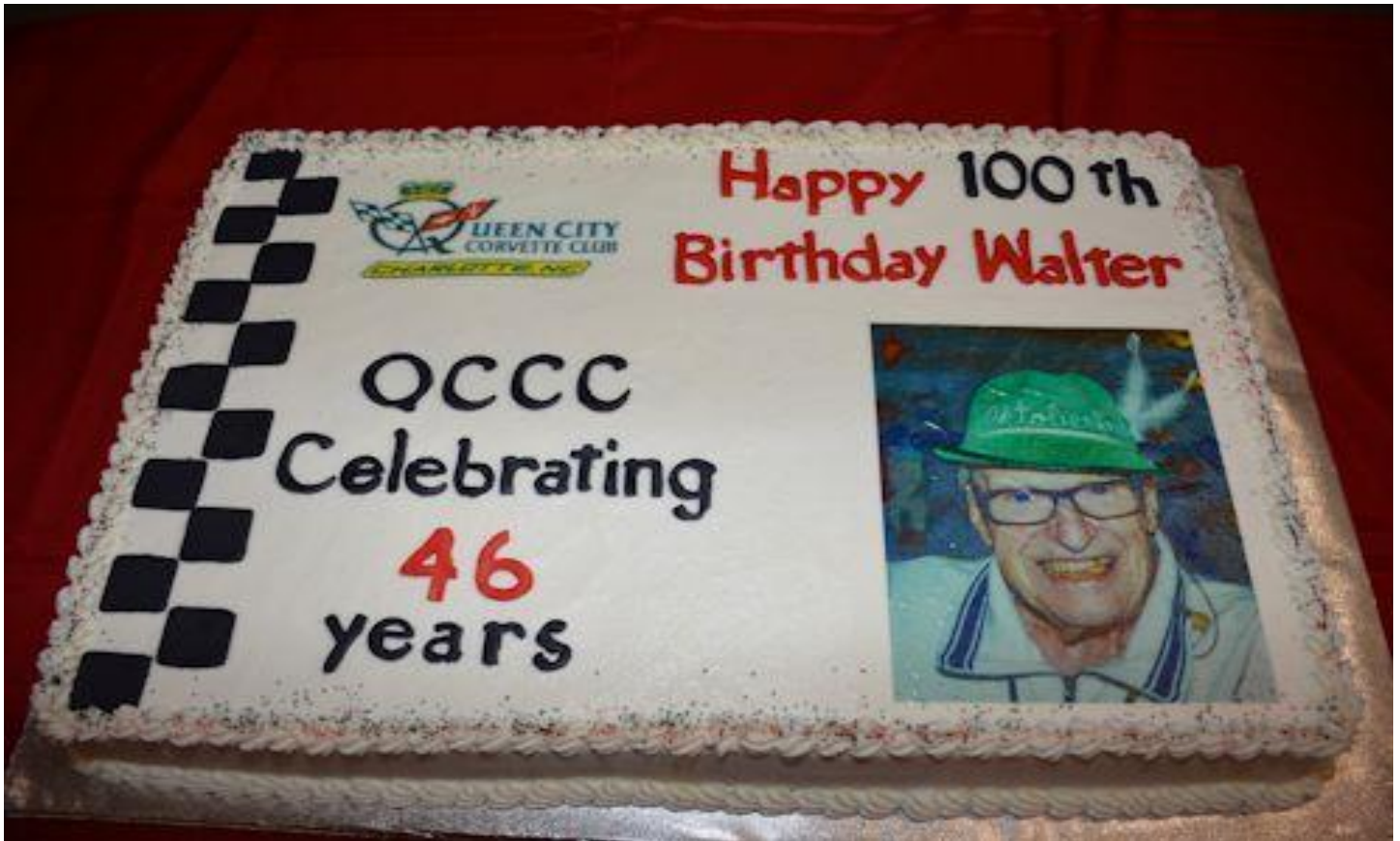




The
*Queen City Corvette
Gazette*

Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

September 2014



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On the Cover

Walter Ahrens

Photo by Michelle Moore

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.**

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

Well the **2014 National Corvette Caravan** is all over except for the many stories and fond memories. What a great trip and experience. And let me say a big **THANK YOU** to all the QCCC members who volunteered and worked on putting this event together. Even though this was not a QCCC event your help and support shown a special light on our club. I heard from many people how much they appreciated the involvement of the QCCC members and what a difference it made having that many volunteers. So to Paul & Barbara Mariano - National Chairperson, Carolyn & Don Zimmer – Registration, Chris Wood & Peggy – Sponsorship & Route Book, Wade & Sue Stickels – Charlotte Local Leaders and all the many others who donated items, held fundraisers, directed traffic, controlled crowds, staffed tables and stuffed bags I would like to tell you **“Thanks and You Made Me Very Proud of QCCC”**.



