

The Queen City Corvette Gazette Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

**April 2015** 





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The Queen City Corvette Gazette is the official newsletter of the <u>Queen City Corvette Club</u> (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 <u>QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB</u>, 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 This Will Be The Best Spring Ever Bill Cruthis

Within the next 4 to 5 weeks, we will be at Auto Fair and the Loftin Museum, basking in the sunlight and bench racing, and I promise to not even complain about all the pollen in the garage or on the cars. You see, this will be the best spring ever. I know you are asking why I had to get to this age to have the best spring. This is my first winter of not going thru the daily grind at the work place. Winter was long, cold, dark, wet, so much so that a lot of what I wanted to accomplish was difficult to do. The end result was, I have found I am completely soured on the idiot box. That is right, the 50 inch screen from which absolutely nothing of value comes forth.

I will break it down into categories for you. Other than sports car racing, all other sporting events are boring and pure trash. College basketball, which used to be very good, is terrible. They have eight TV timeouts a halftime, each coach gets 5 more timeouts, then the refs have to go to the monitor to review 6 plays, and finally they foul so much in the last 2 minutes that those 2 minutes take 30 minutes to play. Now add to that, the good players go pro after one year, and all of them have either gone to Duke or Kentucky. It is so bad that most of the players cannot make a foul shot let alone anything other than a dunk. What a waste of time. All other sports are just as bad, NASCAR is unwatchable until the last 2 laps, too sanitary. Players in the NFL move around so much for more money that you lose track of where they are playing, and it is obvious they play just to pad their own stats. Major League Baseball is so slow that the PGA golf moves faster. So scrap sports from entertainment.

Sitcoms: The writers are just flat out of ideas. Everything has been done before. Just like the auto designers have gone back to the old Camaro and Mustang, same reason, no fresh ideas. When it comes to comedy you have to watch reruns of Seinfeld or MASH, otherwise no chuckles. Would we not love to see some variety shows like Carol Burnette, Tim Conway is still one of the funniest men alive. (Footnote: a group of the reality shows where they drag a rusted beat up old Chevy out of the junk yard and say they have to have it ready for auction in 7 days with a purchase price of \$800 and a budget of \$2500 is on nightly. Then in 7 days they go to auction and get \$35,000 for the car. Now that is real comedy even though they do not mean it be.)

News: It does not matter which side you are watching. They all are promoting their own agendas. Have you ever wondered why they have all these 3 person panels with 2 from one side, and one from the other so they can just shout and talk all over each other? It is totally scripted to get your blood pressure up, as if you were watching a sporting event. In the end they are just padding their own numbers and the more

they can blow it all out of proportion the higher their ratings go. So, it really is not news anymore. I have counted to prove these shows have 7 commercials then they interview 2 guests then 7 more commercials. They are all a bunch of hooey.

Politics: Let's not even go there. What a bunch of weasels on both sides. I refuse to watch 535 people ruin the lives of 320 million.

