



The Queen City Corvette Gazette

Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

January 2015



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Corvette Angels

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 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**





President's Report

Bill Cruthis

Now I find myself CEO of this company of 320 folks. When you are handed the reins it is either to fix it or keep it on the upward swing. Thanks to Keith, we are in the latter position; however that will be as equally challenging as the former as he did such an outstanding job.

Change is most often associated with progress. So with the upward swing, we will look for minor changes that may make things even better. The new board recognizes that you have many strings pulling on your allotted free time and it is our challenge to provide areas of interest to you such that QCCC gets a fair amount of your attention. When I think of change, money comes to mind and not pocket change. Money is usually the root of most change as progress comes from someone making it easier for others and in the end they both profit. We want to listen closely to the membership so we can adopt changes that we hear the most about. So far one constant that we are hearing is could you shorten the meetings a bit and try to keep them to 60-75 minutes. That got me to reflecting on the meetings in the attic of the old clubhouse back in the mid 70's. Not strangely, we heard the same issues. So now let's look at what has changed. When I first joined QCCC in 1974, the meetings were a vital place to gain the month's and beyond activity list. There were no web sites, e-mails, cell phones, I pads, x pads, y pads z pads, no pads except on the bottom of your dog's feet. Therefore, back then if you wanted to be in the know, you had to attend the meetings. Now our business meetings are more about a Saturday night out to fellowship, enjoy all of our wonderful corvette family, ask a few questions, be reminded of the upcoming events, and head to a restaurant to stuff ourselves with some fine food and brew. Life has changed for the better. With this in mind, it should be easier to shrink the business meeting time if we can ask your help to stay tuned in to your e-mail blasts and to check the website. Technology should allow us to have some fun in our meetings since we do not have to be redundant by talking at length about items posted through your devices. Also many have expressed that you would like to move the Saturday night meetings up in time a little which would allow us to be at the restaurant earlier and home earlier. We are looking at this as it will take a bylaw change, but we feel it has a lot of merit. Lastly right now, some have mentioned having a short tech talk in the meetings. Currently we probably do not have time to do that. However, the board is looking at having this during the social portion. We have already discussed both auto tech and items of interest to the ladies. These would be short 15 minute discussions so you would still have time for your social fun but could listen in if the tech tips were of interest to you. Gary and I have met and discussed a couple of new ideas for competitive automotive events. Paul and I have met and he is working on his awards program which I will save for him to promote. Great news, Tommy will stay on this year to head the car show, so I win again. It takes so much work but he is an ace and it will be even bigger and better

than ever. Pat is already working on her big social events and we have some new trips in the planning stages.

The only thing our board cannot provide is attendance. It takes all of you coming and sharing in the fun to make a great year. Not only will we enjoy your company, but you help attract and keep new members. Like a fly strip, folks are drawn to fun, and once they get there we hope they stick.

One thing about corvette folks that you can write on the wall in permanent ink is we are red, white, and blue and proud to be Americans and proud to be passionate about America's only sports car. There is a special thread that weaves through us. We are so appreciative of our freedom to drive the great roads of our country, and so respectful of those who served to keep it all possible.

I hope this year that we all get the hot rods out, enjoy that exhaust noise, the thrill of the curve, the G forces under acceleration, and the camaraderie of our friends.

Remember: when you own a corvette you are never alone



LEFT LANE AND HAMMER DOWN, THE CRU'S BLUE'S

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



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TALES AND TRAILS FROM UP YONDER

Paul Mitchell, Vice President

A new year. Wow, hard to believe it's 2015. I distinctly remember asking my parents when I was very young, maybe 6 or 8, if I would be alive in the year 2000. Obviously I was not yet very good at math. But they assured me that, with good behavior and better luck, I would be in my early fifties. And here we are already 15% into the new century.



Just think of the changes in our lifetime. It boggles the mind. But let's concentrate on just the changes in the Corvette since 1953. It appeared in New York City and was an instant hit based on looks alone. The other parts, like fiberglass body and triple carbs, were icing on the cake. But then came more great things – V-8 power, 4 speeds, improved suspension, and more. Everybody liked it. Then change in 1963, and it got even better. The C3 comes along in 1968, and while a little rough around the edges the first year, it was eventually very popular at least through the mid 70's. Then more changes with EPA, safety bumpers, low HP. Not good changes. The C4 was revolutionary when it was released, and was another example of good change. It sure did look different, but it sure performed much better. Then the great C5, a huge step up when people thought the C4 was great. The C6 was an evolution of the C5, but change here again, some of it not so popular at first. How dare they change the headlights? And then along comes the Stingray. It was an OMG moment for everyone when they saw it. Change way beyond anyone's imagination, but controversy also. How dare they put non round taillights on this thing? Now we see that the lights on it are the only way it could be and now the new Z06. Change only for the better, in an unbelievable way.

