

# April 2007



Members Enjoy Fun Stuff :

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Go Kart Racing at March Meeting

Track Events

Road Trip and Events at Daytona Beach



# Queen City Corvette Club, Inc

## 2007 Officers

President	<b>Quentin Gross</b>	720-0534 – H	<a href="mailto:qwgross@hotmail.com">qwgross@hotmail.com</a>
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Director of Automotive Events	<b>Chris Patton</b>	454-7272 – H	<a href="mailto:camspatton@aol.com">camspatton@aol.com</a>
Director of Membership	<b>Eddie Burt</b>	846-7130 – H	<a href="mailto:eddieburt@carolina.rr.com">eddieburt@carolina.rr.com</a>
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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**

I don't know about the rest of the membership, but I am getting a bit upset with the weatherman. Here it is the end of March and we are still getting temperatures below freezing! All I can say is I am looking forward to warmer weather when we can all get out and go for a drive without worrying about frostbite.



It was nice and warm at Victory Lane Karting where our March meeting was held. The folks there have been very accommodating to QCCC and we appreciate their efforts and use of their facility. The catered dinner before the meeting was great and afterwards members took to the track in newly updated karts. These karts proved to be faster than the previous models that were available for racing. Paul Pelkey and Mark Ledford showed everyone that practice does indeed make perfect, turning in the fastest times of the night. Kudos goes to Boyd Kurt for arranging another entertaining meeting location.

March also kicked off the parade season and St. Patrick's Day brought another clear but very cold day. With the wind whipping all around, members braved the elements and proudly navigated the parade route through downtown Charlotte to the cheers of 40,000 fans! Even Bob Denney's dog Doodles got a rousing round of cheers.

While half the club was in Charlotte freezing, the other half was basking in the sunshine of beautiful Daytona Beach, FL. Led by Eddie and Jane Burt, 24 cars made the excursion to Florida for what proved to be another enjoyable road trip. Dog races, shopping, sight seeing, and of course a truly great resort proved that QCCC has enough events planned to please everyone.



April promises the warmer weather and more events to the QCCC calendar. Auto Fair, a tie in event with the Harley Davidson dealer in Charlotte and a golf outing are a few of the events that are on the calendar this month. Plan now to come out and participate with your friends from QCCC.

### **Additional Thoughts**

Our membership roster and interest in QCCC continues to grow. During our March meeting we welcomed in many new members and the guest list was lengthy. The qualities of the membership speak for themselves as we see new faces at every meeting and event. Take the time to introduce yourself to these new folks as they share the same interest as you in enjoying their Corvette and look forward to spending time with everyone. I look forward to seeing all the seasoned members as well as the new members at our next event.

In the meantime, everyone be safe and save the wave.

Q. Gross

# VP REPORT

We had 74 members and guests at the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at Victory Lane Karting. I know I had fun after the meeting and great BBQ furnished by Bennett's. The racing was fast and competitive. The best times were by Paul Pelky and Mark Ledford. Surprise, Surprise. If you missed this one you missed a great time.

Our April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will be held at the Harley-Davidson Dealer, 9205 E Independence Ave (behind Hooter's). The meeting starts at 6:30PM with the Beer, Brats, and Blues Festival which starts at 11:00Am and ends at 5:00PM. 15 member cars will be displayed. Come early and enjoy a fun filled day at our hosts, Harley-Davidson.

Our May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at Burns Chevrolet in Rock Hill off of Cherry Rd. The meeting will start after the all day car show. More information can be found in the automotive section. We hope to have 50 + cars at the show. Remember the meeting and Car Show are points events.

Now for an update on the American LeMans race in Sebring. When I said I would be on the start finish line I wasn't kidding. If you saw the race I was right in front of the tower and had a great view of the exciting last minute pass of the GT2 fight between the Porsche 997 and the Ferrari F430. For a minute I thought I was at a NASCAR race with all the bumping and banging that went on. Note the white Ron Fellows # 3 car which was introduced on Saturday morning. Yes Corvette finished # 1 and 2 in their class. They lapped the Aston Martin by 6 laps. Corvette beat the Cadillac's in the World Challenge GT Race. The next race is March 31<sup>st</sup> at St Petersburg. Speed Channel coverage at 8:30PM. Check out [www.corvetteracing.com](http://www.corvetteracing.com)



Why are Corvettes Millennium Yellow? Because they can!!

