

# May 2010



**Members Enjoyed  
Great Weather,  
Friends and Fun at  
Auto Fair, Chrome  
Bumper Trip, Wine  
Tasting,  
And Racing Around  
Wilkesboro  
Speedway!!**



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# Queen City Corvette Club, Inc

## 2010 Staff Members

President	<b>Boyd Kurt</b>	704-588-3561 <a href="mailto:boyd-qccc@earthlink.net">boyd-qccc@earthlink.net</a>
Vice President	<b>Steve Pelchat</b>	704-552-5325 <a href="mailto:lsfelchat@yahoo.com">lsfelchat@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	<b>Florence Prather</b>	704-847-9964 <a href="mailto:lkfsprather@windstream.net">lkfsprather@windstream.net</a>
Secretary	<b>Linda Lewis</b>	803-324-5647 <a href="mailto:lhlewis@comporium.net">lhlewis@comporium.net</a>
Director of Social Activities	<b>Adina Ledford</b>	803-628-5342 <a href="mailto:adinaledford@yahoo.com">adinaledford@yahoo.com</a>
Director of Automotive Events	<b>Nelson Sprague</b>	704-847-8374 <a href="mailto:barnel@carolina.rr.com">barnel@carolina.rr.com</a>
Director of Membership	<b>Eddie Burt</b>	704-846-7130 <a href="mailto:eddieburt@carolina.rr.com">eddieburt@carolina.rr.com</a>
Newsletter Editors	<b>Charlie and Iris Binder</b>	704-799-3584 <a href="mailto:chasbinder@roadrunner.com">chasbinder@roadrunner.com</a>
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Webmaster	<b>E.O. Oakley</b>	704-846-2965 <a href="mailto:eoakley@carolina.rr.com">eoakley@carolina.rr.com</a>
National Corvette Museum Ambassador	<b>Paul Mariano</b>	704-992-2726 <a href="mailto:vettltd@aol.com">vettltd@aol.com</a>
Club Photographer	<b>Bob Denney</b>	704-662-7958 <a href="mailto:rddenney@windstream.net">rddenney@windstream.net</a>

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, PO Box 77153 Charlotte, NC 28271-7002**. 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 Thoughts.

My thoughts have been about new members and stepping up to the plate this month. I think that is called multi-tasking. Our new members are our life blood because if it were not for them our club would soon dwindle and die.



With a club of over 230 members it is important to welcome our new members with open arms and I will say we do a pretty good job of that. What we forget about is to explain our events to our new members. We old folk think everyone knows what we are talking about but we must remember that new members don't. So, senior members, please remember to explain what we are doing and new members feel free to ask questions. We want everyone to feel welcome and understand what we do as a club. I challenge you to get to know someone new each month.

Stepping up to the plate is also important and I would like to thank several members for doing that. As you may or may not know Charlie and Iris Binder have published our newsletter for over 7 years and to their credit it has become an award winning newsletter. E.O.Oakley has also been our Web Master for over 7 years also. He has made our web site one of the best in the country. I offer my sincere thanks to Charlie, Iris and E.O. for their dedicated service to our club but after 7 years they are stepping down. Through their excellent work they helped us grow to over 230 members in those 7 short years.

It is my great pleasure to announce that several members have stepped up to the plate. Bob Becker has accepted the challenge of becoming our new Web Master and Chris Wood and Peggy Marlowe have accepted the challenge of becoming the editors of our award winning newsletter. Please offer each of these fine members your thanks and support. I thank them and I know they will do a great job. Thanks again to all of you.

“Save the Wave” and remember all racing Corvettes are still Yellow. Road Atlanta will be here before you know it. October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank you for your friendship and support,

Boyd

# VP Report



## C-3 1968 – 1982

The third generation Corvettes were patterned after the Mako Shark concept car designed by Larry Shinoda in 1965. The C-3's styling was flamboyant in overall shape, but restrained in details – no fake scoops or extra chrome anywhere on the car, unlike the C-1s where chrome was the order of the day. Although it replaced a beloved icon, the “Mako Shark” corvette proved to be a big hit during the '68 model year, building 9936 coupes with the new T-top roof panels and 18,630 convertibles for another year of record production. The bodies and interiors were new, but chassis and drive train were a carryover from 1967, base engine was the 300 327 cubic inch small block with 3 speed transmission. Options were 350 327ci, 4-427ci ranging in HP from 390-435, plus the legendary L-88. There was a new transmission option for Corvette with the new body style being able to handle the turbo-hydromatic 3-speed, replacing the 2-speed powerglide automatic from the 1950s. The Muncie 4-speeds were also still available. The '68 model suffered from build quality problems – poor fits and roof leaks. Their problems were vastly improved by the 69 model year.

