



The
Queen City Corvette Gazette

Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

December 2011



Driving Corvettes Through Beauty Like This Means 'Life Is Good'

See Page 6



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

The Queen City Corvette Gazette is the official newsletter of the [Queen City Corvette Club](#) (QCCC), established in 1968, and 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.**

On The Cover:

Queen City Corvette Club members stop to enjoy the view and a photo op on their way to Helen, Ga. What comes to mind while driving your Corvette through beauty like this is 'life is good.' For more Oktoberfest photos see page 18.

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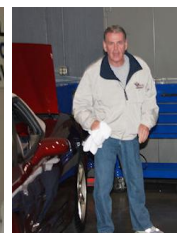
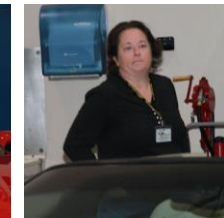
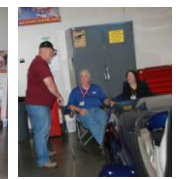
Office Hours By Appointment

QCCC is a non-profit club (501-C7) whose members all share a common appreciation and love of America's Sports Car – the Corvette. 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!**



NASCAR Technical Institute Open House
QCCC Members Wrap-Up the Car Show
Season Once Again at the Fall Open House



The President's Vault

At this time of year it's nice to reflect on the club's past year. First I want to thank the 2011 Board of Directors for all their hard work. Also, all the club members who helped plan a club event and all members who participated in club events. Membership participation is a great way to meet new members and gain new friends. Laura & I met several new members on our two overnight trips this year and had a great time with them.



I thought we had a wide range of events to appeal to most members. I have tried to keep my ears open this year to member's concerns about the club. One issue I hear a lot is the size of the club, but for the last 2 years the club has been pretty static, with monthly membership averaging about 255. Out of the 255 we have just under 50% participation at monthly meetings, which does limit our meeting locations. So far that seems to be the only thing affected by the size. Most of our day trips have between 15 & 25 cars which we can usually accommodate. The other concern I heard was members wanting more day trips, which the new board will address. The board is going to try and have at least 1 day trip per month. Some might be limited to a certain number of cars depending upon the venue or restaurant we visit for lunch. Hopefully with plenty of events the members can pick & choose what events they participate in.

Our newest board members have already hit the ground running, we've had several conversations about what we want to do next year, and have started working on them. As always, if you have an idea for an activity, tell one of the board members, we can work on it.

Just a reminder, I don't want to spoil your holiday shopping, but club renewal is due by January 5th, to stay current.

Hope everyone has a *Merry Christmas* and a *Happy New Year*. Looking forward to seeing you at the Christmas Party.

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

Steve Pelchat

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



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Proud sponsor of the Queen City Corvette Club

QCCC Corvettes, Queens & Christmas Parades

QCCC Members took advantage of the final opportunities to show off their **Corvettes** in local **Parades**



For more photos visit the "Event Photos" section on our [QCCC website!](#)



MATTHEWS HELP CENTER 2011 FOOD DONATION REQUEST

In the past, Queen City Corvette Club members have shown great generosity in donating food to the Matthews Help Center to help those less fortunate who are in need during this special time of the year. As we are all aware, the economy has taken a downturn and joblessness has increased substantially in the past year. Kim Rhodamer, Executive Director of Matthews Help Center, said the number of people requesting food assistance has increased even more since our 2010 food drive.

Not all members can attend every meeting so we will be collecting your donations at the November business meeting, 11/12/11 and the December business meeting, 12/10/11. This will make it possible for members who want to donate to be at one or the other of the meetings.

If you desire more information about the Matthews Help Center, you can visit their web site at: www.matthewshelpcenter.com. They are a very active organization helping the community in many different ways. The Matthews Help Center does not receive assistance from the United Way or any government agency.

ATTACHED IS A LIST OF THEIR MOST URGENT NEEDS FOR THEIR PANTRY. If possible, items packed in cans, plastic or boxes are preferred. Glass is acceptable, but is more prone to breakage.

Thank you for your concern for the needs of others.

Nelson Sprague
Automotive Director

To everyone who donated food or supplies for the Matthews Help Center, I want to -

THANK YOU!

Knowing that our members and prospective members are so generous in helping others who are not as fortunate as we are during this holiday season, makes me glad I can be a QCCC member.

Thanks again,
Nelson

Deiger's VP Report



Well, this is my final report for 2011 and as your Vice President. It has certainly been a pleasure serving you as the Vice President of Queen City Corvette Club. My intention for running for this office was to try to make things a little bit better than the year before. I hope I have achieved that in your eyes.

I would also like to thank everyone for your participation in the **QCCC Road Rally '11!** My expectations were certainly exceeded! I hope you found the competition and involvement as rewarding as I did. I wish to thank a number of individuals for their assistance in gathering attendance lists for the different events. Some of those individuals were: Nelson Sprague, Eddie and Jane Burt, Laura Pelchat, Susan and Boyd Kurt, and the many Up-Yonder individuals that organized the many Up-Yonder dinners. You certainly made the information gathering an easy endeavor.