Now, during a National Corvette Caravan when you have a several hour layover at a Wal-Mart Parking Lot while waiting on your Kentucky State Police escort, what do you do to kill time?



Answer: You shop like millions of Americans do.

So what does a telescoping window squeegee, a swim noodle, pillow and tie wraps have to do with the caravan. Well first let's eliminate the pillow. Hotel pillows sometimes are not the greatest. So my bunk buddy for the week wanted one and as all you married guys know whatever your wife wants she usually gets.

Now let's go back several months and remember that since QCCC raised \$15000.00 and purchased one acre for the new NCM Motor Sports Park we were given two spots in the 1st Inaugural Lap to be held at the Grand Opening Ceremony on August 28th, 2014. So from a group of interested parties from our club two cars were drawn. They were Larry & Florence Prather and Kelly & me. So as president I am always trying how to represent QCCC and its proud members anyway I can. Thus the need for me to purchase a telescoping window squeegee, a swim noodle and tie wraps (not at the club's expense). So what was the outcome you ask?



Answer: Representing QCCC Proud!

Here, with Larry & Florence in front, Kelly & I brought the QCCC flag down the straight away as we started the 1st Inaugural Lap. As always there is more to the story. First off, in case any of you had any doubt, yes we had the only Corvette there with a large 3'x5' flag tied to a pole sticking up. I guess some of those other people may have felt it was over kill but they did call it a parade lap. So yes, we stood out in this line of over 130 cars. Next, after it was brought to my attention the night before about how the wind at a fast speed could pull my make shift flag pole out of the swim noodle and deposit it into the windshield of the car behind me, I got little sleep. So at the last minute I moved Larry and Florence from behind to in front of us. This way if I had to fight my way off the track at least I would not have to fight someone I knew. Plus Florence has been going to the gym regularly since she has retired. Can you hear the joke now? **“What did the QCCC President say just before he caused a 73 car wreck on turn 3 of the MSP...hey guys watch this!”** I also heard the story of a QCCC couple driving down I-65 traveling to the NCM that morning when the women says “Honey you're not going to believe this but I think I just saw our QCCC club flag racing around the MSP track”. Lastly is our video that Kelly was taking from the passenger seat. See as we finished coming by the front straight away I was attempting to close the big gap between Larry and me with a little speed. At that time I had one hand on the wheel and the other had a death grip on the flag pole. As we approached turn 1 you can hear Kelly say on the video **“I am turning this off because you can't drive and hold that flag pole at the same time...you're going to kill both of us”**. But my biggest regret was that I did not think about borrowing Bill Cruthis' silver metal flake racing helmet until it was too late (if you don't know what I am talking about then you must have missed the August Meeting).

So, until I have another opportunity to make you all proud again, remember several things; sometimes being different could turn out to be neat, if you might have to fight try to pick your opponent, keep Safety First always drive with one hand on the wheel and the other on the flag pole, keep in mind you don't know who will see you, remember that a video camera also records sound, plus never stop laughing at yourself because life is too short to be serious and...

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

Keith Cross

C1's



C2's



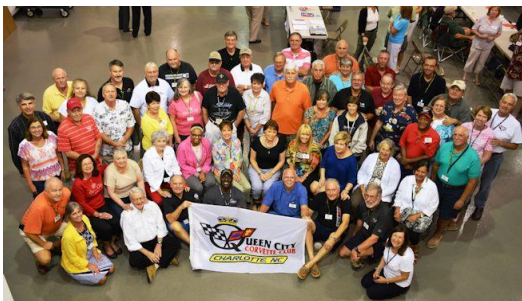
C3's

C4's



C5's

C6's



C7's



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the View is Always Nice.*



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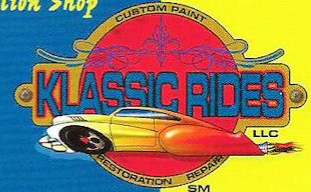

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V P Report Bill Cruthis

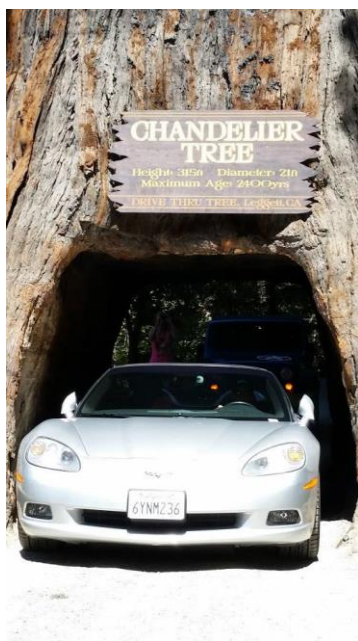
GO FIGGER! IT MUST BE ABOUT THE MONEY!!!

