

December 2003



QCCC Invades Myrtle Beach

“The Club’s Monthly Croaker”

We’re not always right, but we’re sure of it!

Our Pledge:

To take the simple, and complicate it,
To take the incomprehensible, and merely confuse it,
To make 10% of our news factual, we’re just not sure which 10% it is.
But...you’ll always get your money’s worth!



QCCC sells cars at the City Chevrolet Car Show



As y’all know we had the officer elections at the November meeting and the results were (the envelope, please!):

- President - Robert Morgan
- Vice President - Ben Horack
- Director of Social - Kay Weisberg
- Director of Auto Events - Wally Crawford
- Director of Membership - Eddie Burt
- Treasurer - Florence Prather
- Secretary - Jane Burt
- Newsletter Editors - Charlie & Iris Binder

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
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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-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.



November 25, 2003

Dear Fellow QCCC Members:

It's hard to believe that we're almost finished with this year and the beginning of the 36th year of our club in 2004. I would like to thank the 2003 board for their hard work and commitment in continuing to make this a great club. The behind the scenes work usually isn't recognized unless you're directly involved. You may not give it much thought on how the meeting locations are planned or how the goodies get to the meetings or how car shows are coordinated. Even the minutes to the meetings are tedious to compile. Most of the board will be returning with their old positions and other positions transferring to our new board members. You're even stuck with me for another year as President! Congratulations to Florence Prather in replacing Gary Artis as Treasurer and to Wally Crawford in replacing Ben Horack as Automotive Events Director. Ben will replace E.O. Oakley as VP and Gary will resume his fatherly duties. Kay Weisberg continues as Social Activities, Eddie Burt as Membership and Jane Burt as Secretary.

Another noteworthy change is about our Newsletter Editor. Jody Austin has been providing his wit and humor in producing a very entertaining monthly newsletter for the past few years. As the saying goes all things must come to an end and he will be turning over the reins to Charlie and Iris Binder starting with the January newsletter. I have confidence they will provide equally entertaining articles. Thanks Jody for the dedication that you've put into your position.

An annual ritual in the club is to vote on a male and female Rookie of the Year, and a King and Queen for the upcoming banquet in January 2004. Rookies of the year are chosen from new members that have joined the club over the past year. They don't necessarily have to be a couple to win. The King and Queen is usually a couple and will be voted on at the banquet. Qualifications could be club enthusiasm, attendance or participation. We will discuss this more at the business meeting.

During our last board meeting we reviewed the available funds that the Charity committee has to work with. Ben Horack will be providing a report concerning the allotment of the Charity funds. Thanks for all who suggested a charity to be reviewed by the committee.

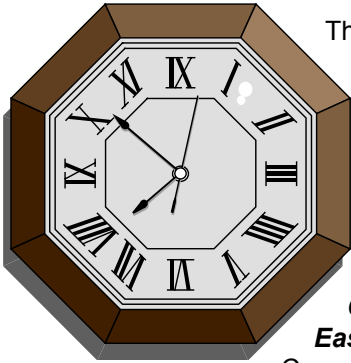
Our next meeting will be at Matthews Presbyterian Church on December 6th. The club is providing food and should be a great meeting. Don't forget to bring your gifts for our sponsored families.

Our schedule can always be accessed through our website at www.queencitycorvette.com.

Have a happy and safe Holiday Season!

Robert

Minutes from the QCCC Meeting Saturday November 8, 2003



The November business meeting of QCCC was held at the Northcross Medical Center, Huntersville, NC. Officers present: Robert Morgan, E.O.Oakley, Kay Weisberg, Gary Artis, Ben Horack, 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:

Gerry Beattie & Fran Moritz – 2003 Electron Blue Z06, **John & Pat Easton** – 1995 Purple Coupe, **Walter Aherns** – 1982 Silver & Burgundy Coupe, **Harvey Bumgardner & Sandi Wright** – 1994 Red Coupe

New Members voted in: Gerry Beattie & Fran Moritz !