These cars have changed in many ways over its 60 plus years. It looks very different, but it is still great, overall only getting better, and continues to be recognized as the best sports car around, especially considering the cost. And now it is the best around in some cases regardless of cost.

The QCCC Board has changed too, and it looks different. But like our cars over the years, this change will be positive. The previous Board under Keith's guidance has done a great job. And this new Board, the changed Board, is excited about the future and our opportunity to continue to help QCCC grow and prosper. However, the Board is nothing but a facilitator to accomplish the things that the Membership wants. The core of QCCC is you, the Membership. And this Board is honored to serve. I am looking forward to an exciting, fun, and happy new year!

Love 'em, cherish 'em, drive 'em. It'll make you and your car smile!



Queen City Corvette Club

Queen City Corvette Club Bylaws require that an inventory be published annually.

Following is the Annual 2014 End-Of-Year Inventory.

Quantity:	Item:	Inventoried By:
2	Microphones w/ Bag	Bill Cruthis
1	Amp and Speaker	Bill Cruthis
1	Bullhorn	Bill Cruthis
1	Cordless Microphone w/ Receiver	Bill Cruthis
1	Large Dry Erase Check	Carolyn Zimmer
1	E-Z Up Instant Shelter	Gary Cunningham
2	QCCC Club Banners - 6 ft X 2 ft	Gary Cunningham
2	Frames for Banners w/ Carrying Case	Gary Cunningham
1	RubberMaid Roughneck Container - 31 Gal.	Gary Cunningham
1	Box - Poker Run Cards & Punches	Gary Cunningham
5	Clipboards	Gary Cunningham
1	QCCC Club Flag	Gary Cunningham
1	Previous Yr Banner w/ QCCC Logo rcvd. from NCM	Gary Cunningham
1	Easel Stand & Blackboard	Eddie Burt
4	20 inch Box Fans	Eddie Burt
1	NCM 1 Acre Plaque	Bill Cruthis

Queen City Corvette Club
Club Board and Business Meeting Minutes



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

For Newsletters, Minutes, Calendars, etc.

Web Site Updates :

Added a "Utube Channel" for QCCC Videos. Accessible from the Top Left of the Main Page.

Added an "Awards Bowtie" to the Toolbox. Past Award recipients.

Added Brian Kruze's C5 Engine Mods to the Tech Tips Bowtie.



Bonino Banter

– The Social Scene

Happy New Year to all our Queen City Corvette Members

We had an outstanding 2014! We made necessary changes to our by-laws to help us be more accommodating to the majority, many of us participated in the National Corvette Museum's 20th Anniversary celebration in Bowling Green in August, we came together to purchase a beautiful bench placed at the museum with QCCC on it, we had a very successful third annual Car Show – something we can build on for years to come – all the profits going to charity and in between these bigger events we took mini trips, had more events at our regular meetings, celebrated Walter Arend's 100th Birthday and lots more.

We are now enjoying a larger attendance at all of our regular meetings. This means we will need to be communicating often and in different forms. **PLEASE** watch for emails with details concerning upcoming events, sign-up sheets at the meetings are very important so we can have a feel of how many people want to attend and/or email me with your desire to attend and the Volunteer Crier asking for help to run these events.

This year we want to establish a “**Social Committee**”. This does not mean those people alone have to do all the work! This is to chew over ideas and in the background help to organize. If you are interested in being on this committee, please let me know. We can be flexible about the way we meet or communicate via email/text/phone.

Events coming up here soon:

January 10th - Chili Cook-off and meeting

January 31st - Annual Awards Banquet

February 14th - Valentines Day Dinner and meeting

March 14th - Bow making class - gals/ speaker - guys and meeting

April (meeting date to be announced) Annual picnic and meeting at Tommy and Brenda Loftins

Check the website and individual emails for specific details concerning these events.

