



The
Queen City Corvette
Gazette

Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

March 2015



*QCCC February
meeting and
Valentine dinner*



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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 Message ***Be There or Be Square*** Bill Cruthis

First for anyone who was at the banquet but unable to attend the Valentines Day meeting, let me reiterate a special thanks to Pat Bonino and her army of helpers, as they really raised the bar with that banquet. The intimacy of the speedway club, the food and the band made for one terrific evening. Now we have to raise the bar again next year.

A special thanks to Bob Chichester for acquiring the VFW hall as we had a great Valentines meeting. Those able to attend had another exciting event. There is a given respect anytime we can be around a facility that harbors our veterans. I stayed for one drink after the meeting and got to visit some about the Vietnam War with Bob, and listened to his experiences. I am convinced that you can learn more in a few minutes with those who experienced it than you will ever be told by the media and the politicians. So hats off to all those who have kept us free, they have done a great job.

I would like to share some thoughts this month about attendance. Fred McCoy recently sent me an email of lots of old footage which had short films relating to the history of the automobile. These films re-enforced my current thinking that us baby boomers have been the most fortunate generation in the history of mankind. We must realize that until the 50's and President Eisenhower's push to build the interstate system, most folks could not afford a car. Most everyone walked, used bicycles, or subways, trains, and buses, some still were on horseback. The interstate system, which I believe President Eisenhower built for quick evacuation in case of nuclear attack, really set a fire under the Industrial Revolution. It gave us the freedom to explore and allowed us to express ourselves through our choice of automobile, and we chose very wisely.

This month's meeting, Paul set in the Matthews, Mint Hill, South Charlotte area to balance for those members. In reviewing our membership, it can be noted we have 39 families in that area. We have about the same in the Concord, Harrisburg, Kannapolis area and the same in the Huntersville, Denver, Mooresville zip codes. We then have many families farther out on the fringes like Fort Mill, Rock Hill, Shelby, Lenoir, and Salisbury. There are 41 families who have a Charlotte address. Looking out over all your smiling faces Saturday night, I had to reflect on today's travel times for QCCC. We had slightly over 1/3 of the members, a little lower than normal, however; it was Valentines Day and many had other commitments. I drove about one hour and fifteen minutes and I have to believe that was about average for those in attendance. It gave me a chance to reflect that no matter where we move the meetings around

to try and balance it out, that probably three fourths of those attending are driving over one hour and that is each way. This then made me think, on any given Saturday night, what events would I drive about 3 hours (counting both ways) to attend. The Panthers, nope, the Hornets, nope, a NASCAR race, nope, a concert, nope. I really cannot come up with another event.

I think my point in all of this would be how powerful a magnet the Corvette is and what strong bonds we build so that of all the options we have to spend our time and our money, we choose to be among our Corvette family. It is not really about the meeting, most of the information is now available to us through technology. We come because we care. We come to be sure our Corvette family is ok. While it is with great appreciation when we hear compliments from the membership that they enjoyed the evening, the real reward is that they are there. That they gave up all other options to spend a Saturday night with their great friends. We can gauge the health of our organization by the head count at meetings and events. Things won't work if we have a meeting or event and nobody comes.

What a powerful statement it emits, and what a strong bond we have, this connection we feel for those with the understanding that this make of automobile is really, really special. It is evident because you are there.

Thanks to all of you for making QCCC a very special place.



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TALES AND TRAILS FROM UP YONDER

Paul Mitchell, Vice President

Like many of you, I read car magazines. And these days I am amazed at all of the electronic “nannies” that come in modern day cars. I’m sure this is in the name of progress, but to me progress is measured differently. Like 650 HP in a Z06, 460 HP in a base Stingray, 707 HP in a Hellcat, 640 HP in a Cadillac CTS-V. That’s real progress to me. But all these other electronic gadgets are difficult to understand. Like lane departure warning, adaptive cruise control, collision avoidance. If I need lane departure warning, I really need to pull over and figure out why I need it. Fix that, and all will be fine. All these things are getting us closer to autonomous cars, where occupants text or read or sleep while the car does the driving. When that arrives, I will willingly turn in my driver’s license and sit in the rocker on the front porch. Texting is bad enough as a distraction while driving, and all these other things can only be more distractive in my opinion. Some cars, including a couple brands that compete with the C7R in GTLM, actually put engine “sound” in the car through the speakers. So before we get autonomous cars, we are getting artificial cars?



