5/20 - Parade of Lights, 10/25 - City Chevrolet Car Show

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

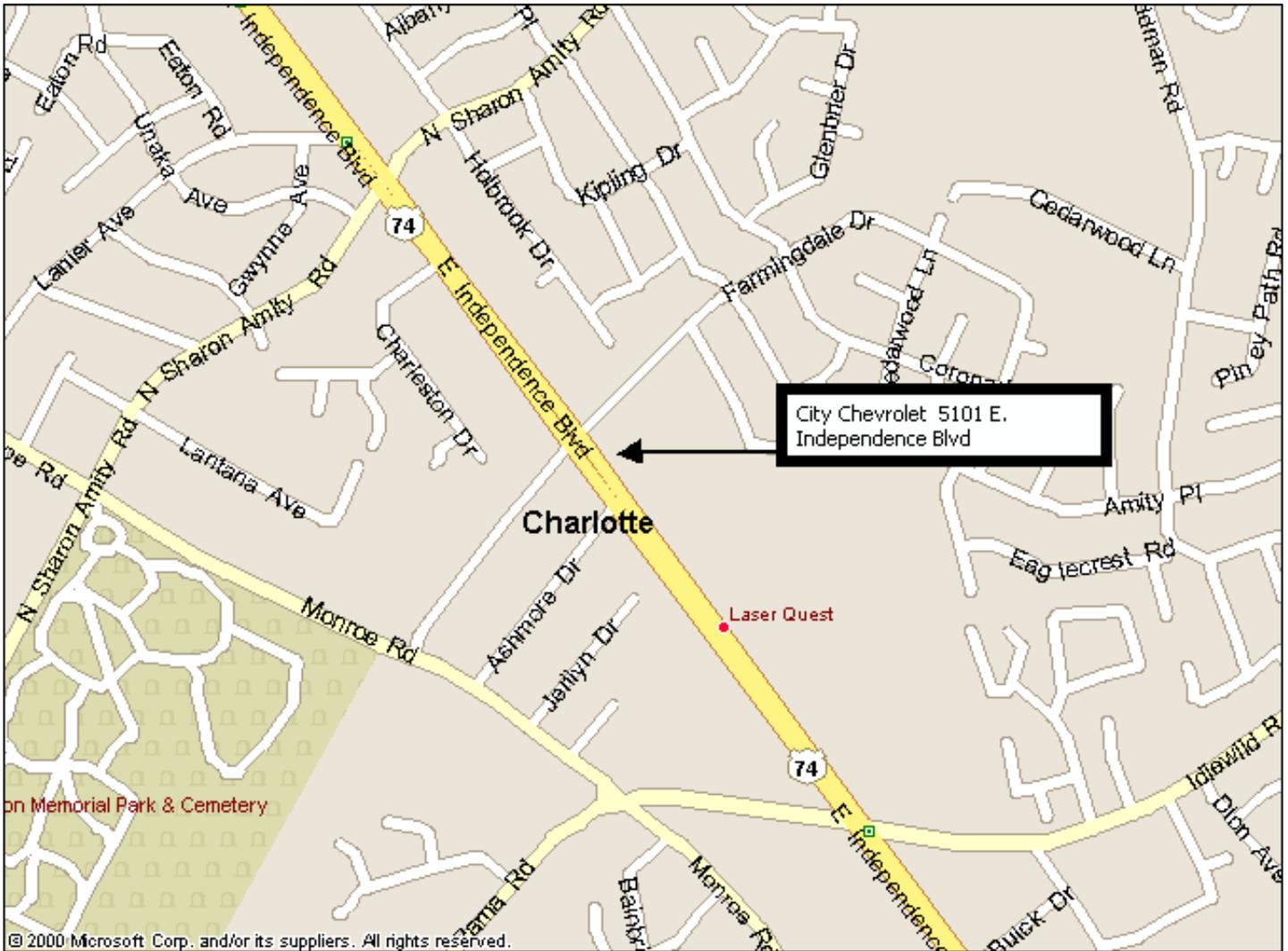
Jane Burt, Secretary



City Chevrolet Meeting Place, April 12

Social @ 6:00 PM Snacks Furnished

Meeting @ 6:30 PM



Business Meeting, 2nd Saturday of the Month

2003	Event	Time
April		
5-6 th	Auto Fair	
12 th	Business Meeting (City Chevrolet)	6:30
	Social Gathering before meeting-snacks furnished	6:00
19 th	Day Trip to Virginia Mountains Bring your camera. Meet at Exit #36, I-77 at Mooresville @ 8:30	8:30 am
24 – 26 th	C5 Birthday Bash Bowling Green	
27 th	Trip to Columbia Zoo	
May		
3 rd	Auto Show - Park's Chevrolet	
10 th	Business Meeting – Huntersville	
17 th	BBQ @ Sandy Welsh's house 4:30-6:30 Social	4:30
	Dinner provided at Sandy's - Bring drinks & dessert	6:30
20 th	Parade Of Lights - Downtown Charlotte	
May 31-Jun 1	Gatlinburg/Deals Gap/ Arts Tour	
June		
14 th	Business Meeting - BBQ at Burt's	
25 – 29 th	50th Anniversary Celebration	
28 th	Trip to Reed's Gold Mine	
July		
4 th	Pool Party @ Stickels' House	12 Noon