The Rally fulfilled every expectation I had for it. My intention was to make each and every member of QCCC join in and participate in an activity that, if not for the rally, they would probably not have participated in. Also, to encourage members to meet new friends, experience new activities, and see new sights. If you can say that you were one of those individuals, then my job was done.

Be sure to register for the *Annual Banquet on January 28th*, not only to celebrate another successful year, but to also see who will walk away with the prizes. You never know, it might be you!!

Our last meeting of the year will be our Christmas Party. To be held at:



Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church
15000 York Road
Charlotte, NC 28278



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

Please also take note of the times for the evening's activities:

Social Time: 5:30pm – 6:00pm **Dinner Time:** 6:00pm – 7:00pm **Meeting Time:** 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Look forward to seeing everyone there!!

Be safe out there!!

Matthew Deiger 



Automotive Report

QCCC Members,

This year is really winding down quickly. Where does the time go? The **NASCAR Technical Institute Open House** was a big success with 35 members and prospective members and their 28 beautiful Corvettes in attendance. The free coffee, donuts and pizza were a big hit.



The Concord **and Monroe parades** went off without a hitch. I want to thank the drivers who participated and only wish we had more girls sign up so more members could have driven in the parades. The **Lake Wylie Elementary School Christmas Parade** is the last parade for the year. There are 12 drivers participating in this parade; we will eat at Jim & Nick's afterwards. It's a nice way to end the parade season.



Our year-end charity events are in place. The **Matthews Help Center** was very appreciative of our food donations from the November meeting. There will be a second collection at the December meeting and the food will be delivered in time to help with their Christmas needs. We have sponsors for *all 28 children* of the **145th Air National Guard families** who have one or possibly both parents deployed overseas this Christmas. Your generosity is truly appreciated!



Life is all about the memories....

This is my last newsletter as Automotive Director for QCCC and I want to say:

THANK YOU!

Your support and participation in QCCC have made this a very enjoyable endeavor!

Nelson Sprague

704-847-8374

704-582-0560

barnel@carolina.rr.com



John Meadows & Nelson Sprague (taking photo) deliver QCCC donations to the Matthews Help Center



The mission of Matthews HELP Center is to care for those in the community by providing programs and services that meet life's basic needs and by connecting those in need with resources that improve quality of life.

Executive Director

Kim Rhodarmar

Business Manager

Bobby Newsome

Social Workers

Molly Kennedy
Kelly Trott

Social Services Assistant

Koreen Marx

Backporch Treasures

Tracy Doyle, Manager
Bonita Somers, Asst. Manager

Hours of Operation

Social Services and Backporch Treasures
Monday-Friday
9am - 4:15pm

Saturday
Backporch Treasures Only
9am - Noon

PO Box 91
119 N. Ames St.
Matthews, NC 28106
704-847-8383
www.matthewshelpcenter.org

November 14, 2011

Nelson Sprague
Queen City Corvette Club
1028 Holleybank Drive
Matthews, NC 28105

Dear Nelson & Queen City Corvette Club,

Thank you for your generous donation to Matthews HELP Center. Your contributions are greatly needed and will make a tremendous difference in our food pantry. We appreciate all donations and support from the community. Our mission is to care for those in our community by providing programs and services that meet improve quality of life. We couldn't complete that mission without caring assistance from groups like yours.

Enclosed you will find a flier that details our programs and services that we offer to the community. Also, please note our "measures of success" that we had in the Matthews community and surrounding areas. It takes a tremendous amount of resources to have the daily impact we have on this community. My staff of six and I could show up for work every day; our 274+ volunteers could work weekly; our board could meet monthly; but without community commitment from you, it would be for naught. Simply put, needs would go unmet without your support!

Please visit our website (www.matthewshelpcenter.org) for information on a full range of programs and services we offer the Matthews community. I would consider it an honor to speak on behalf of Matthews HELP Center to any group to which you have association. I can be contacted at 704-847-8383 extension 222 to schedule a speaking engagement. Again, thank you for partnering with us to make a difference in the lives of so many people.

The "House with a Heart",

Kim Rhodarmar

Kim Rhodarmar
Executive Director
kim@matthewshelpcenter.org

Donor Assigned Value: \$ _____
No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation.

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-807-2243. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

Awesome job!










QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: **NOVEMBER 8, 2011** TIME: **6:00 PM – 7:00 PM**
LOCATION: **SMITH & STEVENSON**

Board Members & Guests Present: Steve Pelchat, President; Matthew Deiger, Vice President; Eddie Burt, Membership Director; Susan Kurt, Social Director; Florence Prather, Treasurer; Jane Burt, Member;

DISCUSSION

-  **President Steve Pelchat called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and asked for Officers' reports.**
-  **Vice President's Report – Matthew Deiger**
 - › November 12 - Meeting at Hendrick Motorsports
 - › December 10 - Christmas Party and Meeting at Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church.
-  **Membership Director's Report – Eddie Burt**
 - › Seventeen visitors will attend the next meeting and six will be eligible for membership
 - › Has received one advertising renewal check for \$120
-  **Treasurer's Report – Florence Prather**
 - › Has notified three families regarding past due 2011 dues
 - › Reviewed the budget
-  **Social Director – Susan Kurt**
 - › December Meeting and Christmas Party – will email invitation and request for side dishes
 - › Discussed the Banquet, the Board decided that prices will be the same as last year: \$35 per person for members, \$50 per person for non-members
 - › Will confirm DJ and price
 - › Planning a hockey game outing
-  **President's Report – Steve Pelchat**
 - › Presented a sample of the pictorial directory. A motion was made, seconded and approved to have it printed
 - › Will present at the November meeting a proposal to the Bylaws regarding Provisional Members
 - › Discussed, and the Board decided, the revised Bylaws will be available online, rather than providing in print upon joining the club
 - › Will join Nelson at City Chevrolet on Thursday to discuss 2012 Car Shows
-  A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 7:00 pm.



Respectfully Submitted for Linda Lewis, Secretary
Jane Burt, Member






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QCCC November Meeting at Hendrick Motorsports



For more photos visit the "Event Photos" section on our [QCCC website!](#)

QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB

CLUB BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES



Date: November 12, 2011

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Location: Hendrick Motorsports

BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF PRESENT

Board Members: Steve Pelchat, President; Matthew Deiger, Vice President; Eddie Burt, Membership Director; Nelson Sprague, Automotive Director; Florence Prather, Treasurer; Susan Kurt, Social Director; Linda Lewis, Secretary; **Staff:** Bob Denney, Club Photographer; Bob & Marilyn Becker, Webmasters; Paul Mariano, NCM Ambassador; Chris and Peggy Wood, Newsletter Editors

President - Steve Pelchat - Called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

- 🚩 Introduced the Board Members.
- 🚩 Minutes approved and seconded.
- 🚩 After discussion, the following amendment was passed by the majority of the club:
 - Provisional Member. A person who lives at least 100 miles away from the center of Charlotte, NC. They must be recommended by two active members, approved by the Board and approved by a majority vote of the membership in attendance at the monthly meeting. Requirements of dues and ownership of a Corvette are the same as an active member but without voting rights. If they choose to become Active Members they must fulfill all of the requirements for Active members.

Membership Report - Eddie Burt

- 🚩 New members voted in were as follows:
 - Steve & Suzy Kravitz – 1980 Red Coupe
 - Jeff Furr – 1990 Black & Grey Coupe
 - Sal Giuliano – 1981 Blue Coupe
- 🚩 Prospective members were introduced:
 - Tom & Joanie Cramer – 2007 Red Coupe
 - Ed & Jan Federle – 1972 & 2003 Anniversary
 - Dave & Gail Megenis – 1966 Nassau Blue Convertible
 - Merrill Quintrell (*Former QCCC member*) – 1973 Green Convertible, 1973 White Coupe
 - Greg & Linda Andrews – 2009 Red Coupe
 - John & Cala Malcolm – 1985 Red Coupe
 - Kevin & Robin Cagle – 2009 Black Coupe
 - Paul Semiraro – 2002 Black Z06
 - Heath & Jill Traphagen – Modified 1975 Black Coupe w/ Flames
- 🚩 The club presently has 275 members.

Vice President Report – Matthew Deiger

- 🚩 Rally Update
- 🚩 Gift certificates – Jack Ross and Kelly Cross.

Automotive Report - Nelson Sprague

- 🚩 We will have a food drive for December.
- 🚩 We will support the Air National Guard this year for Christmas. All of the children have been sponsored.
- 🚩 Please sign up for the Thanksgiving and Christmas parades.
- 🚩 John Walton reviewed the new process the club will follow for car shows next year.

Treasurer's Report - Florence Prather

- 🚩 Reviewed the bank balance.

Secretary's Report – Linda Lewis

- 🚩 Announced the November birthdays: Forrest Kelly, Walt Krupowicz, Sue Stickels, Debbie Lisi, Gerri Kessel, Sally Boyette, Sal Giuliano and Walter Ahrens, who will be 95 on November 16th. If you want to be included in the birthday list, please send Linda an email.

Social Director's Report - Susan Kurt

- 🚩 Thanked Pat & Steve Bonino for helping to plan the Helen, Ga. Trip.
- 🚩 December 10th – Christmas Party and generic gift exchange at Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church. The club will provide the ham. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert.
- 🚩 January 28th – Banquet at the Hilton in uptown Charlotte. Cost is \$70 per couple and \$50 for a non-member.