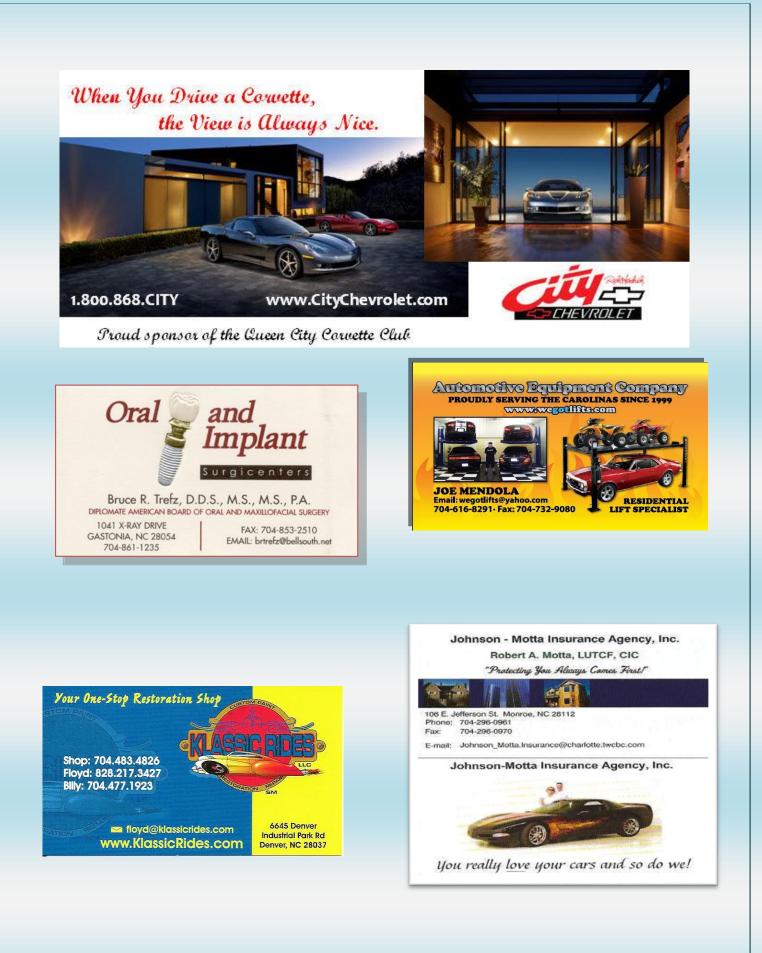
Reality shows: The new TV designed to try to make you think there is everything real about it. These are the new Soap Operas. I watched a couple. There is one about a survivor specialist who is dropped off in the middle of the Amazon. As he tries to escape, he comes to a 600 foot sheer drop and shows you how to make a vine to climb down. As he descends, he gets all sweaty and a few cuts from the rocks, and then the rope is 20 feet short so he can show you how to drop into the canyon. The problem with all this difficult climb is that you have to ask yourself, if it was so difficult, then how is the cameraman going down the same vine filming him. It must not be too difficult. In another of these idiot reality shows, folks in the bearing sea in the middle of winter, cut holes in the ice and dive down and vacuum the bottom of the sea floor for gold. In this case, as you might anticipate, the diver has equipment failure and we are told he cannot find the hole in the ice to safety. As before, the cameraman is filming the man as he struggles to get air and desperately feels his way along the bottom of the ice for the hole. Hey, here is an idea for the cameraman, how about you show him where the hole is so he won't die. Good grief. And we wonder why our country is in the shape it is in.

So the bottom line is, there are people who cannot imagine buying a \$100,000 Corvette that has 650 HP and will go 200 mph in a 65 mph speed zone, and then only driving it on very pretty days. They think we are the crazy ones. As I see it, I am glad I have my garage full of steeds. If I had to spend my spring and summer watching anymore of that idiot box instead of washing and polishing my hotrods, then I would surely end up a section 8 case. We are the lucky ones. I shall not complain about the pollen or the high temperatures. The reason being, I have learned a great lesson this winter and this will be the best spring ever.

Now come and join me and your Corvette family in a true reality show. This is one of chrome, high shine, high horsepower, great driving experiences, great friendships, and great memories. Come to the best spring ever: Corvette spring with QCCC. I can feel my sanity returning already. I will see you there and thanks for joining me, you will be glad you did.



# LEFT LANE AND HAMMER DOWN, THE CRU'S BLUE'S, 365 HP---505 HP---650 HP





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## TALES AND TRAILS FROM UP YONDER

#### Paul Mitchell, Vice President

Corvettes are cars to drive. When we get them, our first thoughts are where to take that first drive, and how many trips to plan for the year. We have thoughts of grand trips, like driving the coast of Maine, or to the southern tip of the Florida Keys. We think of driving the Pacific Coast highway, the



panhandle coast of Florida around Pensacola, or the Southwest. Maybe to Port Washington in Washington state, and take the ferry to Victoria. There are literally hundreds of very desirable places to take our great cars.

But let's not forget our own state. We have places that easily rival some of the locations listed above. We are fortunate to have mountains and beaches bordering our state. As you plan your Corvette excursions, look at all our possibilities.