4 th	Parades-Hickory Grove & Tega Cay	
12 th	Business Meeting – Huntersville	
19 th	Progressive Dinner	
August		
???	Mountain Trip	
9 th	Business Meeting	
21 – 23 rd	Corvettes @ Carlisle	
30 th	Parade- Matthews Alive Festival	
September		
13-14 th	Autofair/Business Meeting	
26 th	Corvettes in the City (Walt)	
27 th	Parade-Mint Hill Madness	
October		
???	Beach Trip (Social)	???
11 th	Business Meeting	
18 th	Petit LeMans Road America	
25 th	Car Show – City Chevrolet	
November		
8 th	Business Meeting	
22 nd	Parade – Concord Christmas Parade	
23 rd	Parade – Monroe Christmas Parade	
December		
2 nd	Parade – Kannapolis Christmas Parade	
13 th	Christmas Party (Social)/Business Meeting	

Think of it as Spring Break for Your Car



Loretta Lynn & Merle Haggard, Spam Sandwich
Grand Road Tour

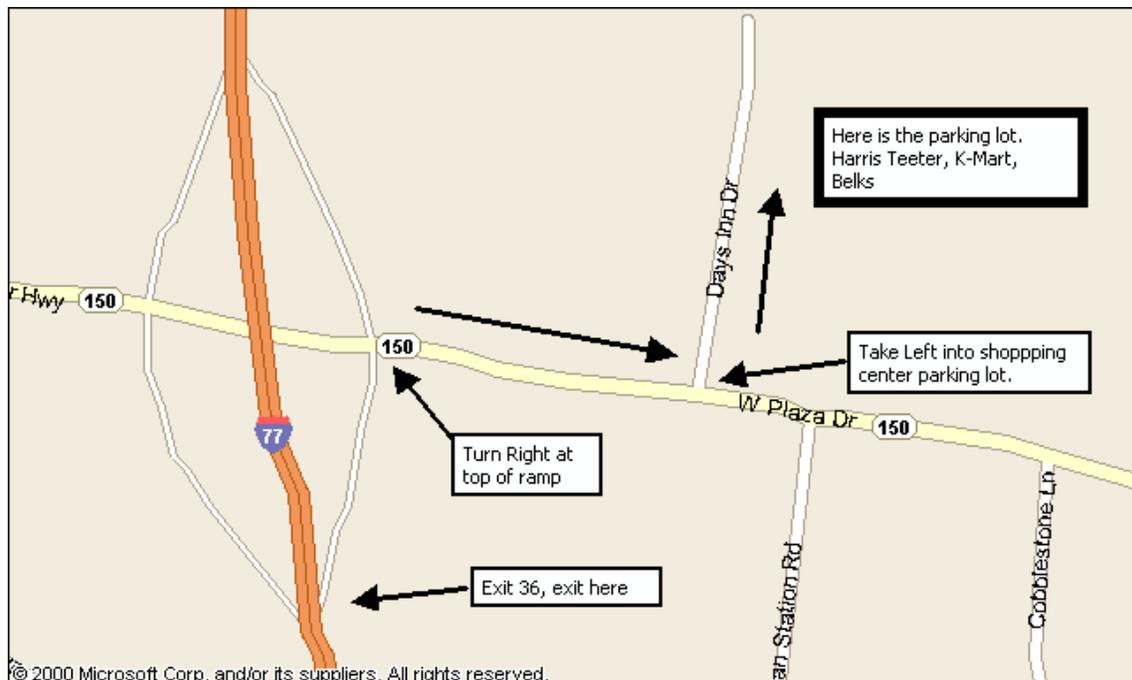
Curves, Curves, and More Curves

If this sign is an aphrodisiac for you, then you need to go on this day trip to the Virginia/West Virginia Mountains. The leaves & flowers will just be blooming, so it will be gorgeous.