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

E.O.Oakley, VP

- Asked everyone to sign the attendance sheet
- Third Quarter Participation Points log will be e-mailed next week
- Meetings held in the odd months of 2004 will be at the Northcross Medical Center
- Encouraged everyone to participate in a BMW Driving School. **E.O., John Liebe, Phil Smith, Gary Artis, & Jody Austin** recently attended one in Kershaw & learned a lot. It's not a race, although you do have to go fast. An instructor is with each driver. The next driving school will be in February in Virginia.
- Have 20 goodie bags from the Corvettes in the Queen City event

Gary Artis, Treasurer

- *Asked if there were any questions about the recently e-mailed Treasury Report*
- *The Charity Donation from City Chevrolet has been received*
 - **First Quarter dues are due January 1, 2004**

Robert Morgan, President

- Described the thrill of carrying GM Dignitaries on a Parade Lap before the UAW-GM race October 11 at Lowes Motor Speedway. The QCCC was invited to provide 15 cars.
- Reported that **Jackie Slavetsky & David Sigman** ran & finished the Hopebuilders Race. They raised over \$700 for brain tumor research. **Wade Stickels** will run next year.
- Would like to repeat the Corvettes in the Queen City event in 2004. Need volunteers for a Chairman, and Committee.
- Will be voting for the 2004 Board tonight. Asked for, and received no, nominations from the floor. Handed out ballots.

Eddie Burt, Director of Membership

- Began the year with 176 members – gained 40 & lost 21 – total is now 195
- *Ben Horack* will be sending an e-mail asking for charities to be considered for our Charity funds

Bruce Goodrich, Member Reported that the Torch Red color will not be available for the C6!

Kay Weisberg, Social Director

- Thanked *Betty Hamilton* for helping with refreshments tonight
- The October Beach Trip was fun, the Legends show was fantastic, & the hotel did a good job of protecting our cars
- Handed out a list of information and needs of our 3 Christmas families
- December 6 - meeting/Christmas party at Matthews Presbyterian Church with a catered dinner. Bring unwrapped gifts for needy families. Also bring gifts to exchange among ourselves – men bring a gift for a man, & women bring a gift for a woman – valued \$10 to \$20.
- December 14 - gift-wrapping/pizza party at Gary Artis' office at 4:00 pm. Admission is 1 roll of wrapping paper & tape. A TV will be provided to watch the Panthers at Arizona at 4:00 pm.
- December 20 – meet at Gary Artis' office at 9:00 am to deliver presents

Ben Horack, Automotive Events

- October Car Show at City Chevrolet was a success – wonderful weather, great showing with over 40 cars. They sold 6 Corvettes that day!
- Requested volunteers for the Charity Committee – to determine the recipients of our Charity Fund
- There will be 4 Christmas Parades – Concord, Monroe, Kannapolis, & Lake Wylie – let Ben know if you can participate
- Thanked everyone for a good year with great participation

Bob Denney, Member

- Introduced *Kathy Flaherty*, of the N.C Air National Guard, Family Programs who described the Honoring Heroes program & ways we can help our GI's overseas and their families here at home. They included: adopting a deployed military family through either Santa's Partner For Christmas, or Helping Hands, donating to the National Guard Chaplain's Emergency Relief Fund, donating calling cards & gift certificates to grocery stores & restaurants. Services, as well as gifts, are needed. She provided handouts listing needs and websites.
- Bob made a motion to donate \$500 to the National Guard. Ben asked that he revise the motion to present it to the Charity Committee. Bob amended his motion to donate \$500 from the General Fund. Ben made a motion that was seconded and approved to table Bob's motion until the Charity Committee could meet and decide which fund the donation will be made from.

Robert Morgan, President

Announced the 2004 Board of Directors:

President	Robert Morgan
VP	Ben Horack
Treasurer	Florence Prather
Social Events	Kay Weisberg
Auto Events	Wally Crawford
Secretary	Jane Burt
Membership	Eddie Burt

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Burt, Secretary

QCCC BOARD MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2003

The November Board 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

Guests: Jim Weisberg and 2004 Officers, Florence Prather & Wally Crawford.