The Outer Banks are always a great destination, with unpopulated beach areas, ferries, and great scenery. The quaintness of Hatteras and Ocracoke is well known. But how about the Inner Banks, with the wonderful towns of Edenton, New Bern, Belhaven, Washington. Great history and scenery. For a trip across the entire state, start on either end of Hwy 64 and travel from Murphy to Manteo (or reverse) and see the towns and people of the state with minimal interstate travel. Take highway 80 from Marion to Burnsville, a very twisty road that is just right for a great handling sports car. You will go right past the summit of Mt Mitchell. Stop by and say hello to my great-great-great uncle, Prof. Elisha Mitchell, who is buried at the summit and who the mountain is named after. (PS We are not sure why he fatally fell down a waterfall on June 27, 1857. But knowing some of my family habits, I could take a guess.) Visit Southport, a quaint village at the mouth of the Cape Fear River. Visit any small town across the state and enjoy its history, shops, and people. I drove through Davidson, right here in our backyard, and was amazed at how interesting it looks. Can't wait to go back soon and spend some time exploring. There are hundreds of towns just like that spread across the state.

So while a grand trip across the country sounds exciting, there are many locations right here at home that are just as exciting, interesting, and fun to get there. We are very fortunate to live in arguably one of the best states in the US, and we are fortunate to drive the best sports car in the world. Get out there and see it all!



**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:

April		
4	Country Drive & Winery	Details & Information
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 - <u>Commemorative</u> <u>Corvette Label</u>	Details & Information
June		
5-6	Corvettes at Myrtle Beach	Details & Information
13	QCCC Business Meeting	Details & Information
July		
11	QCCC Business Meeting	
18	Beach Music & Vettes - Foothills Corvette Club	Details & Information
16-19	National Corvette Museum, Corvette Plant, and Motorsport Park, QCCC Visit	See Paul Mariano



**Bonino Banter** 

## - The Social Scene

The Social Scene will return next month. See page 8 for calendar events and page 20 for information on the next club meeting.

#### Pat







## Automotive Director's Report

#### **Gary Cunningham**

What's in a Name?

In the February newsletter, I asked for the names you've given your Corvette and your reason for the name, and received lots of great responses. I'll highlight a few names later in this article and throughout the year. First, there are a few items I need to call to your



attention.

By the time you read this,

- Auto Fair will be right around the corner, April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. We are full for both days, thanks to the usual great response by our QCCC family.
- Shelton Vineyard's Car Show is set for May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and we have 36 people signed up to attend.
- The Myrtle Beach Auto Show is on the calendar for June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, with 18 people signed up to show off their Corvette in MB.
- I'm still waiting on details and flyers for the Streetside Classics Car Show and the Dale Earnhardt Chevrolet Car Show.
- Plans are underway for our first Greater Charlotte Corvette Club Picnic August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Kannapolis Intimidators Ball Park.
- Don't forget our All Chevy Charity Car Show at Hendrick Motorsports on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. Registrations are already being received.

You can register for these or any events at our April 18<sup>th</sup> BBQ meeting at the Loftins. Information is also on the QCCC website or email me at <u>grock28083@yahoo.com</u>.

What is in a Name? Any thoughts?

*What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.* Act 2, scene 2, from Romeo and Juliet and my apologies to William Shakespeare....

*What's your name, little girl, what's your name?* Ronnie Van Zant and Gary Rossington of Lynyrd Skynyrd

*Michelle, my belle, these are words that go together well, my Michelle...* John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Three QCCC Corvette names that I'll highlight this month:

Steve Ham calls his Vette Baby because "she is my baby, I treat her like a baby". I watched Steve get his car CLEAN at the Auto Fair and he does treat her like a baby.

Buzz Brescoll's license plate on his '87 coupe reads MyOldBlue. He bought it brand new, drove it as an everyday driver, even in the snow in Michigan. It has 233,000 miles, is faithful and true, no major repair issues, a member of the family.

