



The
Queen City Corvette
Gazette

Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

February 2014



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In This Issue –

The President's "Crossroads"	Page 3 & 4
QCCC Advertisers	5 & 6
Vice President "Thoughts"	7
QCCC Minutes	8
Social "Bonino Banter"	9
The Ride (Automotive)	10
QCCC Cornerstones Membership	11
National Corvette Museum	12
Vintage QCCC	13 & 14
Club Photo's	15 - 17
Track to Street	18
Heads Up & Meeting Location	19

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:

The New 2015 C7 Z06 Corvette
Photo from Corvette web site.

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 \$10.00, club dues are \$100 per year to be paid semi-annually 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**



Crossroads

With the President Keith Cross



At the end of January we held our QCCC Annual Awards Banquet. We had a great turnout and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves as we danced the night away to the live music of “The Extraordinaires”. The food was good, the music entertaining and our silent auction for our charity funds were successful. As always at the end of a year the QCCC members vote to recognize their peers for a few annual awards. The club recognized [Lorraine Miller](#) as the 2013 Female Rookie of the Year. [Bill Miller](#) received the 2013 Male Rookie of the Year. And this year there was a tie for the 2013 Member of the Year Award so the award went to [Laura Pelchat](#) and [Chris Wood](#). This year for the 2013 President’s Award I selected [Bob and Marilyn Becker](#) for their work as Club Webmasters. Additional awards went to [Steve Pelchat](#) for his leadership and coordination for QCCC to purchase an acre for the NCM Motorsports Park. Awards of Service were given to [Bill Rambo](#) and [Laura Pelchat](#) for serving on the QCCC Board in previous years.

2014 is off to great start and I am really excited as to what is ahead. The QCCC Board is already hard at work discussing new ideas and exciting activities as we work to build our 2014 Calendar of Events. This year we will try to give you as much information as possible of events and activities that may be of interest to you. Some events will have flyers attached to the calendar and others will give you the name of who to contact for details. But some events will be listed as information only in case you want to attend. These events will not be coordinated by the board or specific members and will be listed as “On Your Own”. As we did last year we encourage members to lead a day trip or drive to one of your favorite locations so we can all enjoy new adventures. Even spur of moments trips can be exciting for when we can gather two or more Corvettes together it is always great fun. So keep your eyes open to emails that may come out at any time depending on the forecast of a warm sunny day.

Now is the time we start dreaming of spring. The snow has disappeared for now. This is the perfect time to do little or large projects or additions to our cars as they sit patiently in our garages awaiting sunnier days. Maybe one of the projects might be additions for the next car show to make your car stand out from the rest. Or it may be time to replace that worn part that you have been babying along. But for some it is time you can beef up

your engine so you can make your car run faster than green grass through a goose. Whatever it is that you have been waiting to do, take this time and do it during these winter months because before you know it the Car Show, NCM Bash or 2014 NCM Caravan will be upon us. Will you be ready? 2014 is going to be fun packed year for QCCC and make sure you check for event signup sheets at every monthly business meeting. Plus additions to the QCCC Website Calendar will be made throughout the year.

So like a group of brothers once said..."Can't stop, and I can't stop. Gotta keep moving or I'll lose my mind. Oh rockin' down the highway" and...

...I'll see you at the Crossroads.

Keith Cross



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the View is Always Nice.*



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V P Report Bill Cruthis

I WONDER: HOW MANY GENERATIONS ARE LEFT, WHO WILL BECOME POD PEOPLE?