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

Robert:

Welcomed Florence and Wally to the Board next year

Gary:

Reviewed dues status

Ben Horack:

The Charity Fund received funds from the sale of Corvettes in the Queen City shirts
Reviewed Christmas Parades – 2 cars are still needed for Lake Wylie Dec. 6
Charity Committee met & earmarked \$500 for the N.C. Chaplain Emergency Relief Fund

Kay Weisberg:

Reviewed Christmas Party plans
Reviewed Banquet plans

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Burt, Secretary

It's been a Blast

Just a note to tell all of you how much fun it has been bringing you the newsletter. To those of you who contributed articles, pictures, jokes, technical pieces, I can't thank you enough for your help, the newsletter wouldn't have been the same without your efforts. My wife, Judy, let me have the time necessary to devote to this pursuit, and to her I owe a big debt of gratitude. And to all of you who always offered the kind compliments about the newsletter, I sincerely appreciate it, it meant a lot. I'm off now to take up things I have pretty much neglected the past couple of years and leave the editorial responsibilities in the very capable hands of Charlie and Iris Binder. They will bring a whole new breath of fresh air to the newsletter, and they have the talents to take it to a higher level. We welcome them here at the QCCC newsletter offices, high above Troutman.....errr...uhhh, we mean....Mooresville, and wish them the best. In the meantime, we'll see y'all around the campus.

Jody Austin



V-P REPORT

Item First – December Business Meeting/Christmas Party:

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

Item Second – Participation Points:

The Third Quarter Update has been emailed to all members. Thank you to those who responded and helped me make it more accurate. The final tally for the year will be issued in January. As a side note, the members who are eligible for “Rookie of the Year” will be identified in the final issue. While not the deciding factor, especially since some members joined later than others did, participation is certainly one element to be considered in voting.

Item Final – Last Newsletter:

Just a short note to say that I have really enjoyed being V-P during the past year, and thanks to all who have helped me with the meeting locations and participation points. I will hand this slot over to Ben Horack for 2004. I am sure he will do a great job.

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

Hey, Let’s Be Careful Out There!

E. O.



Automotive Events

The Beginning



It's hard to believe that the year's almost over. That's 14 parades, 2 car shows and 2 AutoFairs, but who's counting. Not to mention; getting married, adding yet another Vette to the stable, a new grandchild and struggling to get the '62 back. Time really does fly when you're having fun and I have had fun being Automotive Director this year! None of this could have happened without the Great support that the membership has put forth and I thank you one and all for making my job easy. Wally Crawford's taking over as Automotive Director for the coming year and I know you'll give him the same assistance that you gave me. He's got some really good ideas for outings and events for 2004. If anyone has suggestions for next year; I'm sure Wally would really appreciate your input.

November started our Christmas parade season with Concord. Wally and I held down the Corvette honors. We had a last minute request for another car, so Barbara brought the Club's "mascot", her silver Miata. December 2nd is Kannapolis' event and thanks to E. O. and Eddie & Jane for helping me cover that one. We'll wrap up the year with the Lake Wylie parade on December 6th. We still need 3 more cars there if anyone can help out. We need to be at Lake Wylie Middle School, off of Hwy.-49 on Erwin Rd., by 11:00 AM, The parade will start at 12:00 Noon and will be over by 12:30 PM.

I want to thank Linda Meadows, Jackie Slavetsky and Caroline Lentz for agreeing to serve on the Charity Committee. We will be making our recommendations to the Club at the December meeting. Thanks to those who responded to our request for charities to consider for this year's contributions.

I look forward to serving as Vice President next year. E. O. has done a super job this year and has certainly made my job easier next year by arranging to have every other meeting, beginning in January, in Huntersville at Carolinas Medical's Urgent Care center. If anyone has suggestions for meeting places for the "even" numbered months, please let me know. I would like for them to be both interesting, informative and automotive if at all possible.

For those of you needing tires in the near future, I strongly recommend that you give City Chevrolet a look. Their discount applies to tires as well. We just put a set of the new Michelin Pilot run flats on the C-5. What a tire, so much quieter and smoother than the Goodyear Eagles it was unbelievable, and "Y" rated (that 40 MPH faster than "Z" rated) on top of that. The price for 4 tires, mounting, static balancing (weights on the inside) and aligning all 4 wheels, was under \$1,300.00 Total!

Barbara and I wish each and every one of you a Very Happy Holiday Season, filled with lots of happiness for the coming New Year. Drive safely and we look forward to seeing you at the Christmas party. Maybe we'll get the '62 back sometime in 2004!