Our Corvettes are for drivers. We appreciate the car, the road, the driving experience, sounds the car makes naturally. We do have lane departure warning – it’s called the steering wheel. We hear the wheel at the edge of the road, we turn the wheel to fix it. We have adaptive cruise control – the brake and accelerator. We have collision avoidance – we use our eyes and our brain. Our Corvettes are for people with eyes, ears, a brain, and common sense, and we pay attention when we are driving them. Not just to be safe on the road, but because we love driving them, and every time we get in the car it is an experience that is memorable. We are very fortunate to have these cars, and these experiences. I wonder what our great grandchildren will be able to experience in their Corvettes. I really hope they are able to have the same experience then that we do now. But honestly, I would not be willing to trade with them.

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



Queen City Corvette Club
Club Board and Business Meeting Minutes

For Newsletters, Minutes, Calendars, etc.

Web Site Updates :

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

Snapshot of Planned Events in the next few months:

March		
14	QCCC Business Meeting	Details & Information
April		
11-12	AutoFair at Charlotte Motor Speedway	Details & Information
18	Pre-NCM Bash Garage Day	Details & Information
18	QCCC Business Meeting & Club Picnic	Details & Information
23-25	*National Corvette Museum Bash*	See Paul Mariano
May		
9	QCCC Business Meeting	
16	Day trip to Carolina Vines, Newton NC	Details & Information
23	Shelton Vineyard's Vettes for Vets	Details & Information
June		
5-6	Corvettes at Myrtle Beach	Details & Information
13	QCCC Business Meeting	Details & Information



Bonino Banter

– The Social Scene

Just think....it is close to being SPRING!!!! You know what this means...washing our Corvettes often to get them ready for meetings, dinners out, road trips and car shows...yay!!!! What better way to enjoy our cars!



Speaking of Spring ...right around the corner is St. Patrick's Day...wearin' of the green!!! Let's all be a little Irish for our meeting Saturday March 14th at Streetside and wear some green...Did you know the Irish have a great sense of humor....Raise your hand if you are 1% Irish!@#@!@#! No wonder we laugh so much at our meetings...we all have some Irish in us!

We are ready to have you send us your favorite recipes for our first ever cookbook from Queen City Corvette Club. We hope this will be a way we can share amongst us recipes for the fantastic food we have tasted for years at The Burt's BBQ and other pot luck events! Send your favorite recipe (or several) to Pat Bonino sbonino@carolina.rr.com. Please enclose your email or phone number so we can contact you if we have questions. We want to produce our cookbook surrounding fun "car" humor and illustrations. Any ideas – spit them out please!!! We feel we will be able to add a little to our Annual Banquet Fund from the sales of these cookbooks.

Banner Information

Another ongoing program is our QCCC Banners. These are banners that can identify your car at a car show. They are \$45 each and come with a PVC stand. They are personalized with whatever name you would like on them. NOW is the time to order them so you will have them for Auto Fair, The Shelton Winery Car Show and for sure our Car Show in September. Email us above for additional information. All profits go back into the club.

Pay special attention to our website for several new day trips coming up. Don't forget to check out our Mini Silent Auction at the March meeting

Luck of the Irish be with you!!!!

Pat



Automotive Director's Report

Gary Cunningham

As the Board continues to work on the calendar and the events coming up this year, I continue to be impressed with the strength of our club. We have so many people that care so much about what they do in and with the club; it's wonderful to be a part of a club like this.



What exactly is a 'club'? Webster's defines a club as "*an organized group of people with a common theme, especially a group that meets regularly.*" Another definition to consider would be 'association;' *an organized body of people who have an interest, activity or purpose in common.* One last definition is that of 'union', *the state of being united or joined.*

Take those three definitions, roll them all together, and you have the Queen City Corvette Club:

An organized group of people who meet regularly, being drawn and held together by a common theme, united and joined in their Love of America's Sportscar, the Corvette.