While visiting with some of you at the last Auto Fair, the discussion arose about where, in the future, will all our great cars go. As we look around us, there just aren't that many young folks with pure automotive passion. It matters not how we try to persuade them, they just, as a whole, are not interested. We are even seeing some who don't desire a Driver's License. Our worst fear was that our 16th birthday might fall on a Sunday. Most ironic of the situation is, while we were awed by a 435 HP Corvette but could not get insurance, today the family SUV has over 500 HP but the kids could care less. So, I started to think who was to blame. Compared to our youth, certainly the auto companies have been transformed by the bean counters. Remember the excitement every year waiting to see the new Chevy for 55, 56 or 57. Now look at the long run of the C4 then C5 and C6 Corvette; they have priced the youth out of the new car market. My first Corvette, ordered new right out of college, is not very doable today. So the very people who want to sell cars are preventing the youth from having any interest. Another issue is the driving experience today is much different than the muscle car era. Now we have overcrowded roads and Johnny Law with every techno gadget available, and the penalty for speeding is very severe. Safer today but we survived and without seatbelts. Lastly and most impacting is the dreaded social media taking over the world. Kids today prefer someone else drive so they can play their video games, text ,cell phone, I pad and all the others that I cannot keep up with.

This month I found a related article in automobile magazine which I find a little scary. It was talking about autonomy in the automobile. I was aware of the cars that can park themselves, warn you not to change lanes, and brake you in danger, but I had no idea how far along this issue has evolved. The author takes a lengthy ride in a Mercedes s 500 where he never touches the wheel. The car is driven by GPS and he reports the only problems yet to work out are efficiency in heavy rain, snow, total darkness, and road detours. Reading further I find that BMW, Chrysler, Ford, GM, Tesla, Toyota, VW and Volvo are hot on the heels of Mercedes and that Nissan says they will have all models to auto drive by 2020. They expect one day for cars not to have steering wheels. There is no stopping this movement as kids of today will demand it so they can work in their pods or play idiot video games while being whisked along. While we learned about Mustangs ,Camaros ,Chevelles ,Mopar, and Corvettes lookin' out the window of dad's car as he drove, there will be no need for that someday as all the pods will look alike.

Altogether now.....aren't we glad to have been baby boomers. I don't really want to turn room temperature just yet, but if I do, rest assured that I would not have enjoyed driving amongst the pod people. Besides, if nobody is driving, who will we flip off when looking for a little race action. Some progress is good but you can keep this one out of my garage. Just let me keep my 427 and 6 speed. You'ts....they should listen to their elders, we been where they are going.

blew by u



Queen City Corvette Club

Club Board and Business Meeting Minutes

What's Changing?

To improve the flow and appearance of the Monthly QCCC Newsletter, *The Queen City Corvette Gazette*, and to take full advantage of the technology at our disposal, the QCCC Board of Directors has enhanced the process for monthly general publication and retention/archive of the QCCC Board and Club Business Meeting Minutes.

Our Webmaster, Bob Becker, has established an online Archive for our Minutes of the Meetings on the QCCC Website under the *QCCC Archive* bowtie. Each month, rather than publishing the full Board and Club Meeting Minutes in the Newsletter, our Newsletter Editor Boyd Kurt will include a simple link in the Newsletter which will allow you to Read the Minutes in the Archive at your convenience. These changes also allow us to follow the QCCC bylaws requirement for publication of the Minutes, while improving the overall processes.

We will continue to distribute the Club Business Meeting Minutes each month via email shortly after the meeting to inform you of time-sensitive activities. Please let us know what you think of this new Minutes publication process (or questions or suggestions), by contacting *Carolyn Zimmer, QCCC Secretary*, carolynz77@yahoo.com.

<http://www.queencitycorvette.com/Archive/Minutes/2014-01%20QCCC%20January%20Club-Board%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf>

<http://www.queencitycorvette.com/Archive/Minutes/>

For Newsletters, Minutes, Calendars, etc.



Bonino Banter

– The Social Scene

We are enthused going into 2014! Our club continues to be one that offers a wide variety of activities and social outlets for everyone. We have our common love of our Corvettes and everything surrounding this unique “All American Product” yet we go way beyond this. We drive our Corvettes to eat, we show off our Corvettes at car shows and more times than not we join in with other clubs and people who share this same LOVE! We are one big family!!!

