

Queen City Corvette Club, Inc.

2003 Officers

President	Robert Morgan	844-0205 –H	rmvette@aol.com
Vice Pres.	E. O. Oakley	846-2965 –H	eoakleyjr@aol.com
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
Secretary	Jane Burt	846-7130 – H	fab4fan@carolina.rr.com
Newsletter	Editor Jody Austin	528-9059 – H 878-6645 – O	austin@statesville.net
Directory a	nd Database Manaq Paul Pelkey	ger 573-9723 – H	ppelkey@carolina.rr.com

Queen City Corvette Club (QCCC) newsletter 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, 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-gues, 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.



October 27, 2003

Dear Fellow QCCC Members:

Daylight savings time is gone and a crisp breeze is in the air. Shortly we'll be enjoying ham and turkey dinners with family and friends. Let's not forget that we are coming into a time of thanksgiving. We are lucky to live in this great country and I'm certainly thankful for our freedom. I'm also thankful for the friends and relationships that Vanessa and I have made while being a member of the Queen City Corvette Club.

Our club had a unique opportunity to participate at the UAW-GM 500 race at Lowe's Motor Speedway by driving GM dignitaries around the track before the race. To my knowledge the club hasn't been asked to help before. It was such a hit that there's talk about using us next year too. The only glitch in our parade lap was one car (I won't name names but his initials were Jody Austin) had his right hand turn signal on. I question the sanity of small town drivers coming to the big city.

The weather was great for our second charity car show held at City Chevrolet. Cool in the morning and just right in the afternoon. A great variety of cars showed up too. If you didn't get a chance to attend, you missed seeing a friend of Bob Runnion visit us with his '55. It was white with a red interior and a very rare engine combination. The owner told me that it is one of six with the Blue Flame Six. All other 1955 models were equipped with the V8 for that year. Now that is a rare car. Thanks to City Chevrolet for the charity donation and to our members who helped.

I've talked a lot about Corvettes in the Queen City in past newsletters. As I mentioned at the previous business meeting it was a great success. So much so that I feel that it should be continued next year. However it takes an enormous amount of time to put an event like this together. If anyone would like to volunteer for being the chairman of an event for next year, please step forward. A chairman and a committee need to be chosen as soon as possible so they can formulate an event schedule. I'll bring this up in our November meeting to discuss further.

Our nominations are in for the 2004 board. Be sure and attend our November meeting so that you can cast your vote. All chads will be counted!

As always check the social calendar. You can view it at <u>www.queencitycorvette.com</u> for approaching events.

Until next time, save the wave!

Pahent





Item First – November Business Meeting:

The November Business meeting will be at Northcross Medical Building in Huntersville. Normal start time of 6:30 PM with social & snacks starting at 6:00 PM. As usual, bring your own beverages and if some of you will bring a chair or two in case we run short it would be appreciated. Directions are given later in this newsletter.

Item Second – December Meeting:

As an additional reminder, the December meeting date has been changed to December 6th. Location is the Matthews Presbyterian Church.

Item Third – 2004 Business Meetings:

We have secured the Northcross Community Room for every other month business meeting starting in January. The even months will float as this year and gives us a chance to try new and different places. We hope this schedule works for most people, if not give us some input.

Item Fourth – Participation Points Update:

The Third Quarter Update will be emailed to all members within the next few days. Be sure to check your total for accuracy.

Item Fifth – Sandlapper Chapter BMW CCA Driver School Series:

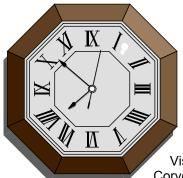
Just a short note of thanks to John Liebe for getting several of us to attend the Sandlapper Chapter BMW CCA Driver School Series October 25th & 26th at Carolina Motorsports Park in Kershaw, SC. A great time was had by all even being surrounded by BMWs and the rain. A review will be given at the November Business Meeting.

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 October 4, 2003

The October business meeting of QCCC was held at the Aviation Museum, Charlotte, NC. Officers present: Robert Morgan, E.O.Oakely, Kay Weisberg, Eddie Burt, and Jane Burt. President Robert Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

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

Victor & Vernita Reveron – 2004 Spiral Gray Metallic Coupe, *Gerry Beattie & Fran Moritz* – 2003 Electron Blue Z06, *John & Pat Easton* – 1995 Purple Coupe, *Walter Aherns* – 1982 Silver & Burgundy Coupe, *Greg Finnican & Linda* – 1987 Dark Red Convertible and 1990 Black ZR1, *Radu & Gabriella Dimitriu* – 1998 White Convertible, *Kristie & Eddie Burt, Jr* – 1966 Black Convertible (eventually).