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National Corvette Museum Ambassador's Report - Paul Mariano

- 🏁 QCCC was recognized for being a member of the NCM for 10 years.
- 🏁 Planning is beginning for the 2014 National Corvette Caravan. Wade Stickels will be our local leader and Chris Wood is responsible for Route Books, Sponsorship & Advertising.
- 🏁 Please support the museum and become a member.
- 🏁 April 2012 C5/C6 Bash – Send Paul an email if you are interested in going next year.

Other Business –

- 🏁 The membership voted in the new 2012 Board as follows: Steve Pelchat, President; Keith Cross, Vice President; Florence Prather, Treasurer; Linda Lewis, Secretary; John Walton, Automotive Director; Laura Pelchat, Social Director; Chris Wood, Membership Director. Boyd and Susan Kurt will be handling the newsletter. Bob and Marilyn Becker will handle our website.
- 🏁 December 16th – Hockey Game. If you are interested see Boyd Kurt.
- 🏁 Chris Wood is planning a trip to the Ron Fellows Corvette Driving School next year. If you are interested, send him an email.
- 🏁 The 50/50 drawing was won by Bill Davidson. He donated his winnings back to the club for our troops overseas. Thank you Bill.

Next meeting is Saturday, December 10th at Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church. Social at 5:30 pm, meeting to start at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda H. Lewis, Secretary

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

We're glad you joined us! We all come in as strangers and soon become family!



Sal Giuliano
1981 Blue Coupe



Jeff Furr
1990 Black & Gray Coupe



Suzy & Steve Kravitz
1980 Red Coupe

More New Additions to the QCCC Family

Congratulations to these QCCC members on their new Corvettes – Enjoy the ride!



Morris & Jo Graham's
2007 Victory Red Convertible



Staton & Sally Boyette's
2012 Carlisle Blue Coupe



Bill Rambo's
2008 Victory Red Coupe

The R8C Experience Museum Delivery

Our thanks to *Staton Boyette* for sharing *Sally's delightful birthday experience* during the recent *National Corvette Museum delivery* of their new *2012 Carlisle Blue Grand Sport*



It all started for us at the *2011 Corvette Museum Anniversary Celebration*. As we had done for several years, we had agreed to assist the museum as volunteer workers at this event. Sally was working the registration desk and I, along with my friend from Wilmington, was responsible for serving lunch for the museum employees and volunteers. After a quick break on Saturday morning, I ask Sally to take a look at the Carlisle Blue Grand Sport that GM sent to the museum to exhibit the new color. Sally was quick to respond that she had no interest in looking at a new Corvette, but agreed to take a look at it when she took her break. Later in the day when I caught up with her, she was all excited about the car. We discussed it for about two weeks and decided that we would take the plunge if we could sell our 2006. Our friends from Wilmington wanted to buy our car since it was white and they knew the car's history. With the sale issue resolved, we made the commitment on September 20th to purchase the new Carlisle Blue Grand Sport.

We ordered the *Museum Deliver Option (R8C)* and with the contract commitment completed, we began to plan for the trip to Bowling Green (BG) to pick up our new Corvette. We were pleased that our daughter and son wanted to make the trip with us. Unfortunately, their spouses were unable to attend, so it was just the four of us plus our friends from Wilmington that made the trip.

The plant was closed for two weeks after we ordered the car and we were afraid that would create problems since we had people coming from different locations. We expected scheduling issues because our Army officer son had to request leave and our Charlotte police officer daughter had potential problems with court dates and shift change schedules. We finally settled on Monday, November 21st, (Sally's birthday) and held our breath that everything would work out. The car completed its trip through the assembly plant on November 8th. Generally it takes a minimum of 10 days to get a car across the road to the museum, but I received a call from the salesman on November 15th stating that the car was at the museum. He had the spoiler painted at the plant, and installed it in the PDI section at the museum. Everything was on schedule, so we left Sunday morning, November 20th, heading for BG.

David Smith, the PDI supervisor at the museum, rolled our car into the Delivery 8 station on *Corvette Boulevard* at 7:30 on Monday morning, November 21st. The car was thoroughly cleaned with a fresh coat of C-Magic wax. The "wow" factor was definitely present as we walked into the museum and saw our new Corvette for the first time. The salesman met us about 7:40 AM and 10 minutes later the paperwork was completed and we were the proud owners of a new Carlisle Blue Grand Sport coupe.



After admiring the car for a bit longer, Sally and I, along with our adult children, Elizabeth and Jim, were on our way to the plant for our tour. After the tour we returned to the museum to find that our friends, John and Carol Fort, had purchased a birthday cake and set up a small party for Sally. We ate lunch in the Corvette Café and then an announcement was made and museum employees and along with several museum visitors gathered in front of the Library to cut Sally's cake and enjoy her birthday. Our car was located in the same area as the cake cutting, so everyone had the opportunity to admire our new GS while they were eating cake.