This year we already have started to fill the calendar with activities. We, as a Board, hope to represent all of you and to plan a variety of outings and fun events that will appeal to the majority of the group. Please know that we have open ears to new venues and ideas. Pass your ideas along, and then it will be up to us to do the leg work and make sure it is doable for a group of us to attend. I will be very receptive to anyone who would like to help with any activities we have planned.

For all of you newer members, the best way to enjoy what QCCC can offer is to join in. Feel free to ask any of us on the Board to answer your questions concerning a given event. First, though, go to our QCCC website’s calendar of events to see details for our regular meetings and upcoming activities. We will be constantly adding information on this site as the year goes on. And Ladies we are always looking at fun things that would fulfill our “social” needs as well!!!

Before we go forward, again I want to thank everyone who helped out and contributed to our Charity Chili Cook-off. We had fun and we made \$156.00 for our charities.

Now our very next event will be surrounding our February 8th meeting at Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church, 15000 York Road (NC Hwy 49), Charlotte, NC 28278 (see flyers on website)

2:30 – “THE QUEST” Movie ...with popcorn and drinks

4:30 - “CHOCOLATE BOUTIQUE” (until meeting time)

6:00 – QCCC MEETING

There are lots of fun activities in the works. Be looking for a weekend trip to The Tail of the Dragon, a Fall Mountain trip, day trips to some new locations and lots more! My Corvette and life philosophy are much the same, the adventure getting there is more important than the final destination!

Remember....to steal a line from Robert Earl Keen, “The road goes on forever and the party never ends!”

Pat



The Ride



1954 Corvette sold Saturday for \$170,000.00

Tommy Loftin, QCCC Automotive Director

January has been a slow month for corvette enthusiasts due to the cold weather and short days and we did not have any scheduled outings for the month. Several of our members headed south to Kissimmee, Florida for the NCRS Winter Regionals and Mecum Auction. Brenda and I headed out on Monday in our new C 7 for the 600 mile trip to Kissimmee. We spent several days at the auction and the rest of the time at the NCRS show. The car prices at the auction seemed to be quite a bit higher than I had expected and after bidding on several cars and winning none we gave up on an auction car. Ken Watts and Jim Spencer also bid on a number of cars and came home empty handed. Garry Artus was there also and I don't know if he was lucky at bidding or not. After returning to the NCRS show we found a 1996 Corvette hard top convertible with only 10,315 miles on it and we were able to strike a deal and have it delivered to its new home in Troutman.

February promises to be a better month for Corvette outings. We have planned an NCRS judging event at Tommy and Brenda's garage on the 15th. If you would like to attend as an NCRS member or a guest let me know. The following weekend, February 22nd we will have a car care day at the Loftin's garage and we have a special guest, Richard Kashinsky with Adams Car Care Products who will demonstrate the proper way to use his products and detail a car. We have three lifts and are offering lift time to do minor repairs, oil changes, or under car cleaning. Please let me know if you need lift time so I can schedule it. If you would like to schedule a day trip for February please let me know and I will help you set it up.

Keep your ride on, till next time.

Tommy Loftin

QCCC Cornerstones

Building a Great Corvette
Club

One MEMBER at a time



“I like my new telephone, my computer works just fine, my calculator is perfect, but Lord, I miss my mind!” ~Author Unknown

“As far as I'm concerned, progress peaked with frozen pizza.” ~From the movie Die Hard 2, spoken by the character John McClane (Bruce Willis) regarding technological advances.

“Let me have your phone” Peggy said as we were traveling on one of our Corvette trips one day. I handed it to her and she touched a button, held it up and said “find the nearest Shell Gas Station.” In an instant, I heard a few beeps and a lady’s voice responded “*here are the Shell Stations closest to your location.*” During another trip we found a small winery we wanted to know more about. I pulled out my phone, touched a button and pulled up all the pertinent details of the winery as well as recent customer reviews of its product. Technology is amazing and the rate it is advancing is astounding. I’ve given up trying to keep up, which humors (and frustrates) my son.

