



The  
*Queen City Corvette Gazette*

*Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club*

*July 2011*



*Long May It Wave !!*

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*Please visit the [QCCC web site](#) for back issues of the Gazette*

[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). Dues and donations are not tax deductible. In addition to various social activities for members, QCCC raises money for and participates with various local charities. We strive to promote exciting, safe and fun ways to enjoy our Corvettes. We hold business meetings on the second Saturday of each month. Our monthly business meeting usually incorporates social time. Our socials are always fun and are focused around fellowship, food & drink. We've had swimming parties, bar-b-ques, cookouts, day cruises and weekend trips. We participate in / conduct mountain tours, holiday parades and several homecoming parades at local area high schools. We also support and participate in local auto shows and hold charity Corvette shows each year. After an initiation fee of \$7.00, club dues are only \$8.00 a month, per family, and are to be paid quarterly or annually. These dues go to cover the costs of running the club, mailing newsletters, and subsidizing the costs of our meetings. Club officers and supporting staff 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. Come check us out – we love to meet fellow Corvette Enthusiasts! Express your wishes for membership during a monthly business meeting and be voted in, begin paying dues and having fun! If you can't join us, please **WAVE!**

### *On The Cover:*

Small towns move our country, create stability for families, and anchor this proud nation. Small towns believe in celebrating America's Independence. Once again, QCCC members and their Corvettes helped Troutman, N.C. celebrate by participating in its *Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade*. Thanks to Charlie Binder for this cover photo.



[Click here](#) to hear John Wayne's "*Why I Love America*"



[Click here](#) to hear Red Skelton's "*Pledge of Allegiance*"

# The President's Vault



**Check out my new luggage rack for the Chrome Bumper tours!** Actually, it's rigging for a camera. A production company was looking for a Corvette from the late '50s, early '60s for use in a commercial. We emailed pictures of the car for approval, and they liked it. After they realized it was a four speed, they asked if I would be willing to drive the car. We needed to meet with the key grip, so he could figure out how to attach a camera on the car. On the way to the studio, we ran into a summer thunderstorm, complete with hail and flooded streets. We had to head home, and the key grip came to the house later to figure out how to rig the car. Sunday we arrived in Gastonia at 8AM, they told me what they wanted to do, and I was fine with that, just wanted to be

sure they weren't drilling any holes! They used 12 foot aluminum pipes, pinch clamped to the frame, extending behind the car. A platform was built up from that to provide a base for a camera. I then proceeded to drive, back up, sit, drive, backup, sit over the same two blocks until 8PM. For variety, I drove the opposite direction on the street. It was a mix of new & interesting, and complete boredom.

We were filming a promotional commercial for a new Showtime TV series that will be starting in September, called *Homeland*. The hometown hero was riding in my car for a parade welcoming him home, after eight years MIA in Iraq. It's a suspenseful thriller, with the same writer that did "24".

Everything was filmed in segments, it will be interesting to see how they piece it together to look like an actual parade. Included was a Gastonia fire truck, two motorcycle police, a marching band from Concord, some members of the VFW and American Legion, boy scouts, and current soldiers, along with almost one hundred extras cheering along the sidewalk. The only time we actually looked like a parade was the final shot, taken from a rooftop.

If you see the commercial, let us know. We're also looking for it on the internet, since we don't get Showtime.

Remember the wave, and let's drive 'em and enjoy them!

*Steve Pelchat*



# ***Patriotism on Parade***

**QCCC Corvettes Ride in an  
American Tradition –  
The Troutman 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**



# Deiger's VP Report



Well, I would like to officially welcome you to Summer!! Beautiful, hot clear Carolina Days to enjoy your Corvette. We are now officially at the halfway point in the Queen City Road Rally '11! Be sure to attend the upcoming business meeting to see who is leading at the halfway point. If you have not registered for the Rally be sure to see me at the business meeting and I will get you a registration form and get you up and running!!

Just a few rally events this month including parades in the beginning of the month, dinners, business meeting, and perhaps some group drives. However, tighten that belt down, because the rest of the year is going to get heated up!! Remember Supercharge V8 events will pop up without notice and get you some extra miles.

The July 9th meeting is going to be held at an All American Place, Harley Davidson Dealership in Matthews.

Harley Davidson – Matthews  
9205 East Independence Blvd.  
Matthew, NC 28105  
704-847-4647  
[www.h-dofcharlotte.com](http://www.h-dofcharlotte.com)



Please utilize navigation systems or <http://www.mapquest.com> for exact directions from where you are coming from.

This meeting will be an inside meeting, so I promise that weather will not be a factor. If you would like to look at the bikes or do some shopping, feel free to stop in to the store. Please note the hours of operation of the store and also the Social and Meeting times.

**Store hours:**

Weekdays: 9am – 6pm  
Saturdays: 9am – 5pm

**Social Time:** 5:30pm – 6:30pm

**Meeting Time:** 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Look forward to seeing everyone there!!

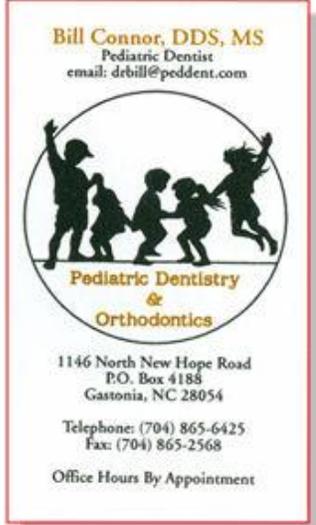
Be safe out there!!

Road Rally Questions (You must get both right for your extra mile):

- 1) Parazul, Kooba, Furla, and Chloe' are brand names for what type of product?
- 2) The first five Corvettes to come off the assembly line were missing what body part?

Turn your answers into me at the meeting prior to my report.

*Matthew Deiger*





## See the U. S. A. (and the world) With the Q. C. C. C.

Our thanks go to *Sue & Wade Stickels* for providing this first look at *seeing the U.S.A. in their Chevrolet!* Thanks, also, to Wade & Sue for being *inspirations to the rest of us on the tour!*

See future editions of the *Gazette* for more insight and photos from the *2011 National Park Tour.*

Sue and I joined QCCC 11 years ago. We had no idea what opportunities, good times and friends this club would bring to our lives. Having just returned from four weeks and *8,868 miles in our Corvette* touring *12 National Parks in the USA and Canada* with members of our club, I am almost speechless. *Paul and Barbara Mariano* planned an awesome trip. We have photos to prove it and memories to last a lifetime.



Driving across country with your friends in Corvettes is enough to keep you smiling but add dinners each night, stopping at **Karl Tyler Chevrolet in Missoula, Montana** (where members of the local Corvette Club (*Hellgate Corvette Club*) have arranged a free lunch and Karl Tyler sets up a car wash in the front of the dealership and has his guys hand-wash every one of our cars), in Banff, Canada members from **Calgary, Alberta's Corvettes Unlimited** meet us at our hotel to take us on a personal tour of *Banff National Park*, scenic sights in and around *Banff and Lake Louise*. Oh, did I forget to mention *Paul and Barbara* took us to and through *Painted Desert National Park, Petrified Forest, Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Grand Teton, Yellowstone, Glacier, Kootenay, Banff, Jasper and Yosemite National Parks!*

I want to share so many photos but they would fill 20 newsletters. And there was more, driving along *Route 66* and stopping at the *Route 66 Museum*, stopping at a glacier so we could ride a 6 wheel drive bus up the mountain and onto the glacier, Las Vegas and I'm sure I am forgetting other memorable events.