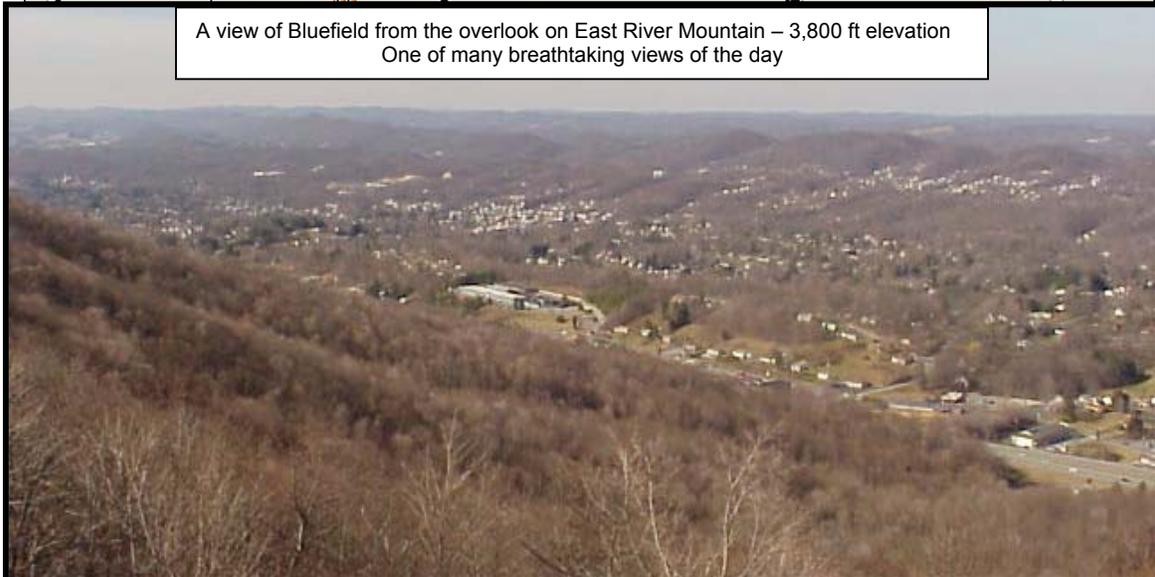
Bring Your Camera

Meeting Place for the April 19thth Cruise to the Virginia Mountains.

Map to Mooresville Belk's Shopping Center. (Exit # 36 on I-77 North)
Leaving at 8:30am - Arriving back approx 5pm Lunch at Ryan's Family Steak House in Bluefield, VA



A view of Bluefield from the overlook on East River Mountain – 3,800 ft elevation
One of many breathtaking views of the day





How 'bout a Big Howdy to Our Newest Members

Bill & Meryle Elka
1999 Red Convertible

Steve Connelly & Theresa
Spalding
1967 Convertible &
1996 White Coupe



Bill Hogan - 1986 Coupe

TECH TIP

Submitted by E.O. Oakley
(1st in a 5 part series)

A CHEMIST'S VIEW ON OCTANE

By Tom Johnson

Credentials:

Ph.D. Organic chemist, 21 years as a practicing chemist, 28 US patents (many on gasoline additives), work for a major oil company that is a leading (by volume) retailer of gasoline in the world. I've had engine tests (meaning an engine on a fixed engine stand run by a computer) and road tests (meaning cars driven by humans -- some on a course, some not) run on gasoline additives I've invented (while employed at the oil company). These additives have been tested in the US, England, and France under a variety of conditions. Many of my additives have also been tested in the BMW test (10,000 miles). I'm still employed by said oil company.

Disclaimers: The views expressed here are my own and not the company for whom I work.

Corvette: Mine is a 1979 that is on its second trip through the odometer (and its second engine, and third interior). I've owned it approximately 12 years, love it, and may never get rid of it.