The Stingray name returned in '69, now spelled as one word on the front fenders. Corvettes for 1969 received updated door panels for more passenger room, also base engine displacement went from 327ci to 350ci. Horsepower remained the same as in '68 for the new 350ci and all the 427ci engines. Transmission options remained the same for '69. One new option was a one year only item for the C-3, the side exhaust option. The last year for the L-88 engine option also included an all aluminum version called ZL-1. The special engine provided 585HP, but only 2 were delivered in production Corvettes. Total production for '69 was 38,762.

For 1970 the only body change was the four fender vents were now a crosshatch design, amber parking light lenses also appeared. Finally in 1970 the Corvette came with the Muncie 4-speed as standard equipment, doing away with the 3-speed that had been standard since 1956. A new solid lifter small block 350ci was introduced in '70, called the LT-1. It was rated at 370HP. Also new was big block displacement that increased to 454ci with the LS-5 rated at 390 and the LS-7 tri-power rated at 460, though there is no record of LS-7s being installed in Corvettes, probably because it was a \$3000 option. Total production in 1970 was 17,316.

With stricter emission controls facing the automakers in 1971, all engines suffered horsepower losses after almost a decade of steady increases. The base 350ci was now rated at 270 and the LT-1 350ci at 330, the LS-5 454ci dropped to 365 and a new LS-6 was rated at 425. Total production for 1971 was 21,801.

The power drain would continue in 1972 and was exaggerated by the government mandate switch to reporting net horsepower instead of gross horsepower. The base 350ci now was rated at 200, the LT-1 at 255 and only one big block 454 rated at 270. Bodies and interior for Corvettes in 1971 & 72 were mostly unchanged. Total production of '72 Corvettes was 27,004.

Corvettes for 1973 had a new look with a rubber front bumper to withstand the mandated 5mph impact. Also gone was the crosshatch side vents, changed to a large single vent. Radial tires were now standard equipment for the first time. Only three engines were available for '73. The base 350ci now had 190 while the new L82 350ci was rated at 250. The sole 454 was an LS4 rated at 275 horsepower. Total production in 1973 was 30,464.

The 1974 Corvettes were the end of an era. It was the last year for true dual exhaust and the end of the 454ci big block. The rear of the Corvette shed its chrome bumper for a body color cone shaped bumper to meet new regulations. The same 3 engines were offered with the 454ci dropping to 270. Total production in '74 was 37,502. The horsepower losses would continue as catalytic converters came into play.

Next month the rest of the C-3s.

### **Corvette Milestones for May**

May 1, 1953: Zora Arkus-Duntov starts work at Chevrolet as assistant staff engineer to Maurice Olley in Research and Development.

May 2, 1956: Zora Arkus-Duntov builds the Corvette SR-2 Sebring racer.

May 1, 1957: A fully-synchronized four-speed transmission is first made available on the 1957 model Corvette, as a \$188.30 option.

May 28, 1978: The 62<sup>nd</sup> Indianapolis 500 race is held. A 1978 Corvette is the official pace car, driven by Jim Rathmann. This is the first Indianapolis 500 pace car with a stock drivetrain. Corvette will go on to be the pace car a total of ten times to date.

May 3, 1993: Corvette chief engineer Dave Hill unveils the CERV-4 (Corvette Engineering Research Vehicle) test car at the General Motors Technical Center in Warren, MI. Most of the hundreds of people attending did not even know the test car was being built. It cost Chevrolet about \$1.2 million to build.

May 5, 1994: The two Corvette C5-R cars participate in a one-day test of the Paris Le Mans circuit, prior to the 24 Hours of Le Mans in June.

May 21, 2000: The Nevada Open Road Challenge is held on a 90 mile stretch of highway S.R. 318 between Lund and Hiko. 78 of over 200 cars are Corvettes. A modified 1992 Corvette takes top speed of 227 mph. Another Corvette averages 207 mph, taking first place.

Our meeting this month will be at Jocks & Jills, 4109 South Stream Blvd. in Charlotte. Off of Tyvola Road, across from the old coliseum site. Social hour will start at 5:30, with the meeting at 6:30. You can plan to get there earlier for dinner, so you're finished before the meeting, or stay after the meeting for dinner if you would like. They have a good assortment of appetizers.