New Members voted in: Radu & Gabriella Dimitriu and Victor & Vernita Reveron !

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

E.O.Oakley, VP

- Introduced *Jimi Oates* of the Aviation Museum who welcomed us & gave a history of the Museum
- Asked everyone to sign the sign-in sheet to determine how many Museum tickets the Club will pay for
- November 8 meeting will be at the Northcross Medical Center in Huntersville, NC
- December meeting will be the first Saturday December 6 in Matthews, NC

Robert Morgan, President

- Reported for *Ben Horack*, Automotive Events Thanked everyone who participated at Auto Fair – we had a great turnout
- Recognized the awards winners at Auto Fair
- Need 15 cars for a Parade Lap before the UAW-GM race October 11
- Need all cars at the Charity Car Show at City Chevrolet October 25
- Reported for *Gary Artis*, Treasurer any questions about latest Treasury Report?
- Passed out Nomination forms for 2004 Officers. Elections will be held at the November meeting. Robert will contact all nominees to verify they'll run.

Eddie Burt, Director of Membership

• Current membership is 189. Have had 17 families join this year.

Kay Weisberg, Social Director

Thanked Betty Hamilton & Jeff Estridge for helping with dinner tonight

Everyone is invited to attend breakfast on Sundays at 9:30 am at New York, New York restaurant on Independence Blvd

October 10 - Beach Trip – Leave for Myrtle Beach at 9:00 am from New York, New York restaurant. Will have lunch at the Nascar Café in Myrtle Beach.

Will have information at the November meeting about our Christmas needy families.

- December 6 meeting/Christmas party at Matthews Presbyterian Church with a catered dinner. Bring unwrapped gifts for needy families.
- December 13 gift-wrapping/pizza party.
- December 20 deliver presents.
 Pick up \$10 gift cards for Zip products
- January 23 Banquet at the Hyatt SouthPark. Menu to be determined.

Walt Krupowicz, CORVETTES IN THE QUEEN CITY Chairman

- Received a well-deserved standing ovation for a successful CORVETTES IN THE QUEEN CITY event September 26, 27, 28.
- Reported that there were 92 participants at the DEI & Hendricks tours, and 105 attended the Banquet on Saturday night.
- Thanked the Committee Team Members who have met at least monthly since July 2002, and *Robert Morgan* for leading the driving tour through Myers Park Saturday morning Recognized *Lynn Solland* as the grand prize winner of a Race Deck garage floor
- Recognized *Victor Reveron*, who received a standing ovation, for making a \$500 donation to the National Corvette Museum in return for a C5 model car autographed by C5R driver Frank Freon & Jim Perkins.

Jackie Slavetsky & Dave Gregorino, Members

• Jackie and David Sigman will participate in the 5K Hopebuilders Race October 18 to raise funds for brain tumor research. Come & cheer them on! The race begins at 8:30 am at the Mint Museum. They asked for our moral and strictly voluntary financial support. An e-mail will be sent with details about the event.

John Meadows, Member

• Photos of individuals taken at DEI will be on the QCCC Website

Ken Smelter, Member

• Has free tickets to the Charlotte Philharmonic concert at Calvary Church October 18 at 8:00 pm.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Burt, Secretary

QCCC OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2003

The October officers meeting was held at Artis & Associates, Charlotte, NC. Officers present: Robert Morgan, E.O.Oakley, Gary Artis, Kay Weisberg, Ben Horack, Eddie Burt, and Jane Burt

Guest: Jim Weisberg.

President Robert Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Robert:

Reported that 15 cars carried GM Executives in the parade lap before the UAW-GM race Discussed nominations for 2004 Officers. Ballots will be sent via e-mail with additional ones provided at the November meeting Discussed listing resignations in the newsletter

<u>Gary</u>:

Reviewed 2003 budget & dues status Offered his office for Board meetings in 2004

Ben Horack: Oct 25 – Car Show at City Chevrolet - want as many cars as we can get, have 20 so far Nov 22 – need 3 cars for Concord parade Nov 23 – need 9 cars for Monroe parade Discussed whether non-members are eligible for trophies/awards at car shows, and decided that only members will be eligible

Kay Weisberg:

Asked for suggestions to improve future beach trips 35 members went to Myrtle Beach Received approval to purchase serving utensils & tablecloths for refreshments at the meetings Dec 6 meeting will be in the Matthews Presbyterian Fellowship Hall Studying menu & looking at bands & DJs for the Banquet in January

