

# The Queen City Corvette Gazette

Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

**June 2015** 





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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 Visiting, Listening and Learning

**Bill Cruthis** 

First I need to repair an omission from the May meeting as I failed to recognize the great success QCCC had at the Trump Charity Car Show at the Point. We brought home 3 trophies, with Reggie and Suzie Black winning Best Corvette and Tommy and Brenda Loftin winning 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Corvette. Reggie and Suzie also scored a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in production car with their 48 Chevrolet. I would say QCCC is hard to beat.

Since the last meeting we have had some great Corvette driving weather. How about that meeting in the grass under 100 year old shade trees. Thanks again to Paul Mitchell for a great idea, we will repeat that one. The Carolina Vines trip was also a super day trip except J.C. and Linda told the pizza shop their name was Mariano so they were served last. The weather looks great for Shelton, always a really nice time.

I have had great opportunities this month to visit with several members. It is amazing what you learn when you have time to just sit and talk. Of special interest was some wisdom from one Ben Hinson, who is wise beyond his years and he has a lot of years. Ben and I were discussing how unless you really are leaving an impact on this world, once you have moved on by way of retirement, relocation or worst of all thru turning room temperature, your lasting memory in the minds of others is like the hand in the bucket. I asked what that meant. Ben says when you are gone, people remember you about as long as it takes water to fill back in the hole your hand leaves when you pull it out of a bucket of water. I had to agree, life moves on, change always comes and there is no stopping evolution.

Next I had a member who appreciated so much the last vintage article. He said he laughed himself silly reading it and wanted to know more, thus this month's article. He informed me how important it was to him to know all about the origin of QCCC and how it progressed to the outstanding organization it is today. So beyond making me feel really good that I had done something of importance, it made me think maybe the more we share and leave with others, perhaps the hole fills just a little slower.

Then over lunch one afternoon I had another member ask me what was the greatest thing I could bring to QCCC. I thought for a moment, was this a trick question, then I said, to me it was passion. The answer

he was looking for was participation. After a little more conversation I think we were somewhat on the same wavelength. We were looking at the things we do as QCCC and what else could we do to increase participation. I feel if you bring the passion everything else will follow. Why do we drive to Shelton Vineyards to sit under the shade trees and visit all day. It is the passion. Passion to see a line of our favorite cars going up the road which always makes me proud to be in the U.S.A. Passion to talk all day about Corvettes, from mechanical issues, to racing issues, to social issues. Then there is the passion to be with and to help our Corvette family. You are all simply an extension of family, although I must admit I get along better with you than some of my family.

Lastly, this month we had visitors from the North for a weekend. The first comment from the wife when they pulled up and she saw my new Z06 was "well finally a Corvette that might break the stereotype about Corvettes". I asked what that might be and she said "look a Corvette, must be an old white guy's car". That made me think for a minute and really ticked me off. First of all, I found that offensive to our great friends, not only in our group but in Road Runners, and Victory Lane. Corvette passion is colorblind. We are all family. Next I found it offensive to all my QCCC friends that are my age. I thought what is she talking about, I and a lot of you have had Corvettes since we were in our late teens to early 20's. Finally I decided this was a person who did not understand passion so there was no saving her, just leave her in the dark. If she bought a Corvette she would lack participation. Then to top it off they were driving an Audi R6 and she has a 2 seat Mercedes. Hope they don't drown when it rains, what with their noses turned up so high. The last thing on your list should be to upset Mr. Bill about his Corvette family.

To sum up my month, I learned how really important it is to preserve the past, how rewarding it can be to have passion, and the more you do for other people (particularly you extended family) the longer it will take for the water to fill in the hole when your hand is pulled out for you. So I ask each of you, are you participating, do you have all the passion you can muster, and HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE THE WATER TO FILL THE HOLE YOU LEAVE.

Thanks for being there for me, for all you do for QCCC and the world. What a blessing we have to drive with freedom in the best cars ever made, in the best country the world has ever known, all because of passion.