Remember, real Corvettes have solid axles.

Steve Pelchat



## Great Weather and Crowds at AutoFair!



## Queen City Corvette Club Minutes

April 17, 2010      6:30 – 7:20 PM

**Lake Norman State Park**

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Board Members: Steve Pelchat, Vice President, Florence Prather, Treasurer; Linda Lewis, Secretary; Nelson Sprague, Automotive Director; Eddie Burt, Membership Director; Adina Ledford, Social Director; Staff: Paul Mariano Corvette Museum; Charlie and Iris Binder Newsletter Editor; EO Oakley, Webmaster; Bob Denny, Club Photographer;
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### DISCUSSION

- Steve Pelchat called the meeting to order.
- Minutes approved and seconded.
- Vice President Report – Steve Pelchat
  - May 8<sup>th</sup> - meeting will be at Jocks & Jill's Restaurant. Social at 5:30 and meeting at 6:30. You can eat before or after if you would like to.
  - June 12<sup>th</sup> – meeting at the NASCAR Institute.
  - May 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>- Vettes in Valley
  - Winners for the gift certificates – Julia Davidson; Wendy Callahan, Jo Murray, & Bob Paynter. Pat Bonino and Adina Ledford won \$25 gift certificates for the Museum.
- Automotive Director – Nelson Sprague
  - Thanked Bob and Marilyn Becker for overseeing Auto Fair as he was unable to attend. The following people won trophies:  
John Walton, C1-C2.  
Robert Morgan C3-C4,  
Barney Peterman C5, Bill Davidson C6, Ken Rhinehart Daily Driver, Ken Watts, Members Choice and Jim Cerniglia, Best of Show
  - Presented Bill Davidson with the “Best C 6” trophy for Auto Fair.
  - We had 34 cars and 50 members at the NASCAR Institute on March 20<sup>th</sup> Dennis Guessford won two tickets for the drag races.
  - May 15<sup>st</sup> trip to “All Corvettes are Black”.
  - June 5<sup>th</sup> – Hendricks Chevrolet Car Show.
  - Car Care Day is scheduled for July 31st at Wally's & Anita's.
- Secretary's Report – Linda Lewis
  - Recognized the April Birthdays. Sent a thank you card to Terri Parsons for our trip to the Parson's Winery.
- Treasurer Report – Florence Prather
  - Reported on the bank balance.



- Membership Director – Eddie Burt
  - We have 233 members.
  - New members voted in - Ken and Sue Thomas and Bill Rambo.
  - Visitors – Keith and Kelly Cross, Chuck & Dianne Frederick, Chauncey Hyde, Vernon Maher and Mimi Rambo
- Social Director – Adina Ledford
  - May 2<sup>nd</sup> Daniel Stowe Gardens. Bring a picnic and tour.
  - May 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> - Charleston trip
  - June 19<sup>th</sup> - Raptor Center
  - Winery Trip was a great success
- Museum Report – Paul Marino
  - April 28<sup>th</sup> – Corvette C5 – C6 Bash at the Museum.
  - September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Birthday party at the Museum
  - Reported on the Parson's Winery Trip. Members had a wonderful time. Thanked Terri Parsons for allowing the club to take laps around the North Wilkesboro Speedway. There is going to be a special event on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Wilkesboro Speedway for those who would like to attend.
- Chrome Bumper Group – Tommy Loftin
  - Trips are planned for May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup>
- Other Business
  - Steve Pelchat recognized Charlie and Iris Binder for seven years as Newsletter editors and Anne and EO Oakley for seven years of maintaining the website.
  - Announced that Bob Becker will now be handling the website and Chris Wood will take over the Newsletter starting in June.
  - **There was a motion to bar Mr. Socks from ever attending another meeting!!!!!!**
- *Next meeting is on May 8th at Jocks and Jill's at 6:30pm. Check the website for details.*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda H Lewis  
Secretary*

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## March Up Yonder Crowd!





# ***QCCC Board Meeting Minutes***

***Tuesday April 6, 2010***

The April Board meeting was held at Boyd Kurt's house, Charlotte, NC.

