



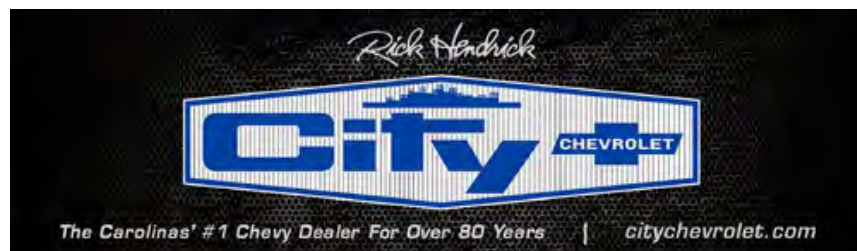
*The
Queen City Corvette
Gazette*

Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

January 2016



Lake Wylie Elementary School Christmas Parade



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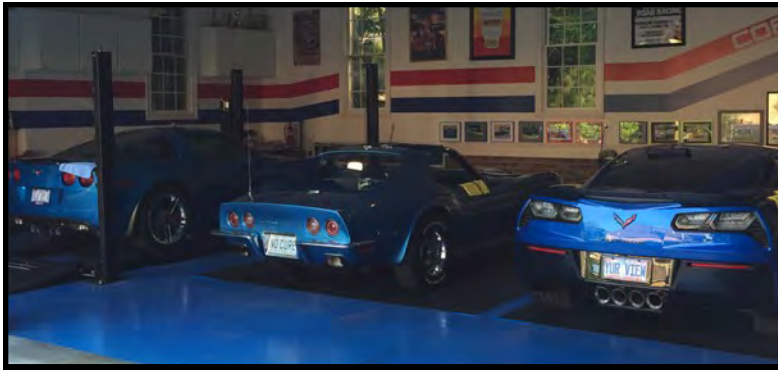
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Please visit the [QCCC web site Archive page](#) for previous issues of the Gazette

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 574 Paw Creek, NC 28130.**

QCCC is a non-profit club (501(c)(7)) 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.**



PERPETUAL EMOTION MACHINES

President's Message: There's a Hole in the Bucket

Bill Cruthis

This retirement thing takes a little getting used to. First you have to overcome the fears that you will run out of cash before you cash out. Then you realize by the time the cash is gone you will be pretty well shot anyway so does it really matter. Then you have to remind yourself that this ain't no dress rehearsal so just go for it.

It took me about a year to get to that point, at which time I started putting things in my bucket for "the list" that I can start checking off. I now have punched a hole in the bucket so stuff can be removed easily and as I age I will have to make the hole larger. First up was to repay my debt to all of you and to QCCC. As a single, green behind the ears, country lad of 27, I moved 860 miles from my roots to the big city having no idea what I was doing. By the grace of God I stumbled onto Shad Alberty and QCCC. Within a week I had met Travis Meredith, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram and about 20 more great members of QCCC and I was saved. As I enter my third year on the board I feel so satisfied to have had the opportunity to give back to this outstanding organization and to my family of Corvette friends. Now moving on, last week I spent 3 days at Ron Fellows Spring Mountain Performance Driving School. Knock that one thru the bottom of the bucket, well sort of. All of you need to put this one in your bucket, it is a must do. I think I was the tenth member to attend and all will tell you the same thing, it is fantastic. Depending on the package you buy, there are days on the track in their new C-7 Corvettes. Great instructors, all with lots of racing credentials, all very patient and very knowledgeable. You will learn so much about the car and how to drive it. The track is outstanding, 2.2 miles, 3 hairpin turns, one chicane, and one tight S-curve, right left right, two straights. You will hit 95 into turn one and 110 into turn 8, unless the pucker factor gets you. The only downside is the waiver to pay the first \$10,000 damage to the Z06 they provide you. This is probably a good thing as it tends to remind you of your amateur status. The experience reminded me of the Corvette Porsche Challenges QCCC used to stage at the Charlotte Motor Speedway back in the 70's. You were a little apprehensive before your track time, then the adrenalin kicks in, then when your turn is over you want to know when is it your turn again. Just like QCCC, you arrive as a Corvette junkie and you leave with new friends. The on-site condos are super, the clubhouse and food fantastic. You will find at least 100 new Corvettes, 26 instructors, and the head of the school,