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



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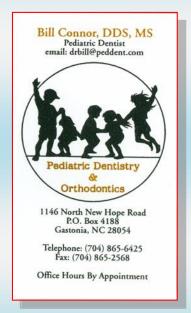














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#### TALES AND TRAILS FROM UP YONDER

Paul Mitchell, Vice President

Yesterday, (May 30) I had the pleasure of hosting a ride for 15 cars in the Foothills around the Lenoir/North Wilkesboro area. We had a great group of QCCC members, beautiful weather, and some very nice sights to look at. And of course we had a good meal. But the real star of the day was the roads we drove on. A couple of not very well known roads that had



outstanding scenery, and curves. Lots of curves. No, it's not the Tail of the Dragon. But I call it the Tail of a Great Big Lizard. Tight curves, close together, so top speed was not a factor – just picking your line and sticking with it. Oh, and watching out for the huge drop-offs down the mountain. With no guardrails. But little to no traffic, no local constabulary giving us the hairy eyeball, just lots of curves. It was one of the best ways ever to totally enjoy a Corvette. And the great people that share our love of this fabulous car.

When we returned to our starting point, I heard several people say "that reminds me of the old days." I asked what they meant. They said that the day was a great driving day, not just sitting at a car show. And I and they are not saying anything negative about car shows. Most of them are for a good cause, raising funds for very worthwhile organizations. But what I think our good colleagues were saying is that we need to embrace the opportunities we have with these fantastic cars, and get them on some roads that they are intended for. Like the roads we were on Saturday.

All I'm saying is let's not be a Corvette Club that drives these cars only to a restaurant or a car show. Let's be a Club that drives these cars on trips – day, weekend, whatever – and enjoy all the physical, aural, and emotional pleasures that the Corvette provides. That's what they are made for, and we need to honor that heritage.

If you have some good roads and areas that would be an entertaining drive, but you don't want to actually lead the ride, or plan the logistics, contact me. We will get together a "road captain" with helpers and get it planned. We just need to know about that fantastic drive that only you know about. Let's get out there and see our beautiful state in our beautiful Corvettes. As I always say –

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:

June		
5-6	Corvettes at Myrtle Beach	Details & Information
6	Streetside Classics Annual Charity Car Show	Details & Information
13	QCCC Business Meeting	Details & Information
20	Dale Earnhardt Chevrolet Annual Car Show	Details & Information
27	Troutman Independence Celebration Parade	Details & Information
July		
11	QCCC Business Meeting	
18	Beach Music & Vettes, Flyer	Details & Information
16-19	National Corvette Museum, Corvette Plant, and Motorsport Park, QCCC Visit	See Paul Mariano
August		
8	QCCC Business Meeting	
15	Greater Charlotte Corvette Club Ball Park Show	Details & Information
28-30	Corvettes at Carlisle, Details & Information	On Your Own



#### Bonino Banter

#### - The Social Scene

While I am not completely in the loop I decided to share Corvette stories with everyone. Some will be long and others short, but each (though not from members of our club) are from "Corvettites" out there who have the passion like we all do! Below is a story shared by Tommy Mallory from "Corvette Stories from the Backbone of America".

My name is Phil Harris. I am the President of the "Original" Circle Corvette Club in Indianapolis, Indiana. I have been President for 31 years of our 34 years of existence.

The National Council of Corvette Clubs had their Convention here in 1988. All of the Indiana Region worked hard for months before the Convention to prepare for this event.

Very unexpectedly in early 1987, I went to the doctor for a cough and was diagnosed with Cancer. I had surgery the very next day and received Chemo immediately. I had the same doctor as bicyclist Lance Armstrong. I was told that my condition was so severe I was not predicted to survive! As you can tell I'm still alive with the Grace of God!!!

When the Indiana Convention opened here I was back in the swing of things. One of the raffle Vettes for our charity, Spina Bifida, was a 1954 Corvette. This was completely restored and was owned by the past President of NCCC.