<u>E.O</u>:

Has reserved the Northcross Medical Center for meetings in odd months in 2004

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Burt, Secretary

Automotive Events



November; Thanksgiving, Christmas Parades and Daylight Saving Time ends! It sure is strange going home in the dark. Well, we better get used to it, "Old Man Winter" is just around the corner. So much for crusing with the top down, but great weather we had in October. The beach trip got just a little bit wet, but not enough to dampen our spirits. Kay did a Super job. The hotel was great, lots to do, the Legends Show was fantastic and some of us got a special performance by our own Mark Ledford Saturday night.

We had our final Charity Car Show of the year at City Chevrolet on October 25th. As usual, we had a record turnout; 42+ cars! The weather was perfect, 68 degrees and sunny. As usual, lots of C-4's & C-5's. We had a record number of C-3's and 4 C-1's. Maybe someday I'll get mine back! Reggie Black took the honors in the C-1 class, again, with his *Red* '60 and Ron Barr walked away with the C-2 trophy with his *Blue* 1965 Coupe. The competition was strong in the C-3, C-4 & C-5 classes, but Robert Morgan added another trophy to his collection for his *Red* C-3. Bob and Nancy Runnion took home the C-4 trophy and Rob Gallman took top C-5, yet again. The Best Survivor went to Walt Kropuwicz, certainly not a big surprise to anyone. What a fantastic, 1 owner, car! The People's Choice Award went to Suzie Black and that great looking 1960 and the Dealers Choice winner was Bob Denney for his brand new, *Blue*, racing strips and all, C-5. Way to go Bob! My thanks to everyone who turned out to make this and all the other shows such a huge success. It can't happen without you.

We're now entering the Parade Season now. Our 1st one is in Concord on November 22nd. I know it's a long parade, but we only need 2 more cars. Monroe is the following day, Sunday November 23rd. We'll need 8 cars there. Kannapolis' Christmas Parade is the afternoon of Tuesday, December 2nd. There again we ONLY need 2 more cars. Our final parade and Automotive Event of the year is at Lake Wylie on Saturday, December 6th at 11:00 AM. They need at least 8 cars and would like more. I'll be sending out emails with more information as we get closer to the dates. If you already know that you can help out, please let me know. I wish I thought I would have the '**62** back by then, but the wheels of restoration move slowly!! Maybe I'll have it by Spring Auto Fair. Barbara and I wish everyone a Very Happy and Safe Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing everyone at Kay's Christmas Bash in December.

Ben '62 & '00 Horack



2003	Event	Time
	November	
8 th	Business Meeting	
22 nd	Parade – Concord Christmas Parade	
23 rd	Parade – Monroe Christmas Parade	
	December	
2 nd	Parade – Kannapolis Christmas Parade	
6 th	Christmas Party (Social)/Business Meeting	

Business Meeting, 2nd Saturday of the Month

For Sale 1999 Corvette Coupe

Silver with black interior

Options include: 6-Speed Manual Transmission Adjustable Sport Bucket Leather Seats Performance Handling Package Six-way Passenger Power Seat AM/FM Stereo W/CD Player Body Side Moldings Fog Lamps Rear Compartment Luggage Shade Color-keyed Front Floor Mats B&B Stainless Sport Exhaust System

Maintenance receipts and log. Always garaged. 26,000 miles. Asking \$28,175.

Contact: James Foreman, 704-556-9874.

Northcross Medical Park Building 16455 Statesville Road Huntersville, NC Saturday, November 8 Snacks @ 6 PM Meeting @ 6:30 PM Taft Ct 2146 73 77 Glencrest Dr 21 Exit #25 2145 Sam Furr Rd 2145 16455 Statesville Rd 73 Northcross Medical Park Holly Paint Dr Building 2145 It's a 4-story building between Wendy's and the Northcross Ranger Tri Bowling Alley at Exit 25, The sign at the 21 2141 entrance to the Statesville Rd parking lot says: Carolina's Northcross Dr. Medical Center -Vixen Ln Jrgent Care. Raig Rich Hatchet Rd © 2000 Microsoft Corp. and/or its suppliers. All rights

Map to our November meeting place.

How 'bout a Big **Howdy** To Our Newest members!