OCTANE:

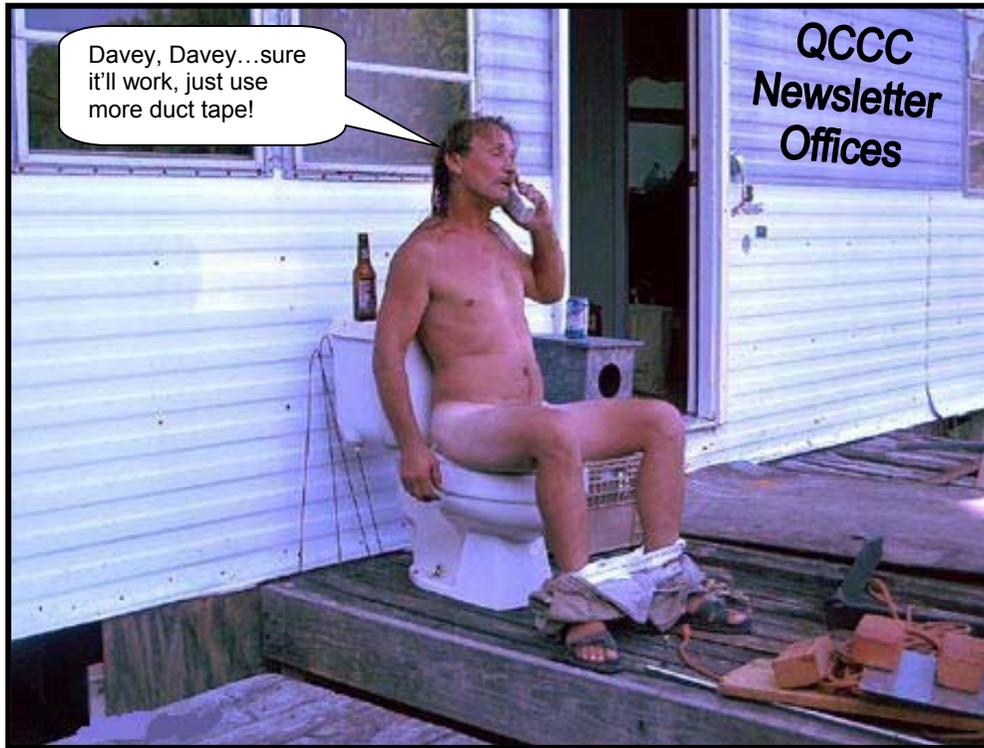
I've seen many consumer magazines tell their readers that they are wasting money to buy a higher octane gasoline if their car doesn't knock. If octane were not related to any other feature of the gasoline, I would agree. However, how companies get higher octane gasoline does make it different than regular and mid-grade gasoline. So the question to me then is; do these differences make a difference? The short answer is what do I use, and I use regular in all my cars and my truck. I use premium in my Corvette. Why? Because as any Corvette enthusiast (to separate us from people who merely own one) knows, a Corvette is not a car, it's an experience. If you want to know the long answer - keep reading.

BASE GASOLINE:

Crude oil differs depending on where it's from, and consequently, what comes out of it when it's refined also differs. There are books on the subject and I can't possibly do the subject justice here. As the oil differs, what is available for blending and cutting is different. In the end, however, the refiner has to make economic choices, based on what's available to him from the oil he is refining, on how to get the required octane to sell (as well as meet MANY other criteria that make gasoline, gasoline -- again I can't do justice to it here). What I generally (but not exclusively) see is that BASE (no additive added to it --you can't buy this, it isn't offered for sale) premium gasoline leaves fewer deposits behind than other grades. There are certain types of molecules in regular and mid-grade BASE gasoline that simply do not exist in premium gasoline that cause much of this. Additives (see definition later) are added to the gasoline to help get rid of these deposits, and modern additives do a marvelous job of this. What you buy is "additivetized" gasoline.

We Never Rest, We're Here For You!!

Here is one of our dedicated reporters fielding, yet, another call from General Motors. Our guys and gals never get a break, they're always busy bringing you the topnotch, cutting edge publication you deserve. By the way, that's Billy Bob Bigblock (our technical editor) in his office talking with Dave Hill about the new biphallic spectrometer magnaflucation specifications that will be an option on the new C6.



Frivolous law suits, another chapter from E.O.'s files...

Terrence Dickson of Bristol, Pennsylvania, was leaving a house he had just finished robbing by way of the garage. He was not able to get the garage door to go up since the automatic door opener was malfunctioning. He couldn't re-enter the house because the door connecting the house and garage locked when he pulled it shut. The family was on vacation, and Mr. Dickson found himself locked in the garage for eight days. He subsisted on a case of Pepsi he found, and a large bag of dry dog food. He sued the homeowner's insurance claiming the situation caused him undue mental anguish. The jury agreed... to the tune of \$500,000.