When I first graduated college and bought my first Corvette (a 68 used one) the problem we all had was getting insurance. It seems they looked at us as young hooligans with hotrods. I was finally able to land coverage by Farm Bureau for a hefty fee. Six months later, (about January 1970), my bill came in the mail and the premiums had almost doubled. I thought this a little high for a 68 Corvette with a 327/350hp car and a very clean driving record. After writing my check I proceeded to draft a letter to Farm Bureau informing them of the wrongfulness in their process, and that they should view records more closely than the automobile. In about 7 days (the post office was much more efficient then) I received a letter in the mailbox from the Farm Bureau. I anxiously opened it but was startled to find my check returned with a short note saying I was welcome to find my insurance elsewhere. I tried at least 3 other agencies and was turned down, too young to have that much horsepower. At which time I drafted another letter to Farm Bureau explaining how wrong I had been and that I now understood the business side of things and I would be very proud to be a customer of theirs once again. I enclosed a check (with the doubled premium), mailed it in and was finally insured. Let's just say lesson learned. Don't stick your head in the lion's mouth, unless you have a very large head.

Fast forward 45 years. Now look what has happened. The new motor trend magazine arrived last week and, low and behold, they are covering the new cars of 2015 and 2016. With due diligence, I reviewed the list and made some startling discoveries. They reviewed 161 automobiles. Would you believe only 82 or 51% had less horsepower than my 68 corvette. Take note they did not cover trucks and many of them would qualify. Of the 49% with more horsepower 30 or 19% were sedans, 17 or 11% were coupes, 6 or 4% were hatchbacks, 2 or 1% were station wagons and only a meager 23 or 14% were sports cars. So today there are more sedans and almost as many coupes on the roads with all that horsepower and I am sure they hug the road like a sports car. Can you believe there are station wagons with more horsepower than the insurance companies would insure in the late 60's. Here is an idea of a few of the culprits. Lincoln mks sedan 365hp, Acura sedan 377hp, Cadillac XTS sedan 410hp, Chevrolet SS sedan 415hp, Kia sedan 429hp, Hyundai sedan 420hp and Mercedes wagon 577 hp. You have got to be kidding me, a Kia and a Hyundai sedan and a Mercedes wagon. Where are the insurance police that wanted to throw me under the bus for a measley 350hp. Good grief Charlie Brown what has changed in 45 years? Is it because most of the folks driving these overcharged 4 door buckets are older and wiser. I think not Waldo. I say it is all about money. Two things are behind all actions of mankind, either money or power. When it becomes profitable all the sudden it is do able. So when enough folks demanded cars with high horsepower those insurance gurus who swore it was

highly unsafe and unprofitable to insure a bunch of kids with hotrods, voila!!! It now is ok. I say rats because it really crimped my budget back then, however it is pretty nice today. Some good came of it. Travis had to settle for a used 64 instead of a new 71 and today still has the 64 coupe, 2 four's, side exhaust, air, and a 4 speed. It is always about the money honey and somebody always has more. We fooled them, we bought 'em, drove 'em, raced 'em, and kept 'em. When you have the Corvette Fever you find a way.

LEFT LANE AND DOWN , THE BLUE BY U





Queen City Corvette Club
Club Board and Business Meeting Minutes

<http://queencitycorvette.com/Archive/Archives.htm>

For Newsletters, Minutes, Calendars, etc.

2014 Caravan at Dale Earnhardt Chevrolet





Bonino Banter

– The Social Scene



I have come to the conclusion that I may live to be over 100!! On a recent 60 Minutes Show they interviewed several people who are vibrant 90 plus year olds. The question was asked, “What do you attribute your longevity to?” Every one of them felt the main factor was the fact that they had an active social life. Some were married, several had boy or girl friends, most were just involved in a club, a hobby, a church, a neighborhood where they had regular contact with other people. In other words stay “SOCIAL” and it can definitely contribute to living a longer life!!!

We witnessed this at the August meeting where we honored Walter Ahrens for his 100th birthday. He joined QCCC when he was 89 years old to be able to share in his love of Corvettes with people who had a similar interest. And why not???? Walter was widowed at this point and he realized he wanted more socialization in his life.

We are all back from the 20th Anniversary of the National Corvette Museum with even more enthusiasm for the love of Corvettes. We met lots of new people, heard interesting lectures, witnessed the grand opening of the new Motorsports Park, saw a preview of the new 2015 Z06 and spend time with so many of our good friends from QCCC and other clubs. We experienced first hand how much fun it can be to be around other people, who in this case, have a passion for the same thing we do!

