



The
*Queen City Corvette
Gazette*

Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

March 2014



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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:

Sinkhole at National Corvette Museum and has 8 Corvettes in its grasp. GM to restore them. Photo courtesy NCM.

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.

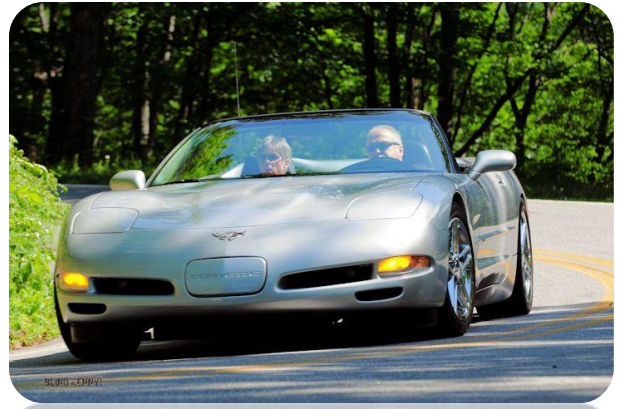
To become a member of the [QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB](#), you must own

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



As February left, hopefully it took all the chance of snow with it. And now as we begin March we look forward to the days getting longer and warmer. Many people say spring is the best time of the year. They say that spring is the start of a new year. The trees and flowers start all over with new foliage and blossoms. Even the grass renews itself from brown to green. In spring many new species of wildlife are born. Some people say that it is the fact that we have been cooped up in the house for several months that makes spring so appealing. But whatever it is I think we all would agree that there is just something about spring that makes us all want to get outside and enjoy it.

Well for QCCC spring can be an exciting time too. Everyone is ready to dust off the Corvettes. Perform the first wash and polish of the year. Plus we can get out on the road and get rid of those cobwebs both the mental and physical kinds. So are you ready? Is your Corvette ready?

Well, I hope so, for you will see our calendar start to list many opportunities as we get into some of the best weather of the year. Look for car shows, day trips, weekend trips, afternoon drives, dinners, club meetings and more. Also this year there will be three organized trips to the NCM in Boiling Green, KY. One of those trips will be the 2014 National Corvette Caravan that happens once every five years. Anyway the point I want to make is that what makes these activities so much fun is when we have a great turn out. As they say the more the merrier.

Each year we also encourage our members to set up a drive or day trip to some place you may know of that is new, interesting, historical, entertaining or just a scenic drive to go get ice cream. You can watch the weather and a drive can be announced within 48 hours or less and those who show up go. Some of our members are retired and a weekday trip can be organized for those who want to attend. The possibilities are endless. So if you are interested in leading a group somewhere to maybe see something just see Pat Bonino, Tommy Loftin or myself and we will help get you on the calendar.

So get the Corvettes out and get them cleaned up. Maybe call some QCCC members and do several cars together. But however you do just get ready for a great spring. And to help you get in the mood this month I leave with a fine ole story. Turn up your speakers and enjoy the view ["The Corvette Song"](#).

As "The Possum" would say ["The Race Is On"](#) and...I'll see you at the Crossroads.

Keith Cross

PS: If you are interested the NCM is hoping to start removing a couple Corvettes from the Sky Dome sinkhole the first week of March. You can keep up with their progress at: <http://www.corvettemuseum.org/>