QCCC members – when the club or members of the club plan a trip please give serious consideration about participating. With club members we have been on day trips, weekend trips, cruises to the Caribbean, Hawaii, Northern Europe and this drive in our Corvette cross-country and through the Canadian Rockies. We didn't think we could take the time away from work to participate in some of these trips. We did and we are so glad we have these memories. As Walt Krupowicz says "when you're in the old folks home confined to bed, will you lie there and wish you had taken those trips or will you smile remembering the good times you had on those trips."



*Driving Through Montana*

*Sue & Wade Stickels*



*Old FAITHFUL*



*Forever Friends*

***PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS! We're glad you're here!***



***Carl Bartlett & Tracey Comfort  
2011 Cyber Gray Grand Sport Coupe  
1986 Silver Anniversary Coupe***



***Bill & Donna Graves  
2008 Yellow Convertible  
1969 White Coupe  
1966 Gray 427 Convertible***



***Norm & Marge Jungmann  
2008 Crystal Red Convertible***



***Paul Mitchell  
(w/ perspective member Paige)  
2010 Red Grand Sport Convertible***

***Our thanks to new QCCC Member Paul Mitchell for providing his perspective of QCCC membership, his first trip to the NCM and discovering the Corvette lifestyle.***

***Perspective of a New Member – Meetings, Bash, Membership by Paul Mitchell***

I am a new member. Actually, at the time of this writing, I am not really a new member, just a potential member. I have attended 2 meetings since February, but have not yet made the third meeting due to conflicts or weather. Hopefully when you read this I will have been voted in at the June meeting. Fortunately for me, most of the people that would vote against me (due to my age and habits) are on the National Parks Tour out West, so I stand a chance of getting in the Club (*joke*).

I did attend a couple of other functions, including a Dinner "Up Yonder" in February. There, Paul Mariano discussed with me (at my very first function – go Paul!) the upcoming C5-C6 Bash in Bowling Green coming up in late April. It sounded interesting to me, so I did some on-line research and decided it would be something I would enjoy.

So on the morning of April 27, my girlfriend Paige and I waited on I-40 just west of Hickory in our C5 convertible, and here they came – a line of 9 beautiful Corvettes, heading west. We pulled in line, and followed to the first stop at Marion. There I was given my information packet (very well done!), met some of the Club Members, and then we proceeded on towards Knoxville. At lunch, we met more of the group, and moved on North and West to Bowling Green.

I will admit that at first it was a little intimidating to Paige and me, since everyone on the trip knew each other, and we were the new people. But with each stop on the trip, we talked more with everyone, got to know them, and we felt more comfortable. After a stop at the Museum to register for the Bash, a quick stop at a liquid refreshment center (where several other Club members stopped also ☺), we were at the hotel, settling in for a nice dinner, fellowship, and after dinner gathering around the camp fire (ok, it was the fire place in the lobby of the hotel). More time getting to know everyone, putting names and spouses together, and we were cruising!

The next day was spent at the museum, reviewing the 2012 models, doing a plant tour, meeting people, and generally enjoying the day. While walking around the facilities, it was nice to see a familiar face every so often. But the thing that stood out to us was the ease of meeting new people from all over the country. One thing about Corvette people – no matter where you are from, what your profession or your age, you have a friend once you establish that Corvette link. We met so many nice people at the Bash, and it was an experience I will never forget. Paige and I are talking about when we can go back again!

So, if you are a new member, or a prospective new member, get involved! It can be difficult to go to a meeting with up to 100 people that you don't know, and feel comfortable right at first. But there are so many opportunities in this great club to get to know the members, whether at the monthly meetings, the dinners, or other functions, that it takes very little effort other than showing up. And if you can go on a trip like the Bash, as we did, it will be an unforgettable experience.

As far as membership in Queen City Corvette Club, it is a very rewarding experience. To paraphrase that old hockey joke - I went to a Corvette Club meeting, and a bunch of friendships broke out. Cool, huh!

***We all come in as strangers and soon become family!***

# QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB

## CLUB BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES



Date: June 11, 2011

Time: 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Jocks & Jills Restaurant

### BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF PRESENT

**Board Members:** Steve Pelchat, President; Matthew Deiger, Vice President; Eddie Burt, Membership; Nelson Sprague, Automotive; **Staff:** Bob Denney, Club Photographer

### DISCUSSION

#### Steve Pelchat – President’s Report



Called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.



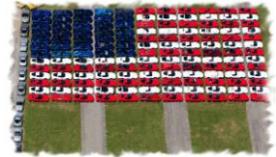
Thanked Ron of Jocks & Jill’s for hosting our meeting, once again, on short notice.



Requested a motion that was made, seconded, and approved to accept the May minutes.



Introduced the QCCC Officers and asked for their reports.



#### Matthew Deiger – Vice President’s Report



Announced the winners of a Bonus Rally Mile for correctly answering his trivia question appearing in the June Newsletter: “Name the movie with the line ‘This sticker is dangerous and inconvenient, but I do love fig newtons’”. The Hinsons, Kurts and Pelchats knew that Ricky Bobby spoke those words in “Talladega Nights”.



July 9<sup>th</sup> – Harley Davidson of Charlotte – the store closes at 5:00 PM so come early to browse and shop.

#### Eddie Burt - Membership Report



Invited visitors to stand and introduce themselves and their Corvettes:

- o Craig & Donna Smith – 2004 Le Mans Blue Convertible
- o Steve & Terri Ebert – 2005 Le Mans Blue Convertible
- o Steve Ham – 2010 Blade Silver Grand Sport



Held election of new members:

- o Paul Mitchell – 2010 Red Grand Sport Convertible
- o Carl Bartlett & Tracey Comfort – 1986 Silver Anniversary Coupe & 2011 Cyber Gray Grand Sport Coupe
- o Bill & Donna graves – 2008 Yellow Convertible, 1969 White Coupe, 1966 Gray 427 Convertible
- o Norm & Marge Jungmann – 2008 Crystal Red Convertible



With the seven new members added tonight, the membership stands at 262.

#### Nelson Sprague – Automotive Director’s Report



June 18<sup>th</sup> – Day trip to Mt. Mitchell has replaced the trip to Benny Parsons’ – Note: the peak is 5,500 feet, so it can be cool.



July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Troutman Parade – RSVP to Tommy Loftin for parade and lunch reservations.



July 4<sup>th</sup> – Indian Trail Parade – RSVP to nelson – need 10 cars.



August 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> – AutoFair. Sign up today.



October 8 – Car Show and meeting at City Chevrolet

#### Jim Weisberg – Member



Keep bringing supplies for our troops and he will keep sending them to the APO address.