Speaking of Social...we have a fun fall ahead of us! This month alone we have the Car Show, our Annual BBQ at Jane and Eddie's, The Auto Fair and a Mystery Trip. October and November are full as well. Please always check the website on our Calendar of Events to get more specific details. Remember to sign-up for events, but PLEASE let us know if you cannot come so we can adjust numbers for the restaurants, etc.

Thank you to all of you in our club for your **ENTHUSIASM** and **HARD WORK** to make us the best Corvette Club around!!!

In the meantime I will continue to remain “SOCIAL”!!!

PAT

The Ride

Tommy Loftin, Automotive
Director

3rd Annual
**Queen City Corvette Club
All Chevy Charity Car Show**



Sponsored By: 

Hosted By: 

Saturday, September 6th, 2014
Rain or Shine / Registration @ 8 AM / Judging @ 11 AM / Trophies @ 2 PM
Hendrick Motorsports, 4400 Papa Joe Hendrick Blvd, Charlotte

Queen City Corvette Club All Chevy Charity Car Show will be held Saturday September 6th rain or shine. Please see the attached information sheets for general information and judging information. We will have a staff meeting at 7:30 AM at Hendrick's Motorsport. As always we need as many people as we can get to help set up tents and tables at 6:00 AM. We will have a sheet of all club members and their assigned work schedule along with your team leaders available at the registration tent. We will have a group of 25 QCCC members go through the Heritage Museum at 8:30 AM and another group of 25 club members go through at 9:30 AM. Please take your time going through the museum and when you are done check with your team leader for work instructions. If you are not pre-registered for the Museum Tour you can check with the Museum Sign-up Desk at the registration tent and see if they have an opening for you. We have over 50 large silent auction items from car care products, to 31 bags, to girly stuff and we are going to give away 5 door prizes per hour, so bring plenty of cash and come ready to bid on your favorite items. Remember all these items have been donated and all the money goes to charity. As of this writing we have over 100 cars pre-registered and 165 people signed up for the Heritage Museum Tour. Trophies will be given out at 2:00 PM so we should be finished with the show by 3:00 PM. If everyone pitches in with clean-up we should be out of there by 3:30 PM or so.

Thanks in advance to all of Queen City Corvette Club members for making this car show such a success. Without each of you we would not be able to take on such a task.

Fall AutoFair will be September 20th and 21st. I will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting and remember we need 30 cars to participate, so get ready and sign up for this fun filled event. Keep air in your tires, grease on your axles and your wheels rolling!
Till next time,

Tommy Loftin



**Queen City Corvette Club All Chevy Charity Car Show
Hendrick Motorsport Complex
4400 Papa Joe Hendrick Blvd, Charlotte**

General Information

Schedule:	6:00	Gates Open	11:00	Registration Ends
	7:00	Members Arrive	Noon	Judging Ends
	8:00	Registration Begins	Noon	Silent auction Ends
	8:30	Heritage Center/Museum Tours Opens		
	9:00	Judges Meeting	1:30 PM	Heritage
Center/Museum Closes				
	9:15	QCCC Cars Judged	1:30 PM	Charity
Presentation				
	9:30	Museum/Team Store Opens	2:00 PM	Awards Presentation
	10:00	Judging Begins	3:00 PM	Museum/Team

Store Closes

Awards: Best of Show QCCC Only Corvette, Best of Show Other Corvette
Best of Show Camaro, Best of Show Other Chevy, Best of Show Truck
Dealers Choice Award, 30 1ST Place Class Awards, 30 Award of Distinction

Class

Generation

QCCC Corvettes	C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7
Visitor Corvettes	C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7
Camaro	1967-1969, 1970-1981, 1982-1992, 1993-2002, 2010-2014
Chevy Trucks	1946 and older, 1947-1966, 1967-1990, 1991-2009, 2010-2014
Chevy Cars	-1948, 1949-1954, 1955-1959, 1960-1969, 1970-1984, 1985-2000, 2001-2014

QCCC 2014 charities are Pilgrim's Inn, Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care, and all proceeds from the museum will go to Hendrick Marrow Foundation

Silent Auction Items are at the registration desk between 8:00 and Noon

50/50 Tickets are sold between 8:00 and Noon

Door prizes every hour. Check white board at registration desk for winners

Bathrooms are located in the Team Store and Team Center

Heritage Center / Museum Tours are prepaid only. See registration for availability

Store Museum / Team Store is free and opens at 9:30

Big John's BBQ open for Breakfast and Lunch- Sasage biscuit, BBQ and hotdogs



Queen City Corvette Club All Chevy Charity Car Show Judging Information

Welcome to QCCC / City Chevrolet All Chevy Car Show. We hope you have an entertaining and rewarding experience with us today. The following items are to help you through the judging process and to provide you with a path if you should have any questions or comments. Thank you for taking time with us today and we hope you enjoy the show.