I purchased ten chances on this car. I was standing at the hall door when they called my name! I thought at first that I won a hat. Then figured it may have been a set of tires. Then saw the leather key tag and realized...wow...I had won the car!!!

My club members were shouting, standing on our table and even crying!!! When I went up on the stage it was noticed that my convention # was 54. I was told after looking at the VIN number that this was the 647<sup>th</sup> Corvette made.

The next day all the convention guests were able to lap the 2½ mile famous Indy 500 Mile Race Track. Convention Chairman Dick Flora and I drove side by side in the lead Vettes around the track. Was I in my glory or what???

This Corvette has won dozens of awards. My club made arrangements with the local Spina Bifida organization and took the children for rides in our Vettes. I was able to take the youth that drew my winning ticket. Now my Vette is looked at as an integral part of our Club!!

#### Moral to the story:

People do get well from Cancer all the time and keep buying those NCM raffle tickets to get a special Corvette...because dreams do come true!!!

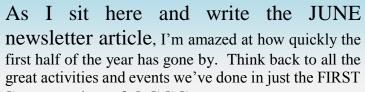
See all of you soon,

Pat



#### Automotive Director's Report

**Gary Cunningham** 





HALF of the year. The Community of QCCC has done more in 6 months than a lot of groups do in the entire year. And still, the calendar is jammed with activities and events for every member. Please, check the event calendar, there's something available for everyone.

**June**, all by itself, is bursting at the seams:

Myrtle Beach is next week-end!!! or you can attend the Streetsides Classics Show. The Dale Earnhardt Show is on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and the Troutman parade on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**July** has the Beach Music Festival in Wilkesboro, and the QCCC visit to the NCM.

**August** brings The Greater Charlotte Corvette Club Ball Park Show.

And speaking of the Community of the QCCC, the time is quickly approaching for the **All Chevy Charity Car Show** on **Sept 19**<sup>th</sup>. Thanks in advance to those of you that have agreed to head up major segments of the event. I will introduce these folks at the June club meeting, and they will begin to organize the volunteers that they will need. This is the largest and most involved event that we take on each year, and it is definitely not a two-man job. So far, I've got registrations from South Carolina, Georgia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Florida and Tennessee. We're asking for 125 of our community to register your Corvettes. Our goal this year is 350 entries.

Tommy and I are depending on the community to step up and help out as needed. And from what I've seen in my time with the community, that's never a problem. This event belongs to everyone, and we will all rejoice in its success and the funds it generates for our charities.

I have one special quote for this month; it comes from my dear long-passed grandmother and is very appropriate as we discuss and plan for our car show:

"Many hands make work light"

Charlotte Roberts Rohrer

Some thoughts for this month:

Your time is precious, don't waste it living someone else's life.....T. Harv Elker

Happiness isn't about getting what you want all the time, it's about loving what you have and those around you.....Life is Good

I drink to make other people more interesting.....Ernest Hemingway

If you wait for perfect weather, a lot of life passes you by.....Gary Cunningham

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Speedway Club....

Gary







#### Membership Director's Report

Darrell Kirkley

#### **Building a Great Corvette club One MEMBER at a time**



Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither works.

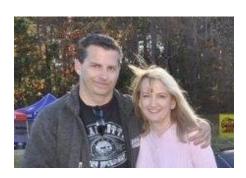
# PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

# Jerry & Debra Fitzgerald They have a 2013 Red Convertible. Their hobbies are motorcycling, skeet shooting and gardening.



#### **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

# Robert Maloney & Michele Bohrer They own a 2014 Torch Red Convertible Z51. Their hobbies going to car shows and dog handling.



QCCC has been and continues to be a destination for Corvette enthusiasts who want to share great times with great friends.

Thanks to each member for making QCCC that destination.