5

Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance

We had a few members go to the Amelia Island Concurs 'd Elegance that featured the Corvette and all five of the original Grand Sports were there. Many thanks to **Bob Denney** (Top 3 pictures) & **Tim Barnes** (Grand Sport Registry) (bottom 2 pictures) for getting these pictures and sharing them with us.



3



4

Here they are, the original 5. Never together before. An historic event.



2



1



Robert Denney

Mooresville, NC 28115

rddenney@alltel.net



Amelia Island Car Show

Wade Stickels ... kudos for identifying the reunion of the great Vettes as a spot to visit. Wade also squired me, Chuck and Lynn Solland around Friday night. We had a serious problem with Chuck as he wanted to go clubbing all the time. He said he would even bring his own club. Dinner reservations were very hard to come by but preservation ruled the evening and gastronomy prevailed. Anyway, dinner location was selected by our host, the Clean Car man, would you believe he had the fore thought to leave the Ordinary Yellow Vette home for that weekend. I really think he knew beforehand that the best way to enjoy the show was to have a boat. The following morning was reserved by the ladies as a shopping expedition in the Amelia Island's unique shops. Sue Stickels said that they did some serious shopping. Now I didn't know what that meant, but I hear that Wade has added two mortgages to his Huntersville abode.

The schedule called for Saturday afternoon to have an auto auction of some impressive automotive creations from 12:00 to 5 PM. There were several gorgeous cars including 2 V16 Cadillac's a 1948 Tucker, several Ferrari's, Porsche's, two Corvettes, a 1954 Power Blue and a Red 1965 Convertible. My favorite in the auction had to be the 1995 F40 with 6500 miles. What a beautiful car it was.

Saturday night we joined Jerry Miller and Patty, Fred Fischer and his son for dinner at what was claimed to be the best home-style food in all of Amelia Island. Before dinner we had to cool our heels in the local bar, which was populated by a Martini drinking' cat. Well, let me tell you, I think the food critics were right, plates were emptied right and left and promptly refilled. Finally, having cleaned up everything including desert, we were informed that they had another party for our table and for us to "get out." This time Chuck got his wish, we adjourned to one of the local watering holes for a night cap, I mean after all it was 7:45. Chuck seemed to think that the Clubs would be all shut up by that late time, so we moseyed back to our Hotels.



Sunday morning I peeked out the window only to be greeted by a downpour that the local weather folks described as being the processor of a 1 – 2 inch downfall. This indicated to me that getting close to the Ritz Carlton might prove to be important. I really didn't want to have to swim to far... you know maybe a couple blocks at the max. Getting to the area @ 7AM got me a parking spot only 1-½ blocks from the show. Now the only decision was what does one do in the street, the crawl or a backstroke. I finally settled on the dog paddle.

March 7th, 8th & 9th will go down as the reunion of the great Grand Sports of all times. Now as you know I usually remind you all that you missed a super trip. Well, this time I have to say the trip down and back was great, but the time spent on station, i.e. Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance was washed out, and I mean that literally. The show was planned for the golf course at the Ritz Carlton and wound up in the Grand Ballroom and two giant tents. The chaos was so great that no decent pictures could be taken, nor could you wander around the cars and really savor the character of the cars. Still, all in all, everyone had a good time.

7 Night Southern Caribbean Cruise

(Some names will be omitted to protect the guilty)

by **Wade Stickels**

DAY ONE - CHARLOTTE to

SAN JUAN: Robert & Vanessa, Wayne & Bonnie, Walt & Wendy, Nancy, and Sue & Wade arrive at Charlotte

Douglas dressed in our tropical

attire. Dan & Beth, Jackie & Karl, Joan (Nancy's cousin) and Mickey & Janice (Sue & Wade's friends) will take different flights. I have to strip because I set off the alarm but we all made it to the gate. It is close to 7 a.m. and the lounge adjacent to our gate had a pre-sunrise special on Bloody Marys so (*names omitted*) had a liquid breakfast.

We boarded the plane, a non-stop flight to San Juan. Walt had made an early morning stop by the control tower to make sure all electronics were operating, that all backup systems were operating, and that we would be given special clearance to take off on time. We lifted off safely and we all thank Walt for looking after us. We arrive at the dock about 2 p.m. and except for Dan & Beth we all boarded without a hitch. Dan & Beth are allowed to board but their luggage is lost in airline heaven.

