

October
2004



Where We Drive to Eat



Lowes MotorSpeedway web site
features QCCC member Walter
Ahrens.



Queens City Corvette Club, Inc

2004 Officers

President	Robert Morgan	844-0205 –H	rmvette@aol.com
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Treasurer	Florence Prather	847-9964 – H	lkfsprather@alltel.net
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Director of Automotive Events	Wally Crawford	888-1938 - H	crawfsales@aol.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.

The President's Message



The air is getting cooler and Fall is in the air. There's still plenty of time to get your car out before being put into hibernation for the winter. Several car events are planned for October. One of which is the trip to Charleston on October 1st through the 3rd. Second is the charity car show at City Chevrolet on October 9th. Don't forget that our business meeting will be directly following the meeting and no doubt the weather will be cooler than the last time. Wally and Ben will have more on that in their reports.

On October 24th we'll have a short cruise down to Columbia, SC for lunch then our group enjoy the rest of the day at Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia. Lunch will be at California Dreaming, an old railway station in downtown Columbia. If you're not interested in going to the zoo, you can come just for lunch. I'll make a map to lead the group out of Columbia for those who won't be going to the zoo. A sign up sheet will be handed out at the City Chevrolet meeting. If you can't make the meeting and would like to go, please contact me so I can get you on the list.

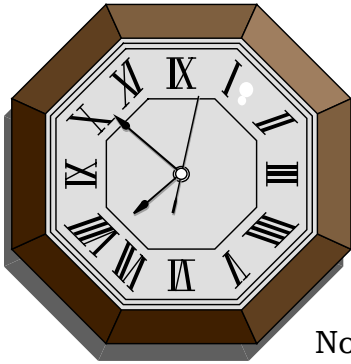
Thanks to those who attended Autofair. We had good attendance both days. Even though the weather on Friday was threatening rain, Saturday and Sunday held out and was beautiful. The infield area where we were scheduled to be was too wet for our cars. So our club was relocated to underneath the stands which meant we weren't fighting the notorious airborne hamburger grease.

Don't forget at the next meeting I'll be asking for nominations for the 2005 board. Come with a name in mind and we'll have forms for everyone to fill out for each board position. If you can't make the meeting on October 9th please feel free to email me a name for consideration. If you're interested in a position and would like to have more information on the respective duties, I'd suggest looking over the bylaws or asking a board member. I'll contact all prospective nominees after the meeting to ask if they would like to run. The more you put into the club, the more you'll get out!



Until next time, save the wave!

Robert



Minutes from QCCC Meeting Saturday September 11, 2004

The September business meeting of QCCC was held at the Northcross Medical Center, Huntersville, NC.

Officers present: **Robert Morgan, Ben Horack, Wally Crawford, Florence Prather, 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:

Keith Wade (a high school driver's ed instructor!) & **Jane Pressley** - 2000 Navy Blue Convertible

Ralph & Alberta Weinheimer – 2002 Red Convertible,

Eric Forgach – 1990 White Coupe,

Dee & Pam Putnam – 1972 Green Convertible, 1981 Gray Coupe, 1996 Grand Sport, 1999 Red Coupe,

Sheila Cable – **Ken Smelter's** co-pilot,

Dee Rader & Bryce Goodwin from the Pioneer Corvette Club in Marietta, Ohio – 2002 White Coupe, 1974 White Convertible, and others

New members voted in: **Ralph & Alberta Weinheimer** !!!