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the View is Always Nice.*



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V P Report Bill Cruthis

I WONDER: WHEN IS MY BLACK SUNDAY AND WILL I BE SAVED BY THE POD PEOPLE

As a baby boomer I don't dwell too much on mortality. I have always been looking forward to my plans, what will be my next Corvette, can I add on to the garage etc. When it comes time to check out just give me a couple of hours to think back on all the smiling faces. I have been blessed with, all the great times I have had and not only the good fortune to be born in the USA. But also to reflect that of all the time on the face of the earth so far, my generation had it better than anybody. Great cars, great music, great freedom, cheap times, low crimes and you could go on forever. What a great ride I have had so far, and yet last January I had a life awakening experience. My 90 year old aunt who has always been single and very self-sufficient was rushed to the hospital on a Saturday. After visiting I was told to come back on Sunday to take her home. When I arrived on Sunday the Dr. told me she could never drive again. Crunch!! She went from mowing her own 1 acre lot in November to moving to assisted living in January, with no warning and no time to prepare mentally. So in 2 months we sold her favorite Buick Riviera, the home she built in retirement in 1987, most of the furniture, lawn mowers etc. She is now housebound counting on me for any transportation for food, Dr., shopping etc. In truth it is if she went to jail. The whole experience jarred me to the bone as these type issues have never entered my mind or my life until now. The worst thing is when it happens it is final and it is sudden. I could not help thinking of our dear friend Steve Pelchat and how close this scenario was for him. I have a great respect for Steve and how he fought thru his illness and avoided the worst case. So why am I sharing this today. I am not there yet as Bob Becker has pointed out to me, but as I observed this I made a commitment to myself. Why on earth, unless it is snowing or just pouring down rain, am I not driving my Z06 to every club event I attend. How do I know that maybe next Sunday is my black Sunday. How will I feel when they say you are done driving. Because as with my aunt there was no discussion, no saying ok I will stop in 6 months or one month or next week. It is a final decision and it is not made by you, it is made for you. Go to the men's lunch the sun was shining and there were 3 or 4 Corvettes but 8 SUV's. Go to up-yonder dinner 60 people 10 Corvettes 20 SUVs. We need to re commit to enjoying our great cars while we can. What are we saving them for?? They are still making soap and water and the cleanup exercise would be good for us.

Last month the Vintage Gang was discussing this issue. Our humorous attempt at a solution was to pool our money, buy 100 acres, build a barn and a dormitory on the land. Add a road around the place (private), hire visiting nurses to bring us food and drugs then go out every day and drive around. Those cars would look great after a bunch of 90 year olds bounce off each other. After doing my article last month about the pod people there now is another way out although far from perfect. It looks like if we can afford a pod it will drive us anywhere we want so that we may stay in our homes. If so we can keep our great cars but won't be able to drive them. Just wax and admire. I sure never thought I would be a dreaded pod person but I may have no choice.

My dear friends heed my warning. Drive 'em if ya got 'em

Hats off to those who have already had this vision, for example Bob Denney, Jeff Crosby, Laura Pelchat, Boyd Kurt and others.

The blue by u is coming to join you, soon and often.





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/>

For Newsletters, Minutes, Calendars, etc.



Bonino Banter

– The Social Scene

The calendar is starting to fill up!

First I want to thank everyone who made our last meeting such a big success! Everyone enjoyed seeing “The Quest” while enjoying popcorn and drinks...then afterwards “The Chocolate Boutique” with a chocolate fountain and goodies to dip in the chocolate. We will continue to look at ways to make our meeting more interesting and fun!

March has an activity every weekend...SIGN-UP SHEETS WILL BE AT THE MEETING...make sure to let us know you want to attend

March 8th Meeting Streetside Classics...bring your chairs and wear your green(me thinks my relatives would appreciate this!)



March 15th St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 22nd Road Trip to Hendersonville/ Lunch at the Season's Restaurant/
Enjoy downtown Hendersonville (more details on the website)

March 29th Car Care Day – Brian Kruse's Home

April 5-6th Auto Fair

April 12th Picnic at The Loftin's Garage/ Catered dinner/ Corn Hole Tournament
(more details on the website)

April 24-26 Bash at the NCM

April 26th Day trip to Childress Winery (more details on the website)

We are going to the Myrtle Beach Car Show June 6-7 as a QCCC activity. You don't have to enter the car show to have a fun weekend in Myrtle Beach. The website has the flyer from the Myrtle Beach Corvette Club as well as our instructions about securing rooms.