“ Save the Wave”

**Boyd Kurt**

# QCCC Board Meeting Minutes

## March 6, 2007



### Call to Order 7:00 pm

### Officers Present

**Q. Gross-President**  
**Chris Patton-Automotive**  
**Jane Burt-Social**  
**Eddie Burt-Membership**

**Boyd Kurt- VP**  
**Linda Meadows-Treasurer**  
**Melissa Patton-Secretary**

### Officers Reports

#### Vice President-Boyd Kurt

Reviewed calendar and places for remaining club meetings, calendar set for rest of year.

#### Automotive Director-Chris Patton

- Reviewed procedures for the April Charity meeting in which research of charities will be presented and committee will vote and make recommendation to membership at April Meeting for their vote. Disbursement of funds will be in June for the entire amount in the Charity Fund for 2007.
- T-Shirt Sales were reviewed and reconciled. Order being placed on Friday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Estimated date of delivery will be announced at March Business Meeting.
- Road Trip Updates included the May trip to Goldsboro, NC to see the Blue Angels. So far there are 20 cars signed up to present on the tarmac and several others that are going up on Friday evening for the show the next day. Accommodation information will be posted to the website by the end of March after final arrangements are made.
- St. Patrick's Day Parade is March 17<sup>th</sup> and numerous cars are needed for dignitaries and Pageant Queens along with our own QCCC entry. Sign up will be at the March 10<sup>th</sup>, business meeting.
- Auto Fair sign ups will be presented at the March 10<sup>th</sup> business meeting also. Same numbers for attendance needed as last year, 35 cars each day.

#### Social Director-Jane Burt

- Daytona Florida trip in March has 24 cars signed up to go so far.
- April Meeting will be preceded by the Harley Davidson Beer and Brawts Festival. Ten cars are needed for this display to come around 10:00 in the morning and remain until the business meeting starts that evening. Jane to handle sign ups for this event.
- 2007-2008 Banquet details already being handled. Deposit for the Speedway Club Reservation to go out this week as well as deposit for the D.J.

#### Membership Director-Eddie Burt

- 116 Families currently in membership

- 8 new members so far this year, 7 terminated this year
- Advertising Update-so far 5 individuals have subscribed to the QCCC website advertising program.

**Treasury-Linda Meadows**

Reviewed list of members still owing first quarter or annual dues.

**President-Q Gross**

Reviewed items of discussion such as email address protection, inspection and review of Insurance Policy, dues payment and Auto Fair contestant's eligibility, and National Corvette Museum Liaison position to be handled by Automotive Director, Chris Patton.

**Motion to adjourn**

Motion seconded

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We received the following email from Ray Ingrassia, owner of "Down-The-Hatch" restaurant. Ray is the guy that arranged a last minute dinner for the club ( 50 people

**Just wanted to again thank you for allowing us to host your Corvette Club diner at the Hatch in Ponce Inlet.**

**We always love to see beautiful Corvettes in our parking lot. Even though it was a last minute change in your plans, your club appeared to really enjoy our quaint restaurant, great seafood and live entertainment on the river. I think it was the latest we've kept our outside deck open for a long time, but your members were having a great time and we certainly enjoyed your company.**

**If you ever want to bring your club back, give us a call in advance and we will make sure we provide your club with a great event and club discount.**

**Again, thanks and Save The Wave**

**With sincere appreciation,  
Ray Ingrassia  
Down-The-Hatch**




**Melissa Patton**  
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## Through the Windshield

Rolling right on into spring, Auto Fair at Lowes Motor Speedway is just around the corner on April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Due to the size and the good job that QCCC does with our club display we have been asked to move our display this year to between the Busch and Nextel Cup garages. For this show we will be in the same location each day.

We have been given 35 spaces each day for this event, and there are still spaces open. Second member car registration is now open and perspective member registration will open on April 6<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to attend please email me [camspatton@aol.com](mailto:camspatton@aol.com) as soon as possible.