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

Robert Morgan, President

- Led a moment of silence in honor of the 3rd anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack
- Congratulated **Skip & Patty Koski** on their marriage, **Sean & Candace Storey** on their bundle of boy due in February, and **Ben Horack** on getting his 1962 Corvette back after a year of restoration
- There will be an interesting article on the Lowes Motor Speedway/Auto Fair website about our 90 year old member **Walter Ahrens** !
- The Car Crazy TV show on Speed Vision will feature the owners of the Carlisle car show events

Ben Horack, Vice President

- Oct. meeting will be at City Chevrolet at 3:00 pm, after the Car Show
- Should have an Indemnification Agreement for members to sign at the October meeting. The Bylaws require all members to sign an agreement to hold the club harmless during a club event.
- Nov. meeting will be at Northcross Medical Center
- Sign the Attendance Sheet
- Has arranged for a tour of Jamison's in North Charleston during our visit October 2 – they restored Ben's car
- QCCC member **David Carleton** is in Iraq with 13 other handlers & dogs – if you're interested in adopting a pair for Christmas, let Ben know

Wally Crawford, Automotive Events

- Thanked everyone for the good turnout at the Matthews Alive Parade – it didn't rain!
- Sept 19 - needs 2 cars for Sunday at Auto Fair
- Sept. 26 – needs 12 cars for Mint Hill Parade
- Oct. 16 - sign up for UAW-GM Pre-Race parade
- Oct. 9 – City Chevrolet Car Show & meeting – had 53 cars at the show in the spring
- Thanked **Bob Denney** for driving from Charlotte to lead the adventure down & up Deal's Gap, TN Aug. 22. He then kept driving & returned home!
- The Christmas Charity this year will be the National Guard program that **Bob Denney** suggested last year. At the October meeting, will have a list of families (no names) and their wish lists. We will deliver unwrapped gifts to the National Guard along with wrapping paper and tags.

Florence Prather, Treasurer

- E-mailed the August Treasury Report today
- Third quarter dues are now being accepted
- Budget vs. Actual Report is available upon request

Jim Weisberg for Kay Weisberg, Social Events

- Thanked **Donna Sigman**, **Suzie Black**, and **Adina Ledford** for tonight's refreshments
- Oct. 1-3 – trip to Charleston. Wally will lead the group Fri. morning at 9:00 am from the SC Welcome Center. Staying at the Holiday Inn Riverview. Planning a dinner Sat. night & a walking Ghost Tour based on the book Ghosts of Charleston. 18 couples have signed up so far.
- Dec. 11 - Christmas Party at Matthews Presbyterian Church. Traditional holiday dinner will be delivered. Bring drinks & a \$10 gift for the exchange – indicate whether it's for a male or female
- Dec. 4 – Dinner and tour of Old Salem, NC
- Jan. 15 – Banquet at Hyatt at SouthPark – rooms are \$85

Eddie Burt, Director of Membership

- Have 185 members – 6 couples will be eligible for membership next month
- If interested in measuring your horse power on a portable dyno, let him know – 3 pulls for \$50
- Motion made, seconded, and approved to waive the written ballot for electing new members tonight

Bob Denney, Member

Remember the T-shirts we donated at the BBQ in June? They became part of 1,500 shirts that the Orange County (CA) Vette Club collected & sent to our troops!

Ed Williams, Member

Sept. 22 – 25 – Road Atlanta Petite LeMans Race – will be the last C5R race. For \$100, you can get a 4-day ticket, Corvette-only parking, pit pass, and attend a lunch & dinner with featured speakers

Dennis Kish, Member

Stopped by a Corvette/Camaro Car Show in Grand Rapids, MI and learned that so far, their local Corvette Club has raised \$400,000 for charity through a car raffle

Fred Lentz, Member

Has a C5 K&N Air Filter available for free

John Meadows, Member

- Cars over 25 years old can be registered as antiques with a value of \$500 and the resulting property tax bill will be \$5
- Is donating a C6 remote control car to be auctioned at the Banquet

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Burt, Secretary

Photos in this issue are courtesy of Bob Denney, Robert Morgan, Ben Horack, Candace Storey and Charles Binder

QCCC BOARD MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2004

The August Board meeting was held at Robert and Vanessa Morgan's house, Matthews, NC.
Officers present: Robert Morgan, Ben Horack, Florence Prather, Wally Crawford, Eddie Burt, and Jane Burt.