Looking ahead we have a trip planned to “The Tale of the Dragon” August 1-3. While there are more details on the website I want to make sure everyone knows it is a first come first serve basis with 30 rooms available. We MUST SIGN-UP BY MAY 1ST AND PAY FOR AT LEAST ONE NIGHT TO BE ABLE TO RESERVE OUR ROOMS. Everyone can call individually to do this and identify themselves with QCCC to be able to get the rate of \$109 a night. If you have never experienced this road ...you need to do this with your Corvette. We will have other activities through-out the weekend for everyone to enjoy as well as a catered dinner Saturday night.

Don't forget to sign-up at the meeting or email the person in charge for any of these events you want to attend. The best source of information is our website for details!

Smile – it makes them wonder what you're up to!!!

Pat Bonino



April 3-6, 2014
Spring Meet
Produced By
Hornets Nest Region AACA
at
Charlotte Motor Speedway

Tommy Loftin, QCCC Automotive Director

February brought us such a mixture of weather we hardly knew whether to dust our Corvette's off or wrap them up for a longer winter. The Loftin's garage was to be open for an NCRS judging school on February 15th, however old man winter came by and we had snow and cold weather. The judging school was postponed until March 1st. On February 22nd we had a Car Care Day at the garage and we thought that spring had arrived. The day was perfect with sunshine and in the mid 70's degrees. We had nearly 60 QCCC members attend and Richard Kashinsky with Adams Car Care Products demonstrated the proper way to use his products and detail a car. We all had a hands-on-day and we were able to actually use Adams products on our cars. There were numerous members that changed their oil and filters and some that did other minor maintenance jobs on their cars. We ate nearly 100 hotdogs with all the fixin's along with cookies and deserts prepared by our wonderful QCCC ladies.

The NCRS Judging School was held on March 1st at the Loftin's Garage and we had 24 people attend along with 7 QCCC members. Our members got an inside look at the complex judging standards performed by the NCRS. The Carolina's Chapter of NCRS is having its spring judging meet on March 29th at Motorama Classic Cars in Monroe. Two of our QCCC members, John and Wendy Callahan and Brenda and Tommy Loftin, will have their cars judged at this meet in hopes to come out with a Top Flight Award.

March will give way to better Corvette weather and hopefully allow us to go on some short rides and fun car things to do. March 15th QCCC is scheduled to ride Miss North and South Carolina along with Miss Teen North and South Carolina, Miss Jr. Teen North and South Carolina and Mrs. North and South Carolina in The St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Charlotte. The parade will be televised by all local TV stations and our cars and riders will also be posted on all the Queens social media pages, websites and even may be used in the Miss United States program book. What an honor for our club to be involved in such a special program which promotes our state. On March 29th we will have "Car Care Day # 2" at Brian Kruse's Garage with oil changes, lift times and a session on how to replace brakes on a Corvette. Brian will also do brake inspections on your car if needed.

April 5th and 6th is Spring AutoFair and we still need 10 cars to fill all of our spots, so please call or sign-up for a chance to participate in one of the biggest events our club participates in each year.

Keep your ride on, till next time.

Tommy Loftin

QCCC Cornerstones

**Building a Great Corvette
Club**

One MEMBER at a time



I nod to a passing stranger, and the stranger nods back, and two human beings go off, feeling a little less anonymous. ~ Robert Brault

I helped my son Jonathan recently as he moved into his new home. As exciting as it is for him, it reminded me of the moves I've made over the years and how it feels to move into a new community, a new city, new job, new club, and not know anyone. Some folks have never met a stranger and jump right in with both feet. Some find it a little more difficult. After unloading the truck and finally catching a breath, we were both surprised to hear his doorbell ring. One of his new neighbors had dropped by to introduce himself and welcome him to the neighborhood. After the neighbor had left, I noticed a smile on Jonathan's face. As tired as he was from what had become a much longer day than he had anticipated, he seemed a little more at ease with his new community and what he had worked so hard to achieve.