Until next year,

Ben '62 & '00



The End

QCCC Social

Sat., Dec. 6 Christmas Party 6:30 PM
Matthews Presbyterian Church
207 W John Street
Matthews, NC

Directions:

From The South:

485 to Exit 52 (Matthews)
Left at light at end of ramp
Go through 2 traffic lights to downtown Matthews
Presbyterian Church is .1 mile on left after 2nd light

From the North:

From Independence Blvd, turn right onto Sam Newell Rd (at Boston Mkt)
Turn right onto W John St at 3rd light
Presbyterian Church is .1 mile on left

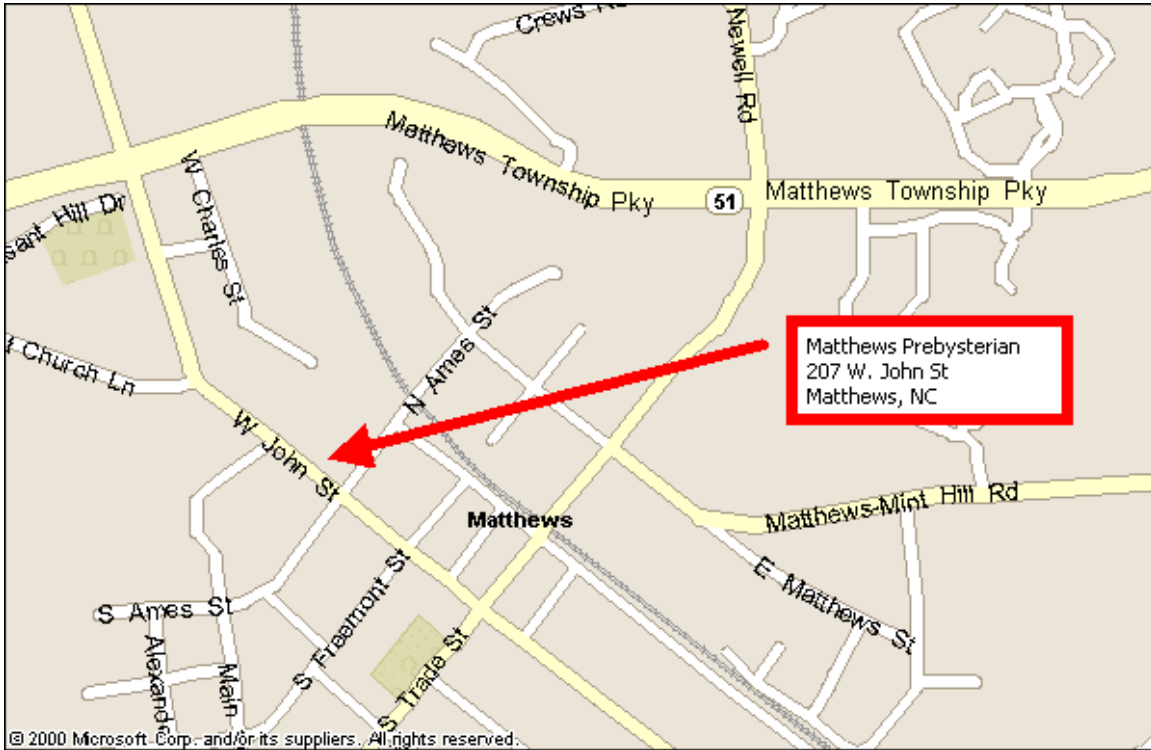
What to bring:

Dinner, dessert, coffee & tea provided by club
Bring any non-alcoholic drinks
Bring male/female wrapped gifts for exchange (\$10-\$20 limit)
Bring unwrapped gifts for Christmas families
Bring your Christmas spirit!

Sun. Dec. 14 Gift Wrapping Party 1 PM @ Gary Artis's Office
Pizza provided
Panther game will be on TV

Entrance fee: 1 roll of wrapping paper and scotch tape
Bring scissors if you have them

Sat., Dec.20 Delivery of Christmas gifts to families
Meet at Gary Artis's office at 9:30 AM
Corvettes welcome - some of the kids may want a ride



Directions to December Meeting Place



**David Sigman
&
Jackie Slavetsky**

They participated in the HopeBuilder's 5K . The money is raised for Duke University Medical Center for their brain tumor research fund.

Thanks David & Jackie for helping such a worthy cause.

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



Fran Moritz and Gerry Beattie
2003 Z06 Electron Blue

Why is breath hot, blown-air not?

Q. Why is it that when you breathe on your hand it feels warm, but when you blow on your hand it feels cool? - Lauren Williams, 15, Jacksonville, Fla.

Lauren, your breath is warm because it's heated in your lungs, then exhaled slowly across the hand.