Officers present: Boyd Kurt, Steve Pelchat, Nelson Sprague (via speaker phone), Florence Prather, Adina Ledford, Eddie Burt

Guest: Jane Burt

President, Boyd Kurt called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

## Boyd Kurt, President

- The Binders and E.O. want to “retire” from the Newsletter and Website duties after doing fantastic jobs for 7 years. Boyd will ask for volunteers to take over these responsibilities.
- Doug Wright has volunteered to create and maintain a QCCC Face Book page. The Board discussed it and approved.

## Adina Ledford, Social Director

- April 3 – Winery Tour resulted in a pleasant surprise. Mrs. Parsons gave the tour of the Benny Parsons Rendezvous Ridge Vineyard and mentioned that the North Wilkesboro Race Track was being restored and offered to let the QCCC run on the track! She called the Mayor to open the gates and 14 QCCC Vettes made several “parade laps”! She even invited us back. What started out as a very frustrating and challenging day trip, ended up far exceeding all expectations.
- April 17 – day trip to Zootastic Park prior to the meeting/picnic – has received 8 RSVPs
- May 2 – day trip to Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens – has received 12 RSVPs so far. Will have a sign-up sheet at the April meeting.
- May 21 – weekend trip to Charleston, SC – looking for a hotel and carriage tour. There will be lots of free time.
- June 19 – day trip to Carolina Raptor Center at Latta Plantation
- August 21 – tentatively planning a scavenger hunt

## Nelson Sprague, Automotive Director – via speaker phone

- March 13 – St Patrick's Parade had 9 QCCC Corvettes
- March 20 – NASCAR Technical Institute had 34 QCCC Corvettes and 54+ members/guests. Dennis Guessford won 2 tickets to the ZMAX 4-Wide Nationals Drag Race.
- April 10 & 11 – Auto Fair is full with 30 cars each day
- May 9 – There will be a special insert in the Sunday paper commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of City Chevrolet. Requested and received Board approval to place a business card size ad from QCCC.
- May 15 – day trip to see Tom Mullis' black Corvette collection – 28 cars are signed up so far. Requested and received Board approval to give a gift card to the cars' caretaker, as a token of our appreciation.

- August 28 & 29 – Auto Fair will need 20 cars each day
- Still working on a trip to see Tom Smith's car, tractor, and wildlife collection in Salisbury
- Collected \$112 for the Banquet Pictures - \$72 went to the QCCC Charity account and the balance went to expenses.

#### Steve Pelchat, Vice President

- April 17 – Meeting and picnic – has received 89 RSVPs for dinner so far
- May 8 – Meeting at Jocks and Jills. Folks can come early or stay late for dinner.
- June 5 – Car Show at City Chevrolet
- June, July, August – Meeting locations to be determined



#### Eddie Burt, Membership Director

- QCCC has 234 members
- New advertiser is Mid America Motorworks

#### Florence Prather, Treasurer

- Will send email reminders to members who have not paid first quarter 2010 dues
- Reviewed Income/Expense Report, and checking account balance
- Shared that a spokesman from the NASCAR Museum is available for a very exciting, but short presentation. The Board decided to ask for a show of interest at the next QCCC meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, for Linda Lewis, Secretary  
Jane Burt, Member

#### In Memoriam Carol Massfeller

With sadness we received a message from long time member Jim Massfeller that his wife Carol passed away this week in Florida. Carol succumbed to complications from a blood clot and pneumonia. Services will be private and anyone wishing may make a donation to the Corvette Museum in her name. To do so the Museum can be reached by phone at 1-800-53VETTE(83883) or at this link for donations:  
[http://www.corvettemuseum.com/planned\\_giving/](http://www.corvettemuseum.com/planned_giving/) .





# Automotive Report

QCCC Members,

Mother Nature is being too good to us this year. AutoFair was two days of perfect weather, good friends enjoying each others company and more Corvette admirers than could be counted. Between our Saturday and Sunday participants, there were 46 Corvettes participating in the show. Of those 46, there were cars belonging to 7 prospective members. I'm sorry we did not have trophies for each and everyone who showed up for the event. The winners of the six trophies were: John Walton, C1-C2 – Robert Morgan, C3-C4 – Barney Peterman, C5 – Bill Davidson, C6 – Ken Rinehart, Daily Driver – Ken Watts, Member's Choice. Jim Cerniglia was the winner of **Best of Show**. And I have to thank Bob and Marilyn for taking the responsibility for running the show and doing a fantastic job during my absence.