September 23 – 25 – Murder Mystery in Marietta, OH. RSVP to Jim by July 13<sup>th</sup> so parts can be assigned. It will be a pretty weekend with the leaves beginning to change, so there will be a covered bridge tour on Saturday.

#### Tommy Loftin – Member



QCCC won trophies at the Vettes in the valley show in May:

- o Reggie & Suzie Black’s 1960 – C1 Award of Distinction
- o Ken & Lois Watts’ 1963 – C2 Award of Distinction
- o Rich & Merrilyn Harmon’s 1971 – C3 Award of Distinction



September 17<sup>th</sup> – Chrome Bumper Group will have a day trip to the Stickels’ mountain house.



July 4<sup>th</sup> – Troutman parade – there will be no riders, so all cars are welcomed.

#### Steve Pelchat for Paul Mariano – National Corvette Museum Ambassador’s Report



Support the Museum by buying raffle tickets, visiting Bowling Green, and joining the Museum as an individual, family or lifetime.

#### Steve Pelchat – President



Gift Cards drawn – Debbie Lisi – Dunkin Donuts; Dick Coulter – Cheesecake Factory



50/50 Drawing – Postage to mail supplies to servicemen through the Museum’s “Adopt-A-Platoon Project”; Eddie Burt.



Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, *Jane Burt*, for Linda Lewis, Secretary



## June QCCC Meeting at Jocks & Jills

Our thanks to Jocks & Jills Restaurant for again hosting our June QCCC Meeting after our City Chevrolet Charity Car Show was cancelled. *We really appreciate it!*



See more photos at the [QCCC web site](#)

# *Automotive Report*



QCCC Members,

I am almost embarrassed to write this article. As you remember from the June newsletter, we changed the date for the City Chevrolet Spring Car Show to June 11th. Then we had to cancel the show due to a marketing change at City Chevrolet. We are now scheduled for October 8th to put on our Fall Car Show.

Then, our trip to Benny Parsons Rendezvous Ridge Winery was cancelled on us when we were notified the winery was closing on the Saturday before we were to go. But we were in luck this time and we were able to substitute Steve Pelchat's Mount Mitchell trip for the same day, June 18th. We had 18 Corvettes and 1 metal car take the trip which involved 37 members and prospective members. Those who ate in the Mt Mitchell restaurant had a pleasant meal; several members decided to enjoy the great outdoors and brought their own picnic lunch. The drive up was very nice but on the way home most drivers encountered wind and rain. I did not hear of one Corvette melting because it got wet.

Then I had to cancel our October 1st trip to "All Corvettes Are Black" because Mr. Mullis has sent his collection to the Mecum Auction. I don't think I will be planning anymore trips this year because I couldn't handle anymore rejections.

On a happier note, our two July 4th Independence Day Parades are all set. For the Saturday, July 2nd Troutman Independence Parade, Tommy and Brenda Loftin have everything ready for the parade and lunch afterwards. Then for the Monday, July 4th Indian Trail Parade we have all 10 Corvettes we need to carry the pageant queens.

Thank you for all your help with signing up for Food Lion AutoFair. All spots for Saturday, August 27th have been filled and there are only 2 openings for Sunday, August 28th. If you would like to take one of the Sunday spots, please contact me at 704-847-8374 or on email [barnel@carolina.rr.com](mailto:barnel@carolina.rr.com).

QCCC members' participation makes this a great club.

*Nelson Sprague*

704-847-8374

704-582-0560

[barnel@carolina.rr.com](mailto:barnel@carolina.rr.com)

*When You Drive a Corvette,  
the View is Always Nice.*



*Proud sponsor of the Queen City Corvette Club*



*QCCC & Vettes In The Valley – 2011*  
Thanks to Reggie Black for this report on how QCCC members fared at this year's event.

Five QCCC couples traveled to Maggie Valley on May 27 to attend the 7th Annual Vettes In The Valley. Two C-1s, two C-2s, one C-3 and a C-5 made the trip up the mountain on Friday... in the rain! You know the old cars leak so the guys were driving and the ladies were catching the leaks! A car cleaning frenzy ensued after we arrived Friday evening... in better weather. The group, consisting of *Reggie and Suzie Black, Tommy and Brenda Loftin, Ken and Lois Watts, Rich and Marilyn Harmon and John and Wendy Callahan*, stayed at the *Brooksong Bed and Breakfast* as we have in the past two years. Cleatis and his wife Betty are gracious hosts and made a wonderful breakfast for us Saturday and Sunday morning.



Saturday morning was beautiful and comfortable on the fairgrounds. It did, however, get very warm by the time car judging was completed Saturday afternoon. Our own Tommy Loftin volunteered again this year to be a judge and reviewed many Corvettes from other clubs. His evaluations were used by the 'official judges' to help make final best in class and runner-up decisions.

*Rich and Marilyn took a first place trophy for the best C-3 with Kenny and Lois taking the 'Award Of Distinction' plaque for the C-2. Reggie and Suzie took the same award for the C-1* at the meet. The judges do not use NCRS criteria so much of the judging is based on personal feelings and judgment rather than time tested NCRS rules. Many of us were disappointed that a NCRS Top Flight car did not win over a non NCRS judged car and that a beautiful 54 Vette that is 99% factory correct did not even place in the judging. Oh well... it is what it is...We know quality when we see it!

One vendor was taking photos as we entered. They then were able to insert the car into a unique setting and frame it on the spot. Many of us selected lake or palm trees or other fun settings and received a beautiful framed work of art!

We all had a safe return trip home with no breakdowns... and that is saying something for the old cars that made the trip! The Queen City Corvette Club was once again represented well at the Vettes in the Valley car show.



Meet *MYOLDBLU*, QCCC members *Buzz & Carrie Brescoll's Medium Blue 1987 Corvette Coupe*. If you haven't heard, *MYOLDBLU* has logged over **225,000 miles** and has been in the family for 24 years, ever since Buzz picked her up at the dealership.

Before moving to Charlotte, *MYOLDBLU* lived in Detroit. Buzz wants to share with QCCC Gazette readers his story of the *jealous Jaguar down the street*.

Thanks to Buzz Brescoll for sharing this humorous "slant" to Corvette ownership.



*Buzz & MYOLDBLU just after logging the first 100,000 miles*

## *Tale of a Sad Jag*

Oh, woe is me. My body is rusting; my breathing is choking; my heart beat is irregular; my joints are stiff and creaking; my owner has lost interest in me; country drives on weekends are so infrequent, I can't remember the last one. He doesn't take time to wax me anymore. Oh, I may get a wash every six months or so . . . maybe not. Once in a while, he'll grab a soft rag and knock off the dust. But where's the love . . . that real passionate LOVE we once shared?

After decades of being faithful to Mr. Big Shot, is this all the love and respect an old *Jag XKE-V12 convertible* deserves, in spite of my tattered top and cracked leather seats? Am I due no respect? Mr. Big Shot doesn't brag about me anymore. He no longer brings friends over to admire me as he iterates my specs and sings my praises.

Worst of all, he's spending every day with another 'new' love. He takes this boxy looking 4 wheeling SUV to work, to play, to church . . . everywhere. Is it just because it's newer, more reliable and comfortable? Meanwhile, I sit parked in the garage waiting for a little affection. I almost wish he would stuff me into a car crusher. Please, put me out of my misery.