DAY TWO - St. Thomas U.S.V.I.: Jewelry shopping in the morning for some of us. Sue and I were looking for a particular piece so we visited several shops. We kept Dazzlers for last. Dan & Beth had given Sue the owner's business card before we left Charlotte. I should have known I was in for trouble. We walk into Dazzler's and I ask for the manager. He pulls a piece of paper out of his pocket and he said, Walt? I said no and he said Robert? I said no and he said you must be Wade. Why do I get the feeling he knew we were coming. We make the purchase and head out for our tour. We send a big thank you to Dan & Beth.

We stop at Megan's Bay, one of the top ten beaches in the world. We hit the warm, turquoise water and to our surprise we don't have to leave the water to order cold adult beverages. Out comes a bikini-clad waitress to take our order. She then returns to deliver our drinks. I want to spend an entire day here on our next trip.

DAY THREE - ST. JOHN'S, ANTIQUA: Walt & Wendy, Sue & Wade have booked a 4X4 Off Road Adventure Tour. It was not recommended for pregnant women or guests with back problems. I disagree with their warning. It should have said: Recommended for suicidal adventure seekers. They advertised the vehicle as an eight-passenger air-conditioned vehicle. It was a right hand drive Land Rover that ten of us were squeezed into, the a/c was for the front seat only and we couldn't close the windows because to fit all of us in, the outboard passengers had to hang out of the windows to close the doors. The driver, an Olympic Down Hill Bike Racer took us where no sane person should drive. Some of us tried to hold on to the Land Rover's overhead grab handles but they were missing. We determined that they were ripped from the roof by the previous passengers and those handles were still being held tightly in a death grip. Somehow we reached the highest point on St. John's and we all unload. The driver breaks out the cold beer. I consider walking back down the mountain because I don't think my heart will take the ride down. The beer did the job and we all piled back in the Land Rover. I don't know how but we made it back to the ship. This has got to be the most memorable shore excursion of all time. Note: there were several vehicles in this adventure. Our driver was the leader and when he came to an obstacle, he would drive over the obstacle or he would drive up the mudslide. The other drivers would drive around or find a more comfortable route. If you want to hear more about this adventure, just ask Wendy.

This picture was made when everyone got necked at the "clothing optional" beach



The editorial staff elected to mask this lewd act

DAY FOUR – PHILIPSBURG, ST. MAARTEN: Many of us have booked a trip on a double-decked catamaran for an unlimited rum punch and live local calypso singer cruise. Rain moves in so the planned shopping trip before we set sail is cancelled. The rum punch starts flowing an hour early. (*Name omitted*) may have had a little too much rum punch and (*name omitted*) performs a lap dance for two females, (*names omitted*), of our group. For those of you that want to get rid of those tan lines, this is the place to do it legally. On the French side, clothing is optional.

DAY FIVE – CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA: The days and adult beverages have all run together by now. We are all having too much fun eating, drinking, playing cards, losing money, and winning money. We are ready to book our next cruise. Two women, (*names omitted*) to protect them from the IRS, have walked away from the casino with hundreds and hundreds of dollars. Dan & Beth's luggage finally makes it onboard ship!

DAY SIX – BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS: Some of us believe this is the most beautiful island on the cruise. The western coast fronts the Caribbean and the eastern coast fronts the Atlantic. Nancy calls Bob and tells him to sell everything and catch the next flight to Bridgetown. She isn't coming home. Her plan is to find a home, put it on her American Express Card and be moved in by the time he arrives. The problem Bob may face is locating the home Nancy has purchased. On this island most people own their homes but they don't own the land it is built on so when the land rental becomes too high they disassemble their homes and move them down the road to a less expensive piece of land! (**Editor's Note-** We do the same thing here in Troutman, but we just leave the wheels on the house so later it's a lot easier to move.)

DAY SEVEN – AT SEA: More sun, food, drinks, & fun, fun, fun.

DAY EIGHT – SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO: We don't want to leave the ship and some people won't. One couple, not in our group, is staying onboard because they say it is so much trouble to fly and unpack that they will stay onboard for three weeks. What a great idea if you have the time and money.

I refused to take a cruise for many years because all I would hear is "there are twelve meals per day and it is all you can eat". That didn't interest me and I figured I was paying for all this food I wasn't going to eat. Well, I'm not working to retire, I'm working so I can take a cruise every year.