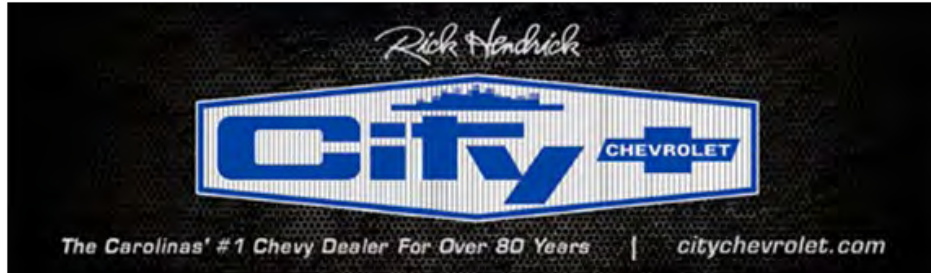
Rick Malone, is so well suited for his job. The instructors break the cars in for the first 1,500 miles, then they get decals and head to the track until they hit 10,000 miles, at which time they get checked over and head to California for resale. Michelin provides the rubber so you are always on new skins. After a little practice, you ride with an instructor who makes sure you know the line, brake, throttle, and that you realize how much you have to learn. Later in the week the instructor rides with you and again you realize you are not there yet. The final day has 2 groups alternating 20 minutes on track. That is about 12 laps for Ron Fellows, not quite that many for me. When you return home and put your chip in the computer to view your laps you see where you could be more throttle, better line, more challenge to the pucker factor. The end result is obvious. They have a 2 day advanced driving school. So alas, the bucket may never get empty as now this performance driving school idea is back in the bucket and very near the top of the list again. I would encourage all of you to take this challenge. If you don't have a C-7, start picking your color, as when you return you will visit Darrell to order one. The car absolutely sticks like glue in the curves, what an awesome machine. Just know that when it gets in your bucket it will push to the top of the list, ahead of Mt. Rushmore, Niagra Falls, golf with Arnold Palmer, that date with a movie star, buying one last old Corvette to restore, and being President of QCCC. So what are you waiting for, this ain't no dress rehearsal.

I am looking forward to a great year in 2016 with all of you and the great times at QCCC. You guys ROCK!



***SEE YA IN THE LEFT LANE
HAMMER DOWN!***

**365 HP, 505 HP, 650 HP,
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Club Sponsor

City Chevrolet, our club sponsor, has a new General Manager. Mr. Cam Stewart has been in the position just a few months and has reached out to QCCC to start building his vision of a symbiotic relationship.

Cam is an admitted Corvette junkie being on his 23rd Corvette now, which is a 2014 Vette with a Mallett Supercharger. We have met with Cam and you will find the attached sheet which is his promotional promise to all club members. We know you will like it and it opens up opportunities for you to save.

In addition, Cam is rebuilding the City Chevrolet web site which has countless viewers as they have over 7000 cars listed. As he builds the new site, he is adding the Queen City logo which will be a direct link to our web site. We will be asking Bob Becker to make that reversible so that those visiting our website can click on the City Chevrolet site.

We welcome Cam into his new position and look forward to a strong relationship that benefits both parties, QCCC and all of our friends at City Chevrolet.

Bill Cruthis, President





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Queen City Corvette Club Discount Pricing Rick Hendrick City Chevrolet

Effective June, 12, 2015

Queen City Corvette Club members are entitled to discount pricing for New Chevrolet Cars, Trucks, Commercial Vehicles, Used Vehicles, Service Labor (15%), and Parts Purchases (15%) at City Chevrolet. The Vehicle Purchases will need to be titled in the Name or Business of the QCCC member, or a member of his/her immediate family. Friends and Referrals of QCCC members will also receive discounts for Sales and Service (10%). "Friends" Vehicle transaction prices will be set by the General Manager of City Chevrolet, Cam Stewart. 704-591-8800

New Vehicles

- QCCC members pay "Dealer Invoice" or "Supplier Pricing" whichever is less from Chevrolet. Rebates or Incentive's will be applied to reduce the purchase price. Affiliate and Commercial rebates may also apply to further reduce the purchase price.
- The General Manager reserves the right to limit this offer to "In Stock" or "On Order" vehicles. Extra costs may apply for Locates, Transportation, or Specialty Vehicles.