The next day, we talked about how he had felt when the neighbor dropped by to welcome him. He knew that he, too, would have opportunities to "pay it forward" by welcoming new neighbors as they moved in around him. And just as important, he'll understand that it feels pretty darned good, not only to be welcomed, but to be the person doing the welcoming to help someone else feel as he did when he was welcomed.

Raise your hand if you think you know where I'm going with all this. Membership in QCCC continues to grow at a steady pace. In the past ten years QCCC has averaged just over nine new members per year. Heck, compared to some Peggy and I are new members. We remember those who made us feel welcomed by introducing themselves and talking to us. When guests or new members attend, it's easy to put ourselves in their shoes because we remember what it was like to be "new". We both try to "pay it forward" when new or prospective members attend dinners or events so they'll be at ease, as we were, with their decision to join Queen City Corvette Club.

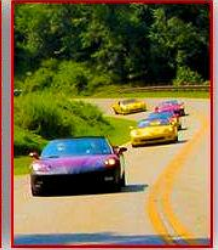
If you are a new member I urge you to jump right in with both feet. Participate and get to know our club. Take an active role in events, volunteer and have fun. And if you have been a member for many years or just a few months, reach out to those you do not know. If you see new folks sitting by themselves at a dinner or event, sit with them, get to know them. Find out what "pay it forward" is all about. You just might meet your new best friends (*and they'll be driving a Corvette*).

Chris Wood, Membership Director

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

**Don & Corinne Smith
1988 Blue Roadster**





National Corvette Museum Corner

By now I'm sure everyone is aware of the "Great Sinkhole Tragedy" at the museum and the submerging of eight great Corvettes. We won't rehash all those happenings but here is the latest update on the situation. The surrounding area and the ground under the museum have been surveyed and tested and no further instability has been detected. Side panels have been removed from the Dome, rails built into the rotunda, and a crane is now in the building. The removal of the top three Corvettes is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 3rd. Next, the removal of the debris to reach the other five cars will occur and finally they will remove all the debris. They then will shore it all up, fill the hole, and put everything back to normal.

There have been lots of comments, suggestions and downright cockamamie ideas as to what to do with the damaged Corvettes. What is going to happen is; they will be returned to Detroit to be restored to their previous condition by GM. They will be on display for a short period of time before making the trip to GM if anyone wants to see a disaster.

Most of all the losses are covered by insurance but with deductibles and other expenses, additional funds will be required to complete the work. You can help by making a donation, buying raffle tickets and bricks or by simply becoming a member of the NCM. Every little bit will help.

Less than six months to go before the caravans depart for Bowling Green. The participation by QCCC members is outstanding. Both in the number of people signed up and the number volunteering to help the Carolinas/Virginia caravan be one of the best in the nation. Thanks to all of you.

It appears that our plans for the Bash in April are just about set. There will be fifteen cars making the journey and all the room reservations are set. The remaining rooms I had blocked have been turned back to the hotel to be sold.

Along this theme, the reserved tables for the Hall of Fame dinner during the Caravan in August are sold out. That doesn't mean you can't still attend this function, you will have to sit at one of the open seating tables. If you have any questions regarding either event, please let me know.

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: PART TWO

The saga continues....To recap our last episode, it's July of 1972 and five couples from QCCC are on the road to the NCCC Convention when Robert Scognamillo blows the engine in his 67 big block. Buzz Cagle hires a cowboy with a tow truck and trailer to haul the car to Dallas and the road trip continues on. We finally arrive at the host hotel, check in and go to the bar, (imagine that). The story of Robert's wounded 67 quickly spreads and when the tow truck finally arrives, we have a welcoming party (literally) of 50 or so people who want to help. We push the car off of the trailer, wave goodbye to the cowboy and start to form a plan.

A member of the host club, Corvette Club of Texas, tells us that a local dealer, Friendly Chevrolet, sponsors the club and would be willing to help. Another Chevrolet dealer and fellow NCCC racer from Ohio volunteers his truck and trailer to move the car the next morning to the dealership. The party continues at the pool where everyone gets thrown in, including the patio furniture.