After the birthday celebration, we took a tour of the museum conducted by our guide for the day, and then received all of the books and materials for our new car. The museum presented us with a nice plaque that will have an engraved plate affixed to it commemorating our museum delivery. The schedule called for a thorough introduction to all of the features of the car, but ours was somewhat abbreviated since we had owned a C6 before purchasing the GS. Finally, it was time to take the car outside, so Sally was driven down Corvette Boulevard and out of the museum building to the applause of all the museum employees and visitors. A couple of additional pictures were taken outside as we received the keys to our new Corvette.

It was a great day and a good experience. I would encourage anyone that purchases a new Corvette to take this option if they can fit it into their schedule. It was truly a special day. I will have to admit, however, that as the Corvettes are really great cars, the real Corvette experience is the friends that we have made as a result of owning a Corvette. Both our friends in the Charlotte area and those in Bowling Green, along with our family made this day unforgettable. Sally said it may have been her best birthday! It rained the whole time we were in BG, but that had absolutely no effect on us. I cannot think of anything that would have made the day better.

Thanks to all of you in Charlotte and those in BG that shared this day with us.

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



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 holiday season is once again upon us. So, it is time to start buying gifts for our favorite people and Corvettes. A good place to start is the *Corvette Store at the Corvette Museum*. All museum members receive a *10% discount* and *lifetime members get 15% off* their purchases. Sure beats fighting the crowds. Just visit the website at www.corvettemuseum.com and check out the wide variety of products offered.

I haven't received a large interest in the *C5/C6 Bash* in April. I know that sounds a long way off but reservations have to be made at hotels and restaurants if we want to enjoy the festivities together. As I requested at the November meeting, just send me an e-mail saying you want to go and if you would like to stay at the Hilton Garden Inn. There is no obligation to the Hilton if you would like to stay at another hotel of your choice. If you have not been to this event before, you have missed a premier Corvette happening. If you have any questions on what to expect, I'll be glad to clue you in on the fun.

Each year the museum hosts off-site events to bring museum activities to those who normally cannot make the regular NCM events. These activities are called *Museum-In-Motion (MIM)* tours and are scheduled throughout the US and Canada. One MIM tour scheduled is a trip through sites in Florida culminating in the final stop at *Sebring* for the *12 hour ALMS race*. The tour kicks off in Panama City, FL with a tour of the Naval Coastal Base and the Deep Dive and Experimental Diving Facilities. From there it is a leisurely drive to Ocala and a visit to the Silver Springs Park and "Big Daddy" Don Garlits Museum of Drag Racing. Then it's on to Arcadia for the race. The Tour begins Monday, March 12 and concludes on Sunday, March 18. The price is \$1985.00 for 1 car/2 people for NCM members and \$2065.00 for non-members. The fee includes hotels, admissions, the Corvette Corral and some meals. Registration will open on December 3rd and close on February 17, 2012. The events fill up quickly so register early if you would like to partake of this adventure. The complete agenda is available on the website under events.

Have you purchased your raffle tickets to win a 2012 Torch Red coupe? *John & Helen Jensen* are selling the \$10.00 tickets which could be your gateway to a real inexpensive Corvette. Drawing is February 2, 2012.

Congratulations to *Staton and Sally Boyette* on taking delivery of their *Carlisle Blue Grand Sport* at the museum. They are elated to once again be Corvette owners. They suffered much anguish after selling theirs and having to wait out this delivery. A safe and *Merry Christmas* and *A Happy New Year* to all.

Save the Wave!

Paal Mariano,
NCM Ambassador



QCCC Members Join the RTP Corvette Club of Raleigh for a Day at the
NASCAR Hall of Fame

Many thanks to RTP Corvettes for a fun-filled day! Three QCCC members even jacked up a car, changed the tire and filled it with fuel in 14 seconds! With a little practice, Peggy Wood, Bob Becker and Bill Rambo may even make Jimmy Johnson's pit crew.



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Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Richard Craig, Darrell Kirkley & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



"MOMMA SAID 'NOTHIN' GOOD HAPPENS AFTER MIDNIGHT"

The Charlotte night club scene in 1979 often centered around *The Treehouse Lounge* at the corner of Sharon Aity and Independence Blvd. It was so named after "Tree" the owner who was about 6' 7" tall and drove a '69 Corvette coupe which he still has today. Brillo (QCCC member Bill Cruthis) played intramural basketball with Tree, the Poole brothers (both 6' 10") and Mickey Price, 6' 5". Mickey drove a '74 blue Corvette coupe. Brillo was the runt of that litter. QCCC members often visited The Treehouse as that is where the major babes hung out, and many times we were the last to leave after the traditional last call and last song by the band, which back then was always Dixie (*we have come a long way in 30 years*).