Victor & Vernita Reveron – 2004 Spiral Gray Metallic Coupe

Radu & Gabriella Dimitriu – 1998 White Convertible





Robert Denney Mooresville, NC 28115

704/662-0000 <u>rddenney@alltel.net</u>



Corvettes In The Queen City

It is the day after the night before, and guess what ... heck I am still hyped from the weekend. I have to say this now and often as I go ahead. **Walt** you and your team put on one hell of a party.

Those of you who missed the weekend ... well I feel sorry for you. Those of us lucky enough to have been in attendance at the Friday night registration and the ultimate discovery of the "Heavenly Beds"... participating in the Caravan Saturday morning thru Myers Park... and ultimately landing at the palatial palace of DEI... the magnificent lunch and tour of the facilities of DEI ... then on to Hendricks Motor Sports facilities, certainly knew that after seeing the precision of these activities we were going to be entertained to the fullest. Let me tell you we weren't disappointed.

Well now that I have spilled the beans about the weekend let me get right into the meat of the fun. As I mentioned some of us were fortunate enough to be spending the night at the Westin Hotel. What a wonderful and beautiful place to hold a convention of any type. Walt had negotiated a rate that was unbelievable... \$89.00 This is down from the normal rate of \$149.00. Getting and enjoying some super pastries, juice of all kinds and colors, and that all purpose morning wakerupper, coffee... we proceeded to the Corvette parking on the top floor of the parking garage. We were greeted by a spectacular morning that was a bit cool but very "Convertible ". Robert held a drivers meeting where he explained the course and that he had marked it with arrows at each turn and occasionally during the route. Each car was then presented with a bound book outlining our cruise thru Myers Park. This book had a brief description of some of the most important members of Charlotte society that initiated the Myers Park plans. The book also contained pictures and a brief description of 8 of the most important locations that form the base of Myers Park. Being one of them thar northerners who were fascinated with the old south housing. learned more from this cruise that I had knew before about this section of the city. Robert Morgan had advised us he had placed arrows for the cruise leaders to follow during the pathway of the morning festivities. These arrows proved very beneficial ... at least to this tail cleaner... Robert that was a monumental job and I for one thanks you. Winding up the City portion of the cruise we progressed onto the most hazardous part of the cruise... I-77 & I-85.... Yep you know those bastions of construction and its associated terror known in the Charlotte area as morning traffic. Finally it was off the interstate onto the back roads, which seemed almost pastoral. Arriving at DEI we were lined up for a picture in the front of DEI's main office complex. Then all of the Corvettes were lined up on both sides of the curved driveway. What a beautiful sight. The group had been previously assigned to either the red group or the blue group. I was one of the more fortunate ones who was a member of the blue group... this meant that we got to eat first... then onto the tour of the facilities including the engine shop. As you might expect there was no pictures in the manufacturing part of the complex. Finally after the red folks were pastured ... that means fed... this writer had to pop home for more batteries... it seems that there had been so many memorial sights ... thanks E.O & Ann... Wade & Sue... Larry & Florence... and so many others that it would take all day to list them all. You know how you feel when you are having fun... well this is how these folks felt I am sure. Hurrying on I arrived at the Hendricks complex before the rest. When I went into the museum the Museum Manager said is this all that is coming ... I said well when you gots the best you don't need the rest... but no there was about 60 more cars coming ... well wouldn't you know it ... just about that time the group started to arrive and arrive and arrive... He said ... "boy what a beautiful sight". Folks ... he was not kidding ... after all what is prettier that a well organized caravan of Corvettes coming down a hill around a curve

and then turning into the parking lot. The Hendricks Motor Sports portion of the cruise came off just like the rest of the weekend... Perfect!



main... well for us eaters it was... and anyway I was hungry. Food... scrumptious food, and lots of it... then the speakers. Gary Cockerel of the National Corvette Museum, Franck Freon, driver of the #3 C5R and substitute for Andy Pilgrim, and Jim Perkins General Manager of

There was a slight breather at this time for us to get cleaned up and proceed to the culmination of the event. The evening festivities started with a reception and cocktails... yep you know those "adult" beverage types. Hmmm good too... Finally Walt called the group to order and ask Chuck Solland to give the invocation. Then on to the



Chevrolet Division of GM during the development of the C5. None of these gentlemen would put you to sleep and as each finished I wanted more. Thankfully Walt interspersed some very spectacular door prizes between each of the speakers. Gary brought us up to date on the activities of the Museum and how the fund raising was coming on the new addition to the building. Frank regaled us about some of the memorable moments the Corvette racing program. He gave us some inside stories about Dale Earnhardt and Junior's time with them both during the practice time and during the race. Many of us in attendance were present during that Daytona race and could relate very close and personal... at least this writer could. Jim Perkins really filled us in on the potential demise of the entire Corvette brand. I found myself thinking of all the great times I

have had in my Corvettes and could have easily broken into an unhappy emotional state. Fortunately the brand survived and the C-5 was born to all our delights.