Monday morning, we meet in the parking lot where we unload the Ohio guy's 69 L88 race car off of the trailer and load Robert's 67. When we arrive at Friendly Chevrolet, they have been informed of the situation and help us unload the car. Robert explained to the service manager that he is the Corvette mechanic at City Chevrolet and wants to do the repairs himself. To our surprise, the service manager says ok, and gives Robert a stall with a lift in the service department, and several mechanics offer their tools. Meanwhile, the Ohio dealer is talking to the parts manager and arranges a wholesale deal for the necessary parts. By mid afternoon the engine is out and the crankshaft and a connecting rod need to be replaced. Being performance minded, the dealership had the parts in stock and the rebuild continued uninterrupted. Several of the QCCC guys hung with Robert through the process but mainly as go-fers. For the most part, everything went smoothly and by early Tuesday afternoon, Robert's 67 was running like it should. He settled up with the dealership for the parts, but there was no charge for the stall and use of the tools. Everyone at Friendly Chevrolet went out of their way to help. Robert was very grateful and we all agreed that their name was appropriate.

Back at the convention, Robert and Sharon were talking about going back home since they had just spent all of their cash on the engine rebuild, but Buzz talked them into moving in with him and Barbara and staying the rest of the week. They finally agreed and the party continued.

The speed events were held at the Dallas Motor Speedway and went smoothly, even in 100 degree heat. The most unusual event was an afternoon at a "Dude Ranch", complete with a real rodeo. Club members from New York got into a spontaneous "moon" contest in the grandstand, hard to explain, you had to be there. But the highlight was a greased pig contest where about 50 dignified Corvette owners stripped to the waist and chased greased pigs around trying to catch and hold them. The pigs won.

QCCC's participants left their mark at the awards banquet by wearing our signature bib overalls and being the last ones to leave. Even with a challenged beginning, everyone had a great time and made a lot of new friends and expanded some bad habits. Jim Whitley had gotten very fond of Coors beer and since it was not sold east of the Mississippi, he made a beer run as we prepared to leave. He took five

cases of cans and packed them individually in every available space in his 69 coupe. Problem solved, ready for the trip home.

The 1972 Convention trip was quite an event, but even more, it was a great example of the type of people that make up the Corvette community and how they step forward when there is a need. That spirit continues to this day. 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 LE MANS: Entries Confirmed

The most demanding auto race in the world again will have a distinctive American flavor with the returns of Corvette Racing to the 24 Hours of Le Mans. For its 15th consecutive appearance in the French classic, Corvette Racing will be armed with the Chevrolet Corvette C7.R. Two of the new GT challengers were accepted to race at Le Mans in the GTE Pro class.

The goal of the two Corvette C7.Rs, numbered 73 and 74 for Le Mans, is to give Chevrolet and Corvette Racing an eighth class victory in the 24 Hours since 2001.

Other Corvette Related Items of interest.

[VIDEO] Chevrolet Introduces the 2015 Corvette's Performance Data Recorder at CES

<http://www.corvetteblogger.com/2014/01/05/video-chevrolet-introduces-the-2015-corvettes-performance-data-recorder-at-ces/>

Dreams Can Come True



Queen City Members Bob and Ginny Nibarger

Bob and Ginny Nibarger said “No Way” when they received a call from our National Corvette Museum Ambassador, Paul Mariano, and was only convinced that they were winners when they saw their names on the National Corvette Museum Web Page. Bob had not checked his voice mail and missed the winning call from the Museum staff that they had won the final production of a C-6 Anniversary 4 LT Coupe. Bob and Ginny are the first CCCC members to win it big at Bowling Green and they are still pinching themselves in disbelief.

CORVETTE FEVER

How do we get it and how do we treat it?