Our next big event is our trip to see Bill Mullis's "All Corvettes Are Black" collection on May 15th. Currently there are 36 Corvettes signed up for the caravan. You can look at the calendar for general information on this trip. You can contact me by email or phone if you want to sign up or the sign up list will be at the May 8th business meeting. We will

meet just west of Shelby Saturday morning, May 15th and drive to Hendersonville for lunch. Then it is a short drive to the Mullis farm to see the collection.

As a reminder, City Chevrolet is celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year. May is the month when they are having their biggest celebration. In the May 9th Charlotte Observer there will be a special section with all the information on the events that City Chevrolet will be hosting.



Let's not forget that on Saturday, June 5th we will have our spring car show hosted by our sponsor City Chevrolet. As usual, there will be food, trophies and lots of fun visiting with other members of our club and customers of City Chevrolet who can't help but admire all the Corvettes in the parking area. It would be great if we could have 50+ Corvettes on display. City Chevrolet does a lot for our club and it would be nice to show our appreciation by participating in this show.

Thank you for all your help and participation; it's what makes this club great.

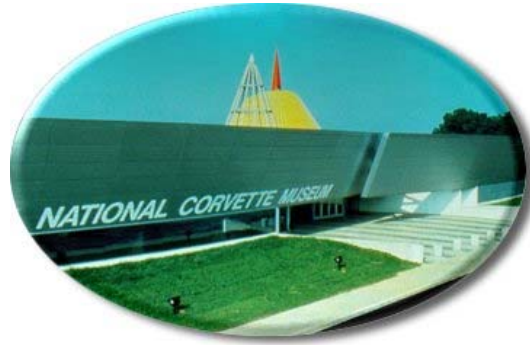
Nelson



## The Chrome Bumper Road Trip



# NCM Corner



By the time you are reading this article, our merry band will either be at the C5/C6 Bash or just returning. Now that we have enjoyed that event, it's time to consider the next one, the NCM Birthday Bash on September 2-4. Registration is now open and if enough want to attend the Hall of Fame Dinner we can, again, opt for a corporate table. Please let me know if you plan on attending.

So sorry about raising expectations on automobile insurance savings through the NCM. I did not realize that the museum was not authorized to sell policies in North Carolina. However, I have checked with the NCM and they expect to be able to offer us policies in six to ten months. Stay tuned.

I'm proud of the fact that 42% of our club members are now NCM members, but also disappointed that the number isn't higher. Surely we have more members than that 42% who look upon the Corvette as more than mere transportation. If so, you should be anxious to perpetuate the Corvette hobby. If we don't make sure the next generation of sports car drivers understand the history and the legacy of the Corvette, then the hobby and car will surely die. The one central focal point for the endeavor is the NCM. By supporting it, we are keeping the message going and our passion in the forefront of the automobile world.

Have you checked the Corvette Store on-line recently? There are many new items listed and especially for you ladies, who sport around in a red C6, there is a rhinestone lady's top. Free shipping on orders over \$50.00 until May 9<sup>th</sup>. Check the website for all the details.

Ah, another passing in time. We are very disappointed that Charlie and Iris will no longer be publishing this newsletter, but everyone deserves a break. I don't know how they have managed to do this job for so long. Their talents and commitment will be sorely missed, but I'm sure Chris will take the baton and run a good leg. Thanks again to the Binders for producing such a great newsletter.

Save the Wave!  
Paul Mariano  
NCM Ambassador



## Wine Tasting Road Trip









## Spot Light on Jerry Ferrell

This month, I had the pleasure of visiting and talking with Jerry Ferrell at City Chevrolet. Jerry is from Angier North Carolina, approximately eighteen miles from Raleigh. He grew up around cars and his father was in the car business. He was graduated from Old Dominion University in 1974 with a teaching certificate. His mother is 89 years old and lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He has been married to his wife Pamela for 37 years and they have one son who works at Chevrolet Cadillac in Monroe NC.

In 1982 he owned Capital Imports in Concord specializing in Volkswagens, Subaru and Isuzu. In 1984 he sponsored Ernie Irvin, who worked on cars and ran dirt track. In 1985 Irvin was the track champion in Charlotte and in 1986 Ernie went to work for Dale Earnhardt Senior and the rest is history. Jerry became personal friends with other drivers such as Alan Kuwikki, Ken Schrader and Dale Earnhardt.