#### **National Corvette Museum**



#### **NCM CORNER**

It's springtime once again and the Corvette season has begun. So much happening and so much to do. Hopefully, you won't have to pick and choose but will be able to do it all. Okay, we know this isn't possible but I do hope you have the two trips to the Corvette Museum on your list. Please, carefully look over the following paragraphs regarding these two trips and the actions you need to take for each. The first trip is the July 16-19th QCCC Club visit to the NCM with tours of the plant, museum and racetrack. Since we will be there for two full days, our agenda will take that into consideration and spread our activities over that period so we won't be rushed through any of the tours. This trip is a great opportunity to become acquainted with all facets of the NCM experience. Time is running out for a hotel room as I will have to return all unused rooms to the hotel by the end of June. Remember, there is nothing to register or tours to sign up for at the museum. Just let me know you intend to go and I will provide you with all the info to secure a room. The room rate is \$109.00 plus tax and includes a full cooked to order breakfast for two every day of our stay. The event is \$25.00/per person for non-members and \$20.00 for members, payable at the museum upon arrival.

Our second journey to Bowling Green will be September 2-6th for the Annual Birthday Celebration and Hall of Fame dinner. The registration for this event is now open on line but remember not to sign up for the Hall of Fame dinner on line as I will be reserving tables for our club and you will be paying me for your reservation. I will release the info for securing your room reservations around the end of June. If you have any questions regarding either trip, please ask.

You will be seeing a whole new Motorsports Park and NCM on our trip. The sinkhole renovation should be complete and the garages at the track completed. Ground has been broken for the Holley Tower and construction will be well under way. Your support of the NCM and track will be very visible.

Car and Driver Magazine's annual "One Lap of America" made a stop at the Motorsports Park on this year's tour and at the conclusion of the event, the MSP was voted the best stop by the participants. We must be doing something right.

Have you become a NCM member, purchased a brick or a raffle ticket over the past month? Be sure to let me know so I can keep track of our membership and museum support. Remember, we must reach our goal of 66% membership so our President will reach his promise to Wendell Strode, NCM Executive Director. We don't want him to be embarrassed.

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



Last month's article resulted in many questions from the current membership, so this month we will address them as best the research and alcohol fried brains will allow.

- 1. When did spouses attain voting privileges and why? Be sure to not read just women into the word spouses. In the beginning, QCCC was a small group of avid street racers. Then as it grew there became a desire to do organized racing which necessitated insurance. That insurance was purchased thru the National Council of Corvette Clubs or NCCC. For a club to participate in NCCC, extra dues were collected from all members. We then had insurance for timed events but not wheel to wheel. NCCC set up a points program where members got points for racing and winning. Individual as well as club awards were given out. (QCCC was twice National Champion Club of NCCC). NCCC had a women's division and a men's division and this started the OCCC gals into racing. (note: the women were already paying NCCC dues also) Once they were racing they began to want more say about events. Until then as Travis Meredith would say, "We were not very fast but we were very fertile", as pregnancies ran amuck in QCCC at that time. Records show a motion by David Hunter in the December 76 meeting to give "spouses" the right to vote under President Travis Meredith. At the January meeting President Sam McGee tabled the motion to February. At the February meeting a committee was formed to address the issue and change the bylaws. Travis Meredith was on that committee. The result was voted thru in the March 77 meeting with this bylaw change. Article II, Section I, Paragraph F: Associate Members: Must be sponsored by an active member, and each active member may have only one person as an associate member per calendar year. 1. He/She will have to be voted on by the general membership. 2. He/She will pay ½ the amount required for a regular member. 3. He/She will be allowed to vote as a regular member. 4. He/She will have all the privileges, rights, and responsibilities of a regular member. 5. He/She, if elected to office, will automatically be raised to the status of a regular member and will pay regular dues upon taking office. And that is how the spouses got the right to vote and the suffrage movement was over.
- 2. The juke box. No one can remember from whence it came, Trav thinks we got it used for about \$400. So why was it broken all the time. Here are the whys. It sat in the living room along with a low vinyl couch, got records played for hours on Wednesday and Saturday nites. While it had the coin operated part hotwired so you just pushed the button for your record, keep in mind this was normally done by an individual well past the legal limit of alcohol intake. Now a lot of the records were shall we say a little, no, a lot, out of round which make them skip a lot. If you remember the old days when a record machine of any kind would start skipping any inebriated fool knew you just gave the juke a big whap on the side and it would jump past the skip. Enough of these whaps and it was like a losing prize fighter. When you removed the back, inside were a