- Registration will begin at 8:00 AM and end at 11:00 AM. Judging will start at 10:00 AM. Place your dash card, with your number on it, on the dash and visible through the windshield. Have your judging sheet filled out and ready for the judges. When your car is ready to be judged open your hood, trunk and doors. Please put your rags down when the judge approaches your car.
- You must be at your car during judging unless you are scheduled for the Hendrick Museum Tour, in which case you should assign someone to care for your car or leave your car unlocked, hood up and trunk up for judging. Make sure you leave your judging sheet on your seat and your dash card visible. Judges may ask you to show them areas not readily visible without your assistance. If you are not present when your car is being judged, your car will be judged as is and it will be your responsibility to contact the judges if you would like to be re-judged. Your car will be judged independently by two qualified judges. QCCC cars are judged separately in their own class and do not compete with non-members cars.
- Once your car has been judged we will place a small round dot on the driver's side windshield for identification.
- Should judging result in a tie, a second team of judges will resolve the issue.
- If you have a misunderstanding with a judge, do not argue the point with them. Please pass your concerns on to the chief judge or the chairman of the show.

Thank you for attending our show.
Tommy Loftin, QCCC Automotive Director

QCCC Cornerstones

Building a Great Corvette Club
One MEMBER at a time

"It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end." ~ Ernest Hemingway

The highway sign on KY Route 80 read "Bowling Green - 25 Mi.". I looked ahead and saw Corvettes stretched out in single file behind the KY State Trooper escort car and another KY State Trooper's 2014 Silver Stingray. I looked in my rear-view mirror and saw a colorful line of Corvettes as far as I could see behind us. At that moment, I realized the 2014 National Corvette Caravan, and over four years of planning and preparation, was almost over. Planning and preparation that had sometimes seemed as if it would never end was ending. I began to feel, as probably many others did, that I was very fortunate to be a part of this spectacular event, not only the planning and prep, but as a participant as well.

There is something about this "Corvette phenomenon" that sometimes exceeds my ability to comprehend. Friends get together because of an automotive icon to socialize, travel together and celebrate this American Sports Car and its shrine. But it's even more than that. Being one of the approximately 10,000 enthusiasts at the NCM and Motorsports Park each day, visiting the many vendors, seeing the thousands of Corvettes all shined and dressed up for the occasion, visiting with old friends and meeting many new ones will absolutely leave an impression in your mind and in your soul.

Several of our QCCC members received awards from the NCM for 10, 15 20 and 25 years of membership. Yes, you read that correctly - 25 years of membership when the NCM only celebrated its 20th Anniversary this year. Paul & Barbara Mariano are Founding Members of the NCM and they, along with many others, laid the foundation for what we each experience each time we visit the NCM. Likewise, each of us, as members of QCCC, are also continuing to lay the foundation of our club started forty-six ago by those who had a vision and made it a reality. As Queen City Corvette Club continues to grow, remember that we are an integral part of the Corvette heritage and each of us are helping to lay the foundation for those who will come after us. Peggy and I extend a big thank you for your membership, friendship and participation.

Last, but certainly not least, thanks to the many QCCC members who volunteered to help during the Caravan. Once again, you raised the bar high and made the experience fun for all. *Let the planning for the 2019 National Corvette Caravan begin!*

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

You had a choice. Thanks for choosing Queen City Corvette Club!



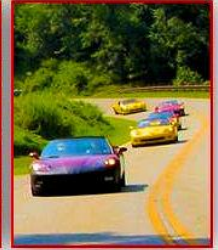
**Teresa & Hank
Farrior**



Joyce & Norm Lontz
2008 Crystal Red Coupe



Lynda & Steve Morris
2007 Monterey Red Convertible



National Corvette Museum Corner

The fifth NCM caravan is now history and, hopefully, everyone has now made it safely home. Other than some bad weather and wrecks on the interstate, none involving Corvettes, every participant arrived intact. The first figures for participation will take some time to calculate, but it is estimated that over ten thousand (10,000) people attended with a car count over five thousand (5,000). The Corvette Store reported record sales for the first two days and the café had continual long lines. All in all, it was a most successful Anniversary Celebration for the NCM.