I often think, it could have been different. What if I was born a *Corvette*? I often ponder the life of *MYOLDBLU* . . . I'll just call him BLU. He's an '87 medium blue Vette coupe that lives down the street. He makes me so jealous. For years, I've watched BLU's relationship with his owners . . . *Buzz and Carrie Brescoll*. They have been together through thick and thin for more than 24 years, since the day Buzz took delivery of BLU at the dealership. From the beginning, I saw a gleam in Buzz's eyes . . . that same gleam Mr. Big Shot used to shoot me. But things were different with BLU and Buzz.

One difference is that I spent a lot of time at my doc's office. Something was always wrong with me. Hell, I once heard Mr. Big Shot say, in not such a praising way, that I was having an affair with my mechanic since I was spending all my time with him.

But Buzz and BLU had a different relationship. They went everywhere together. BLU only stayed at home if the kids and/or family dog were going. Then the family station wagon got called into action. But early each weekday morning, Buzz and BLU pulled out of the subdivision. Within a mile, they were on I-75 heading to downtown Detroit. Boy, did they have fun . . . zipping around at 75 mph on I-75 for 40 minutes heading to the Renaissance Center. The regulars knew who they were and got the hell out of their way. No one wanted to challenge BLU's right-of-way at 8:15 in the morning. Once at work, BLU had his private underground parking place. Nothing was too good for BLU, and money was no object. BLU did not deal with the elements . . . not at home and not at work.

Dogs were never allowed to ride in BLU, not even Duffy, the family's beloved mutt. But one exception happened one lunch hour when Buzz crossed into Windsor, Canada for a luncheon. The customs officials decided he was a smart ass, so they instructed their German Shepard to romp through BLU to sniff out drugs. How humiliating. It took much time to recover from that humiliation.

The highlight each night was the last couple miles when I-75 became a wide open highway. Buzz and BLU could put the pedal to the metal and put some air under the hood. BLU says Buzz never had the guts to go full out. Once they hit 125 on a clear stretch, but Buzz chickened out and started worrying about deer crossing the expressway. To this day, they haven't found BLU's top end.

I used to really worry in the winter months. Rain was bad enough with those big wide slippery Goodyear tires. Their traction really sucks. But when it started to snow, I knew they should stay home, at least BLU should. Buzz could take the station wagon, but asking BLU to perform in the snow was just ridiculous. Ya know, some people are just stupid about what they expect from their rides. But Buzz would not be denied. He loved BLU and was going to drive him everyday he could. BLU was his daily driver, and still is. After worrying for several years, I learned that Buzz had gotten another set of wheels with snow tires, and he'd switch 'em twice a year.

One time, they got caught in a freak snow storm some 40 miles from home. They did get home safe and sound, but BLU couldn't exceed 22 mph without fishtailing. They just got in the slow lane and took their time.

I was also envious that BLU never spent any time at the doc's. Nothing seemed to bother him. He was the ultimate example of a Chevrolet work horse. Day in and day out, he was ready to go. Buzz would joke and say, "BLU is just an old Chevy. I expect my ride to be ready to go when I am."

It also helped that Buzz's mechanic, George Koch in Pontiac, Michigan, also loved the car. In part, George felt BLU's performance and durability were a reflection of his skills and knowledge. So BLU got lots of attention and TLC as needed. In fact, I got a peek at BLU's service history; it's amazing. BLU has now logged *225,000 miles*. But his engine, transmission and differential have never been opened up to see the light of day, except for a couple spark plug replacements. Oh, sure, there is a laundry list of R & Rs. Everything can't last forever. But after 225,000 miles, BLU still doesn't burn oil, and he runs like a Swiss watch . . . Timex or Rolex, whichever you prefer.

When BLU turned the first 100K, Buzz told his good friend, Joe Knable, how proud he was of BLU. Buzz and BLU had just returned from a 3000 mile trip to the Florida Keys to do some SCUBA diving. Early one morning while riding back, Buzz and BLU hit the Blue Ridge Parkway . . . it was their chance to imitate the moonshine runners of the Prohibition era.

Later that day, somewhere near Lexington, KY, they stopped aside the road to take photos of themselves. BLU had just turned his first 100,000 miles.

But getting back to Joe, he worked for Chevy Engineering and had recently created the instrumentation for Jim Hall's Chaparral racing cars. Chevy was experimenting with automatic transmissions in formula cars.

Patiently Joe explained to Buzz that Corvettes are not just sporty looking Chevrolets. The Vettes are built to a different standard, at least starting with the C-4s. The new C-4 Chief Engineer, Dave McLellan, had instructed his team that endurance, durability and reliability were mandatory priorities. He insisted that his team double GM's normal passenger car standard of 100K miles. Everything needed to go 200K. Every Vette leaving Bowling Green was to be prepared to run the 24 hour Le Mans . . . and to finish. So Buzz said to Joe, "BLU and I accept the challenge."

At some point between 100 and 200K miles, the leather seats ripped apart. Thanks to loving children and Santa Claus, new seats were under the Christmas tree.

Bodywise, the first 20 years went well. BLU never experienced so much as a door chip. Buzz was careful about where he parked BLU. But then, the unthinkable happened. Buzz and BLU collided with a building while trying to leave a parking lot. As you might expect, Buzz doesn't like to talk about the incident. It is sort of like he wasn't there. His memory of the event is vague and clouded.

It's a lot like the time he tried to drive with the glass top unscrewed, and it flew up and off BLU, landing in the street behind them. This did the top no good at all. Maybe that's why it rains inside the car when going through an auto wash. It doesn't pay to be lazy with those tops. No, Buzz doesn't like to talk about that incident either.

But getting back to the parking lot, BLU took a nasty Muhammad Ali right jab to BLU's left eye. The punch was hard enough to push the rest of BLU's face around a bit. Buzz was devastated. But the damage was done, and they had to go home and tell Mama. Carrie had been expecting something like this since day one, so she showed no great surprise.



*The restoration team*

Very, VERY fortunately, Buzz has a good friend who has a good friend who was the body shop manager of a major Chevrolet dealership. So, Buzz went to meet Joe Hershey. Buzz's friend, Bob Dall, had called Joe and shared with him the love affair between Buzz and BLU. So when Buzz got to Joe's, he found an understanding and caring new friend. Joe and Buzz agreed that BLU could stay with Joe for the restoration duration, which turned out to be about 3 months. Joe negotiated hard with the insurance adjuster. The deeper Joe got under BLU's bonnet, the more he found that the adjuster had missed. So, return trips were demanded of the adjuster.

Joe finally got what he needed to restore BLU to original specs. Then Joe suggested that Buzz throw another \$1500 down on the glass top, and Joe would go around BLU's entire body and make him look as good as new. Joe then assigned two fellows . . . one for body and one for paint . . . to do the work slowly and carefully.

It was a 'wall job' . . . park BLU aside the wall and work when there's free time. The boys took their time, worked slowly and carefully, and did a near perfect job. Needless to say, to this day, Buzz is grateful for their concern.