When you blow air out faster, it's cool for the same reason that a breeze feels cool. The speed of the air cools it and carries away warm air next to your skin. Check out the air rushing out of a car tire. The pressure makes it really cold!

I was full of hot air (surprise!)

On Wednesday I didn't make clear why it is that when you blow out air it's cooler than your breath. When you blow, the air is slightly compressed. That pressure causes the blown air to expand as it moves. That makes the air's temperature fall. Thanks to reader E.O. Oakley.

Mr. Wizard Does It Again!

Do you know we have a resident professor and one who can also embarrass the know it all science editor who writes in the newspaper? Well, we do, and his name is E. O. "Mr. Wizard" Oakley. To the left is the article and E.O.'s correction.

Good going, E.O.!



Scott & Betty Hamilton and Jeff Estridge



Jim & Kay Weisburg

Mementos From The Beach Trip October 10-12

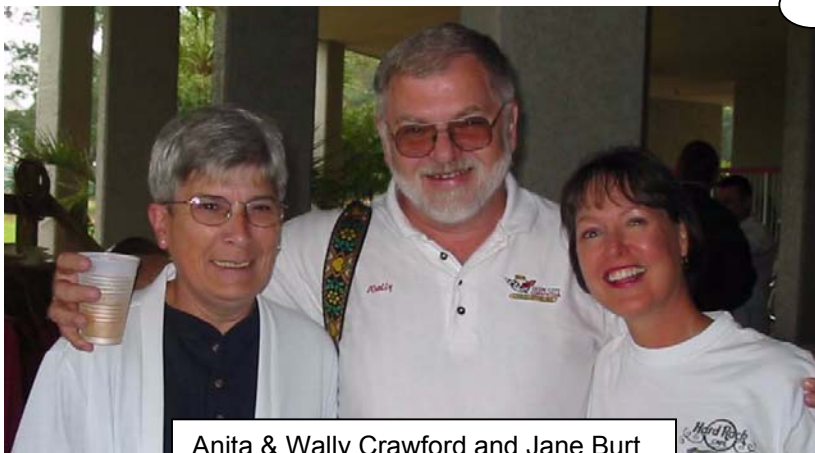


Sandy & John Carriker



Fred Mudge & Iris Binder & Eddie Burt

Golly,
I wonder what's
down in there?



Anita & Wally Crawford and Jane Burt



Charlie Binder & Dolly Parton

Members in the news:

Y'all know our policy here at the International Headquarters of the QCCC Newsletter is to report all of the news that is fit to report. Our crack staff just came across this item while reviewing the arrest records from the prior week. As many of you know Wal-Mart was accused of hiring illegal immigrants for their store cleaning. We obtained this mug shot from the police station of one of the "alleged" illegal immigrants. We interviewed him and he said "No, I am neither illegal nor am I a cleaner, I am a **greeter**. Please get the story straight!!" Seems as though Robert is moonlighting at Wally World so he can get an employee discount on parts for his car and discounts on disposable diapers. During the interview he kept asking, "Paper or plastic?" Love the outfit, Robert!



We asked Vanessa what she thought about Robert's new venture and all she could say.... well, we'll just let the picture do the talking:



Oh...I was just resting my eyes...huh...Oh, who? Robert who? I don't know any Robert. Oh, that guy....well...uhhh..errr...can I have another Mudslide?

The Joys of Corvette Ownership

By Jim Weisberg

When Kay and I moved to Matthews, we knew no one in the Charlotte area. During one of our explorations, we stopped by the Farmers' Market in downtown Matthews. I parked next to this beautiful '62 corvette and got out to admire it. As I drooled over this 1962 straight axle beauty, the owner, Don Yost, approached me. We began to talk about the car and I mentioned that I, too, owned an old corvette. He was delighted to hear that and asked me if I'd be interested in joining the local corvette club. I told him I would think about it, and he gave me his name and number and told me to call him if I wanted to attend the next meeting. This decision drastically changed our lives. Kay and I did attend the next meeting and we were greeted by all of the members and made to feel very welcome. We then decided to join the Queen City Corvette Club.