Since Barbara and I had to be in Bowling Green to help prepare for the arrival of the caravans, we were unable to join our gang in the Carolinas/Virginia Caravan. If you would like the details of all the events along the way to Bowling Green, look up one of our many caravaners and I'm sure they will be glad to bend your ear for awhile.

Barbara and I were honored to receive our 25 year membership pins. We were informed that there are only sixty (60) members with 25 years of membership still on the roles. Also receiving acknowledgement of 15 and 10 years of membership was Walt & Wendy Krupowicz, E.O. & Ann Oakley and John & Linda Meadows. Our bench was visited by all at its place just under the flagpole that hoists the American flag. A very fitting place.

I don't know if all in our group made it to the Motorsports Park to make laps on the new track but I did meet a lot of smiling faces saying they had experienced the thrill of being able to log a few laps.

I guess just being at the museum brings out the best in people. Richard and Mary Ann Gwilt and Larry and Cindy Newsom signed up as life members while there. Welcome to that select group that have committed their resources to the continuation and growth of the NCM.

At the Board of Directors meeting it was decided to proceed with filling in the sinkhole starting after the Vets 'n Vettes event in November. The cost to keep it open and to provide a safe attraction was prohibitive. So, if you would like to view the sinkhole, you will have to make the journey to Bowling Green before the reconstruction begins.

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



THE ODD COUPLE

I have written before that when I moved from Illinois to Charlotte in December of 1974, the first person I met in all of Charlotte was Shad Alberty. As I progressed along Independence Boulevard in my Ranchero with the split window coupe on the trailer, I was as anxious as a long tail cat in a room full of rocking chairs. Coming from a town of 7000, I was in awe of the big city and looking back I probably would have turned tail and run for home in about six months as I would surely have had serious bouts of loneliness.

But at the corner of Hawthorne and Independence a yellow 71 Corvette convertible pulled up next to me and asked where I was going with that classic. I said just moved into town and was headed to a rental house. Shad said come by the Corvette Club Clubhouse Wednesday nite and I will buy you a beer. It is right down here on the left at the corner of Westover and Independence. I was so nervous that I went on Monday nite, knocked on the door, a young lady came to the door as they were having a baby shower. I was told to come back on Wednesday nite when the guys would be here having a beer. As you read this, remember, it happened at a red light. Check Chris Wood article in the last newsletter where he cites 49% of new members come from referrals by present members. Here is one from 1974 As I joined QCCC in 1974, the clubhouse became the watering hole where we would hang out and talk cars. There was a bar in the back bedroom with a keg, a kitchen devoid of furniture and likewise for the dining room. The front room housed only a juke box and a vinyl couch. I vividly remember the man in the yellow 71 Corvette was always dancing in the living room. He would Shag with all the ladies most often to the tune of 60 minute man. As I got to know Shad and Brenda Alberty it was apparent that they were our senior mentors. The average age of the membership was about 27 while they were pushing 40. Why did they hang with us? They were young at heart and always Shag Dancing. In fact it was Shad that got us to Shag Dancing in the west bound lanes of Independence Boulevard. Back in the mid 70's the boulevard was 4 lanes with a 2 foot median in the middle. There were many Saturday nites that we would stop by the clubhouse for a few beers, Shad and Brenda would crank the volume of the juke box up leave the front door open and we would Shag in the street until a car would come by. My how things have changed on the Boulevard.

One particular Wednesday nite (could have been any Wednesday nite) I had stopped by for our usual kegger nite. I had come from my basketball league and was dressed in sweats and sneakers. Many beers later we were all preparing to leave and standing by the Corvettes. Shad was taking his usual ribbing about being an old man and not able to hang at the bar or anywhere else with us young athletic types. At which time he proceeded to challenge ol' Brillo Pad to a foot race. Now the "Shadster" was wearing his penny loafers (perfect for shaggin' but not so good in a foot race). So the Brillo Pad accepted the challenge and a wager was made of who could be the first to reach the next intersection up Westover Road. A city block at age 27, even with beer on board, vs a 40 year old dancing queen should not be much of a challenge. So Brillo Pad thought this would be a cake walk until the word go was hollered. Yikes that old man can flat out run. Brillo got beat by at least a third of a block and had to pay up. I will tell you, if you want to lose weight just shag dance for about 4 hours a nite. Now it was Brillo's turn to take the ribbing which did go on for months. Relief finally came that summer when QCCC had its annual river party. At that time Jeff Tater (Silver Cloud) who also fancied himself an athlete decided to mess with Shad. During the egg toss he purposefully pelted Shad with a raw egg,

at which time Shad proceeded to pick up a hand full of watermelon, chase down the Silver Cloud, and wash his face with it. I think from that point on our senior couple became our heroes and we were always proud to have them as our substitute parents. Both were remarkably funny and entertaining, yet they kept us on the straight and narrow.