Many days, as I remain idle, I cry a little and bemoan the fact the Mr. Big Shot no longer feels that same way about me. I still see Buzz and BLU going places. I now hear that they have joined the *Queen City Corvette Club* in Charlotte, NC, one of the largest in the world. That's something Buzz had always wanted to do in Michigan.

I'm told that they are going on trips with a couple dozen other Vettes, winding thru the foothills of the Smokey Mountains and having a grand old time. Oh, what a life that must be.

Buzz is getting older these days; he's now 70. But he still thinks he's a mid-life stud when he gets in BLU and they go for a spin. I wonder if those two will ever part. I doubt it. It's probably like a marriage . . . until death do them part.

Well, there are many stories of dream cars and car dreamers. But what cars have ever given more car nuts their ultimate dreams than the Corvettes? You can talk about cars like me . . . the great Jags of yesteryear, or Beemers, Porches, Mercedes,

Ferraris, Mustangs, Vipers and the custom built exotics, but can any other car anywhere in the world claim to have inspired mankind like the 55 years worth of Corvettes? *I think NOT! Hell, Corvettes even have their own museum!*

From the young fellow who can only afford an older fixer-upper with the few grand he can scrape together, to the not so affordable brand new ZR-1 that only well-to-do bankers, lawyers, and senior citizens can afford, or to the race car enthusiast with an unlimited budget, the Vette offers everything needed to experience the thrill of the ultimate driving experience.

As for Buzz and BLU, I heard something bizarre the other day. Carrie was telling Mrs. Big Shot that Buzz has instructions in his will to be buried in BLU. I don't know where he thinks the two of them will be going. Carrie thinks he's crazy, but maybe that's why she married him. Those two have put in more than 47 years together. So who's going to argue?

If you're in the neighborhood, I suggest you stop in and take BLU for a spin. He's very friendly and loves to meet new people.

Meanwhile, I'll just be sitting here and rusting away. I have a family of field mice who have started building a nest in my engine compartment. Mr. Big Shot hasn't looked under my bonnet for so long that he doesn't know they're there. Oh, woe is me . . . just an old Sad Jag . . . I wish I'd been a Vette.



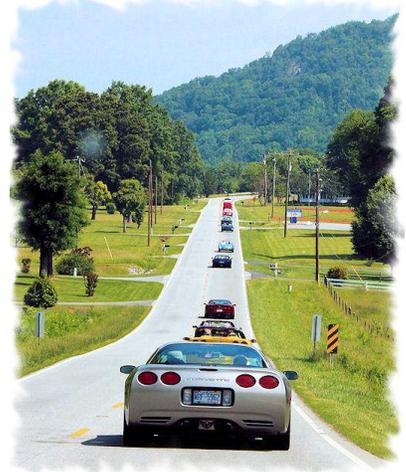
## *Corvette Roads*

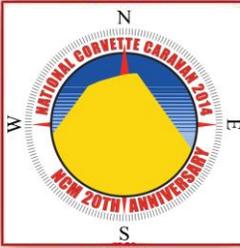


*Thanks to Bob Becker for providing these interesting shots*

# Carolina Blue Skies, Cruising and Chrome Bumpers

The Chrome Bumper Cars lead the way for a cruise to  
the Daniel Boone Inn





AUGUST 28 - 30, 2014 ALL ROADS LEAD TO BOWLING GREEN THE NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM ALL ROADS LEAD TO BOWLING GREEN THE NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM

## National Corvette Museum Corner

The great trek through the National Parks is over and now it's back to reality and the business at hand. Believe me, it is a little more than trying to get my hands around the everyday tasks.

The first thing that I have noticed upon our return is the number of new club members. Hopefully, they will become dedicated Corvette Museum members and take part in all the activities the NCM has to offer. I encourage all of you to see me regarding NCM membership and benefits. If you are a true Corvette enthusiast, you won't regret it.

I am pleased to report that the 2014 Caravan Captains now in place are steadily drumming up interest in that event even though it is over three years away. Great planning can never start too early. Stay abreast of all the caravan news by visiting [www.corvettecaravan.com](http://www.corvettecaravan.com).

The next NCM event we will be attending is the *Birthday Celebration* in September. We have no more seats at our reserved tables for the *Hall of Fame dinner*, but if you are interested in attending, room will be available at other tables. This HOF event is special in that *Corvette Racer, Ron Fellows*, will be inducted. This is one not to miss.



Save the Wave!

*Paul Mariano,*  
NCM Ambassador



Please don't forget our **Queen City Corvette Club's Adopt-A-Platoon Program**

Contact Jim & Kay Weisberg for more info. **Bring your donations to each meeting.**

### Ideas For Care Packages:

Air fresheners	Disposable cameras	Mints	Soap
Antacids	Disposable razors	Mouth sprays / Breath mints	Summer sausage
Anti-bacterial gels	DVD movies	Music CDs	Sunflower seeds
Aspirin or pain relievers	Ear swabs	Nasal Spray	Sunscreen
Baby wipes	Envelopes	News magazines	Sweetened drink mix
Beef jerky	Eye Drops	Newspapers	Tissues, travel size
Blank Post cards	Flyswatters	Paper	Toaster pastries
Board games	Foot powder	Paperback books	Toilet paper (SOFT)
Body powder	Fragrance spray	Peanuts	Toothbrushes
Books	Gallon size resealable plastic bags	Pillows	Toothpaste
Canned cheese	Granola bars	Popcorn	Trail Mix
Chewing Gum	Hard candy	Pretzels	Travel games
Chewing tobacco	Ink pens	Protein bars	Vacuum sealed baked goods
Chips	Insoles (cushioned)	Protein Powder / shakes	Velcro (all sizes-but only in black or green)
Crackers	Instant soup	Ravioli (Pop top cans)	Video games
Crossword / Word find puzzles	Lip balm	Shampoo	Vitamins
Dental Floss	Lollipops	Small packs of fruit	Waterless hand wash
Deodorant	Magazines	Snacks that can stand the heat	

**Freedom Is Not Free!**



## **Fellowship & Fun at QCCC Luncheons & Dinners –**



# Vintage QCCC

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past

By Vintage Guys ~

Bill Cruthis & Richard Craig



## *"Mirror Mirror On The Wall, Who Is The Richest Of Us All?"*

1975 saw the addition of Danny Shaver to QCCC. Danny (a.k.a. Shaverstein, so designated by Dollar Bill Ingram) always had a huge smile, great sense of humor but lots of serious business savvy. Dan took one look at Bill's "mod squad afro" and the nickname Brillo Pad was born. It seems Danny was a real visionary, with his repainted copper color (early Atomic Orange) '72 Roadster with black wall tires, which he took quite a ribbing about. Now look at all of our tires—black-walls. To this day Turkley says he always thought Danny would be a huge business success. You knew he was a true friend as he let Brillo Pad borrow his '72 for some auto-crossing. But make no mistake, it was wise to avoid doing any business deals with Danny, if you did there were no laws, er, uh rules that could not be broken. He was a real type a personality when it came to making money.