By Paul Mitchell

The theme of our club this year is Corvette Fever, and that made me think about how and when I got it. I admit I am a car guy. Probably an obsessive car guy. I actually have a spread sheet listing every car I have owned, showing make, model, year, engine, HP, transmission, color, and wheel type. That sheet tells me that to date I have owned 49 cars. I guess that alone qualifies me as a car guy. Like many of you, before I was a teenager, I could identify cars by make, model, and size engine it had just by looking at it and the badges on the fenders and hood. I spent time I was supposed to be doing homework building model cars – lots of model cars. Some were entered in shows at the local hobby shop with real leather interior and fuel lines and spark plug wires. My favorite was the AMT 3-in-1 models, where you could make the car stock, hot rod, or race versions. I always went the hot rod route. I poured over the JC Whitney and Honest Charley catalogues. I remember going to the local Chevy dealer in early September with my dad to see the new models, my curiosity heightened by the paper that covered the windows of the showroom for 2 days before the reveal. My first car was a 1948 Chevy 2 door coupe I got when I was 12. Painted in primer, like all the rat rods of today. I was just 50 years ahead of the trend. Living on a farm near Asheville I could drive the hell out of it. The best part of that Chevy was I could use the hood as a sled in the winter.

My first, but still vivid, memory of Corvette was my mother picking me up one day at school. She was in a very different but interesting and striking vehicle. I got in and asked her what it was – she said it was a Corvette. I was 7 years old, so it was a 1954 model. Our neighbor across the road was a Chevy salesman, and our 1953 sedan was getting worked on, so he gave it to her as a loaner. Why can't we have sales people like that today? ("Maam, since we are working on your 4 cylinder Cruze, take this ZR-1 to drive to your book club meeting"). My next strong memory of Corvette was seeing a white 1958 Corvette every day as I rode the bus to school. I was surprised because it had black walls and small hub caps – this in the day of white walls and full wheel covers and spinners. I asked our salesman neighbor about it, and he said he sold it, and the owner was very specific about the details of the car, like gear ratios, transmission gearing, etc. Could this have been a big brake, big tank, radio/heater delete car? Possibly. And I remember the son of our local Chevy dealer passing a long line of cars on a two lane road in his brand new 63 fuelie convertible. I was in one of the slow cars he passed, and I envied him greatly.

I graduated from the '48 Chevy to a few other cars, some of them pretty nice through high school and college. One memorable one that I wish I still had was a 1968 SS El Camino with the L78 396 (375HP) and 4 speed. But I did the normal "day 2" things to the cars I had – you know, mag wheels, Hurst shifter, Sun tach on the steering column, exhaust. After graduation

and in my first job, in May of 1970 I saw a new red '69 Corvette coupe at the dealer in Asheville. The salesman (our same neighbor that had now moved to the big city dealer) helped me work out a trade for my very nice '68 Cougar GT XR-7, but I lusted after the Vette. It was a 350/350 4 speed with T tops and rally wheels. I loved and enjoyed it, but alas, just starting a career with a kid and another on the way, I had to sell it after about a year. As probably the majority of us experienced, life got in the way.

That concluded the first, and very fun, chapter of my car experience. The next chapter – you remember it – was not at all the same. With energy crisis, gas prices, insurance issues, and all that, the cars of the '70's and '80's were, well – they just sucked. I confess that I owned the family required station wagons, a Vega, a Chevette, and even a Gremlin (that was the only Gremlin on the east coast with Cragar mags). One bright spot was the 1986 Camaro IROC-Z. Good power (for the day) and a great handler. I then went to a few years of owning Acura automobiles – nice cars, not lots on the road then, but they still did not have what I had been missing since the early '70's. I saw the new 1994 Camaro convertible and liked it, so I ordered a Z-28 version. Put on SLP intake and exhaust, some wheels, and it was kinda like the old days. I kept that car until 2003, quite an accomplishment for me.

Ah, 2003. That's when it happened – the next chapter. The Corvette Fever struck again. I saw a 2001 pewter 6-speed C5 convertible at Foreign Cars Italia in Greensboro where I was living at the time. I stopped by to drive it, and despite it badly needing tires, it felt simply divine. The power, seeing the slight rise of the fenders out of the windshield, the shifting feel. I was feelin' it again! It was a very clean 19K mile car, and I traded the Camaro (with just 15K miles) that day. Put on a Borla system and I was all set.