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

Robert:

Discussed having a guest speaker at the next meeting
Discussed nominations for the 2005 Officers
October meeting will be at 3:00 pm after the Car Show at City Chevrolet

Robert for Kay:

Discussed door prizes for the Banquet
13 couples have signed up to go to Charleston, so far

Florence:

Gave the bank account, budget, and dues status

Ben:

Discussed future meeting locations
Has given QCCC Business Cards to City Chevrolet
Has arranged a tour of Jamison's Custom Corvette at 10:30 am Sat. during the Charleston trip in October
Has an attorney working on a General Indemnification form for QCCC

Wally:

Has contacted the National Guard about being our charity this year – to provide money and gifts to the families of deployed soldiers. Will have a "needs" list for the October meeting.
Discussed future Auto Fair, Parades, UAW-GM Race

Eddie:

Discussed arranging for a portable dyno for club members to check their horsepower
Presented an MDA Newsletter with our picture in it when we visited their camp in August

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

**Respectfully submitted,
Jane Burt, Secretary**

VP REPORT



October Business Meeting:

Our October Business Meeting will be held at 3:00 PM, immediately following the car show at City Chevrolet, on October 9th. We will be meeting outside, weather permitting. Please remember to bring your chairs & beverages. Hopefully everyone will already be at the car show.

Future Meetings:

The November meeting will have us back up North in Huntersville at Northside Medical. This will be our election of officers for next year. If you don't attend, you might just get elected to the Board. Remember that the community meeting room is now on the rear of the building. Just look for all the brightly colored cars! December will be our Christmas party. Once again, this will be held at the Matthews Presbyterian church, the same location as last year.

Road Trips & Parades:

Well, September has come & gone. It didn't rain on the Matthews Alive Parade this year, a rare occurrence and Wally pulled off another successful Auto Fair, in spite of Hurricane Ivan. The trophies had a lot of familiar names on them, once again: C-1, Suzie Black (Reggie too), C-2, John Meadows, C-3, Robert Morgan, C-4 went to new members, J. C. & Linda Roberts, C-5, Rob Gallman & Best of Show, Chuck Beard. That's 3 red cars, 1 silver, 1 white & 1 yellow car. Congratulations to everyone, especially Wally for another job well done.

Final Thoughts:

Don't forget the road trip to Charleston, October 1st – 3rd. Wally will have a group leaving the South Carolina Welcome Station on I-77 on Friday morning. Does that mean we'll have another "run flat" demonstration? We're staying at the Holiday Inn Riverview on the Ashley River. On Saturday, there's a trip to Jamison's Custom Corvettes in North Charleston to tour their shops. We'll be leaving the hotel at 10:00 AM. Kay's also got a Ghost Walk, carriage rides & great restaurants lined up for us. Sounds like more food to me.

Again, don't forget the Car Show at City and monthly meeting at Chevrolet on October 9th. Great fellowship, lots of fun & FREE FOOD!!! Remember this is how we get our \$\$\$\$\$ for charity.

The C-6's are finally out and guess who showed up with the 1st. one, John Whitehead, & it's a BLACK one. He picked it up on Saturday & had it at Auto Fair on Sunday. Now that was a show stopper! We said we'd have the '62 back by Auto Fair and we made it by 2 weeks, in time for the Matthews Alive Parade.

We were only without it for 20 months, but it was worth the wait. Barbara & I have been enjoying cruising the back roads in it, when it wasn't raining. It sure sounds different from the C-5.

Don't forget about our 25% discount on parts & labor that City gives us. That's on any car you bring in there for repair or service, not just Vettes. **You must bring your QCCC name badge with you to get the discount.** Our Special Pricing on new cars remains the same as before, with the exception of the C-6. Ken Becker will have a new program for the C-6 around January 1st. If you're in the market for a new car, I hope you'll give them a chance. They've been mighty good to us.



In the end...

Hope to see everyone at City on October 9th.

Ben

The next time you think you are having a bad day....



From the Drivers Seat...