The QCCC club t-shirts will be completed and passed out at Auto Fair.

Our Vettes and Jets trip May 11 and 12 is full for the tarmac display, but for all of you that would still like come see the Blue Angels the hotel information has been posted on the web. With all the interest in this event from the public we have had to split hotels to get enough rooms for all. We will be using the Hampton Inn and the Jameson Inn in Goldsboro, NC. Please contact them as soon as possible in order to reserve your room. For all those going I am trying to get a count on who will be traveling on Friday night and who will be driving on Saturday morning. Q. Gross will be leading a group early Saturday morning.

We are still trying to finalize a golf course for our April golf outing. Details will be forthcoming as soon as available.

April 2<sup>nd</sup> the Charity Committee will have the next meeting. It will be held at 7:00 pm at my office, Spectrum Trucking, on 655 Goodman Road in Concord NC.

The purpose of this meeting will be to present research and vote on charities for consideration of disbursement of funds in June 2007, our annual disbursement date.

As previously stated the process involves choosing a charity, researching it and filling out the criteria form that the committee has created. Each person will have five minutes to present their research and then a short question and answer period afterward.

At this time the admittance of new committee members is closed until after the April meeting and disbursement approval of the current funds. As directed previously, anyone not on the committee that has a suggested Charity for consideration should see me to get a copy of the criteria form, date, time and location of the meeting so they too can make a presentation, or see one of the committee members and ask them to make the presentation of your research.

As a guest presenter you too will have 5 minutes to present and answer questions. At that time you will then be asked to leave so the committee can proceed with the closed ballot voting.

Once the voting is complete and the amount of disbursements determined by the committee, a recommendation of disbursement will be made to the general membership at the April Business Meeting. Once the membership approves the recommendation, the charity's name, address, contact person and disbursement amount will be handed over to the Club Treasurer for disbursement of the funds.

If the membership does not approve our recommendation we will go back to committee and start the same process over again.

This disbursement of charity funds in June is not to be confused with the Clubs Sponsored activity of "Christmas Giving." Any money raised or gifts purchased at that time will be, separate from the funds raised throughout the year by the Charity fund, even though sometimes the two committees support the same charities.

Thank you to all who have participated thus far and to all of the committee members for their tireless diligence to the membership, and the funds raised by them, as well as the charities that will benefit from their efforts.

## *Chris Patton*

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### *Meet the New Members*



Bill & Kathy Cooper  
87 Silver Convertible



Phil & Susan Tancora  
75 Silver Convertible



Mike & Vanessa Fitzgerald  
04 Silver Convertible



Joan Murray  
rides with Ken Smelter



# *QCCC Business Meeting Minutes*

## *March 10, 2007*



### **Call to Order and Introductions**

Introduction and presentation of Board Members

### **Introduction of Visitors by Eddie Burt**

Don and Carol Zimmer, Bob and Marilyn Becker and Dale Hutchinson

Introduction of Paul Pelkey, Database Administrator and expressed gratitude for his efforts on the membership list and directory.

### **Motion to approve Minutes, motion seconded**

### **Vice Presidents Report –Boyd Kurt**

- Reminder about sign in sheet for attendance
- April meeting at Harley Davidson on Independence
- May meeting at Burns Chevrolet in Rock Hill SC, Charity Car Show
- June meeting at Burt's house for annual BBQ
- July meeting at Northcross Bowling Alley
- August meeting at La Famiglia Italian Restaurant at Exit 28 off I-77
- September meeting and Poker Run at Ledford's house
- October meeting will be another car show
- November meeting TBD
- December meeting will be Christmas Party and covered dish dinner
- Anyone with questions regarding points schedule please ask Boyd. Points are given for meetings, parades, car shows, auto fair and special events

### **Social Director- Jane Burt**

- 2008 Banquet will be held at Speedway Club again on January 26, 2008
- 24 going on Daytona Florida trip
- April meeting at the Harley Davidson Shop on Independence in Matthews. Benefit for charity with "Beer, Brats, Blues and Tattoos." Anyone interested should see Jane if you want to be part of 10 car display of club.
- Christmas Party will be a covered dish dinner

### **Automotive-Chris Patton**

- Reviewed Charity procedures and meeting dates for 2007 disbursement meeting. This too will be posted in the newsletter and emailed to all members.
- St. Patrick's Day Parade sign up sheet going around. Will need volunteers for Queens and Dignitaries along with entries for our own display in the parade. (Mentioned Guidelines for Riders that was published to club)
- Auto Fair sign ups going round. 35 cars each day again.