bunch of wires and mechanisms you had no knowledge of plus a group of different size filament tubes. The first procedure when it quite working was to take all the tubes down to the drug store where they had one of those self standing tube test machines, very efficient were they not. You would buy the tubes showing burnt out and try the self fix, usually with no effect. Real repairmen were out of the usual budget. Next of note, the lid had a lock which also was broken so you could change records by just lifting the lid and removing or replacing them. Shad Alberty and wife Brenda, who are in the Myrtle Beach Shag Dancers Hall of Fame, would dance all nite. Shad's favorite song was "60 Minute Man". We think it was his little dig at us as we were all 27 and he was 40. To play records, no coin needed, you just punched the key for your song. If you will think about "60 Minute Man", then think about Shad punching it enough times to last for 3 or 4 hours, now you know why someone stole his record and did not bring it back. He would buy another one with the same result. To date no one has come forth and admitted involvement but suspicion grows heavy around Turkey (Turkley) day. As for the pool table, a great idea, but the only room in the house that would be large enough was the living room and the dancers voted that down quickly. (It is said the juke was auctioned off and ex member Jenny Hunter Stevens has it in Fayetteville.)

Saturday nites after dinner, the house was a buzz, when weather permitted, juke box turned up, front door open, and shagging in the middle of Independence Blvd. The attached photos taken about midnite, no traffic, check out the garb we wore. See if you can spot Shad, (hint he is the one dancing correctly).

Hope this answers some questions. We know how well all of you would have fit right in back then and we wish we could see how some of those back then would enjoy today. Our guess, very well, it's all about the car, the activities are a bonus in QCCC. We would strive to be the best club back then and today we have arrived.

#### **QCCC THE HEARTBEAT OF AMERICA**

Respectfully submitted: Bill Cruthis

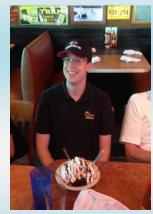
P.S. Brillo Pad spent most of his time in the bar as he was aware that his dance moves appeared more like a 4 legged pig trying to catch an ear of corn on an ice lake surface.





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















































#### From Track to Street

Official Entry list For LeMans: http://www.foxsports.com/motor/story/fia-wec-lemans-24-hours-entry-list-020515

Official 24 Hours at LeMans Website: <a href="http://www.24h-lemans.com/en/">http://www.24h-lemans.com/en/</a>

LeMans Race June 13 – 14 on Fox Sports 1 Start time 10:00AM June 13.

The LeMans Race is the largest and Grand Daddy of all Sport Car Racing. It runs for 24 hours straight hours and tests the cars and drivers. Just to finish LeMans is quite a feat. Visit the web sites above for more information.

## See you at the next Corvette Race. Boyd Kurt



## Other Interesting QCCC Stuff

#### QCCC Winners from the Trump Concours d'Elegance

The Black's 60 won Best of Show Corvettes Tommy's 1954 won 2nd Place Corvette The Black's 1948 Chevrolet Fleetmaster won 3rd Place Production Car



#### Good Times from Andy & Brenda Molodovitch

"Some pics from the NASCAR All Star Race that Brenda & I attended courtesy of QCCC...door prize. It was our first time to attend a race at the Lowes Motor Speedway and we had a great time."









**Up Coming Events** 



#### June 13, 2015 Business Meeting Announcement

Charlotte Motor Speedway 5555 Concord Parkway South Concord NC 28027

#### PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF TIMES

Social Time: 4:30-5:30 pm Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!