I sit here writing this on Sunday evening having left AutoFair not long ago. AutoFair this fall was pretty much a bust. Every aspect of the event; the car corral, the swap meet area, the manufacturer's midway and even the show cars were there in drastically reduced numbers. The weather last week scared people off and the show was the worst I have ever seen in ten years of attendance.



Queen City people came through in typical fashion. We had almost a full compliment of cars both days. We had a couple very very late cancellations for whatever reasons that I was not able to cover with other volunteers, but I believe that our percentage of participation was better than most of the other clubs in attendance.

We had Capitol City Corvette from Columbia, SC judge our cars, and they did an extremely thorough job of reviewing our cars. They take their time and really examine each and every car. Thank you CCCC.

Trophy winners this year were: C1-Reggie Black, C2-John Meadows, C3-Robert Morgan, C4-J C Roberts, and C5-Rob Gallman. Best of show was Chuck Beard with his NCRS correct C1. We also had a "Peoples Choice" trophy this year and put out a ballot box on Sunday for spectators to fill out ballots and vote on the car of their choice. When Robert and I counted the ballots, there was no contest. Ben Horack was the recipient of the trophy. Who says that patience doesn't pay. Maybe the two year restoration was worth all the waiting.

Once again October will be a full month. It all starts with our trip to Charleston, followed by our car show at City Chevrolet on 10/9, the UAW/GM race with parade laps on the 16th, and the month will be crowned with a trip to Columbia Zoo the 24th.

Our second fund raiser of year will be the car show at City Chevrolet. We had 53 cars in the spring-a new record. I am hoping to break that record on October 9th and would appreciate everyone's effort in making the event a success. City Chevrolet has been a great ally of QCCC and we can show our appreciation by turning out in good numbers. Please mark your calendars and be at City at about 8:45 Saturday morning 10/9. We will have a club meeting immediately after the car show.

Once again, thanks to everyone for your participation. It makes my job easier and satisfying all at the same time. Until we meet again...

Keep the rubber side down.



Glimpses of the September QCCC Meeting at NorthCross Medical Center



Jackie, Carl and Caroline enjoying themselves



Hirsute President Robert



Adina calling to see if her doctor is ready



Donna, Adina and Susie supplied the goodies





Jane is teaching Jody a new dance step!



Bryce Goodwin from Ohio



Dee Rader also from Ohio



Iris telling stories about her grand daughter

Meet the newest members

**Alberta and Ralph Weinheimer
Have an '02 Torch Red
Convertible
(they also have a neat Camaro!)**



QCCC MEETING SCHEDULE 2004

OCTOBER 9th. CITY CHEVROLET
NOVEMBER 13th. NORTHCROSS MEDICAL CENTER
DECEMBER 11th. CHRISTMAS PARTY

ALL MEETINGS USUALLY BEGIN AT 6:00 PM, WITH A SOCIAL GATHERING. THE BUSINESS MEETING WILL START AT 6:30 PM.

Damn, those NASCAR guys are good !

Item found in the
Charlotte
Observer recently.

Space station oxygen generator fails again

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The main oxygen generator for the international space station has failed, and the two astronauts on board will tap into an attached cargo ship's air supply this weekend, NASA said Thursday. The space agency said the astronauts had several backup sources of oxygen and were in no immediate danger. The generator — which keeps breaking down — stopped working earlier in the week, but NASCAR officials are confident the blockage causing the problem can be cleared. — ASSOCIATED PRESS

When things got slow at AutoFair Jerry started working on his line dance routine for the upcoming QCCC banquet. Note Gloria had the good sense to keep her distance.



Queens City Corvette Club 2004 Automotive Events Schedule

as of 9/19/4

OCTOBER

- 10/1-3 Road Trip, Charleston, SC
- 10/9 City Chevrolet Car Show
- 10/16 GM/UAW Race Parade at Lowe's
- 10/24 Road Trip, Columbia Zoo

NOVEMBER

- 11/7 Tom Smith Garage 2:00PM
- 11/20 Concord Parade
- 11/21 Monroe Parade
- 11/30 Kannapolis Parade

DECEMBER

- 12/4 Road Trip, Old Salem, NC (evening trip for candlelight tour)

I'm sure this \$200 bill is real ...
George Bush's Picture is on the front!