JULY 4 POOL PARTY



WHEN: Friday, July 4, noon until. We will eat at 1 p.m.

WHERE: The Stickels' home, 16336 Ranger Trail, Huntersville.

FOOD: Please bring a hot or cold prepared covered dish (meat, vegetable, or dessert) and your own beverage.

BRING: Chairs, bathing suits, towels, & sunshine.



Directions: I-77 exit 25, head east on Hwy. 73/Sam Furr Road. Drive past Target and turn right on Ranger Trail into the Greenfarm subdivision. Proceed down Ranger Trail to Tallent Lane. We are on the corner of Ranger Trail and Tallent Lane.
704-892-1153

TECH TIP

Surprise! Surprise! Surprise!

By Billy Bob Bigblock

Bring lots of money!! It all started with a small vibration and ended up costing **\$600**. I don't know about you guys, but when I get bored during the winter I hunt for small stuff to fix and it invariably turns into a lot bigger and/or more expensive project than originally intended.

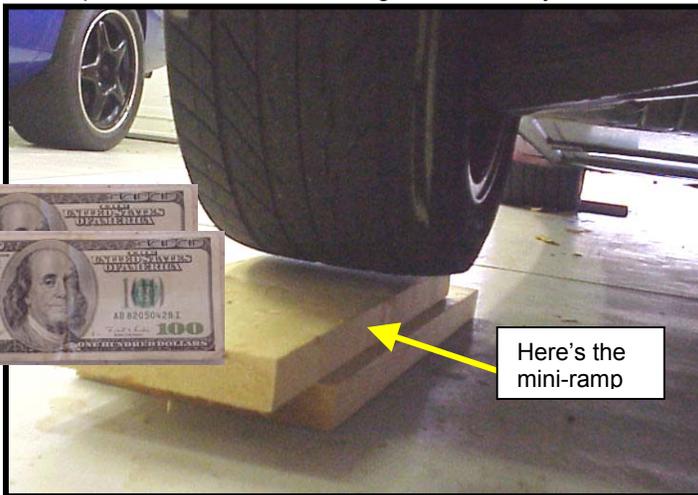
After jacking up my car so I could take the front wheels off and into the tire dealer to get them balanced, I noticed the tires were down to the cord (I think Judy has been out driving this thing hard while I'm working my fingers to the bone earning a living). I have no idea how they got in this shape ;-), but I had no choice but to get 'em replaced. These are the original tires, they have been on the car 5-1/2 years and 33,000



miles, so I don't guess I can complain too much.

The purpose of this article isn't to tell of tire woes, but to give the new C5 owners a little tech tip on raising the C5. Since the C5 is so low, jacking it up is difficult, but here are some helpful tips.

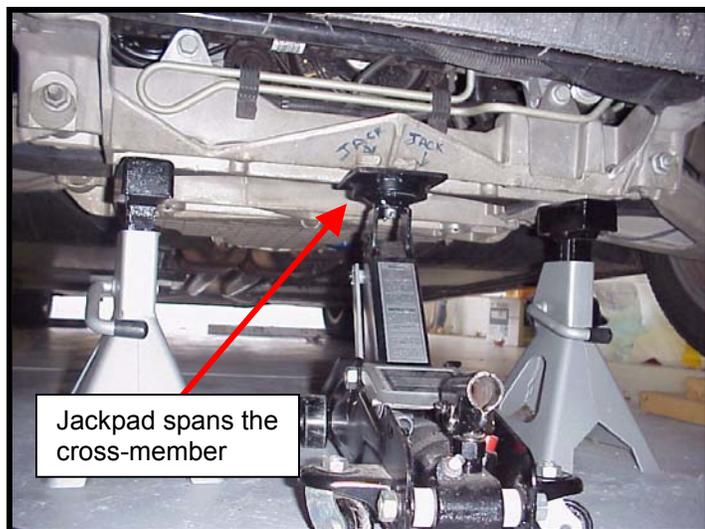
The picture to the left shows how to start. I screwed 2 - 2X10's together and place them in front of each tire and drive the car up on them (kind of like a mini-ramp). This raises the front of the car 3-1/2" and allows the floor jack



enough clearance to slide under the front cross member. When I first got my C5 I wrote on the crossmember "Jack" and drew arrows so that anyone would know where to place the jack pad. If you go too far back there is a very expensive cast aluminum oil pan that can't bear the weight. After lifting the car I place jack stands under the car for safety.