Walt and the team provided one of the most memorable weekends this club and most of the visitors have seen in many years. I for one take my hat off to you and the team, Walt. **Thank you** for the hard work and dedication to this worthy goal.



Corvettes In The Queen City

Memory Lane







Ed and



From the Hendricks NASCAR shop:

Walt,

We are so glad that you allowed us to participate in the weekend's events! We had a blast on Saturday. Your guests were fun & I think they really enjoyed themselves. I told Robert that I was just blown away at the sight of 50 plus Corvettes coming down our hill to the entrance of the complex! They were AWESOME!!!!! I'm glad you had a great weekend!

Many thanks, Julie







----- Original Message ----- **From:** <u>Gary Cockriel</u> **Subject:** RE: Corvettes in the Queen City

We here at your Museum Thank you for the good time and friendship!!

Gary

-----Original Message-----From: WWPAUL1@cs. Sent: Monday, September 29, 2003 12:28 PM To: Nancy Runnion Subject: Re: Corvettes in the Queen City

Nancy

The first class function that was put on by Queen City Corvettes will be one that all others will be judged by. Thanks so much for letting me be apart of it. Your Friend from Louisville, Ohio

Wayne Paul

-----Original Message----- **From:** jerry willoughby **Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2003 6:30 PM **To:** Nancy Runnion **Subject:** Re: Corvettes in the Queen City

The Classic Glass Corvette club of New Philadelphia, Ohio would like to thank everyone for a great time. The nascar tour and banquet on saturday was outstanding . We also enjoyed the great hospitalilty from everyone. Hopefully we can visit with your club again in the future.

Thanks Again

Jerry Willoughby



----- Original Message -----From: Jim Angelo (J.W.S. Co.) To: Walt Krupowicz ; Nancy. Runnion Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2003 1:19 PM

Hi,

All of us from Ohio enjoyed our visit to Charlotte. The committee did a fantastic job putting the events together. Personally, I can't say enough about how much I enjoyed the visit.

Last night it got down to 33 degrees, so it looks like an early winter up here. I should be back in Charlotte!

Keep us in mind for similar future events. We love to travel (read: DRIVE). My 1974 yellow (painted 1966 Corvette Sunfire Yellow) that I drove to Charlotte, just turned over 233,000 miles. (And this isn't the only Corvette that I drive)

Thanks for everything, Jim Angelo North Canton, Ohio



-----Original Message----- **From:** Socalolof@aol. **Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2003 7:46 AM **To:** Nancy Runnion **Subject:** Re: Corvettes in the Queen City

Nancy, Bob etal that worked on the committee, I would like to "Thank Y'all" for an absolutely delightful day with the club & other Corvette owners. Everything was planned and executed flawlessly. It was a very memorable event! Johnny Salonen

-----Original Message----- **From:** David Schaufele [mailto:d_schaufele@sbcglobal.net] **Sent:** Sunday, October 05, 2003 9:00 AM **To:** Nancy Runnion **Subject:** Re: Corvettes in the Queen City

Nancy

I would like to personally thank your club for the wonderful time we had last weekend. The members of Buckeye Corvette that attended all had a great time. After al my chatter my wife wished she had come along instead of her uncle, oh well. You all need to be commended for the great job you did.

Dave Schaufele

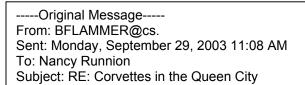
PS Please let me know when the pictures are posted on the web











Nancy,

Many thanks to you and all the Queen City Corvetters that really made this a great weekend! We had blast and the folks that didn't come are going to be sorry they missed it - we'll be sure that they hear how much fun it was! Host hotel, DEI & Hendricks tours, etc. were all unique and very well done. You guys deserve a lot of credit.

Nancy, your very first emailing on this event had a great email list of clubs and I want to compare it w/ my mailing list for future events, but I don't seem to have printed it out. Would you mind emailing me a copy?

Thanks!