We wonder what the qualifications for the job were for this clerk.

A STORE CLERK WAS FOOLED by a fake \$200 bill, despite several dead giveaways on the currency including President Bush's picture and the serial number DUBYA4U200L. Greensburg, Pa., police Wednesday charged Deborah Trautwine, 51, with theft by deception in the bill-passing at the Fashion Bug store Aug. 22. There is no such denomination. The bill was "signed" by Ronald Reagan, whose title was "Political Mentor" and by Bush's father, who is listed as "Campaign Advisor and Mentor." The back of the bill depicted the White House with several signs on the lawn, including "We Like Broccoli" and "USA Deserves A Tax Cut." — ASSOCIATED PRESS

High-Octane Octogenarian

The following is an excerpt from an article on the Lowes MotorSpeedway web site dated Sept 10th which features QCCC member Walter Ahrens.

Traditionally, there is no more effective cure for a mid-life crisis than buying a sports car, but what explanation can 89-year-old Walter Ahrens offer about his recent purchase of a 1982 Chevrolet Corvette with T-tops?

The high-octane octogenarian from Charlotte instead kicked off his second childhood with a search for his dream Corvette, one he plans to show during the Sept. 16-19 Food Lion AutoFair at Lowe's Motor Speedway.

In the fall of 2002, Ahrens and his son-in-law logged many hours surfing the Internet for an older, low-mileage sports car before finally finding his dream machine on eBay. After outbidding a car collector, Ahrens and his son-in-law drove to Tennessee to pick up the two-tone metallic silver and dark claret red Corvette. It was love at first sight.



“It had all the power, mirrored-glass tops, aluminum wheels and extra-sized tires,” said Ahrens proudly. “It had all the amenities you could put on the car and only had 32,000 original miles.”

But it's not the car's appearance that has made it so dear to his heart.

“It's just the feeling of driving a Corvette. It's rejuvenating! It's just a joy to drive,” Ahrens explained. “A Corvette drives different than a normal car. It takes the corners better; you don't feel the lean. You have a different feeling altogether when you drive a Corvette in mountainous territory. It's just meant to be driven there.”

Ahrens will be among 42 Queen City Corvette Club members showing their cars at the Sept. 16-19 Food Lion AutoFair. Since joining the club this past spring, Ahrens has enjoyed socializing with other Corvette lovers.

“The club has something going every month. Almost every week there's something to do or some place to go. They take field trips to various places and I participate in some of those,” he said.

While Ahrens is most likely the oldest car club member showing a car at Food Lion AutoFair, he may be the youngest at heart.

In addition to Ahrens' Queen City Corvette entry, Food Lion AutoFair will include various makes and models on display from nearly 50 car clubs, a collector car auction, gigantic automotive flea market and nearly 2,000 car corral vehicles for sale or trade.



A sure sign of fall is the pink “Hopebuilders 5K” signs lining the sides of the road. They’re starting to come out already to promote the annual fundraising event for brain tumor research at Duke University Medical Center. Jackie Slavetsky and David Sigman will again be running this year and are soliciting your support through words of encouragement, cheering from the sidelines the day of the race, monetary donations and of course new participants are always welcome.

The race starts at 8:30 AM on October 16th at the Mint Museum. Join the Gregorinos and Jackie and David’s better half on the sideline during the race. Refreshments follow the race and an early lunch round out the festivities. All are welcome. If you chose, donations are appreciated in any dollar amount and should be made out to “Duke / Hopebuilders fund”. Donations are tax deductible and 100% of the proceeds go towards research. Mail donations prior to October 16th to either Jackie or David or bring them to the City Chevrolet car show / meeting on October 9th.