Just like we have a wide range of people and Corvettes represented in our club, we have a wide range of activities available for everyone to choose from. The calendar is getting full with Auto Fair, Garage Days, Picnics, Day trips, Myrtle Beach, Museum trips, the All Chevy Car Show, etc. Please check out the calendar on the web site and all the activities available for sign-up at our regular business meetings. Find one that interests you, and join in the common theme of the QCCC, Celebrate the Love of the Corvette.

A few thoughts for the month of March:

We are stronger together than we are alone.....Walter Payton

It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one.....George Washington

You don't have to be crazy to work here, we'll train you.....Gary

And as always,

Not gonna let them catch me, no, not gonna let them catch the Midnight Rider.....Gregg Allman

I'll see you at Streetside Classics and then Auto Fair.....

Gary



Membership Director's Report

Darrell Kirkley



Due to unforeseen technical difficulties, look for the Membership Director's Report next month.

Our membership now stands at 308 with 161 families. Congratulations to our latest new member, Pete Veldhuis .

Thanks, Darrell



National Corvette Museum



After flogging around to find a convenient date for the QCCC trip to the NCM that satisfied most of the club's criteria, the dates of July 16-19 were selected. Now we find the Corvette Homecoming organization has also picked that weekend for their annual event. This organization and event is not affiliated with the NCM and most of their activities are downtown or at the Convention Center, so it shouldn't interfere with our plans. In fact, there should be additional sights and sounds to enjoy while we are there.

I always encourage you to use the free NCM membership card provided with each new Corvette by using it yourself if you are not a member or giving it to someone else if you are a member. Now it is easier than ever to use as you can sign up on line and not have to make that trip to the Post Office. Just log on to <http://www.corvettemuseum.org/trial>.

The High Performance Driving Event (HPDE) is being held at Virginia International Raceway (VIR) on June 29-30. Cost for the two day event is \$485.00. Sign-up is available on the NCM website.

I am provided a list of all donors who contributed \$100.00 or more during the past calendar year. To keep it short I will list the last names only. If I missed a name, please let me know so I can give you due credit next month. In no particular order they are: Meadows, Boyette, Krupowicz, Jensen, Meade, Gwilt, Zimmer, Wood, Kruse, Johnson, Sancineto, Kurt, Becker, Ruth, Dewitt, Crockett, Appleyard, Pipek, Terry, Jungmann, Bonino, Mariano and QCCC. Thanks for all you do to support the museum.

The renovation of the sinkhole continues though it has been slowed by the weather. A third drilling machine is being brought in to get the installation of the micro-piles back on schedule. The construction company is projecting a completion in early July which was the original date. Let us hope that Mother Nature cooperates.

BOX SCORE

No. of QCCC Family Units	-161
No. of NCM Members	- 84 (52%)
No. of Lifetime Members	- 29
No. of Duntov Society Members	- 3

Save the Wave!

Paul Mariano,

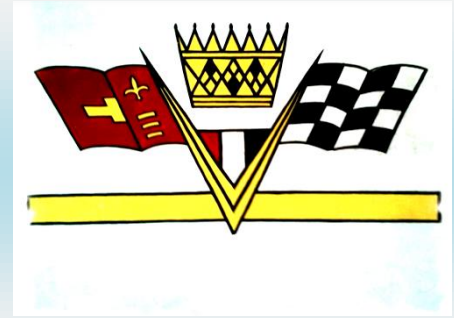
NCM Ambassador

Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Richard Craig, Darrell Kirkley & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



It Must Be The DNA

The 4 vintage guys have discussed that after 35 years, it is amazing that we have all ended up returning to our roots at QCCC. Four lives all going in different directions, some moving and moving back, jobs changing, children, grandchildren, but through it all each maintained a Corvette or two and each kept their memories. One who got away is Dollar Bill Ingram. After a disagreement with his boss, he moved on from cost auditing to buying and selling used Corvettes, then Porsches and Mercedes and eventually to owning Independence Hummer. So over the years Dollar had some Corvettes, but he is a person whose hobby is making money. We know of no other person with the memory to quote statistics on so many makes of autos. He is just a person that always finds the best cars for the best prices and he does it very well. Could it be that his success is completely attributed to the amount of research and the long hours he spends finding the best cars? As we returned to QCCC in the last few years we have all pushed him to buy a Corvette. It all started a few years ago when the Vintage Gang decided to get together for dinner a couple of times a year. Richard Craig was instrumental in the beginning by finding Dollar Bill, Darrell, and Trav. So over the last few years, we have seen Bill and Joni about 6 times. Before I go further, keep in mind, this is a gentleman who has owned the best of the best of world autos. This is a person who is on a first name basis with the folks that drive the auto business in Charlotte. i.e. Rick. To us, he is still Dollar Bill and we respect so much what he has attained and how he did it with hard work and smarts, but in reality he is still just one of the guys.