Jerry met Rick Hendrick at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. He sold his dealership in Concord and moved back to Virginia and went to work at Colonial Chevy. In 1989 Rick bought the dealership and offered him the General Manager position at City Chevrolet. Jerry has worked for Rick for 21 years.

City Chevrolet has 172 employees and was founded in 1935. This year they will celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In 1978 Rick took over City Chevrolet. The automotive group started here. He now owns 60 dealerships and the Motor Sports Center. Every Monday morning all dealerships have conference calls and share information and ideas with the automotive group. His dealerships also work with the Motorsports as a team. Jerry told me Rick is a great visionary and inspires all of his employees. Today, City Chevrolet is fifth in the nation for sales of Camaros. The Camaro comes with an engine package of a 6 cylinder 300hp, an 8 cylinder 400hp and an 8 cylinder manual shift 423hp. By demand, half of all Camaros purchased are personalized with pin stripes and performance wheels.

His personal car is a Suburban Tahoe and he has a passion for performance cars. His first car was a Vega with cowl hood. He had a 72 Nova Supersport, a 69 Chevelle SS 396, a 1974 Corvette, a Pontiac Bonneville 400hp and a number of GTO's. His main hobby is his work and he still enjoys teaching.

In the coming years, the government is going to mandate that all cars will get 35 miles per gallon. I asked Jerry how General Motors is going to comply with these new regulations. Jerry said, "This fall General Motors will introduce the Chevy Cruz, an aerodynamic coupe sedan, possibly with convertible top, that will get 41 miles per gallon." When I asked Jerry about the government owning 60% of General Motors, he replied, "The plans are to repay the loan, continue to grow the product line and meet the demands of the public."

Jerry attributes City Chevrolet's success to their employees, customers, vendors and lenders. There will be an insert in the Charlotte Observer on May 9<sup>th</sup> about their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. On May 12<sup>th</sup> they will have cars from 1930's to the present day on display. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, they will have a customer appreciation day. At the end of the year, they are giving away a 2010 Camaro. City Chevrolet is proud to be the main sponsor and partner of the Queen City Corvette Club.

Our Club has many activities planned this year. Be sure to check the website and participate. Signing off from Rock Hill SC, where all Corvettes are Pewter, QCCC Club reporter Phillip Lewis.

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## Meet the New Members:



Ken and Sue Thomas  
2003 Anniversary Convertible



Bill Rambo  
1994 Purple Convertible

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### Vintage QCCC by Vintage Guys

Richard Craig & Bill Cruthis

#### THE PHANTOM 61 CORVETTE.

Mid 70's saw Billy Coats as our go to guy for mechanics. Billy made a living repairing cars and had a shop around Shamrock and Eastway Drives in Charlotte. He was a thin man with long hair on the sides and back but none on top, and you never found him without a cigarette hanging from the corner of his mouth. He rented space in a large industrial building with a high ceiling, poor lighting, and he came with the scent of an auto repair shop. He was an excellent mechanic and built really STOUT motors for many of the QCCC members. He cut out many rear fenders so bigger tires would fit and, since we raced a lot, our cars were at his shop often.

His love of Corvettes clouded his business judgment resulting in many builds and repairs with him waiting for us to pay if we ever got the money. Often he would not charge for his labor only for the parts. As long as you were racing and helping QCCC win national championships he was just glad to help. His motors raced for QCCC in Richmond, New Orleans, Dallas, Orlando, Roebeling Road and even Daytona. Billy was a major reason for our success. He would always stop and talk Corvettes with us and the customers cars would have to wait. I know he put a 3.70 and then later a 4.11 rear end in my 63 coupe for next to nothing. (Can you imagine leaving a split window coupe sitting outside a shop on Shamrock Road today.) Due to his struggling business two things come to mind. First he had a C3 roadster with side exhaust which was always in primer and it never got painted that we know of, but it would run like a scalded dog. He had another car, a 61 red roadster with white coves and two tops. The car never had any oil in it and Richard remembers pushing it around many times. As his business slipped there was interest from the IRS looking for collateral, so it went into hiding. It was moved many times, usually every few months to a different member's garage, always pushed on and off the trailer. As far as we know the IRS never found the car. Our last recollection was that a close friend of his added a bedroom on his house with patio doors on the back and the car was pushed in there before the doors were installed. Billy later worked for Sports Car Salvage on 273 toward Mt Holly. We have lost touch with him but hope he is well. He was a true friend and Corvette guy. We bet he still has that '61 somewhere. Talk about a barn find!!!!