This year we hope to add another source of inspiration to our worthy cause. A special child, 10-year-old Jenna Witherspoon, whose family used to live in the Sigman's neighborhood, was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor this past spring at age nine. (You can read Jenna's story through her webpage, where her family has made daily entries since their ordeal began, it is <http://caringbridge.org/sc/jennawit>.) OUR hope is that our efforts make a difference in Jenna's life, as well as all others who are afflicted with this condition-- to give THEM hope, and we extend this opportunity to you to help fund brain tumor research.

HAGERTY INSURANCE ANNOUNCES TOP 10 STOLEN COLLECTOR CARS OF 2003

The following is a reprint of an article from the website of an insurance firm that specializes in collectible cars.

Hagerty Protection Network Survey Reveals that Corvette Tops the List! Also Most Collector Cars are Stolen at Home!

TRAVERSE CITY , Mich. – For the second consecutive year the Chevrolet Corvette leads the list of stolen collector vehicles in a recent study conducted by the Hagerty Protection Network (HPN) between January and December 2003. The survey also reveals that most collector cars were stolen from private residences (44.3 percent), more than any other locale.

The report, issued by Hagerty Insurance, the nation’s largest insurer of collectible cars and motorcycles, cited the following models on its 2003 Top 10 Stolen Collector Vehicles list:

1. Chevrolet Corvette
2. Chevrolet Impala
3. Chevrolet Bel Air
4. Chevrolet Camaro
5. Ford Mustang
6. Ford Thunderbird
7. Chevrolet Chevelle
8. Chevrolet El Camino
9. Cadillac Eldorado
10. Chevrolet Caprice

“Our 2003 claims data indicates that California, Michigan and Florida are the top three states in which collector vehicles are most likely to be stolen,” says McKeel Hagerty, president of Hagerty Insurance, “with May, June and July recording the highest number of thefts.”

Hagerty’s data also reveals that the most dangerous place to leave a collector car unattended was not a public parking lot as in previous years, but at home – in a driveway or garage.

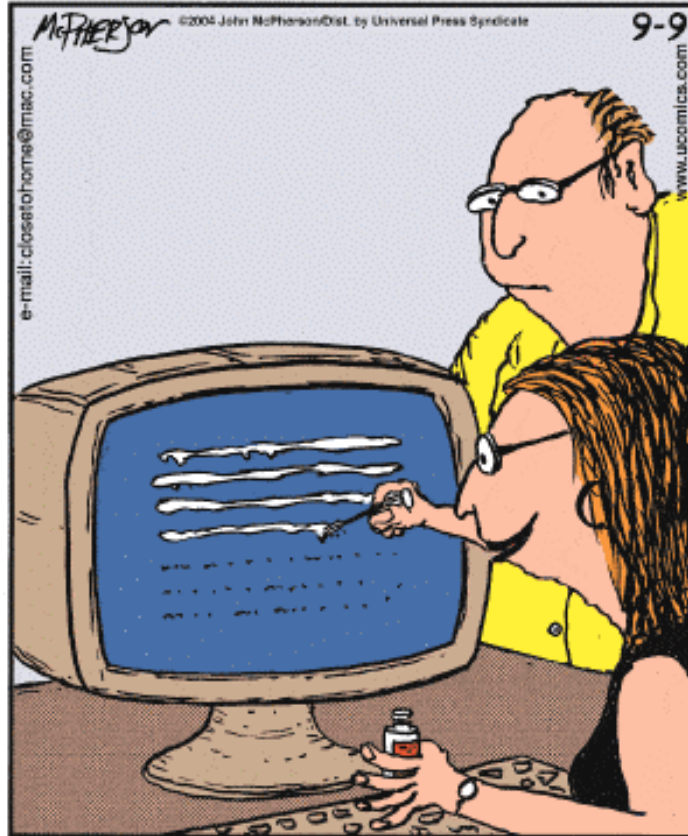
To better protect your collector car, Hagerty suggests that owners adopt the “layered approach” to vehicle protection proposed by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). Professional thieves can steal any car given enough time, but hobbyists and enthusiasts should make them work hard for that collectible treasure.