- Blue Angels Air Show on May 12th. Interested parties to contact Chris Patton for sign up on tarmac display and hotel rooms have been reserved. Flyer and information forthcoming via web site.
- Reviewed invitation to Carolina Motor Madness in Ft. Mill at Knights Stadium. Mike Kulcsar is contact person. Flyer to be sent out to membership and added to calendar this week.

### **Membership-Eddie Burt**

- 210 members with eight being voted in tonight
- Reviewed Advertising Program-6 businesses subscribed so far with 2 more coming. Only leaves 4 spaces left.
- Voted on new members: Bill and Kathy Cooper, 87 Silver Convertible, Mike and Vanessa Fitzgerald, 04 Silver Convertible, Phil and Susan Tancora, 75 Silver Convertible, Jim Vandusen, 96 white convertible and Joan Murray.

### **Treasurer-Linda Meadows**

13 families still not paid for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter dues. Membership will be suspended if not paid by second quarter.

### **President-Q Gross**

- New Business-Caroline Lentz reminded club of North End Dinner that is held the last Monday of each month.
- John Meadows presented President Q Gross with clutch plate trophy from Hendrick Motor Sports Charity Car show.

### **Motion to adjourn 7:05 PM**

Motion seconded

Photos in this edition are courtesy of Bob Denney and Charlie Binder

# WHAT HAPPENS IN DAYTONA . . . GETS SHARED WITH EVERYONE

Thursday March 15, 2007

Nice drive down to Daytona - lots of cops, but no tickets for QCCC.

Ate BBQ outside on picnic tables at the unique Georgia Pig. Pleasant surprise – the Shores Resort gave us discounted underground parking & set up a special place to wash cars & provided the towels.

UH OH – the place planned for dinner didn't have adequate parking or enough inside dining

OH YEAH – just 2 miles away was DOWN THE HATCH with plenty of inside and outside dining areas. The owner, Ray Ingrassia, is a member of 2 local Corvette clubs and owns 2 Corvettes

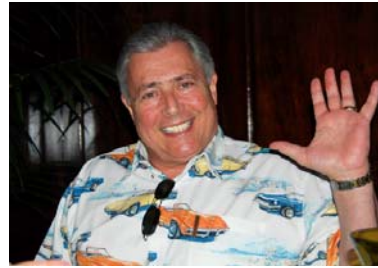
Graciously, he made a special place to park our Corvettes. Also, Kevin Black (Country star Clint Black's brother) was performing & put on a great show (as did Lois Watts & her sister Lilly, who joined us along with her husband Jamie).

Eventually, he left the stage to sit on the bar by our tables

where he played, we danced, and everyone sang along. What a good old time - especially when a beautiful blond gave Walter a hug.

Note: Ray enjoyed our visit so much that we have an open invitation to come again and he'll give us special pricing on food & drinks, as well as special parking.

Marshmallows (thank you Kay) and drinks by the fire pit at The Shores with the ocean in the background ended the night.





**Friday March 16, 2007**

Some rain, but Jim & Carol Massfeller led us around the beautiful 22 mile "Loop" past beautiful homes, through tunnels of moss-covered oak trees, over swamp bridges and on to lunch by a black water creek.