On a particular warm evening in 1979, seven QCCC members left The Treehouse at 2 a.m. heading East on the boulevard. They had agreed to keep out of the throttle, but of course you know how long that lasted. We are not sure who was involved but know it was Turkley, Dollar Bill, Shaverstein, Mike Metler, maybe Charles Outlaw and 2 others. At the first red light everyone saw green and it was game on. What they did not see was two of "Charlotte's finest" visiting in the adjoining parking lot. No one knows why they thought all the tire noise at 2 a.m. would not draw a lot of attention, but clear thinking was not one of our strong suits.

As Travis says now "most of what we did back then would be a felony today". Anyway, as the race began and the blue lights pursued most stopped and began to behave---except for Turkley. He decided to stay in the throttle and take the cut-thru road between Independence and Monroe Roads, which ended in an angle at a stop sign. The road had been recently changed, unbeknownst to Turkley. As the story goes he was North of 90 mph when he realized he could not make the turn and decided to just hit the median curb at an angle and see where it took him. Well, it took him somewhere into the parking lot of East Meck High School after quite a distance of being airborne. We understand when he went airborne he left the road so far they had no idea where he went and they drove on down Monroe road looking for him when he was actually behind them. Turkley, who always had a "good luck charm" riding with him, is the only one who really knows the details and he is pretty mum about it. I think the other cars were left alone as they went after the leader and, of course, the others scattered at the first opportunity. The result of the little escapade—the Corvette's front wheels were pushed back almost to the firewall, the trailing arms were broken, the frame resembled the letter Z and the transmission only had 2nd gear, and all this done to a nice '79 black coupe with only 500 miles on it. Never one to quit, Turkley kept the car moving and headed for Dollar's place on Summerhill a few blocks away. He pulled into the drive and down the hill to the garage. Once there he shut it off and it would not budge again, the transmission finally giving up completely.



The following day they got the rollback and took the car to a shop to see what to do. After they got it repaired (*a whole other story*), Turkley told Dollar to send it to auction very far away. Report has it the car was auctioned in Texas as a nice low mileage '79, which is a testament to the luck that Turkley always possessed, and the knack for Dollar to make money on anything related to autos. They actually sold it for more than he paid for the car. Needless to say many an angel was riding with Turkley and the rest of us that night and, as was the case, too often so that many of us are lucky to have survived our youth. Funny how you think you are untouchable when you are 27 years old. With age has come wisdom in QCCC.

My understanding is when he went airborne he left the road so far they had no idea where he went and they drove on down Monroe road looking for him and he was actually behind them. I don't think they were close enough to know which way he went. It was not a long chase. Darrel is the only one who really knows and he is pretty mum about it. He always had a good luck charm riding with him. I think the other cars were left alone as they went after the leader and of course they all scattered at the first opportunity.



QCCC Luncheons & Dinners - We Share Good Times with Good Friends



Members interested in joining the fun should contact the following to be added to the email list.

Nelson Sprague (barnel@carolina.rr.com) – Monthly Men’s Luncheon

Peggy Wood (chrisowood@carolina.rr.com) – Monthly Ladies’ Luncheon

Eddie & Jane Burt (eddieburt@carolina.rr.com) – Monthly “Up Yonder” Dinner & Weekly Wednesday Night Dinner

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From Track to Street ... Corvettes In Racing

2011 In Review - ALMS: Twenty-Four hours after the checkered flag fell at the *Petit Le Mans*, the final race of the 2011 ALMS season, *American Le Mans Series* celebrated its champions. *Corvette Racing* drivers and team members were among the honorees at the ceremony. **Jan Magnussen** was voted the **Most Popular Driver** to have won a race in every year since the series' began in 1999. "Now my goal is to win another ALMS championship, and there is no better teammate to help me achieve that than Oliver Gavin. We're going to come back stronger next year and finish one place higher" commented Magnussen. He was referring, of course, to **Corvette Racing's runner-up finish in the GT Team Championship**, the team's best finish since moving to the GT category in 2009 after winning eight straight GT1 titles.

Dan Binks, crew chief for the No. 3 Compuware Corvette C6.R was selected by International Motor Sport Assn. (IMSA) officials as the **Battery Tender Mechanic of the Year** in the GT class. Binks donated the \$5,000 award to the **Austin Hatcher Foundation for Pediatric Cancer**, the official charity of the ALMS, on behalf of his teammates. "We race as one team, and everyone on the crew deserved this award" said Binks.

Corvette Racing technical partner **Michelin** won the **GT Tire Manufacturer championship** on the final lap of the final race. Corvette Racing team manager Gary Pratt said "We're racing against teams representing BMW, Ferrari, Porsche, and Jaguar and it's always a fight. We really appreciate the quality of the competition, and it only makes us work harder to get to the top step."



Corvette Racing's success on the track can only benefit those of us who own and love **America's Sports Car – the Corvette**. ALMS will only grow bigger and better in the future because of the allure of owning, or just being a fan of, the same sports cars we watch race in the ALMS.