About 2 months ago, Dollar Bill called on a Sunday and wanted to come up and see my new Z06. We spent about 3 hours going over the car which reminded me of the old days, when any of us got a new or used car we headed to his house to bench race it. As he left, he said I think I will order me a new Z06 convertible, automatic. Soon after that, I ran into him and he said Rick had told him to stop by City and they would order it. He is set up for museum delivery on a Daytona Sunrise Orange convertible. I was about to email him last weekend when he called and said his car was made last Thursday and would I like to go with him to pick it up. The answer was obvious. So last Wednesday a.m. we met at the airport to fly thru Atlanta to Nashville, tour the Plant/Museum on Thursday then drive the new car back on Friday. Unfortunately Atlanta was iced in and no flights out. Therefore, we have pushed our trip into next week.

You may be searching for my point by now. What I contend is there is some DNA gene in all of us Corvette folks that never leaves us. In this case, here are two Corvette guys that have only seen each

other 5 or 6 times in the last 35 years and yet when it comes time for a lasting lifetime experience of picking up the Z, they are the two that get together for the journey. I think that is pretty special. Dollar Bill could have gone to any dealership and looked at a new Z. He has multiple choices to pick from to go get the car. It is an honor to me that we old friends will be the first to drive his new Z. If this story does not point out how we are all bound by our fascination with this great automobile, then I have no better way to point it out. There must be a DNA gene that we all have. Ain't it great. That gene was what started QCCC in 1968 and what keeps it going and growing today. It cannot be stopped. I am anxious to get to the airport Wednesday. We will have time to revisit the old days of QCCC.

Where else could you take a 35 year leave of absence and not miss a beat. So the vintage gang wants to thank all those who came after us and kept it going. It sure is fun to have a second chance. Dollar says if the weather is good, we might take a side trip down the Tale of the Dragon. Now that's a real gear head right there. Watch for us on the web cam next Thursday, we will be the one's grinnin from ear to ear.

Bill Cruthis



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



Congratulations!!!







From Track to Street

NEXT EVENT:

Corvette Racing's next event is the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring presented by Fresh from Florida on Saturday, March 21.

CORVETTE RACING AT 24 HOURS OF LE MANS: Briscoe, Taylor Round Out Driver Lineups

Two Corvette C7.Rs for Corvette Racing's 16th straight appearance

- Briscoe teaming with Rolex 24 co-winners Garcia, Magnussen
- Taylor to drive with Gavin-Milner pairing for first time
- Seven class victories in 15 previous Le Mans starts for Corvette Racing



Fresh off a first- and third-place finish in the Rolex 24 At Daytona, Corvette Racing confirmed its lineup for the 83rd running of the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Two familiar faces will join Corvette Racing for its attempt at an eighth class victory since 2001 - Ryan Briscoe and Jordan Taylor

Thanks to Chris Wood we have discovered a new Corvette Racing Series. It is called the Foamtix Trams Am Racing series. They race at a lot of the tracks the Tudor United Sports Car Racing Championship race at. Their website is: <http://gotransam.com/> These are shorter races and some close by tracks are VIR, Road Atlanta and Daytona. Maybe we see a race trip in our future.

See you at the next Corvette Race.

Boyd Kurt

"Heads-Up"

Up Coming Events



**March 14th, 2015 Business Meeting
Announcement**

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

****Earlier start time****

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 Showman. 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>

*****Please take note of times and remember to bring your chairs*****

Social Time: 4:00-5:00 pm

Meeting Time 5:00-6:15 pm