The sun came out & folks scattered to the flea market, Ponce Inlet lighthouse, historic Main Street, Harley-



Davidson shops, Eklers in Titusville, and a chocolate factory. Dinner saw more seafood and dancing. Former QCCC members who now live in



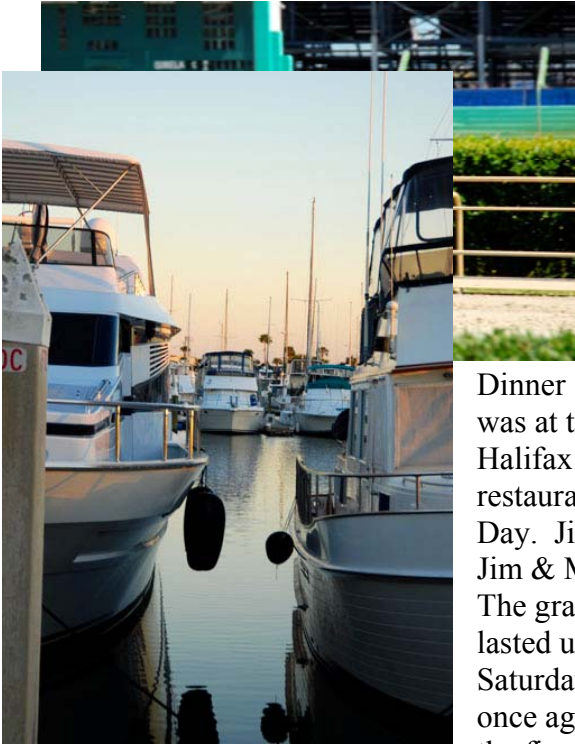
FL, George & Theresa Tilton, joined us.

Naturally, the evening ended at the fire pit.



**Saturday March 17, 2007**

Adventures included golf for the Steeles, Seaworld for Walter and Richard, Cape Canaveral for the Weisbergs and Scott Hamilton, Daytona USA track tour, and the greyhound races for a lot of us. The dogs were beautiful, but only Lucky the Rabbit was a consistent winner. Although, one of Ron Barr's dogs was so excited, he ran around the track a second time even after the race was finished! Sorry Ron, no second payout.



Dinner was at the Halifax Marina, with two groups at two different restaurants. We enjoyed green beer & hats for St Patrick's Day. Jim Massfeller's mother and brother joined us, as did Jim & Martha Vaughn's boss.

The grand finale lasted until late Saturday night, once again around the fire pit roasting

marshmallows and making s'mores thanks to Jim & Patti Van Dusen.



Daytona Beach is always a fun place to visit, but it's really special when you're surrounded by great people, sharing first-time experiences, and making new friends. This club is the greatest!



## All Gasolines Are Not Created Equal

by Paul Mariano

Several years ago major automobile manufacturers were experiencing high warranty costs due to fuel deposits on valves and plugged fuel injectors. The EPA had mandated a minimum level of detergents to be added to gasoline to reduce emissions but, unfortunately, this minimum level was only approximately 10% of what was required to keep engines clean and running smoothly and efficiently. As a result, the petroleum companies were adding somewhere between 10 and 50% of the required detergents. These levels resulted in misfires, increased emissions, poor fuel mileage and the illumination of the dreaded "check engine" light.

Four automobile companies, BMW, GM, Honda, and Toyota approached the petroleum companies in May 2004 and asked that they add the required amount of detergents to maintain clean engines. Those companies that met their requirements would have their gasoline certified as "TOP TIER". All grades sold at their stations had to meet the requirement, not just the high-octane fuels.

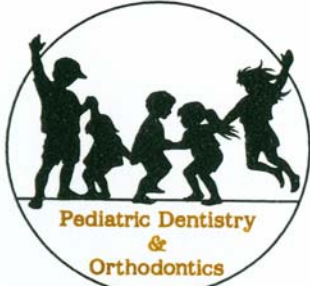
The first company to meet these requirements in 2005 was Chevron. Others like Texaco, Conoco, Phillips, Union 76 and Shell soon followed (see [www.toptiergas.com](http://www.toptiergas.com) for a complete list). Those conspicuously not on the list are Exxon, Mobil, and BP.

Now that we know which fuels are meeting the Top Tier requirements, is there a preferred gasoline? The answer is, probably not. A leading petroleum engineer, and C5 owner, says he changes brands every 5,000 miles due to the differences between the detergents each company uses. That way he ensures that all cleansing actions are performed on his motors.