Pirelli World Challenge Series: As November *Gazette* readers saw last month in Richard Craig's report on the races at *Road Atlanta* and the *Petit Le Mans*, the excitement was on Friday, too, as the **Pirelli World Challenge** race kept Corvette, Cadillac and GM fans on the edge of their seats. Charlotte's own **Mike Skeen** driving the **Harrisburg, N.C. based CRP / Cragar Corvette** took home a 2nd place podium finish behind former Corvette Racing's Johnny O'Connell in the Cadillac CTS-V. O'Connell's teammate, Andy Pilgrim came in 3rd and Skeen's teammate, **Patrick Lindsey**, came in 4th. Not a bad Friday for GM with 2 Corvettes and 2 Cadillacs making up the top 4 (although GM provides no support to the **CRP/Cragar Racing Corvette teams** – they are independent). Congrats to the CRP/Cragar Racing Team!



What's New For 2012: Chevrolet unveiled its **2012 Corvette Daytona Prototype** at the Daytona Speedway on November 15th. The Corvette Daytona Prototype will make its competitive debut in the 50th anniversary of the **Grand-Am Road Racing Series Rolex 24 at Daytona** from January 26-29, 2012. "Sports car and endurance racing is an outstanding platform for manufacturers like us to test and learn" said Jim Campbell, Chevrolet VP, Performance Vehicles and Motorsports.

"The design of this race car incorporates iconic Corvette styling cues and will be immediately recognized by sports car enthusiasts and fans of Grand-Am Road Racing," said Campbell.



Four teams will campaign the Corvette Daytona Prototype in 2012: No. 90 Spirit of Daytona Racing; No. 10 SunTrust Racing; No. 99 GAINSCO/Bob Stallings Racing; and the Nos. 5 and 9 Action Express Racing Teams. Read more [here >>>](#). Also, thanks to the many QCCC members who sent us the variety of emails detailing the Corvette Daytona Prototype. View great videos of the Prototype's introduction [here>>>](#) and videos of it on the track [here>>>](#).

More Photos from Oktoberfest in Helen, Ga.

It seems QCCC members had more fun in Helen than one edition of the Gazette could cover! Here are more fun shots captured at the festivities.



For more photos visit the "Event Photos" section on our [QCCC website!](#)



“Heads-Up”



GM Builds 100-Millionth Small Block Engine – Fifty-six years after the first production small-block and in the same month that Chevrolet marked its 100th anniversary, the Wixom, Michigan plant built the milestone engine on November 29th. “The small-block is the engine that brought high-performance to the people,” said David Cole, the founder of the Center for Automotive Research. “There is an elegant simplicity in its design that made it instantly great when new and enables it to thrive almost six decades later.” The milestone engine is a 638-horsepower supercharged LS9 small-block that powers the ZR1. It will be preserved by GM as part of its historical collection. Read more on the [Corvette Action Center](#).

2012 Corvette C6’s Are Rolling Strong – Reports from Bowling Green indicate the 2012 Corvettes are moving quickly, 3,200 to date, making this a great start for the current model year. The number one color produced out of the 3,200 is Torch Red with 27% of the total.

What GM Doesn’t Want Us To See? – “Jalopnik” has published the “latest artist’s rendering” of the C7 Corvette they say was “derived from hours spent secretly poring over the sheetmetal of two seventh-generation Corvettes.” The “rendering” here is said to be the ZR1 version of the C7. Is this just an evolutionary change to the C6 or is it something more? Read the article [here>>>](#) Thanks to everyone who sent us this information.



More on the C7 From Bob Lutz – Bob Lutz believes in giving the customers what they want. In discussing the C7 Corvette redesign, Lutz says that he rejected plans for an earlier introduction that included low-cost proposals for only modest changes and that he preferred to wait until GM had the cash to build a car that would make a Corvette owner want to trade up. Lutz went on to say of the C7 – “it’s a much bolder and more dramatic design. The new car will also surpass the fuel economy and performance of today’s car in all respects.”

For Those Who Love Nostalgia – ABC News recently ran an old Chevy commercial on the 1953 Corvette. There are a number of them on the internet and are worth the search when you have the time. Now you’ll have that Dinah Shore jingle humming in your head for the rest of the day. Check out the commercial [here>>>](#) Thanks to Wade Stickels for this look back.



But If They Bought a Volt, Do They Really Want a Corvette? – Wade Stickels sent us the latest on the Volt battery fire concerns from the Jalopnik website. It seems concerned Volt owners may be “loaned” a Corvette until the investigation into the fires is completed (Duke Energy reported this week the local fire involving the Volt and Duke’s charging station was not caused by the Volt or the charging station). Read the article at [www.jalopnik.com](#).