Each and every one of you is an important part of why QCCC is a fun club. We can look forward to a wonderful 2015 as long as we continue to work together and **BE SOCIAL!!!**

Pat

Automotive Director's Report

Gary Cunningham

Let me take this opportunity to thank you in advance, I look forward to serving as your Automotive Director this year.

The Board is hard at work on the calendar, with many great events from last year carrying over to the New Year. The calendar is a work in progress, with room for events that you, the members, suggest and bring to the table. I've already had suggestions and ideas sent my way; please feel free to send them my way. Mr. Bill and I have a couple new activities in the works. Details will be released as soon as we solidify plans.

Our club has always had great support and volunteer action from the membership. As the club continues to grow and our activities enlarge, the teamwork and support from the club membership will be needed more than ever before.

The first major Automotive item on the calendar is the Food Lion Spring Auto Fair. The Speedway calendar lists the Spring show as April 11th and 12th....so you'll need to wear a sweatshirt. And, the Auto Fairs are a great way to get to know people in the club. Gwen and I decided to join QCCC because of the warm and friendly welcome we received at an Auto Fair.

Automotive Director is a large undertaking, and I want to thank you for the support, encouragement and cooperation that will be coming my way. Thanks to Tommy, for keeping his hands on the Car Show. I look forward to learning the what, where, and how from the Jedi Master Obi Wan Loftin. I'll leave you with a few thoughts each month:

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.... Henry David Thoreau

Things don't have to change the world to be important.....Steve Jobs

Old age is fifteen years older than me.....Oliver Wendell Holmes

...and as always-...not gonna let them catch me, no, not gonna let them catch the Midnight Rider

Gary



Membership Director's Report

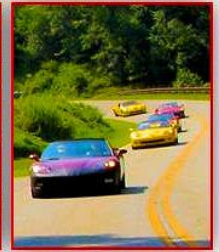
Darrell Kirkley



First, I would like to thank everyone for entrusting me with the job of Membership Director as I try to fill the very large shoes of Chris Wood. As I transition in the job, I am amazed at how much Chris did to help grow the club. The vast majority of that work went unnoticed, and he just quietly got the job done. We have had tremendous growth in the last couple of years, and I will try to maintain that growth. I am always amazed at the quality of people that come into the club, and at their passion for America's only sports car. In 2015 your new board has a few fresh ideas to keep the club moving forward as we enjoy our friendships and our cars. The last time I was on the board, if you could call it that, it was exactly 30 years ago. We just saw it as a reason to get together and have a few cold ones. We only had twenty-some members, so a large part of the club was officers. Again, very little to talk about, many beverages to consume. One of those ideas that we are going to implement this year is to have all the guests sit together so we can find them and make them feel welcome after the meeting. With as many people as we have in attendance, it is very difficult to pick the guests out of the crowd as everyone scurries out to go eat. Try to speak to at least one guest before you leave the meeting, and maybe even invite them to join you for dinner. I think this will go a long way to make them feel like they would like to come back and be a part of our club.

We had two families voted into the club in December, giving us a total membership of 324 and 171 families. Congratulations to our latest new members, Roy and Jeanie Danaher and Milo Kincaid & Diane "Toddy" Aliff.

Thanks, Darrell



National Corvette Museum Corner

Our new El Presidente', Bill Cruthis, has directed that I set up a date for a QCCC Club visit to the NCM. Not being one to ignore a presidential order, we are now scheduled for a visit on July 17-18. We will depart for Bowling Green on Thursday, July 16, and return on Sunday, July 19. The cost is \$25.00/per person for non-members and \$20.00/per person for NCM members. This cost includes a tour of the museum, a tour of the Corvette Assembly Plant and a box lunch. It has not been firmed up yet, but we should also be able to get a couple of laps around the racetrack. As usual, we will be staying at the Hilton Garden Inn at a special price of \$109.00 (includes breakfast). Please let me know if you are interested in going. We are hoping to get a lot of you first timers so you can see what the NCM is all about.

The filling of the sinkhole is now underway. The first ceremonial rocks were thrown in on December 29th and the backfilling began. The process is expected to take approximately three weeks. If you were fortunate (?) enough to have seen the hole in person, you know what a task this will be. As the cliché' goes, all's well that ends well.

The NCM Motorsports Park plans to break ground on a 14,062 square feet complex in early January which will include 22 day rental garages, viewing decks and a pavilion with concessions, restrooms (yeah) and showers. If the weather cooperates, completion is scheduled for early April.