Pre-Owned Vehicles

- Vehicles in-stock and available for retail sale may be purchased for inventory amount plus \$500. Extra costs may apply for Transportation, or Specialty Vehicles.
- All vehicles sold to QCCC members must first pass NC State Inspection through our service department. We service every retail vehicle sold at City Chevrolet prior to sale.
- City offers over 7000 Used Vehicles online that can be transferred in for delivery. The prices of these vehicles are on our website CityChevrolet.com. Shipping costs may apply.

Parts & Service

- Parts or Service Labor will receive a 15% discount off the posted Customer pay rate. 15% discount may not be combined with other coupons or specials. We also offer Restoration Parts and services through GM, ZIP, Ecklers, and Corvette Central.

Referral Bonus

- If you refer a non-QCCC member and they purchase a vehicle, we will thank you with @\$100 referral Gift Card for supporting the partnership.

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Darrell Kirkley
Corvette Business
Development Manager
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Judy Armstrong
Owner



Tales and Trails from Up Yonder

Paul Mitchell, Vice President

OK, where did the year go? Here we are already in 2016, and '15 is but a memory. But what a memory it is! We did lots of great things as a club, and as we start planning this New Year, I get all excited just thinking about what's ahead. What did we do in 2015 you ask? Well, just these few things – banquet, Pelchat drive in the country, spring Auto Fair, Mitchell drive in Brushy Mtns, the Bash, Shelton winery, Beach music in North Wilkesboro, Bowling Green in July, our first baseball game, QCCC Car Show, fall Auto Fair, Foothills Run to the Colors, another Brushy Mtn ride. That's just the surface – lots of other things took place as well.

Now, you ask, how do we top that! To me that's easy – do the same things, add some more, and get more participation. So you can plan on that. We hope to have a couple of weekend trips scheduled, along with more day trips. We will give as much lead time as possible so more members can plan to participate. So when a Blast arrives, check it out and sign up. Participation in these activities is the best way to really get to know other members, and certainly one of the very best perks of membership in QCCC. So after the winter lull, get everything shined up and ready to go!

I want to thank each and every member of QCCC for your love of the Corvette, your dedication to the club, and your friendship. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the Vice President of this wonderful club, and I look forward to continuing to help us grow and prosper. As always, please give the Board any suggestions and input on how we can best serve the members. It's going to be another outstanding year for QCCC!

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:

January		
9	QCCC Business Meeting & Chili Feed	Details & Information
23	QCCC Annual Banquet	Details & Information
February		
13	QCCC Business Meeting and Valentine's Day Dinner	Details & Information
March		
12	QCCC Business Meeting	
April		
9-10	AutoFair at Charlotte Motor Speedway	
16	QCCC Business Meeting	
4/27-5/1	National Corvette Museum Bash	See Paul Mariano



Bonino Banter

– The Social Scene

This has been a packed year for our club. We want 2016 to be even more special with more activities to appeal to every member. This is the time we are setting into place our new calendar. The best way to know what is going on is the visit our website. We have an event calendar posted that is constantly being updated with new events. Also be on the lookout for BLASTS and Volunteer Crier notes that will come out periodically to alert you to specifics about a meeting or dinner coming up.

I feel that we have not only lots of new members, but a lot of our older members have now traded their C-5s and 6s for the new C-7s. We need to have these cars out on the road and enjoy them! For those of us who do not have C-7s, we love our Corvettes and can have just as much fun being amongst them with our beautiful cars (and yes I know how often they are pampered and washed – in our house we may someday wash the paint right off!!!)