Dan had gotten involved with the early days of laying cable for the hot new thing in the mid '70's, called Cable TV, which would spell the end of suburban antennae. Brillo, Dollar Bill, and Turkley hung out a lot, but it became apparent money would change that. Bill remembers a phone call from Dan on a Thursday night in '75, "hey, we are taking the company plane to Paris for the weekend." "Paris France?" "Yes, Paris France." So the hanging together slowed but we remained great friends. The Shaverstein family owned Dixie Trucking on Atondo Ave. in Charlotte and then they built a new terminal at exit 18 in Huntersville around 1977. They had well over 100 semi trucks and were known as the best li'l trucking company. It was a huge success, but Danny's dad had the same business drive as Danny so they did not get along well.

Dan left and took interest in the oil business learning that industry at Nisbett Oil, again no rules or laws applied. He used his cash from the sale of Dixie Trucking and experience from Nisbett Oil to launch a chain of gas and convenience stores. If you have been around Charlotte long you are aware of the old Petro Express gas stations. They were in his image always on the best corner, clean and cheery. We are sure the name came from his always saying he needed to stop for petrol. We lost touch with Danny after the '93 party at the speedway club for QCCC's 25th anniversary. Then while watching the Daytona ARCA race some years later the announcer said we have a car in the wall on the back straight, it's Dan Shaver upside down in the Petro Express Chevy. So Danny took his early QCCC auto-cross and Charlotte Motor Speedway skills to the big time. He was age 50 then, but still had the same need for speed that we all remember.



In 2004 Brillo was gassing up at Petro Express in Denver, NC and asked about Danny. He was told Danny had cancer and was in the Bahamas. Later we learned from Dollar Bill that Danny had passed away a couple of years ago. While we are sad to have lost Danny, those of us who were around then are better off for knowing him. He was wide open throttle in everything and he left nothing on the track, getting the most out of his years.

Just a regular one of us who loved Corvettes and good times. And one last amazing fact - he left an estate worth north of \$267 million. Not bad for a guy paying \$5 a month dues to QCCC in 1975.



Seen in the "Snow Cap" Ice Cream Shop  
on Route 66 in Seligman, Arizona

# “Heads-Up”



**A “Recommended” Rating From Consumer Reports?** – You’re not in the Twilight Zone, You read it right. Consumer Reports April 2011 edition of its “Best and Worst Cars” singled out the Corvette Z06 for praise, finally. “The Z06 is a bargain high-performance sports car, with a potent 505-horsepower V8” said the “non-enthusiast” magazine. The recommendation is worth noting because the Z06 performed well as an automobile, not just a sports car and earned the magazine’s highest rating in reliability alone. But we knew that, didn’t we?

**Don’t Forget to Make Your Plans to See Ron Fellows Inducted into the NCM Hall of Fame** – One of the most recognizable, respected and popular personalities to ever represent Corvette’s racing heritage will be inducted into the *National Corvette Museum’s Hall of Fame* during the *2011 Anniversary weekend*. If you need additional information about the trip or lodging, see Paul Mariano. This is an event you don’t want to miss! Did you know that Ron Fellows is tied with Terry Labonte for the most road course wins in NASCAR history?



**Are You Ready For E15?** – The debate is heating up and some are even resorting to name-calling in the division over the safety and savings of E15. “Harmful to the environment, a burden on taxpayers and bad news for anyone who operates a vehicle – the government plows ahead with ethanol” read the Spring edition of Hagerty Magazine. Automakers are weighing in now, with as many as nine (including General Motors) writing letters of criticism to Congress and saying they will not honor warranties for older cars running E15. The pain will also be felt by gas station operators. Because they will need to continue to provide E10 fuel for older cars and power equipment, selling the E15 will require additional in-ground tanks at significant expense. It remains to be seen if some station owners will decide to just carry the E15 only to reduce the expense of separate tanks and dispensing. The Historic Vehicle Association says this is bad news for any vehicle owner, not just historic vehicle enthusiasts concerned about a future where market pressures might one day eliminate the fuels needed to safely operate their vehicles. Consumers are further penalized, says the HVA, by the ethanol mandate as fuel mileage decreases by 3 -5 percent with E10 and by up to 20 percent with E15 and E20. The EPA maintains that cars built 2007 or later are made to run on E15 and it poses no threat to cars back to 2001. So, we all may have a choice soon, and we probably will have to be on our toes when pulling up to the gas pumps, especially if you own a classic auto you want to exercise on weekends. Maybe we should carry a calculator so we can determine MPG and cost savings by fuel type when we fill up.



**Chevy Announces New Corvette Incentives** – Effective July 6<sup>th</sup> through September 6<sup>th</sup>, significant dealer cash flows to dealers to help buyers purchase the new Corvette they desire. Dealers receive \$3000 on each remaining 2011 Corvette, which can be passed on to their customers. Or, lower financing rates may be chosen by buyers. Also for the first time, incentives are available on the 2012 Corvettes, which are trickling in showrooms across the nation.

**Add This One to the List of Artist Renderings of the C7** – What do we think we know about the C7? First, we know it’ll arrive in the latter half of 2013 as the 2014 model. 2nd, GM VP of Global design Ed Welburn has said it will have a split rear window. 3rd, shaving weight to increase fuel economy is top priority, and 4th, GM is developing a new gen of V8s which should be ready by the time 2013 rolls around.



**For The Corvette Racing Fans** – The ALMS Northeast Grand Prix is scheduled to start at 2:05 p.m. ET on Saturday, 7/9. Live coverage is available on ESPN3.com in the US. ESPN2 will televise the race at 1 P.M. ET on Sunday, 7/10. Will Corvette Racing come back strong after the win at Le Mans?





**JOIN US AT OUR NEXT BUSINESS MEETING –**  
**Saturday, July 9th 2011**  
**HARLEY DAVIDSON OF CHARLOTTE**

9205 E. Independence Blvd. Matthews, NC 28105-4501 704-847-4647

[www.h-dofcharlotte.com](http://www.h-dofcharlotte.com)