All that said, there is one unique additive commercially called Techron that is used in Chevron and Texaco gasoline. If you are, or have been, a C5 owner, chances are you experienced the dastardly erratic fuel level reading. This malady was caused by build up on the resistive element of the fuel level sender card in the gas tank. High sulfur fuels were the cited culprits and Techron was very effective in returning the system to normal operation. Techron is available separately as a gasoline additive if you are unable to consistently find Chevron/Texaco fuels. To condense the story, last year Texaco was returned to the Chevron corporate umbrella for distribution and they are now both the same gasoline. Conoco Phillips distributes the Conoco, Phillips 66 and 76 brands. EXXOM distributes the Exxon and Mobil brands from its refineries.

A final comment on gasoline; CITGO is owned by the Venezuelan government, which is the dictator and avowed hater of the United States, Hugo Chavez. Without pounding the political drum, and since it is not a Top Tier gasoline, I would drive down the street for my fill up.

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Office Hours By Appointment

## QCCC Calendar Of Events for 2007

- APR.** 3 Board Meeting  
14,15 Auto Fair (35 cars)  
21 Beer, Brats, Blues at Harley-Davidson [www.h-dofcharlotte.com](http://www.h-dofcharlotte.com)  
Meeting afterwards at Harley-Davidson  
28 Golf Outing - Ft Mill
- MAY** 1 Board Meeting  
11,12 Trip to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base/Blue Angels, Goldsboro, NC  
19 Car Show/Meeting at Burns Chevrolet in Rock Hill, SC [www.burnschevrolet.com](http://www.burnschevrolet.com)
- JUN.** 1 Kannapolis Intimidators Baseball Game [www.intimidatorsbaseball.com](http://www.intimidatorsbaseball.com)  
5 Board Meeting  
9 Meeting/BBQ/Covered Dish at the Burt's  
23 NASCAR Whelen All American Race@Concord Motorsports Park  
29 Cruise-in and picnic to Oakboro [www.oakborocruisein.com](http://www.oakborocruisein.com)
- JUL.** 3 Board Meeting  
4 Parades  
14 Meeting at Northcross/Bowling  
22 Ice Cream at Sycamore Commons, Matthews NC  
28 Car Care Day
- AUG.** 5 Ice Cream at Cabarras Creamery, Concord NC  
7 Board Meeting  
11 La Famiglia Italian Restaurant at Exit 28 off I-77  
18 Drive to eat TBA  
(23-26) ( Corvettes at Carlisle PA [www.carsatcarlisle.com/corvette/index.asp](http://www.carsatcarlisle.com/corvette/index.asp) )  
24 Kannapolis Intimidators Baseball Game [www.intimidatorsbaseball.com](http://www.intimidatorsbaseball.com)
- SEPT.** 3 Matthews Alive Parade  
4 Board Meeting  
8 Red-Neck Poker Run/Picnic/Meeting at the Ledford's  
14-16 Auto Fair  
21-23 Beach Trip to Pawley's Island SC - Litchfield Resort [www.litchfieldbeach.com](http://www.litchfieldbeach.com)
- OCT.** 2 Board Meeting  
13 Car Show/Meeting  
20,21 Bridge Day in New River Gorge, W.VA [www.wvbridgeday.com](http://www.wvbridgeday.com)

- NOV.**     3     Golf Day  
               6     Board Meeting  
               10    Meeting at TBA /Canned Food Drive for Second Harvest Food Bank  
               17/22 Thanksgiving Parades  
               17,18 Smokey Mtn Railroad – Dillsboro/Asheville (weather permitting) [www.gsmr.com](http://www.gsmr.com)
- DEC.**     4     Board Meeting  
               8     Meeting/Christmas Party at TBA - Covered Dish & gift exchange  
               8/15 Christmas Parades

### Caught on Camera







# Robert Denney

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## Hickory Cruise

Well here it is a week after the cruise to Hickory and I am sitting here thinking just how redundant my reflections of last week's events are getting. Yup, exciting... enjoyable... entertaining... and just down right pleasurable to be around our usual **GREAT FRIENDS**. Chris and Mel, I know how much work you put into this trip and I want to publicly thank you for another fantastic excursion. This Brewery had some of the best dark beer I have had the pleasure to drink. I am not a fan of most beers and usually tend toward to dark when I drink beer and darks they had were most smooth with no bite. Oops ... now I am sounding like a critic... far from that ... I am only expressing my pleasure with another QCC activity.