## Highlights of the April Meeting











## **SOCIAL NOTES....**

### **CHARLESTON WEEKEND TRIP – 5/21 – 5/23**

[http://www.queencitycorvette.com/2010%20Calendar/Charleston%20Trip/QCCC Charleston Weekend Info.pdf](http://www.queencitycorvette.com/2010%20Calendar/Charleston%20Trip/QCCC%20Charleston%20Weekend%20Info.pdf)

Only \$95 per night in Mt. Pleasant (just a few minutes from historic Charleston) at the Best Western.

**Dinners Planned** – (Fri) California Dreaming w/Charleston Corvette Club and (Sat) Shem Creek Bar & Grill overlooking the water.

**Events Planned** - Carriage Ride, Shagging on the Cooper

***RSVP as soon as possible*** – this event is only 3 weeks out and we need to start working on getting a head count, and details together for the caravan down there.

### **Daniel Stowe – Picnic & Garden Tour - Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 12 noon**

<http://www.dsbgo.org/> or check out the info on the QCCC website - <http://www.queencitycorvette.com/2010%20Calendar/Daniel%20Stowe%20Picnic/Daniel%20Stowe%20Picnic>

Join your fellow QCCCs for a fun afternoon touring the gardens and enjoying a picnic on the beautiful grounds of DSBG! RSVP today – and please advise me if you are a garden member.

## **UPCOMING...**

### **Carolina Raptor Center - Saturday – June 19<sup>th</sup>**

<http://www.carolinaraptorcenter.org/>

Let's take a tour and learn more about raptors in our area, and see how this great group rescues local raptors and nurses them back to health! Sign up today – more info to follow.

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As always – please feel free to contact me with any questions, suggestions and ideas, or if you would like to help with the Social Committee!

[adinaledford@yahoo.com](mailto:adinaledford@yahoo.com) / 803-524-2647

Thank you!  
Adina ☺



## Photos From the Wednesday Dinners





# Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting

to be held at

## Jocks & Jills,

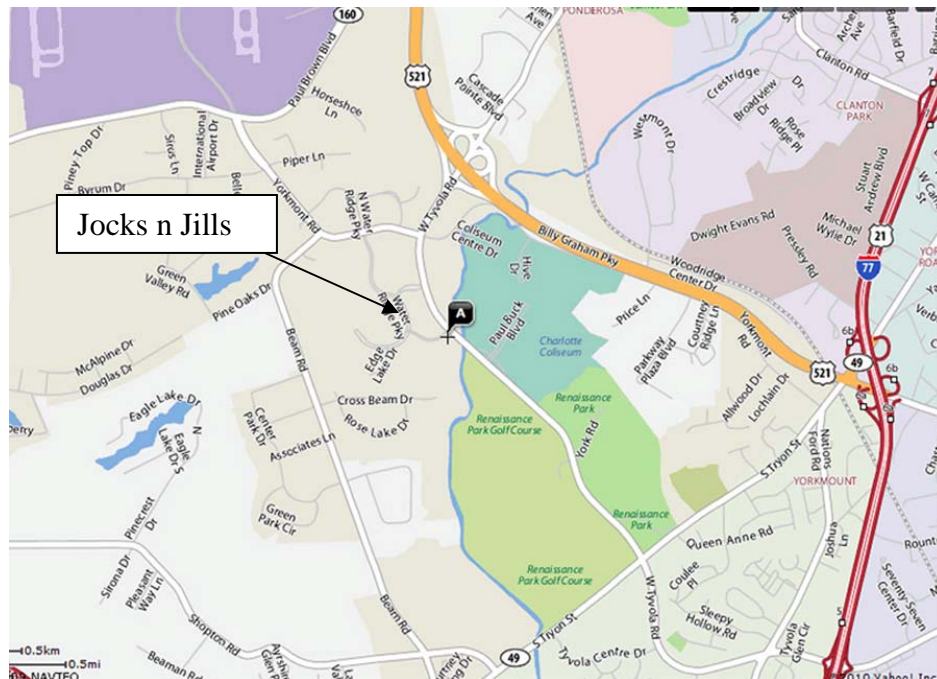
4109 South Stream Blvd, Charlotte

Social at 5:30 PM  
Meeting at 6:30 PM

### Directions:

In the old Coliseum area - Right off of West Tyvola Road

You may want to enjoy dinner either prior to meeting or after, or simply have an appetizer and drinks there.



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