This year we will explore easier ways to sign-up for events and possibly even pay for them when a dinner is involved. We welcome any member who would like to help suggest an idea for a day trip or any fun activity that you may feel other members would love to attend. We also welcome (and have very much appreciated) volunteer help at these events. This ensures that we can continue to have lots of fun throughout the year with no one person doing all the work.

*Sign-up/pay for our 2015 Annual Banquet January 23, 2016

*Sign-up for the Chili-Cook-off and Meeting January 9, 2016

*Sign-up/pay for the Valentine Dinner and Meeting February 13, 2016

More events to come...watch for the calendar and sign-up sheets at the meetings

Once again I appreciate all of you who help make this the best Corvette Club ever!

Pat

January News from the Auto Events

Year Two as QCCC Automotive Events Director begins for me. Year One was a good year of continuing popular events from previous years, establishing strong relationships with other clubs in the area, and creating group events that are being continued in 2016.

*Our First Auto Event of the Year is
Garage Day at Brian Kruse's House, Saturday, Feb 6th.
Scheduled time is 9AM thru 2PM.*

*The featured area of repair/focus will be on Suspension and
Alignment. You can reserve a 45 min. block to change oil,
fluids, etc.*

*There will be a sign-up sheet at the January meeting and at the
Annual Banquet.*

Calling all mechanics, be there.



We'll see you at the January Meeting and the Annual Banquet.

*Enjoy the little things in life, because one day you will look back, and realize
they were the big things.*

Gary and Gwen

The Rebuild Begins

As mentioned in the December newsletter "Gary's Top Ten Christmas Movies of ALL Time", it was said that I would chronicle the rebuild of Brad Dusterhoft's 77 Coupe.

First on the rebuild list is the interior. As you see from the picture, everything has been removed: seats, carpet, dash, steering wheel, gauge cluster, a/c vents, EVERYTHING. Brad has searched, traced, checked, repaired, touched every wire and replaced every bulb. He's also taken the door panels off, repaired the power window mechs, fixed the mirrors, door locks, etc.

He's going to repair the seats, replace the carpet, install a new dash, new vents, new, clean, 100% right.

You'll want to see this project when it's done. He likes to use blue LED bulbs in the interior of his vehicles.

I will include pictures of the completed project in next month's article.



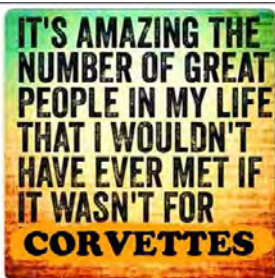
QCCC Cornerstones



*Building a Great Corvette Club
One FRIENDSHIP at a time*



"Friendship is like a book. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write." ~Unknown



We all see things occasionally that make us think. The little snippet to the left was one of those things for me. I've thought of these words many times over the years, as many of you have, but seeing it made me feel good. It reminded me again of how amazing the Corvette Lifestyle is and how a "car" could bring so much enjoyment and new friends into our lives. Being able to share our love and enthusiasm for all things Corvette with friends makes it even more special.

We have many new members in QCCC and I think back about how I felt as a new member years ago. Coming into an organization where you know no one is a little intimidating sometimes, for some folks more so than others. Some of us are just not as "outgoing" as others and that may be viewed as being less friendly by some. I've heard QCCC members comment that some folks do not seem as friendly as others, or that they do not know someone because they've never been introduced to them. Well, I have an announcement to make to you - If you don't know someone or think a person seems unfriendly, introduce yourself and get to know them! Remember, you have the advantage because you've been a member longer and know so much more about QCCC. Newer members don't have that knowledge and are looking to you for guidance and friendship.

"There are no strangers here; only friends you haven't yet met." ~ William Butler Yeats

QCCC has added 50+ new members each year during the past 2 years. That's a lot of new folks to get to know. Sometimes we tend to stick with old friends we've known longer when we attend a QCCC meeting, dinner or event. That's just human nature. I have a challenge for each QCCC member, whether you are "seasoned" or new. Make it your goal to meet and talk with a QCCC member you don't know, or have yet to meet. I guarantee you will be pleasantly surprised at what you learn and the new friends you'll get to know.