We have been in touch with Brenda lately and hope to have her attend an event soon. Sadly we lost Shad many years ago. But if you get to Myrtle Beach and get into Shag Dancing you will meet many, many folks that he taught to dance and he is in the Shag Dancer's hall of fame. He was the best and because he worked at it, although he smoked heavily, he was still in good enough shape to shame a couple of athlete wanna' bees almost 15 years younger. I am tellin' you this man could flat out run. He could not drive a lick and Brenda won all the autocross trophies as she was outstanding. So the early days of QCCC we learned to respect our elders and what fun they brought to the new and fledgling group.

So today we salute the Alberty's. What a great and fun couple, a huge part of the success of QCCC in the 70's.

Bill Cruthis

QCCC Members & Guests Photos: Many More on the Web Site:







From Track to Street

NEXT EVENT

The next TUDOR Championship race for Corvette Racing is the Lone Star Le Mans on Saturday, Sept. 20 from Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas. The team also will field a Corvette C7.R in the FIA World Endurance Championship's six-hour race on the same day

CORVETTE RACING AT VIR: Tough Going for Pair of Chevrolet Corvette C7.Rs

Antonio Garcia and Jordan Taylor led Corvette Racing's effort at the Oak Tree Grand Prix with a seventh-place finish Sunday at Virginia International Raceway. The result keeps Garcia in the lead of the TUDOR United SportsCar Championship's GT Le Mans driver standings and the No. 3 Chevrolet Corvette C7.R entry first in the class team championship.

Oliver Gavin and Tommy Milner in the No. 4 Corvette C7.R were ninth in Sunday's race after Milner was forced off track midway through the race and lost four laps. Two races remain in the inaugural TUDOR Championship season. Corvette Racing has four class victories on the season – the most of any team in GTLM.

Other Corvette Related Items of interest.

“Corvettes provide milestones for fan’s life”

http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2014/08/16/5089246/vettes-provide-milestones-for.html#.U_E60bHD-Uk

“Club is for drivers who love their cars”

http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2014/08/16/5092370/queen-city-corvette-club-celebrating.html#.U_E7DrHD-Uk

“Heads-Up”

September 13, 2014 QCCC Meeting and Annual Eddie

Burt BBQ BBQ BBQ

3:30 pm Arrival

5:00 pm Pig Out Time

6:30 pm Meeting

Please bring covered dishes according to your last name as follows:

A – G Desserts

H – Z Side Dishes and Salads

Bring chairs and your preference in beverages.

We need 10 – 12 canopies for shade. If you can bring one, please call or email Eddie.

Note:

Please park along the streets and make SURE there's enough room for emergency vehicles.

Jane & Eddie Burt

251 Amanda Drive *

Matthews NC 28104

704-846-7130

980-322-8565 cell

* Directions from I-485

Exit 57 – Hwy 16/Providence Rd – Turn north (toward Charlotte).

Turn Right at the light, onto McKee Rd. Go half a mile.

Turn Right at the light, onto Tilley Morris Rd. Go 1.8 miles.

Turn Right onto Weddington-Matthews Rd (Seminary is on the left). Go half a mile.

Turn Right onto Amanda Dr.

251 is the second house on the left, with Corvettes in the yard.

“Corvette Fever”

By Jack and Betty Ann Brunton

Jack has always had the fever for adventure and speed, but didn't recognize he had Corvette Fever until we moved to Florida in 1998. Since we were in the Sunshine State, he decided we needed a convertible, and bought a shiny new red 1999 Camaro with a white top.

The Camaro lost its luster quickly. It seemed everywhere we went there were Corvettes - at the beach, at the shopping malls, and even in the parking lots at Disney World. There were Corvette car shows almost every weekend from September through April, and it seemed we'd happen on them no matter where we went - on the pier in St. Pete, at St. Armand's Circle in Sarasota, and even at the BBQ Festival at the Vinoy.

As he checked out the Corvettes, Jack's eyes would get large - just like a kid admiring all of the presents under the Christmas tree. It wasn't long before he was coming home with Corvette magazines and our coffee table was a display of Corvette literature. Jack was putting together his wish list of option packages, color preferences, and articles on the C5. Before I could ask him whether or not he was going to “bite the bullet” and get one, he presented me with the sales order signed and sealed - just waiting for the delivery. So long Camaro, HELLO Corvette!

Jack was like a Dad-to-be waiting for his first child to be born. He was checking with the dealer constantly to find out where his car was in the production schedule. In early September 2001, Jack drove his “hot off the assembly line” Magnetic Red 5C Convertible into the driveway. I'd never seen a more proud Papa! He was beaming from ear-to-ear.