Hope to see you guys soon, Bill & Kathy Flammer Coastal Corvette Assoc., Savannah













-----Original Message-----From: jean@wjwoods. Sent: Monday, September 29, 2003 9:03 AM To: Nancy Runnion Subject: RE: FW: Final Agenda and Maps for Corvettes in the Queen City

Nancy,

Good morning! I hope you got caught up on your rest. You folks put on one hell of a show! I wanted to say thank you again for the invitation and all the trouble you went to on my behalf. I was made to feel welcome by the club members and not an outsider. That is was small feat considering the hectic pace at which we moved on Saturday. Charlotte is still as beautiful as I remember it and really growing. I will steal this idea, if you do not mind, and try and get my club to do something this neat. It was a class act from start to finish and it appeared as no detail was left undone. Many Kudo's to you and your committee for one enjoyable and memorable weekend.

Please keep my name and number. Should you or anyone in your club need anything on or from Charleston, just call! Thank you again and God bless.

Jean Woods, Jr. Coastal Carolina Corvette Club (and self-appointed draftee to the Queen City Corvette Club)

PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME ENSHRINEMENT PARADE AUGUST 2, 2003

by Jim Weisberg

For the third successive year, I got to participate in the Pro Football Hall of Fame parade in Canton, Ohio. Football is my favorite sport and rubbing elbows with the elite players of the game is quite a thrill for me. There is always that initial excitement at seeing and meeting the heroes of the game. This year was extra special as it was the 40th anniversary of the Hall of Fame and there were about 125 of the enshrined Hall of Famers at the parade. I've followed football for many years, but there were some older players there that I didn't recognize. There were also many names I recognized, and meeting some of these players is always a thrill.



Kay and I left Charlotte on Friday and traveled to Belpre, Ohio to the home of Dee and Connie Rader. Dee had gotten me my initial invitation a couple of years ago to participate in the parade and festivities for the enshrinement ceremonies, and I requested a return trip. My request has been granted for the past couple of years and now the day was finally here. We had to be in Canton by 6:30 am on Saturday, which means we had to leave Belpre by 4 am. I wasn't sure how much sleep I was going to get, but that didn't matter. I was about to meet some of my heroes, and to see the best the NFL had to offer. Dee and I were both excited about going and the wives were excited for us, especially since they could go shopping without us complaining about what they spent. This year we got away fairly cheaply.

Dee and I left early Saturday morning and it poured most of the way up to Canton. It was still raining when we arrived, but we were not going to be denied. Luckily it stopped raining in time for us to clean up our cars and get ready for the parade. The weather must have scared off many of the drivers because they ran out of corvettes for the players. Some of them had to ride in other convertibles. The 2003 enshrinees were put into Chrysler convertibles. I guess they were not yet worthy to be put into a corvette. The organization here was excellent. They looked as if they had

done this before. We were guided into a garage where they attached the placards on the sides of our cars, and then moved onto a side street where our riders were escorted out of a building and into our cars. Dee was not allowed to ride in the car with me, but he was right there taking pictures. We got to see and talk to the greatest football players to ever play the game. Most of them were really nice guys and were very congenial. We were not allowed to ask for autographs, though. The parade kicked off at 7:15 AM and the inductees were at the front of the parade. Once they got off, they started putting the players in the corvettes lined up. This year I carried Sonny Jurgensen, a 20 year enshrine. A very nice gentleman who did not like sitting on top of the car, but finally relaxed. Although he was above me during the parade, we chatted through the whole route.

We traveled along a 2.5 mile parade route with security on both sides of the car and 225,000 screaming route fans along the route. It was the crowning moment of the day. This parade was over 2 ½ hours long and I a loved every minute of it. It included several large floats, huge balloon figures, and several marching bands. It was truly a magnificent sight to see. After the parade, they herded all the corvettes with the players into separate and secure parking lot. We were helped out of our vehicles, offered drinks and snacks, and a chance for a "potty break". I got to meet a few of the players and talk for a while, and then they were all whisked away in a van to go back to the hotel. This year they changed the program so the induction ceremonies did not occur on the same day as the parade, so we didn't get to see them this year. The parade was fun, though. Another in a long list of unforgettable corvette experiences. Corvette owners certainly do have all the fun!

Editor's note:

As all of you can tell, this edition of the QCCC newsletter was devoted almost totally to the "Corvettes In The Queen City" and that is for good reason, Walt Krupocwicz and his committee worked above and beyond the call of duty and deserve all the praise we give them. If you didn't attend you missed the highlight of the year, and you should plan on attending next year's event.

Many of you sent in items for the newsletter this month and we appreciate the contribution. Although the items didn't appear in this month's rest assured they will appear in a future month's edition. We didn't have room in this newsletter to show the CITQC highlights and all of the other stuff, so thanks for your understanding.