Congratulations to Norm and Marge Jungman and Craig and Donna Smith for becoming our latest lifetime NCM members. The Jungmans converted their senior membership to lifetime by requesting and receiving credit for what they had already paid on the senior one. The Smiths upgraded their family membership. Thanks for the upgrades and your support of the Corvette Museum.

NCM MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

QCCC Family Units	=	171
NCM Members	=	83 (48.5%)
Lifetime Members	=	28

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



CORVETTE BONDS

Some crazy things are happening in the corvette world these days. Many are seeking out the joys of the newest gem from GM. All of this started me thinking about the beginning of some special relationships. Soon after I moved from Illinois to Charlotte, I found myself indulging in matrimony. As you know, this process takes on a lot of hoop la and gathering of friends to help with the celebration. When I was told I needed a best man and 3 groomsmen, I did not linger in my selections. There were no chums from high school, fraternity brothers from college, or anyone from the workplace. There was no hesitation in the best man, as that had to be my father, who to this day remains the biggest and best influence I could ever have had. Looking back now, the other 3 were probably a risky choice as they were all late 20's and all from QCCC. Risky in that they might not show up or not show up sober. The four of us were always hanging out and usually on the edge. In no particular order, I selected Darrell Kirkley (aka Turkley, aka Turkey), Bill Ingram (aka Dollar Bill, aka Slick Willie, aka Joe Willey) and Danny Shaver (aka Shaverstein). Travis Meredith could just as easily been substituted for any of the three. All of them at that time had one or multiple corvettes and we had great times and memories with our exploits in these great cars.

Now let's fast forward to today. This coming June will mark 37 years since that event. Aside from the bride (missing in action) and sadly the passing of Danny Shaver, the rest really have not changed that much. Darrell still has 2 corvettes, 2006 convertible with 650 hp and a 65 roadster still red which is his color, side pipes and knock offs. Darrell is still the same neatnik or dirt herder, everything in its place. He is still a master with his hands when it comes to auto projects. Travis still has 2 corvettes, his 64 coupe that he had back then, side pipes and knock offs, and a C5 Z06, of course both have to be red. He is still working as a true artist in Trav's body shop. We don't see quite as much of Dollar Bill; however, he did come by to look at my new Z06 and of course he now has a Daytona Sunrise Orange Z06 auto, convertible on order for museum delivery in 6 to 8 weeks. Dollar was well nicknamed as he eventually owned independence hummer. He has always had such great ability to know cars inside and out. We laugh and say his hobby is making money and he has done it very well. As for me, not that much has changed. Back then I had a 63 split window coupe, a 70 silver coupe, a red 65 roadster with side pipes, and a brown 74 coupe. Now I have gone all blue with the 71 Mulsanne Blue, 09 Jet Stream Blue Z06 and the 15 Laguna Blue Z06. As I think about this today, it is amazing the treads our Corvette passion have woven through the lives of the 4 of us. Here we are 40 years later, still the best of friends, with the best of cars. I do not think you will find such a story very often. Not only has the Corvette kept us together but QCCC has been such a dynamic part of our history. It is interesting that while all four of our lives took different turns in the road, none of us ever wavered from the love of our cars and eventually all the roads lead back to QCCC. Today it is just great to have these wonderful folks in my life. I have learned with age to keep your friends close as they have a value to your life that cannot be replaced.

So thanks to QCCC, the 4 of us will enjoy our foray into the future with our new and our old Corvettes. Life could not be better.

Thanks to all of you in QCCC
Bill Cruthis (AKA Brillo Pad)

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





From Track to Street

Next event is “The Roar before the 24” Jan 9-11, 2015 Daytona and the Rolex 24 on Jan 24th and 25th. Corvette Racing’s current race series, the TUDOR United SportsCar Championship, recently reflected on 15 years of Corvette Racing history with a list of five facts you might not have known about the team. Some of you racing diehards will already know a few of these, so if you have any other little known facts about Chevy’s factory racing team, feel free to share them in the comments below.