The Fever didn't stop there! Jack wanted his car personalized, one that would stand out in a crowd and be noticed. After all, in Florida it seemed that the highly customized cars won the trophies. He painstakingly checked out all of the winning cars and researched which shops had the best ratings and performed the best work. Soon his car was transformed into the Red Ranger - a tribute to his Military life - Airborne, Ranger, Green Beret!

The one modification he was nervous about was the addition of the Greenwood racing wing. After all, it required cutting his girl! He drove across the state to the Greenwood headquarters to have the work done rather than trust anyone local with his car.

The Red Ranger amassed a room full of trophies, and Jack was constantly pampering her. When a fellow Corvette owner (who had 3 collectible Vettes) commented he was looking for another one, but one that would be a daily driver, Jack was immediately onboard! Within weeks, an Electron Blue 2002 Corvette convertible was sharing the garage with the Red Ranger.

The addition of the Billy Boat Bullet exhaust system made her one of the loudest in the Club! Before I knew it, the new daily driver was transformed into Blue Thunder. After all, even a daily driver needs to be pampered, and why not have two cars to take to car shows! It gave us both a car to drive.

Before we moved from Florida to North Carolina, Jack had researched all of the Corvette Clubs in the Charlotte area and settled on QCCC as the one we'd join. He also researched car shows, and found there was one in Maggie Valley on Memorial Day Weekend 2008 - the weekend we were moving. The Red Ranger was shipped to North Carolina and in our Garage the week before we closed on the house.

As soon as the movers finished packing up our house we drove up to North Carolina, picked up the car from the garage, and headed to Maggie Valley! What luck! Members of QCCC were also in attendance and we had our first exposure to the Club! We knew right away we'd made the right choice for our future club! We weren't disappointed with the show either, the Red Ranger left the show with not just her first North Carolina trophy, she earned three - including best in class and the Sponsor's Trophy.

Joining QCCC only made Jack's fever go higher! It seemed the parking lots at our meetings were filling with C6 Corvettes and not just coupes or convertibles. It was time to say good-bye to Blue Thunder and add a Machine Silver 2007 Z06 to the family.

You all know the rest of the story, Bad Boy has taken over as the King of the Garage. The Red Ranger became his daily driver until a friend in Florida heard Jack was thinking about selling her. She's back in Florida enjoying the sunshine, and our coffee table is spread with literature on the C7. Jack's talking about an 8 speed automatic Z06 convertible – color yet to be determined!

Oh, and do I have the fever, you bet! Why else would I be down on the ground cleaning the wheels, wells and tires!



Walter Ahrens



Walter Ahrens BD: 11-16-14. Born and raised in Canada. Came to the US in his early years to work for the Fischer Body division of General Motors.

My Dad also started his own insurance agency, Ahrens Mutual Agency, which sold car and home insurance from Michigan Millers Insurance Company. He would work at his job at GM during the day, then come home, have dinner, and work in his home office. He has been retired from GM, collecting a pension for more years than he ever worked there.

He bought his first C3 Corvette Stingray, a blue convertible, sometime between 1969 and 1973. My Mother, Marge, was mad he bought it. She refused to drive it or ride in it, referring to it as “like another woman”. He sold it when the new cars came out, and went back to purchasing traditional Oldsmobiles and Cadillacs

My Dad loved that car, but would not let me (a teen-ager at the time) drive it with the top down, because it would get dust inside. I think he let me drive it only a few times. And he finally let me drive it with the top down once or twice.

Today he says it was a great car, and brags that he sold it for more money than he bought it. Back then, GM employees got a tremendous discount on fleet cars. An employee could place an order for a specific color car, with any or all options, that would be ordered and placed in the GM fleet, to be driven by privileged executives. Usually after a few hundred miles, sometimes less, the company would then remove it from the fleet and sell it to the employee that ordered it. Dad got a new car every year and, in most years, he ended up selling the car for more than he paid for it, or at least breaking even. In essence, he got the use of a new car for free, year after year. It was always fun to sit at the kitchen table and pick out the new color exterior and interior and the optional features!

He never bought another Corvette until after my Mother died. He bought his silver and burgundy 1982 Corvette after moving to Charlotte in the late 90’s. His son-in-law, my husband, Stephen, drove with him to Ringgold, GA to pick it up, after finding it on-line.

I attribute my Dad’s longevity to the fact that he stays active, has an incredible memory, and loves to have a drink, and laugh.

He is still adamant about driving. He argues with me that he is a better driver than a 16 year old. The jury is still out.

Sandra Montgomery