**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.

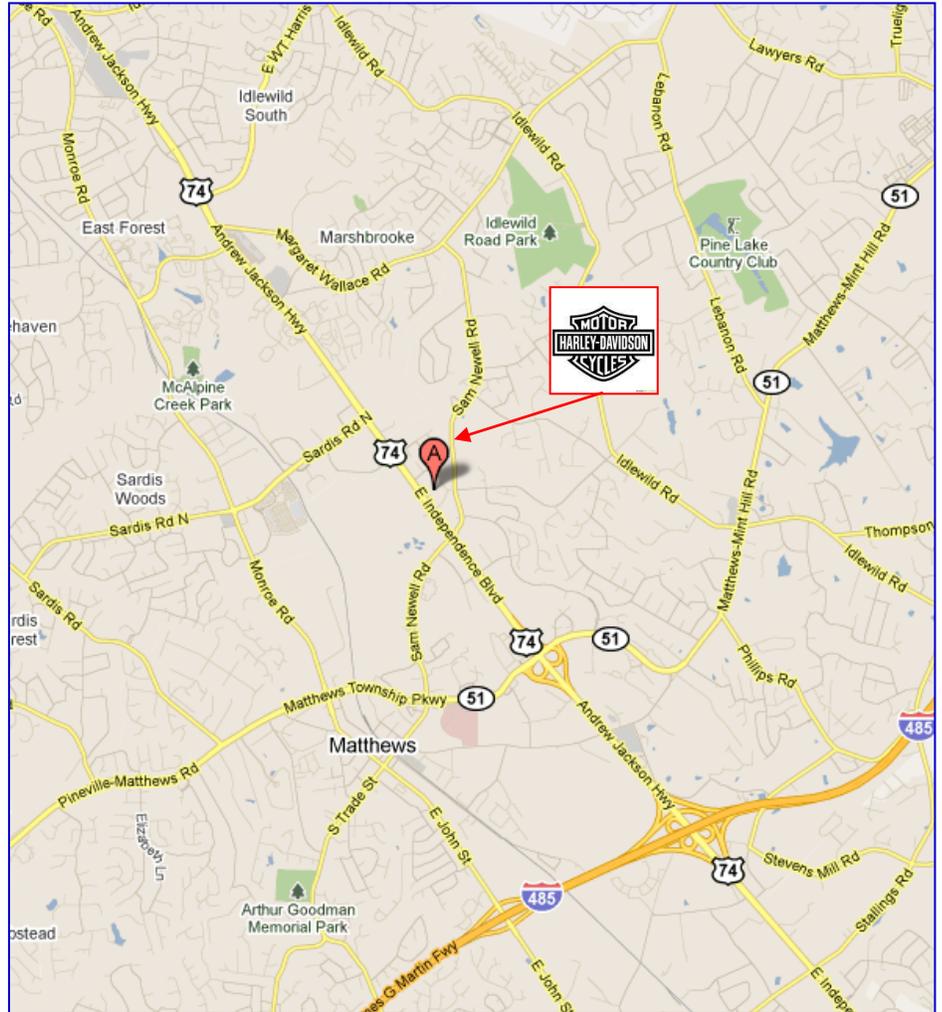
**From the South:**

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

**Social: 5:30 PM**

**Business Meeting: 6:30 PM**

*Don't forget VP Deiger's Road Rally trivia!*



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# QCCC Adventures

## Visit Bavaria with the Queen City Corvette Club October 21-23, 2011



This is a quaint Alpine Village in the north Georgia mountains. Every year they put on an Oktoberfest every day for 7 weeks. The town comes alive!!! We will plan to caravan to Helen with some interesting stops along the way (more to come). There will be lots of choices for all of you during the weekend – shops, authentic German restaurants, clubs, golfing, horseback riding, a great model railroad exhibit, arts and crafts, a winery, and more with the Chattahoochee River running through town surrounded by beautiful landscape in fall colors!

The actual Oktoberfest features a 700 seat Festhalle and Beer Garden, with lots of wurst (sausage), German potato salad, kraut & pickles. They also serve hot dogs, chicken fingers, nachos, BBQ sandwiches, giant pretzels, popcorn, chips, etc. There are lots of varieties of beer, wine and soft drinks. The best part of the Festhalle is the entertainment. Several different German bands that play anything from authentic German music to a cross section for dancing, singing, many toasts and just plain fun! The admission price is around \$10.00 per person (food and drinks sold separately). The Festhalle is open daily 6-10:30 P. M. Pat will get back to you this part. Typically we get together and go into the Festhalle Saturday night.

We will have several Saturday day trips organized – one to the mining town of Dahlonega, the other a small trip into the north Georgia mountains. All of which will be fantastic during the fall season. Some of you may want to golf or stay in town and shop on Saturday. We'll have more specifics coming soon!

We will be spending Friday and Saturday nights at:  
The Super 8 Motel 706-878-2191  
8396 South Main Street  
Helen, Georgia, 30545

This motel is on the main street of Helen – within easy walking distance of all the shops and restaurants in town. We will be offered a free breakfast at the motel and there is off road, safe parking for the Vettes. PLEASE make your reservations ASAP – no later than September 1st – we were only able to get a block of 30 rooms – with either 2 doubles or a king. It is very hard to get this many rooms within walking distance of everything during Oktoberfest. It will be first come first serve, there is no guarantee we can get more rooms! When you make your reservations tell them you are with QCCC to get our rate \$149.00 plus applicable taxes per night. After you have made your reservations, be sure to e-mail Pat Bonino [shonino@carolina.rr.com](mailto:shonino@carolina.rr.com) so we can keep a running log for this event. We will be getting many many more details to come.

Don your Lederhosen, Dirndls and Hutes – Polish up your Corvettes – bring your steins and Alphorns  
Have a great time at this fall outing in Helen, Georgia



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SEPTEMBER 23 - 25, 2011  
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TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB

SIGN UP AT THE JUNE AND/OR JULY MEETING  
OR

EMAIL JIM (SPIKES17@CAROLINA.RR.COM) OR KAY WEISBERG (KAYW@CAROLINA.RR.COM) BY JULY 15, 2011.



## 14-NIGHT SOUTH AMERICAN CRUISE on Celebrity's Infinity February 12-26, 2012

### JOIN US FOR A CRUISE AROUND THE HORN!

Cruise along with Wendell Strode and other Corvette Enthusiast's as we travel from Chile around the horn to Argentina...truly a cruise of a lifetime!

**South America is the new Alaska!**  
For travelers in search of rugged natural beauty, breathtaking mountain peaks, fjords that stretch nearly forever, cosmopolitan cities, indigenous historic peoples and cultures, and vast tropical rain forests... South America is truly a cruise potpourri! This amazing and large continent covers thousands of miles & extends from the equatorial tropics to the sub-Antarctic. It's diversity of climate and culture surpasses Alaska. This itinerary is a favorite among avid cruiser's!



Rates are per person and include:

- Cabin rate, port fees and taxes
- Travel Insurance
- One-way transfer
- Group 3 Course Dinner/Tango Show in Buenos Aires, Argentina
- NCM Polo Shirt
- 2 private, NCM Cocktail Parties
- NCM Cruise Expert & Travel Planner

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Hurry! Space is very limited.

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For more information contact:

Sheri Clarke

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### Announcement:

If you plan on attending the 2014 NCM Corvette Caravan and also plan to visit the National Corvette Museum anytime during 2011, 2012, and/or 2013, check out the special offer from the Hampton Inn to Caravan participants. Any stay prior to the Caravan will result in a savings off the room rate during the Caravan. Example: Stay during 2011, receive \$10 off per night during the Caravan, stay another night during 2012, receive another \$10 off the room rate during the caravan. A stay during 2011, 2012, and 2013 gets you \$30 off the normal room rate per night at the 2014 caravan. Visit [www.howlinggreenbyhamptoninn.com](http://www.howlinggreenbyhamptoninn.com) or see Chris Wood or Wade Sticksel for details.

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*What Do You Do on a **Hot** Summer Day?*  
*Cruise to Much Cooler*  
*Mt. Mitchell with QCCC*



## IN THE REAR VIEW



**This Month In Corvette History – July, 1953:** Zora Arkus-Duntov begins working on the Corvette. **July 2, 1992:** The 1,000,000 Corvette is built, a white LTI roadster with red interior. **July, 1962:** Production begins on the Grand Sport, designed for racing in World Championship races. Production is intended to be 125. **July 2, 1975:** The last 1975 model-year convertible Stingray rolls off the assembly line.