fan of the two

You folks that missed the cruise again missed much... I will try to quickly the days Shopping Center some admiring... yup lets see who else has were driving a new After an appropriate



events... 24 gleaming Corvettes gathered in the parking lot at exit 36. Some eatin some chattin and another new stead... J's 07 Lemans Blue... now that great of taste in colors... and Chris and Mel White Convertible wonder who's that was ... amount of time the call was "mount up" Yup time to fly... so out of the parking lot we screamed... yea with Mooresville's traffic ha!! But we did finally get out and on NC 150 pointed west. Picking up a straggler along the way we flew toward NC16 where we picked up two additional stragglers, one of which was a visitor from the Metrolina Club. A few miles up the road the cry was to "regroup". Well Chris had that all planned out and he pulled into a church's drive... where we proceeded to make a big "U" turn and lined up waiting o the regrouping to finish... accomplished it was back on the super slab... and motivation toward our goal... eatin... You thought it was something else? Arriving at our destination what did we see but some additional help... three additional car loads of QCC folks. Don't you know some of them folks done started earlier helpin them selves to that there beer... PS I saw one carrying a keg on his shoulder as we were leaving the Brewery... hmmm

recap

First on the agenda was a tour of the Brewery... where we learned the process and discovered that yeast infection was not a problem in beer making... you had to be there... then on to the eatin... good food... good conversation... and as usual good friends.



Again Chris, Mel... thank you from a grateful fan...

Bob

# Highlights of March Meeting

How is it that the meetings held at Victory Karting are the most efficient and shortest. Is it because we all ate first or is it the fact that members are in a hurry to change into their racing suits and buzz around the track! You decide.





## REAL LIFE ADVENTURE IN DAYTONA – DOING GOOD DEEDS

While most of the QCCC Daytona bunch left for home on Sunday, three couples (Martha and Jim Vaughn, Lisa and Larry Yeager, and Iris and Charlie Binder) remained behind to enjoy an extra day in the area. They went about doing different things in the morning and afternoon and agreed to meet for dinner together at the hotel lounge at 6:30PM.

Upon getting together for the dinner, we decided to first have a drink at the restaurant on the top of a 28 story condo “tower” building right next door. From there we expected we would have an undisturbed view of the beach for miles as the sun was about to set.

We suspected something was amiss when the tower elevator failed to respond, some people ahead of us said they thought it wasn't running. But this group of six was determined to go to the “top” for a drink and view. After searching for another elevator (to no avail) we circled back and gave the elevator another try. This time we heard some squeaking sounds which gave us hope that all was in order. Then we heard the voices of people in the elevator.

Apparently two ladies, one elderly had been (and still were) trapped in the elevator. Lisa and Martha tried to comfort them and tell them that we were going to help them. Larry called 911 on his cell phone and after giving both the details of this misadventure and his life story to the operator we waited while the first rescue squad almost went to another building. The rescue was not an easy one for there was only one elevator to the restaurant on the 28<sup>th</sup> floor with no other stops. We know that it took almost an hour to rescue the stranded ladies

We quickly decided that the risk- reward ratio for seeing the sunset from the top was more than we would bargain for and returned to the hotel bar for that pre-dinner beverage. While savoring our drink we marveled at the thought that this restaurant had only one access - the elevator- and they failed to notice that no one was coming in for over an hour! What were they thinking??



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# COMPETITION CORNER

The track junkies have been doing their thing since the last report. Jody won another race, this time at VIR. He had a real struggle with a new race prepped Caddy (not exactly your Mother's Cadillac) but crossed the finish line first, and, in racing, that's all that matters. Lets see, two races, two firsts, first season- what can I add to that. Phil and I were at the track at the same time, Phil instructing and me participating in the DE event.



The following week found Bob Denny, John Liebe, Charley Tew, Paul Pelky, Phil Smith and I at Carolinas Motor Sports Park in Kershaw embarrassing our guests, the Porsche guys. This was the first time out this season for John, Paul and Charley and it was nice to have them join us. Both John and Paul were signed off to solo this past weekend.