As I look back on the last 5 years of my club membership, I marvel at what I have seen and done in those 5 years. Kay and I have made some wonderful friends in several states; we have visited cities and towns we probably never would have gone to by ourselves; we have toured the corvette factory and several race team operations, including most recently DEI; we have met many wonderful people in the parades and car shows we have participated in; I have participated in the Pro Football Hall of Fame parade and induction ceremonies in Canton, Ohio for the last 3 years, meeting and carrying some of football's biggest heroes; and we have donated our time and money to help those less fortunate than ourselves. All of this happened because we own and drive a Corvette.

The moral of this is for all QCCC members and future members get involved in club meetings and functions. We are a very active club and you may have to pick and choose the activities you want to participate in, but get involved. You may even enjoy yourselves and make some new friends. Corvette owners DO have more fun!

Kathie Finnocchi sent a Thank you note to the club for the flowers we sent.

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. They were very much appreciated and brightened our day. Thanks for caring.

Kathie & Gary
Finnocchi



Car Show At City Chevrolet



Before the Krispy Kreme



After the Krispy Kreme

Favorite Bumper Stickers

If you think this vehicle is dirty you should spend a night with the driver!

If you ain't the lead dog, you're sniffin' ass!

98% of all Fords are still on the road, the other 2% made it home

Hey idiot, hang up! You are driving a car, not a phone booth!

So you like tailgating, and I like stopping suddenly

Support Search & Rescue
GET LOST!

Don't Bother Me,
I'm Reloading!

Thank God and
Greyhound she's gone!

Don't be sexist –
Broads hate that!

P.M.S.= Punish My Spouse

BLONDE if you're HONK!!

The drunker I sit here,
the longer I get

If only you drove
as perfect as me

CAN WE STOP IN TROUTMAN?

As told by Billy Bob Bigblock and translated by your newsletter staff



TROUTMAN, NC – It was the first thing we learned in driver's-education, how to stop. I know many of y'all my age don't like it, but we'll probably have to learn again, so we can get the most out of the antilock brake systems (ABS). "The problem is the average person does not understand anti-lock brakes", and because of that "they are misused enough to make them far less effective than they could be."

"Antilock Braking Systems were first invented by Mercedes-Benz in 1954 and since then have

become very sophisticated. A computer reads wheel lockup on each wheel, and releases brake pressure for a split second to unlock the brake," then repeats the process until there is no wheel lockup. This all happens very quickly. Once wheel lockup is detected then "the pumping action is felt and heard by the driver. The pedal will kick back and pulsate and a pumping noise will be heard. If the first time you hear this is in an emergency, you might assume something is wrong, take your foot off of the pedal and start pumping them," losing the effectiveness of the antilock feature. This is a mistake and could be fatal. Old hands know how to "pump" the brakes when slowing on slippery pavement to avoid locking the wheels and causing a skid. But when it comes to anti-lock brakes, the name of the game is "stomp and steer."

"Before there is an emergency, drive your car to a deserted road. Make sure you're alone and accelerate to 30 mph, then stand on the brake pedal. Note the feel of the pedal. Keep your foot on the pedal until the car stops. Now try it again, with a little less pressure. Instead of pulse-pulse-pulse-pulse, you'll note pulse....pulse....pulse. Do it again until you can modulate the brakes enough to feel the pulse about once a second. This is threshold braking. This will give you the shortest stopping distances because the brakes are at optimum, right at the threshold of lockup. The pumping of ABS brakes will actually lengthen stopping distances slightly beyond this.

"If you can't train yourself to use threshold braking, it's better to use full ABS and worry about steering gently around the problem. This brings us to a second exercise. On a deserted road, do a panic full ABS-stop and very gently change lanes one lane left, then back into the original lane, simulating a car pulling out of a driveway in front of you. Practice this exercise very carefully in an area that won't hurt you if you spin.

"There are some basic principals we must understand – specifically, a locked wheel does *not* steer. Because of this many of us were taught to stay off the brakes in an emergency. But with ABS brakes, if you jerk the wheel, the car will turn even more effectively while braking than it will under normal circumstances. When braking hard, the weight transfer is already complete, with most of the weight riding on the front tires. This makes your steering hyper effective under heavy braking. Yank the steering wheel in a panic turn and you will lose control. The novice ABS driver avoids the problem, but winds up in field. You must steer gently and smoothly. Give steering inputs at 80 to 90% of what you think you'll need. Don't overdo it.