Paige and I enjoyed it, trips to the beach, top down, lots of fun. Not knowing much about the Corvette market then, I expected it to maintain its value, hoping for maybe a little increase. Seeing that was not going to happen, I made the fateful mistake of selling it in 2005. Dumb. Stupid mistake. But, in the end, all worked out fine.

I did get a 2005 GTO to help satisfy my Corvette craving. Nice car, LS2, 6 speed. But it just was not a Corvette. I got a Trailblazer SS – a Corvette in a box. Loads of fun, and with Corvette engine, shocks, brakes, it felt a little like where I wanted to be. But in 2009, I was ready to go at it again, but with the real thing. I liked the '01 so much, I decided to look for another C5. After doing a search on the internet all over the Southeast, I found an '04 7300 mile one right in Mooresville. Spiral grey, convertible, 6 speed. Perfect. Put on the requisite Borla system, and I was again at the point I should have never left.

Shortly after was when I connected with Queen City Corvette Club. My first experience was an Up-Yonder dinner in Mooresville in February 2011. I met Jane and Eddie Burt, then Chris Wood, and then it happened. Paul Mariano started telling me about the Museum and the upcoming Bash (I know this surprises anyone reading this. He is such an introvert about the Museum).

Paige and I really looked forward to that first Bash in 2011. We loved the C5, and truthfully, I was not that enamored with the C6. Felt like the butt looked too big, and still not a fan of the headlights. Butt (pun intended) everything changed on this trip. We followed Walt and Wendy in their Cyber Grey Grand Sport convertible, and after staring at that C6 butt for 7 hours, I was sold. I loved the wide body look, and the wheels and fat tires, and it was a convertible too! We decided to start looking for one when we got back to NC. (By the way, Paul Mariano is right – the Bash is a blast. We have been the last 3 years, and can't wait to get back. Go if you haven't been yet – you will love it. It will definitely spike your fever!)

We heard about a pre-loved Grand Sport in Mooresville. The red one that Tommy and Brenda traded for a blue one. Red, 6 speed, convertible. Love at first sight. In spite of the fact that Brenda drag raced it daily on Main Street in Troutman, it was perfect. The day I looked at it, it came home with me. But I have a 24 x 36 inch picture of that wonderful C5 in my garage.

So the C6 experience has been great. We even brought home a nice 2008 automatic coupe last year to use as more of a daily driver. I now feel that I am where I need to be, should be, and never should have left. The world of Corvette. The cars are better than ever, and keep getting better. And soon, a C7 will be coming to live with us. Fever, indeed.

So, we know we all have Corvette Fever. How you caught it is different for everyone, although I will bet there are many very similar stories to this one. The ebbs and flows of life have made our Corvettes come and go over the years, but now we are enjoying the finest sports automobile in the world with the greatest Corvette club ever. Life is good!

We caught the fever, we have the fever. There is only one way to treat the fever. Drive them! See you on the road (usually on the way to a restaurant). Yes, life is indeed good.

“Heads-Up”



March 8th 2014 Business Meeting Announcement

****Notice to Bring Chairs****

Streetside Classics - Charlotte

Streetside Classics is an automotive company that offers purchasing and selling of Classic and Muscle Cars. They have graciously agreed to host our March meeting at their Charlotte Showroom. So come early as you like and take some time to look over the cars. Who knows your next dream car could be in their showroom right now. Chairs will **NOT** be provided, so **bring your own folding chair**. If you are curious about what Streetside Classics is all about check out their website to learn more. Plus to get directions to their Charlotte location visit them at – <http://www.streetsideclassics.com/>

The address for Streetside Classics - Charlotte is as follows:

Streetside Classics - Charlotte
5400 West WT Harris Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28269
704-598-2130

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