**Guess Who?** – Do you recognize the QCCC member saluting beside the '69 Coupe in the photo to the right? It's Wendy Krupowicz on her honeymoon in August 1971! The photo was submitted to USA Today for their pictorial of "Corvettes on Vacation". Check out other photos at



at <http://mediagallery.usatoday.com/Reader+Corvettes+on+vacation/G2409>.

**And From The "He Had Too Much Time On His Hands" Department** – A California man who wanted to hang on to his Corvette and abide by California's strict emission laws took matters into his own hands. He pulled the supercharged 396 cu V8 out and installed an electric motor and a batch of 16-volt batteries. Watch and listen at [www.corvetteblogger.com](http://www.corvetteblogger.com).

**Corvette Sales Inching Up** – June marked the end of 2011 production and the beginning of 2012 production in Bowling Green. For 2011, production was up 11.5% to 13,596. For the 2011 calendar year, Corvette sales are up 8.5% to 6,896. Sales in June 2011, however, fell from June 2010, probably due to the introduction of the Grand Sport in June 2010.

## Upcoming Events

- July 9 - *QCCC Business Meeting at Harley Davidson of Charlotte*
- July 9 - Corvette Racing @ ALMS Northeast Grand Prix – Lakeville, CT
- July 24 - Corvette Racing @ Grand Prix of Mosport Ontario, Canada
- July 14-16 - [30<sup>th</sup> Annual National Corvette Homecoming](#) - Bowling Green, KY
- August 6 - Corvette Racing @ Acura Sports Challenge Lexington, Ohio
- August 13 - *QCCC Business Meeting*
- August 16-18- [NCM Museum in Motion](#) – Hendrick Automotive, Tail of the Dragon, etc.
- August 20 - Corvette Racing @ TWC Road Race Showcase – Elkhart Lake, WI
- Aug 26-28 - [Corvettes at Carlisle](#) – Carlisle, PA
- Aug 27-28 - [Food Lion AutoFair – Concord, NC](#)
- Sept 1- 3 - [NCM Anniversary & Hall Of Fame –](#) Bowling Green, KY
- Sept. 3 - Corvette Racing @ Baltimore Grand Prix – Baltimore, MD
- Sept 10 - *QCCC Business Meeting*
- Sept 17 - *QCCC Car Care Day at Wally & Anita's*
- Sept 16-18 – [Mid-America Funfest](#) – Effingham. IL
- Sept. 17 - Corvette Racing @ Monterey Sports Car Championships – Salinas, CA
- Sept 23-25 - *Murder Mystery, Marietta, OH*
- October 1 - Corvette Racing @ Petit Le Mans – Road Atlanta, Braselton, Ga
- Oct 8 - [City Chevy Charity Car Show & QCCC Business Meeting](#)
- Oct 21-23 - [Ocktoberfest](#) – Helen, Ga
- Nov 12 - *QCCC Business Meeting*
- Dec 10 - *QCCC Christmas Party & Business Meeting*

For more events, see the [QCCC Calendar](#)

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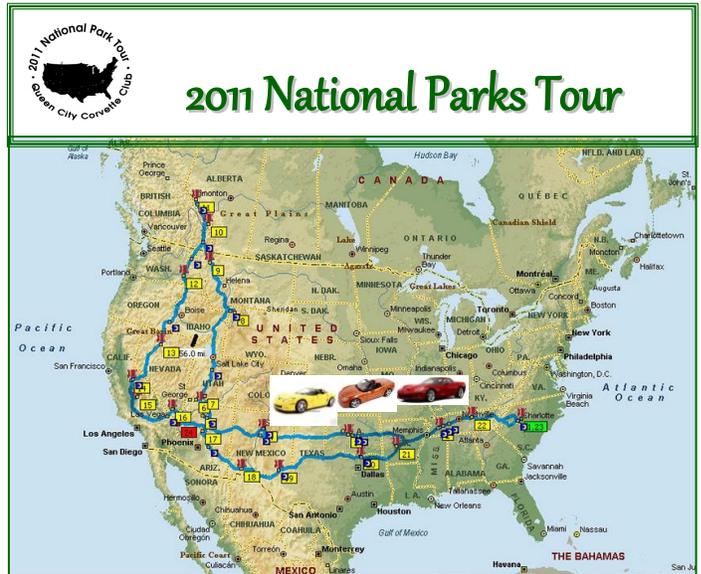
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**Nine thousand, nine hundred and sixty nine miles.**

No, we couldn't drive another 31 miles around the block so we'll round it up to an even *10,000 miles in 35 days*. Would we do it again? In a minute. All the planning, packing and preparation prior to the trip made it even easier than we believed it could ever be. Seeing the USA in our Chevrolet Corvette was an experience we will never forget. We had a deep appreciation for the Corvette before we drove out of our driveway, but now that appreciation goes much, much deeper. Aside from chipped windshields and a few pebble dings, the Corvettes performed flawlessly. Driving at 10,000' above sea level, 200' above sea level, in Canadian temperatures of high 30s to New Mexico temperatures of 115 degrees, the Corvettes never missed a beat. From "spirited" driving through parts of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Texas, to just cruising through Nat'l Parks, to stop and go traffic in the Mohave Desert, the Corvettes were *perfect, comfortable and great on gas*.



- ✉ Many thanks are in order, most important of all thanks to **Paul and Barbara Mariano** for their flawless, detailed planning and for leading the group on an incredible journey and back home again. Their experience in most of the areas we traveled was critical to a safe and enjoyable experience.
- ✉ Thanks to **Karl Tyler and his Chevrolet dealership team in Missoula, Montana** for his hospitality and for washing each of our Corvettes. They drove so much better when they were clean!
- ✉ Thanks to the **Hellgate Corvette Club in Missoula, Montana** for providing a great lunch to the weary travelers.
- ✉ Thanks to **Hib & Sandy Halverson** and **Bob & Inge Stallings** from the **Corvette Club of Santa Barbara** (California) for joining the fun and leading our caravan through some incredible country. It's not often we get to stop our Corvettes to wait for cows to cross the road!
- ✉ Thanks to **John & Barbara James** of Sedona, Arizona for joining us and giving us a 1<sup>st</sup> class send-off, complete with a huge Corvette flag, as we left Yellowstone NP. John & Barbara, your Sedona driveway will never be the same!
- ✉ Thanks to **Gary Stephen, Graham Borley, Karen Demers, and Bryan Steed of Corvettes Unlimited in Calgary, Alberta, Canada** for their time and hospitality in leading our tour through Banff, Lake Louise and parts of the Canadian Rockies.
- ✉ There are many stories to tell and many photos to share in future **Gazettes**. Thanks to **Wade & Sue Stickels** for providing the 1<sup>st</sup> inside look at the tour. As the travelers get back to daily lives, the stories will come. Stay tuned for more in future Gazettes. For now, I think the travelers will all agree **IT WAS A HELL OF A RIDE!**

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