"Anti-lock brake systems (ABS), which feature onboard computers tied to individual wheel sensors, automatically "pump the brakes" at a rate faster and more precise than human reflexes can duplicate. Anti-lock brakes also apply pressure selectively, by sensing which wheels are close to lockup at any instant and then lowering braking pressure to those wheels until they rotate properly.

“Like power brakes, which merely boost force in otherwise conventional drum- or disc-braking mechanisms, anti-lock brakes merely add another layer of control; they are not a new friction-creating technology for slowing a vehicle’s wheels.”ⁱ

Issues

ABS has come under scrutiny by automobile safety organizations and insurers in the 1990s. At least two studies—one performed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and another by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety—showed little overall difference in crash rates between cars with ABS and those without them. But a later NHTSA study, which included a wider sample of vehicles and was released in 2000, stated ABS “appears to be beneficial in preventing pedestrian crashes, rollovers, run-off-road crashes and frontal crashes with another moving vehicle.”

Employing a “stomp and steer” technique, the driver of the ABS-equipped car on the right retains control of the vehicle, even on a wet curve.



Advice for Drivers with ABS

It's important to know how to use ABS properly. "Anti-lock brakes are an unfamiliar technology to many people," NHTSA spokesman Tim Hurd said. Drivers who have been trained to brake gently on slippery roads and to pump brakes to avoid a skid must unlearn these techniques, which are often ingrained, safety officials said.

ABS can mean safer stopping under emergency conditions provided you apply them correctly.

- “Stomp and steer,” explained Hurd. Don’t treat ABS gingerly as you would ordinary brakes. Instead of pumping, press hard on the pedal without letting up. Any pulsing you feel or noise you hear is the ABS doing its job.
- Remember that anti-lock brakes are chiefly designed to provide steer ability in a skid. ***Anti-locks are not super-brakes that allow you to stop on a dime. They won’t stop you faster, necessarily, but they will stop you straighter.***

“If you’re going 60mph, and something happens within 130 feet of you, the best racing driver in the best car is going to be hard pressed to miss it. With perfect brakes, tires, traction, braking surfaces and reflexes, will, at best, get you a low-speed collision unless you steer around the obstacle. The best cars can stop in 130 feet, but add even .25 seconds for reflexes (and that’s good), and you’ll need 22 feet more. If something happens 50 feet in front of you, steering around it is the only option, so you must be prepared to do so. This sounds pretty basic, but the average driver, confronted with a block of concrete 50 feet in front of his car, will stand on the brakes and hit it centered, with no effort to steer around it.”ⁱⁱ

As you can tell after reading this, us “old timers” have to unlearn some techniques that are ingrained. With all the new technology we should be safer drivers, but that will require us to understand and practice the new methods.

This ends another episode with the Bigblocks at their family reunion. Join us for the next chapter where Billy Bob tells us about his first romantic encounter, and he assured us it did not include cousins or farm animals.

ⁱ “Drive To Survive!” Curt Rich

ⁱⁱ Ibid

Lenses and Other features for digital Cameras

3rd in a series about Digital Photography

by Charlie Binder

Many camera ads feature two types of zooms: optical and digital. A word of caution here: the optical zoom is the only one you should consider. This is where the lens (glass) does the zooming and changes the size of the image before it is recorded.

The digital zoom is a real “come-on” and should be avoided. This is where after the image has been recorded, the user has the ability to zoom in and then store some portion of the captured image. When you save only part of the image, you are really discarding many of the original recorded pixels! Hence you now have a stored image that has less mega-pixels (MP) than the original!

A higher zoom ratio (many are 3:1) will allow you to appear to come in closer to the subject than your existing distance. Caution on the zoom features: many more photos are taken with a “wide” angle: especially landscapes, groups of people and buildings.

Most cameras will come bundled with a software package that will allow you to enhance and edit your photos. They enable you to reduce the file size of large files for e-mail transmission. The software will enable you to resize, color correct and print good quality photos. However, do not expect to get great output by “blowing up” the image larger than the original size. When enlarging an image, the MP can only spread so far and consequently image quality will suffer

Another cute option is the ability to record motion video with a “still” digital camera. Many offer this feature, some will also record sound with the video. But be aware that usually the video clips are limited to ten seconds and the recorded quality is rather poor.

A useful option for transferring images to your computer is a “card reader.” These cost about \$20.00 and come with a USB cable to connect to your computer. Leave it permanently attached to your computer, when you “slip” your memory card in it behaves just as if it were another hard drive on your system.