I received some questions about just what HPDE's are and what is involved, so thought I would give everyone the HPDE primer with this article.

HPDE is an acronym for High Performance Drivers Education. HPDE's are NOT racing. It is learning to control your car at higher acceleration, cornering and braking plateaus than you can safely experience on the street.

HPDE students are broken down by skill and experience level and everyone starts with the newbie or green group. Instruction takes place both in a class room and in the car with a trained, qualified, and experienced instructor.

Students and instructors

communicate through a two way radio provided by the instructor. As the student gains experience and skill and demonstrates that to the instructor they will be authorized to "solo" in their run group. This means that they are able to go on track without an instructor in the car, but they are



monitored closely by the track workers and instructors on the sidelines. As skill continues to escalate and the student attends more events, they can progress through various run groups until they are allowed to enter the weekend activities as a solo participant. The sponsoring club can, at any time, demote the student if he displays poor

judgment or unsafe practices while on track.

This format allows you to explore the potential of your car in a safe, controlled environment. I'm sure we have all played on our favorite back road or free way ramp, and while those brief encounters are fun, they are not smart and they



are not safe. The public highway is not the place to play Johnny O'Connor or vent the Walter Mitty aspect of your personality. Those I have talked to who have had their Corvettes on track come away absolutely awe struck at the engineering marvel GM has handed us, and while the brief encounter on the highway may be invigorating, those who have not been to the track have no idea of what their car is capable of. Some folks don't care, and that's fine, but if you want to find out or are just curious, please, please do it in the right environment and that is on the track.

Equipment needed is very limited. You will need an approved helmet. Any old helmet will not do, it must be Snell Certified. If you drive a Corvette, you already own one of the finest cars made for this sport. Automatic or stick- both work. You will need to get a technical inspection by a competent mechanic and change your brake fluid just prior to the event. Rules and regulations are all spelled out in the sponsoring clubs package, and we have a core of 8-12 people within the club who participate regularly and will be more than glad to help you get started.

I am often asked about possible damage to the car. Physical damage to the car is highly unlikely. We can show you what you need to protect the paint from stone chips. Accidents are extremely rare and are usually suffered by the higher echelon run groups when someone's ego gets ahead of their skill level. Stuff happens and anything is possible, but every accident I have ever seen was caused by driver overzealousness. If you don't have control of yourself, please don't come. We don't want you on track with us. Mechanical damage is very rare and you probably do more damage to your car idling in traffic than you do on track. NO ONE will ever tell you that you are not going fast enough. I have never had anyone encourage me to go faster. It is a matter of personal comfort and you can go as fast as you are capable. If you begin to push the limit too far, your instructor will tell you to back off. Remember, he is in the same car and does not have the controls.

If you think you might like to try the sport, give me a call. We will gladly guide and support you for your first and subsequent events. If you decide to participate, you will need to sign up several months in advance as the events fill up quickly and usually have waiting lists.

Remember, the goal is always to keep the rubber side down.

**Wally**

# EVERYBODY LOVES A PARADE

(ESPECIALLY WHEN CORVETTES ARE IN IT!)



# Next Meeting April 21<sup>st</sup> at Harley Davidson

## Join them for Beer, Brats, Blues and Tattoos plus Car and Cycle Show!

**Harley-Davidson of Charlotte**  
(704) 847-4647  
9205 East Independence Blvd.,  
Matthews NC

Note: They are in Matthews right behind the Hooters in the West bound lane of US 74.

**Beer, Brats and Blues starts at 11:00AM**

**Business Meeting 6:30 PM**

### From the North:

I-77 South to Brookshire

Freeway / I-277 South to Hwy-74 East / Independence Blvd. Approximately 10 miles on left just past Crown Pointe area. Take the first left after the Crown Pointe Shopping Center. You will turn into the Shopping Area with Hooters, International House of Pancakes(IHOP), Midas, Infiniti, Krispy-Kreme and the Suburban Lodge.

### From the South:

I-77 North to I-485 East. Take Hwy-74 West exit and head towards uptown Charlotte for approximately 2 miles. We'll be on the right just behind the International House of Pancakes.

Check out the events online at: <http://h-dofcharlotte.com/hd/events/beer.html>