To jack up the back of the car this same procedure works, just back the car up on the "mini-ramps" and place the jack under the rear cross member. And don't forget the jack stands, we like you and want to see you alive.

Happy Motoring!



Do you know.....



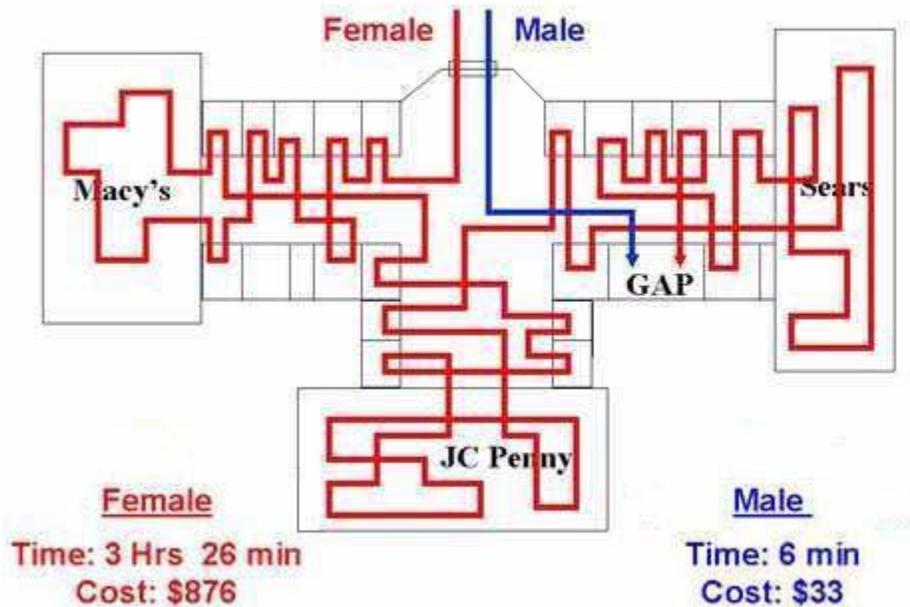
in terms of total quantity produced, which colors in which years are rare? (Hint: less than 20)

55-Corvette Copper, 77-Charouse, 81-Bright Blue Metallic, 98-Aztec Gold

A Study of Navigation

Ok, guys, we all have experienced the phenomenon shown below. Our super secret QCCC "Mall Cam," with assistance from the GPS satellite system, was able to track the paths made by a typical couple on a mission to buy a pair of pants, do you agree?

Mission: Go to Gap, Buy a Pair of Pants



Submitted by Walt Krupowicz

Vette Recognition Quiz

Okay, all you 'Vette aficionados, can you identify the years of the cars from these pictures?



The first one to email us with the correct answer wins!
(answer in next month's newsletter)

Moments From The Meeting



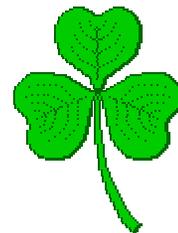
St. Patrick's Day Parade



Golly, there's Fred Lentz!
Wouldn't you know part of the therapy prescribed
for him was to haul around beauty queens.



Here's John
Bayne, finally out
of winter
hibernation.



Pictures by
Bob Denney &
E.O. Oakley

Smoke 'em If You Got 'em

Jack Warlick's view of life:



"Like I always say, when you discover you need to buy a new set of tires, why not have a little fun on the way to buy them? Those would have been the Dunlop SP-8000's that went away during the summer of '99." (This from an email sent by Jack)

Geez Jack, I wonder where those tires went? By the looks of that road, this isn't the first time Jack has done this.

We here at the QCCC newsletter international headquarters love this kind of stuff, so send it in if you have it.

DEAR OCCC,

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU
FOR THE DONATION TO THE DAVIDSON
NUTRITION CENTER IN MY NAME, ALL
THE CARDS, CALLS + VISITS MEANT
A LOT AND MADE THE HEALING
PROCESS MORE BEARABLE. LOOKING
FORWARD TO A LOT OF CORVETTE FUN
THIS YEAR. FRED + CAROLINE

Fred Lentz's
Thank You
Note

Dear Membership,
I would like to let you
know how grateful I am
for your donation to the
American Heart Association
in my father's memory and
for all the cards I have received.
It means so much to know
there are people that have you
in their thoughts and hearts
during a time like this. I
will never forget this kindness.
Thank you,
Judy Austin

Judy
Austin's
Thank
You
Note