Often we feel as if we’ve reached information overload, but consider the way information traveled in the late 1700s. I recently read a book about the history of the county where I grew up, Stokes County. The first Post Office opened in the county in 1795, but mail was delivered before the Post Office ever existed. To say it was slow is an understatement. Consider this – let’s say a letter addressed to John Doe, Stokes County, NC arrives from Europe aboard a ship. That letter is taken to the local court house where an employee would post a notice on the bulletin board that “John Doe had a letter.” The local *Court of Pleas and Quarters* met four times a year and when the Justices arrived from every corner of the county, the first thing they would do is look on the bulletin board. It was a sure thing that one of the Justices knew John Doe and offered to carry the letter to him. Gives the term “snail mail” new meaning, doesn’t it?

Now I not only have instant access to the internet, any Corvette info I want is just a click away. Webmaster Bob Becker has even created a “quick link” bookmark to the QCCC website for immediate access to the calendar, photos, etc. from our smart phones. And that Corvette Black Book we used to buy to keep track of Corvette specifications each year? Yes, I have the App on my phone and it updates automatically. I can even keep up with Corvette Racing and the Corvette DP Teams almost instantly during any race, anywhere. And to make it even better, Boyd Kurt can “text” me with a complete color analysis of the race directly from his motor-home beside the track!

I’ll never forget the first time I touched the OnStar button in our Corvette. We were somewhere on a back road in Tennessee, neither Peggy nor I had a cell phone signal, and we needed some help finding our way. The lady answered, knew my name, what I was driving and exactly where I was located! I didn’t hear banjo music but I think I heard the “Theme from the Twilight Zone!”

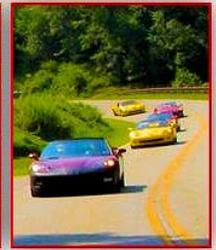
Who knows what may come next. I can’t wait to see folks walk into something while looking through their “google glasses”. Maybe one day we’ll be able to buy a car with a Performance Data Recorder in it. Oh wait, you mean it will be available on the 2015 Corvette Stingray? OK, never mind.

Chris Wood, Membership Director

***WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST
MEMBERS!***

**Harold & Suzanne Crockett
2007 Black Coupe**

(Photo coming next month)



National Corvette Museum Corner

Where does the time go? The holidays are over, the decorations back in the attic, boxes are discarded and now we plow into the New Year. And guess what, the year is already 1/12 gone. So what are we going to do with the time we have in this New Year? Hopefully, we shall all have an agenda in place to have Corvette fun.

There will be several opportunities for fun at the NCM and at off-site activities like the High Performance Driving Experience (HPDE) and the Museum in Motion (MIM). Just keep checking in on the museum web site (www.corvettemuseum.com) for the latest updates.

We now have fifteen couples signed up for the Bash in April. I'm sure most have already made their reservations for a tour of the Assembly Plant to see the new C7 being produced. By taking the tour now it will cut down on the stress level during the caravan week.

Museum deliveries of the new C7 Stingray are breaking all records. The 500th delivery of a 2014 Corvette was made in January. If you are purchasing a new Corvette, be sure and check the Museum Delivery Box (option R8C). You won't be sorry.

Below is the Box Score for QCCC membership in the NCM. Take a look at where we are in the first part of the year and let's see if we can't improve on it by December 31st.

Number of Family Units	-	152
Number of NCM Members	-	70
Percentage of Club Members	-	46%
Number of Lifetime Members	-	21

Caravan registrations are approaching the 5,000 mark with about seven months to go. A surge is expected when the summer months arrive. It is hoped that this caravan will be one of the largest yet. If you have any questions regarding the caravan and what it is all about, grab the ear of Wade Stickels, Chris Wood or myself. You will miss one of the great Corvette adventures if you don't participate.

Save the Wave!