Bob Becker has named his Corvette *VetaRosa*, which means *Red Vette* in Italian. His car has its own Facebook page and its own email.....smooth.

There's many more names and meanings to share, stay tuned throughout the year. If you haven't sent me yours, send it on and I'll get it out there for everyone to enjoy.

A few closing quotes:

Life is going to give you just what you put into it. Put your whole heart into everything you do....unknown

Imagination is more important than knowledge.....Albert Einstein

If everything seems under control, you're just not going fast enough.......Mario Andretti

And as always,

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

I'll see ya'll at Tommy and Brenda's and let's eat LOTS of BBQ!

Gary



#### Membership Director's Report

Darrell Kirkley



I hope everyone has the cobwebs off the Vette, has changed the oil and is ready to rock the spring. We have a lot of events planned from now until fall, something for everyone. Every event we attend is an opportunity to invite someone new to experience the fellowship of other Corvette owners. One of our best chances to meet prospective members will be at the AutoFair. Please try to make it out for a great event, even if your car is not being displayed. There will be many chances to speak with other Corvette owners, and maybe even influence someone to buy that car that they have dreamed of for years.

In February, Paul Mitchell announced his plans for the Corvette Fever awards for 2015. Each board member will pick someone that they think best displays the fever. The winner of the Membership Chairman's award will be the person, or couple that brings the most new members to the club. This will be retroactive to January 1, so please let me know if you have already "**scored**" a new member. When

we vote someone in, please let me know you brought them to get proper credit. The board members will not be in the competition. So..... get busy and introduce yourself to those Corvette owners that you spot in your daily life, and let them get in on the fun. Where else can you have over 300 new friends for only \$100 a year? NOWHERE!!

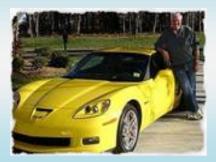


Current membership is 310 with 162 families.

Thanks,

Darrell





#### **National Corvette Museum**

Preparations are ramping up for our trip to the NCM for the Annual Bash. Ace Navigator, Barbara, is getting the route book formatted so I will be bugging you for information over the next couple of weeks. In case you don't diligently read your e-mail, be sure and make your plant tour reservations early enough to get the tour you want. Reservations must be made through the plant website at www.bowlinggreenassemblyplant.com. Reservations have been made for dinner at the Montana Grill for Wednesday night at 7:00pm. Plan on joining the group that evening for good times and good food. If you do <u>NOT</u> plan to join us, please advise Peggy Marlowe/Wood. I will be releasing the blocked rooms back to the hotel on April 6<sup>th</sup>, so you must decide quickly.

And the hits just keep on coming. We haven't made the Bash or our July QCCC club preparations yet and I see the registration for the Birthday Celebration and Hall of Fame festivities are now open on the museum website. I guess I better start counting noses to see how many are planning on going to that event and if we want to reserve tables for the HOF dinner. Let me know.

Thinking of buying a C7 in the near future? Better think about moving it up as I see Chevrolet plans on reducing the warranty on the power train from 5 year/100,000 miles to 5 years/60,000 miles. More the reason to consider an extended warranty.

I'm sure some of you have seen different threads on various Corvette sites bemoaning the situation regarding museum deliveries and factory correction of defects. As with any change in any process, this situation has been blown out of all proportions. The pre-delivery preparations and quality of the product delivered will be up to the standards of past deliveries. Some of the on-line comments have been so ludicrous they do not merit discussion. The museum delivery is a thrilling and memorable experience and nothing about that has changed. If you have any concerns or want to know more regarding the present situation, please get with me as it is too convoluted to fully discuss here.

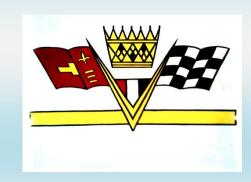
For Memorial Day, the museum is offering the small standard walkway bricks that are located outdoors at a special price. If you have someone you would like to have remembered at the NCM, you can purchase those bricks for the "In Memory Of" section for \$75.00 members/\$100.00/non-members. You may order on-line and note IMOBRICK15 in the special suggestions box on the shipping summary page. First line of the brick must read "In Memory Of". Offer is good through April 10. Bricks are a tax deductible item and count toward your annual giving.