1. Corvette Racing’s first outing was at the 1999 Rolex 24 At Daytona, where Ron Fellows, Chris Kneifel and John Paul Jr. drove the C5-R to a 19th place finish. They crossed the finish line 34 laps behind the class winning Porsche 911 and would go on to compete at Sebring, Sears Point, Laguna Seca and more later that year.
2. Two Scotts who currently compete against Corvette Racing in the IMSA Tudor Championship used to drive for the team. Scott Sharp drove three races in the C5-R in 1999 along with current Cadillac Racing driver Andy Pilgrim and John Heinricy. Additionally, Scott Pruett drove to a victory at the 24 Hours of Le Mans with Ron Fellows and current Cadillac Racing driver Johnny O’Connell in 2001. The team has also had 26 different drivers race for them, including both Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Dale Earnhardt Sr.
3. During the 2004 24 Hours of Le Mans, Corvette Racing’s C5-R experienced some minor problems during the endurance race. The team needed to replace bodywork and suspension tie rods, but didn’t have any spare parts. That’s when one team member remembered they had a third C5-R on display at the race, which they quickly raided for parts. Drivers Olivier Beretta, Oliver Gavin and Jan Magnussen went on to win the race in their specially modified Corvette.
4. Corvette Racing’s cars have racked up nearly 210,000 combined racing miles in more than 58,000 laps over its 16 racing seasons. In that time, they’ve won 94 races in the TUDOR United SportsCar Championship, American Le Mans Series, GRAND-AM Rolex Sports Car Series, and the 24 Hours of Le Mans.
5. The most successful driver to ever race a Corvette is Oliver Gavin, who has won 44 victories with the team. Johnny O’Connell is a close second, with 40 wins in the yellow car under his belt.

Read more: <http://gmauthority.com/blog/2014/12/five-things-you-may-not-have-known-about-corvette-racing/#ixzz3M5PIwGQ9>



Other Corvette Related Items of interest.



A couple of videos on 2015 Z06 test drives:

<https://autos.yahoo.com/blogs/motoramic/2015-chevrolet-corvette-z06-review--america-s-650-hp-super-car-beater-201316475.html>

<http://autoweek.com/article/car-reviews/2015-chevrolet-corvette-z06-first-drive> (Andy Pilgrim at Road Atlanta)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=QS9nV-qtXro

If you have never taken a trip to the Corvette Museum and a tour of the Corvette Assembly Plant in Bowling Green, it's worth the trip! Here is a taste of what you would see in the plant in the video link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ccOrwFs3No>

“Heads-Up”

Up Coming Events

January 10, 2015 Business Meeting

**QCCC January 10th Meeting and Dinner
Hopewell Presbyterian Church 10500 Beaties Ford
Road Huntersville, N. C. 28078**

***Special note about parking* Coming from the south – go in the first entrance. Coming from the north – take the 2nd entrance. We will be meeting in the Family Life Center – if you cannot do stairs – come into the bottom entrance. This is located right across the street from The Latta Plantation and has a stone wall out front.**

Chili Cook-Off Dinner

QCCC will provide hotdogs with all the trimmings, drinks, chips and some of the desserts. Those that have signed up and want to “show-off” their chili recipes will bring a pot of chili to share with everyone. Donations will be made for the best chili ...the monies going to our charities. Chili that gets the most donations will be awarded a prize!!!

PLEASE NOTE THE TIMES!!!

It just so happens the Panthers have a very important playoff game against the Seahawks at 8:15 pm so let’s get this dinner & meeting on the road on time!

**Chili Cook-off and Hotdog Meal 4:30-5:30 Meeting time 5:30ish!!!
Looking forward to seeing everyone there!!!**

**Event of the year
“CORVETTE FEVER”
Annual Awards Banquet
January 31, 2015**

**THE SPEEDWAY CLUB
Charlotte Motor Speedway
5555 Concord Parkway South
Concord, NC 28027
www.gospeedwayclub.com
Silent Auction for Charity
Plated Dinner**

**Filet Mignon & Chicken Marsala, Seasonal vegetable and Chef's choice of starch,
Rolls, Dessert, Regular & Decaf Coffee, Hot & Iced Tea**

**All Awards
Find out who has the “Corvette Fever”!!!
Entertainment featuring
“The Extraordinaires”
[http://www.
theextraordinaires.com/](http://www.theextraordinaires.com/)**

**Social Hour 5:30
Plated Dinner 6:30
Awards, Silent Auction & Entertainment until 11:30
Cost is \$25.00 per person for members – make checks out to QCCC –
pay at the meetings or mail a check to Pat Bonino 118 Quail Hollow
Drive, Kings Mountain, NC 28086**

**WE MUST HAVE A FINAL COUNT WITH YOUR PAYMENTS BY
JANUARY 19TH, 2015**