Paul Mariano,
NCM Ambassador

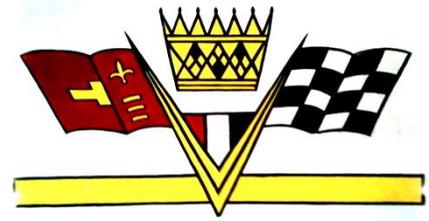


Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Richard Craig, Darrell Kirkley & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



BLAZING BIG-BLOCKS: THE 1972 NCCC CONVENTION

The year was 1971 and QCCC was an energetic group of about 20 young men, and their girl friends and wives. Events centered around social activities; an annual Christmas party, road trips to the beach and mountains and a fun rally. The only exposure to the National Council of Corvette Clubs was the articles in *Corvette News* magazine. That publication also listed all of the clubs in the country and that is how Don and Mary Francis found QCCC. Don and Mary had just moved to Charlotte from Michigan (our first token Yankee), where they were very active with a large Corvette club that participated on a national and regional level in NCCC. He immediately started a campaign to get us to join. QCCC member Billy Coates knew two Corvette racers from Greenville, SC who raced in SCCA and NCCC events. Sam Henderson raced a 64 fuel injected Corvette and Fitzhugh Williams a 67 big block. They agreed to meet with interested members of QCCC at a restaurant on South Tryon Street and presented all of the advantages of joining NCCC. A proposal to join was approved at the next club meeting and we were hooked. Soon QCCC purchased timing equipment and was hosting parking lot solo events, drag races, rallies, car shows and even an economy run, as well as attending similar events hosted by other clubs in the region. All were sanctioned by NCCC. It seemed like there was an event somewhere nearly every weekend and QCCC's involvement grew and grew.

The NCCC national convention was being held in Dallas, Texas in July of 1972 and it wasn't long before the road trip to Dallas was being planned. Enthusiasm soared but as the trip neared, the drop out rate of participants rose and QCCC wound up with five couples committing to go. Don and his very pregnant wife, Mary, were driving his Olds Delta 88 because Mary said she couldn't survive the trip in their 67 coupe with no air. Sharon and I decided to hitch a ride with them since my 64 was fun from stop light to stop light, but with 2-4's and a low rear gear, a bit much to take on a loooong road trip. Jim and Patty Whitley drove their 69 coupe, Buzz and Barbara Cagle drove their highly modified 67 427 coupe, and Robert and Sharon Scognamillo drove their 67 427/435 roadster. I might mention this is the same Robert that was the Corvette mechanic at City Chevrolet since the wheel was invented.

We set out early Saturday morning, thru the North Carolina Mountains, across Tennessee to Memphis, where we spent the night. The next morning we were back on I40 to Dallas. The trip was especially slow, trying to caravan without the aid of cell phones or CB radios and frequent gas and rest room stops (lots of those, remember, we're traveling with a very pregnant woman and cars that got 10mpg). The trip became very boring and we were all wondering if this was really such a good idea, especially those in the 427 cars.

We were about 120 miles from Dallas on a stretch of I40, which I swear was so straight you could see Mexico, when Robert faded back almost out of sight. Wondering if he was having trouble, we slowed up a bit. Then we saw the speck in the distance getting larger fast. What the hell was he doing? Turns out he was so bored cruising 5mph over the speed limit he decided to turn it loose. I might add he had installed a 3:08 rear end for the trip, so his big block had an amazing top end. He passed us like we were backing up with his side pipes singing at about 6 grand. When we caught him, many miles down the road, we saw that he had pulled over on the shoulder and had the hood up. Of course we all stopped and Robert informed us that the 427 had developed a terrible internal knock. He had spun a bearing. Now what?

As we pondered our options, it became obvious that Robert's 67 was not going to make it to Dallas under its own power. Buzz volunteered to go for help, so we all waited on the side of the road for what must have been over an hour. Finally, coming from the opposite direction down I40, we saw Buzz's bright red 67 coupe coming at about 90 mph with an old Ford wrecker towing an antique tandem axle flat bed trailer about six inches off of his bumper. They went past to the next exit to turn around as we all cheered. Buzz had arrived with the cavalry.