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



#### **Remembering Carl Brown**

Carl Brown, 68, one of the founding members of QCCC passed away Friday, March 20, 2015. He was a Charlotte native and attended Garinger High School and Furman University. His obituary in the Charlotte Observer stated that he had a passion for bottled Cheerwine (his father was the local Cheerwine bottler), guns, cars, and million dollar boats. He is survived by his wife, two children and seven grandchildren. He lived in Fort Mill, SC.

Carl was a year ahead of me at Garinger, and if I remember correctly, had the only Corvette in the school parking lot. I believe it was a 59 or 60. In 1966 he bought a new yellow Corvette roadster and it was a common sight to see cruising North Charlotte with the top down. In 1968, along with his high school buddy Earl Ferrell, who was responsible for the initial idea of forming the Queen City Corvette Club, they hammered out the bi-laws and were the first officers of the club. I didn't know Carl very well, he left the club shortly before I came in, but I spoke to him on the phone a little more than a year ago as I was researching the club's early history. He was excited to hear of the club's continued success and could not believe the membership numbers. Carl recalled with a laugh how he and Earl struggled getting members and some of the things they did to recruit. On days off, they would go by the Chevrolet dealers and hang out waiting to approach Corvette owners coming in for service. They had cards printed and placed them under the wipers of parked Corvettes. They studied Corvette News articles about other clubs to get clues about how to run a club. Not one of them had any experience with anything like this, so they were learning on the job. But as the club started to grow, some internal problems developed. The club struggled with it's identity and what behavior should be tolerated. At that point in time, open containers were common and a full cooler was essential. Many of the club functions looked like a rolling frat party, even tho I don't recall anyone being hurt or getting into serious trouble. Carl did say that when he resigned in 1970, it was because he felt that the partying had gotten out of hand. He apparently was more mature than his years back then. When I thanked him for his efforts in starting the club, he graciously gave Earl all of the credit, saying he was just glad to help.

As club historian, I feel it is important to remember those who were instrumental in the formation, growth and success of the club, as well as documenting the trials and tribulations of the club thru the years. Even tho he was a member only a short time, we should not forget the contributions of former members such as Carl.

Our condolences to the Brown family.

Travis Meredith Historian

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













































## From Track to Street

## **CORVETTE RACING AT SEBRING: A Florida Sweep for No. 3 Corvette C7.R**

Corvette Racing won in class for the ninth time at the 63rd Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring Fueled by Fresh from Florida as Ryan Briscoe, Antonio Garcia and Jan Magnussen added Saturday's GT Le Mans (GTLM) victory to their Rolex 24 At Daytona win from January. The trio started the TUDOR United SportsCar Championship season with consecutive victories and lead in GTLM points after two rounds.

#### I have been asked to let members know who will be

**attending the next race of Corvettes.** The next two races that are within several hundred miles are VIR in late August and Road Atlanta the first weekend in October. If you are interested or are going to either of these races, just let me know and I will let everyone know so maybe we can get together. Every race has a Corvette Coral and they are a lot of fun to be with your Corvette friends. New and old. If you have not been to a Tudor United Sport Car Race you are missing a fun time. Sebring was a ball although hot but the racing was fantastic and the Corvette Team did a good job.

# See you at the next Corvette Race.

Boyd Kurt

## Special Message on National Corvette Museum Event C4 ZR-1 Gathering



From Jeff Crosby:

Here is an article from the "Dash" club about the Gathering at the NCM and we will have track time and a Dragon run before.

#### Jeffrey,

I would like to cordially invite you to attend the upcoming C4 ZR-1 Gathering, held at the National Corvette Museum on 14 - 16 May. This event will celebrate the  $25^{\text{th}}$  anniversary of the ZR-1, and the  $10^{\text{th}}$  anniversary of the ZR-1 Net Registry.