Start with common sense. Remove keys from the ignition, lock all doors and close all windows. Park in well-lit areas and be aware of the possible hazards of leaving a vehicle unmonitored for extended periods. Remove cell phones, briefcases, purses, cash or other valuables from plain sight.

The second layer of protection should be a visible or audible warning device such as an audible alarm, steering column collar, steering wheel or brake pedal locks, wheel locks, tire locks, theft

deterrent decals or identification markers on the vehicle, and window etching and/or laminated glass.

A dedicated recovery system is an important third layer. Hagerty's claims data indicates that most stolen collector vehicles are never recovered. From a sampling of collector vehicles reported stolen in 2003, only about 20 percent were recovered, and only 1 of those was recovered with no damage. Most recovered vehicles are in need of major repairs. The dollar damage on 87 percent of Hagerty's recovered vehicles in 2003 was equal to or greater than the total value of the insured vehicle.



Ed could tell that the new secretary was not working out when he found her using Wite-Out to get rid of spam e-mails.

The ZR1's Last Stand – Jody adds details to the mystery of the ZR1 in the Museum, below is information from the November 2001 QCCC Newsletter



As you can see, we had our \$500 name on the King's Last Stand. The car didn't do very well in its last races, but at least it participated. The bottom left picture is Bill Cooper, the driver of the car. Bill is a great driver and piloted the car this weekend and in its past years of glory. I asked him about the car and he made an interesting comment. He said that just a year and a half ago, the ZR1 was still on the cutting edge and ran at the front of the pack, but now it was impossible to put the car back at the front due to the technological advances. Keep in mind the ZR1 was at the front since the early nineties.... quite a proud legacy.



The sponsors' names were here.

The picture below is Dave Farmer, from Albemarle. Dave has attended many of our meetings. He has a race team with a Z06, and competes in the same World Challenge events as the ZR1. He beat the ZR1 on Friday and Sunday.

Congratulations, Dave!



Matthews Alive Parade



Churches Wage High-Tech War on Cell Phones

MONTERREY, Mexico (Reuters) - Some Mexican churches are using state-of-the-art technology developed by Israeli electronic warfare experts to silence cell phones that ring during mass, church officials said on Tuesday.

Four churches in the northern city of Monterrey, which lies some two hours by car south of the Texas border, are using equipment made by Israeli telecoms equipment firm Netline Communications Technologies to block incoming calls during services.

The Tel Aviv-based company was set up in 1998 by former military and defense industry specialists to develop mobile telephone jamming systems, mainly for the security industry.

"Before we had the system, it was very uncomfortable hearing calls coming in during the celebration of mass. But now it's 95 percent quiet," said Bulmaro Carranza, a caretaker at the city's Baroque-style Sacred Heart church.

The signal-jamming equipment is packed into two wall-mounted boxes the size of small hi-fi speakers, with one beside the altar and the other at the church entrance.

Switched on just before the start of every service, the system causes a "no signal" message to be displayed on worshipers' phones, but causes them no lasting damage.

"We believe that we were the first church in Mexico to use this technology," Carranza said.

"Now we are getting calls from all over the country to see how it can be installed."

Auto Fair - Not Many Came But Fun Nevertheless

Some came for socializing.....



Some came for the joy of displaying a great car.....



Some came for rest.....



Mint Hill Madness Parade



Meeting October 9th at City Chevrolet

Please note time of meeting

Note: No Social
Meeting: 3:00 PM
Following the Car Show

5101 E. Independence Blvd
Charlotte NC
Phone 704-536-1410

Located on the West bound side
of East Independence Blvd
between N. Sharon Amity Rd and
Idlewild Rd.

Reminder Please Bring :
1)non-alcoholic beverages
2)chairs