The wrecker driver was a real cowboy, he looked like someone in an old Clint Eastwood movie, but he seemed willing to do whatever it took to rescue the broken Vette.

The next challenge was getting the Corvette on the trailer. Very short ramps, no wench, what could go wrong? We had to push the car down the shoulder, thru the ditch up the other side, all with speeding traffic going by. Then cowboy had to position the trailer in the ditch just right so the car could be pushed on at little or no angle. Tie her down, we're ready to go. Cowboy agreed to take her all the way to Dallas for \$100, (No one knew that Buzz had already given him a \$100 dollars just to retain his services). Remember, this is 1972, I had budgeted \$600 for a ten day trip and the rooms were a little over \$20 a night, at a really nice place.

Finally, we were back on the road to Dallas.

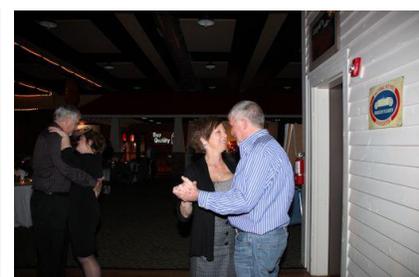
Next month, the 72 Convention saga continues.....Travis Meredith



QCCC Members & Guests Photos:









From Track to Street

NEXT EVENT

The next round of the TUDOR Championship is the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring on Saturday, March 15.

CORVETTE RACING AT DAYTONA: Promising Showing in C7.R Debut

In its return to the Rolex 24 At Daytona, Corvette Racing experienced the highs and lows of the twice-around-the-clock endurance classic. In their competitive debut, both of the team's Chevrolet Corvette C7.Rs led the opening round of the TUDOR United SportsCar Championship. The new racing Corvette showed promise with impressive speed and economy ahead of its full-season campaign in North America's new sports car racing championship.

The No. 4 Corvette C7.R of Oliver Gavin, Tommy Milner and Robin Liddell led the Corvette Racing effort placed a disappointing fifth in the GT Le Mans class following a problem with the car's gearbox with less than three hours to go. Milner, running second at the time, was chasing the eventual race-winning car when the Corvette's gearbox temperature rose dramatically. Milner went directly to the garage where the team diagnosed the problem as a transmission bearing failure. The Corvette Racing crew switched out the gearbox in 30 minutes and sent Milner back to the race.

Other Corvette Related Items of interest.

Corvette Racing's Doug Fehan on the Introduction of the C7.R at NAIAS - YouTube

http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=b6-qbHZbwVE&desktop_uri=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3Db6-qbHZb

Corvette to Feature Two New Colors for 2015

<http://www.corvetteblogger.com/2014/01/14/corvette-to-feature-two-new-colors-for-2015/>

Video: 2015 Z06 Walk Around with Tadge Juechter

<http://youtu.be/kfhBg5O9i2U>

Video: C7.R Walk Around with Jim Campbell

<http://youtu.be/oGiKHLNNBCE>

“Heads-Up”



February 8, 2014 Business Meeting ***Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church***

**15000 York Road (NC Hwy 49),
Charlotte, NC 28278**

Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church is located on NC Hwy 49 (*York Rd.*) approximately 1.3 miles **BEFORE** the Buster Boyd Bridge crossing into SC. From I-485 exit 4, go South on Steele Creek Road (Hwy 160) approximately 4.6 miles to NC Hwy 49 and turn right. Follow NC Hwy 49 approximately 2 miles and the Church is located on your right. Click here for Google Maps.

Please see additional details on our Calendar for the *“QCCC Afternoon at the Movies”* featuring *“The Quest”* which will precede the business meeting. If you have a passion for Corvettes and you enjoy movies with happy endings, *“The Quest”* is a must-see.

*****Please Take Note of Times*****

“TheQuest” : Showing at 3:00PM

Social Time: 5:00 pm

Meeting Time: 6:00 pm

We hope to see everyone there!