Preceding the Gathering is the Mountain Run 3, which will be held from Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, starting in Fontana Village, NC and ending in Bowling Green, KY in time for the Gathering. There are ~50 cars already signed up to "tame the Dragon" this year, and there is still room for more if you would like to participate. Details of the run, and links to hotel information, can be found at: <u>http://www.zr1.net/forum/showthread.php?t=24713&highlight=mountain+run</u>. If interested, please contact George Jones, <u>gunny@zrwon.com</u>, (706) 437-0070.

The ZR-1 Net Registry has been working in conjunction with the Grand Sport Registry to plan the Gathering, which includes time with your car on the new Motorsports Park, with the ability to run Touring Laps as well as participate in TrackX (<u>http://www.motorsportspark.org/events/trackx</u>). There will also be an opportunity to for Hot Laps with a professional driver at the track in a track prepared Corvette. In order to participate in activities at the Motorsports Park, you can register

at: <u>www.motorsportreg.com/events/c4-gathering-motorsports-park-event-ncm-motorsport-828141</u>. Participation is limited to 100 cars for Touring Laps, and 100 cars for TrackX, so don't wait!

On Friday and Saturday of the Gathering, there will be various activities including seminars, a special guided plant tours as well as a road tour. The schedule of events is posted at: <a href="http://www.corvettemuseum.org/registration/gathering/info.shtml">http://www.corvettemuseum.org/registration/gathering/info.shtml</a>. At this time, our special guests include John Heinricy, Jim Minneker, Ralph Kramer, Don Knowles, Dave McLellan, Bill Boudreau, & Graham Behan & Marc Haibeck. We are working to add to this listing, so stay posted to the NCM's Gathering webpage or the ZR-1 Net Registry Forum as we continue to add to the agenda. On-line registration is now open for the Gathering, and if you register before April 15<sup>th</sup>, the price for NCM Lifetime Members is \$40, NCM Members \$45 and Non-NCM Members are \$55. After April 15th, registration will increase by an additional \$25 per person. The direct link for the National Corvette Museum's Gathering online registration is:

http://www.corvettemuseum.org/registration/gathering/registration.shtml

If you have any questions regarding the event, please feel free to contact the National Corvette Museum direct at 1-800-538-3883; our Events Chairman, Ted Feder, at events@zr1netregistry; or myself at this address.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gathering!

Sincerely,

Mark Horner President, ZR-1 Net Registry president@zr1netregistry.com



**Up Coming Events** 



## APRIL 18, 2015 Business Meeting and Club Picnic Announcement

#### \*\*\*\*Notice to Bring Chairs and the time changes\*\*\*\* Loftin's Garage – Troutman, NC

Our April Business Meeting and Club Spring Picnic will be held at Tommy and Brenda Loftin's garage. Chairs will NOT be provided so bring your own folding chair. Restrooms will be available. Come out and enjoy spring, a nice country drive, great food and fellowship. Their address is **244 Hicks Creek Road, Troutman, NC 28166. A contact cell phone is (704) 902-1330.** 

#### **Directions to Tommy and Brenda's Garage from I-77**

From I-77 take exit 42. Turn left at the Troutman exit onto US-21 N/ US-115 N and go 3.02 miles. Turn left onto Talley Rd/Talley St (Note: Turn left at Talley House Restaurant) and go 2.2 miles. Turn left onto East Monbo Rd and go about 50 feet. Turn Left onto Hicks Creek Road and go 0.7 miles. Address 244 Hicks Creek Road is on your right. There is a big landscape berm with a black fence.

**A Poker Run** at 2:00 will start the afternoon for those wanting to participate. We will have a **Corn Hole Tournament** for those who come early to the picnic...more details to follow.

#### Picnic Dinner details to come

#### \*\*\*\*\*PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTE OF THE TIMES AND REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR CHAIRS\*\*\*\*

POKER RUN: 2:00pm – 3:00pm PICNIC TIME: 2:00pm - 5:45pm DINNER: 4:30pm – 5:45pm