Hey, Isn’t That QCCC Member Betty Brunton in the NCM Store Catalog? “Eagle-Eye” Wade Stickels also spotted QCCC’s own Betty Brunton in the background of a photo from the latest NCM Store Catalog. If you received your catalog, see if you see Betty helping Jack detail their Z06 before the Celebrity’s Choice Car Show at the NCM’s C5/C6 Bash in April (*ignore the guy in the foreground*). Incidentally, Jack and Betty’s Z06 was a winner in the show (*see the May edition of the Gazette*).



Interesting Information on the Vintage Vehicle / Ethanol Controversy - In their latest newsletter, the Historic Vehicle Assn. published some interesting details about the effects of Ethanol when used in vintage vehicles. If you have a classic Corvette or other vintage vehicle, you may want to take a look. Read the article at [www.historicvehicle.org](#).

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT
**Business Meeting & Annual
 Christmas Party**

Saturday, December 10th 2011
**PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN
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15000 York Rd., Charlotte, NC 28278

Get in the Christmas Spirit with your QCCC friends!



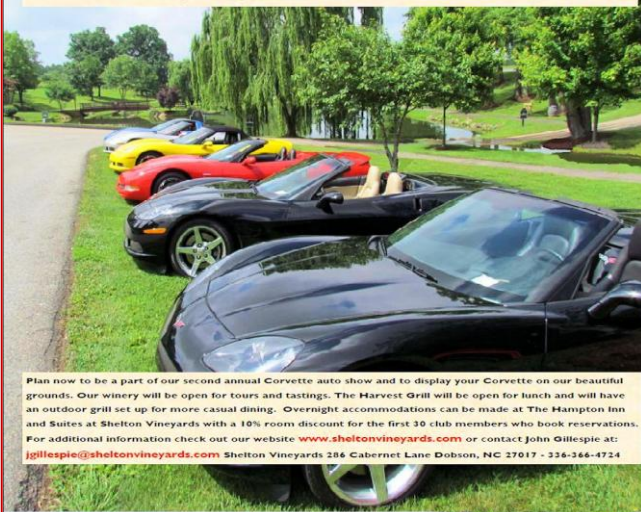
5:30 pm – Social

6:00 pm - Pot Luck Dinner

7:00 pm – Business Meeting

Please see our [QCCC Web site](#) or [Matthew's VP Report](#) for more details.

Shelton Vineyards 2nd Annual Corvette Auto Show
 Saturday May 26, 2012 / 10:00am - 6:00pm



Plan now to be a part of our second annual Corvette auto show and to display your Corvette on our beautiful grounds. Our winery will be open for tours and tastings. The Harvest Grill will be open for lunch and will have an outdoor grill set up for more casual dining. Overnight accommodations can be made at The Hampton Inn and Suites at Shelton Vineyards with a 10% room discount for the first 30 club members who book reservations. For additional information check out our website www.sheltonvineyards.com or contact John Gillespie at: jjgillespie@sheltonvineyards.com Shelton Vineyards 284 Cabernet Lane Dobson, NC 27017 - 334-346-4724

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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.bowlinggreenbyhamptoninn.com or see Chris Wood or Wade Sticksel for details.

A Special Thank You -

Your Gazette Editors wish to thank all QCCC board members and staff for their time, efforts and dedication during the past year. A personal 'thank you' goes to Bob Denney, for providing the many great photos of club events and for working with us at any time and any place to help us meet the deadlines for completing each edition. No matter how short the timeframe, Bob always rearranged his schedule and provided the photos.

We especially wish to thank the outgoing Board members for their leadership and time in making 2011 another successful, fun-filled year for the Queen City Corvette Club.

We also wish to thank the club members who provided photos, news and personal articles, reports, humor, event write-ups and all the many Corvette related information we received for the Gazette. Unfortunately, space limitations prevented us from using all that we received, but your efforts in sending them to us are much appreciated. The Gazette is only a vehicle to convey information and is only as good as the input provided by our members. Thank you for making our jobs fun and much easier.

Finally, we must thank each QCCC member for their participation at the events, dinners, luncheons, meetings, etc. We all choose to be somewhere, and by choosing to participate, you make it fun for everyone!



Upcoming Events - 2011

- Dec 3- *Lake Wylie Parade*
- Dec 4- *Gastonia Parade*
- Dec 10 - *QCCC Christmas Party & Business Meeting*
- Dec 16 - *QCCC at the Charlotte Checkers Hockey Game*

2012

- Jan 14 - *QCCC Business Meeting & Social*
- Jan 28 - *QCCC Banquet*
- Mar 13-17- *NCM Museum-in-Motion @ Sebring*
- Apr 26-28- *NCM C5/C6 Bash*
- May 26 - *Shelton Vineyard's Corvette Show*

QCCC Sponsored Events in *Italics*
For more events & details, see the [QCCC Calendar](#)



To all my QCCC friends
— don't forget to leave
the light on for me!