Most of us will make New Year's resolutions in the next few days. Add this one to your list - meet and get to know a few new members each month during the next year. Who knows, your new best friends may be just a few friendly words away!

Peggy and I wish each of you a HEALTHY, HAPPY and EVENTFUL New Year and hope the coming year brings many new Corvette friends into your lives and lots of fun with your old friends.

Chris Wood, Membership Director

**PLEASE WELCOME OUR
NEWEST MEMBERS!**

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



Mike & Karin Mariano
1967 Lynndale Blue Coupe



Roger & Dee Dee Winge
2015 Corvette Racing Yellow Coupe



National Corvette Museum



NCM CORNER

I recently ran our roster of members through the NCM membership group to establish the status of all memberships. There was some good news and some bad news. The good news is that several of you have signed up for the trial membership and I hope that experience will convince you to become full-fledged members in the near future. On the not so good side of things, more than a dozen have allowed their membership to expire. Many of them just this year. If you have any questions regarding your status or would like to discuss your reasons for dropping out, please contact me anytime.

The sign ups for the Bash in April continue to grow. The list now has 32 names (cars) which will be quite a caravan. The registration for the event should open on the NCM website after the first of the year and you really should have your NCM membership up to date to save on the entry activity fees. The savings will pay for most of your member fees and everyone likes savings.

It looks as if the selection of the three new members for the Hall of Fame is a real hat trick. Bob Bondurant, Ralph Kramer and Donna Mae Mims are all most deserving of the honor. The HOF dinner in September should be both celebratory and nostalgic. You won't want to miss that event.

At this time of the year it seems proper to reflect on the last twelve months so here goes. Our trips to the museum were all well attended with over twenty cars going each time. The Bash is always fun with this year being no exception. The Saturday party was visited by Elvis, Elton John and the Village People. Makes one wonder who will show this year. Our first QCCC club visit in July was a smash hit with all those attending and a request that we do it all again. The Hall of Fame ceremony during the Birthday Celebration was of special significance to us as Rick Hendrick was inducted and he had all the QCCC attendees on stage for a photograph and gave us a special invitation to the unveiling of his retro-mod 1967, his first Corvette. We wonder what 2016 will bring.

The good news for the Motorsports Park is that the judge struck down the injunction to shut it down immediately and ruled that the issue will go to trial next fall. Business as usual until then.

Barbara & I wish you all a Very Healthy and Happy New Year!

Save the Wave

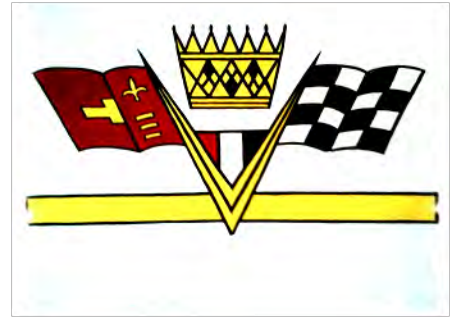
Paul Mariano
NCM Ambassador

Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Richard Craig, Darrell Kirkley & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



It Depends on What the Meaning of Is...Is

We all know that in 1978 GM sales of Corvette were soaring in spite of the fact that the Mako Shark concept car from 1968 Stingray was aging and, due to government regulations, not too gracefully. So they added the big back glass to make road trips so much better. I know as I try to put new carpet in the back of my '71. Even a fidget would not fit back there. Then the marketing guys took over and since it was a 25 year anniversary, just like Nascar, they could add a few paint schemes and voila sell another gob of cars. Thus was born the 1978 Pace Car and Silver Anniversary editions. While it was not easy, both of these models could be almost cloned with the result being just like the '67, 427 cu, 435 hp. cars, there are far more for sale now than ever left the factory. Also like the '63 coupes with knock off wheels, (no '63 was every produced with the 3-bar spinner knockoff wheels as scant few were sampled with a two bar spinner), many, many, many Pace Cars and Silver Anniversary Cars are out there that are close clones, but it is a Pace Car depending on the meaning of is.

So what did it take to make a clone? First you needed a '78 silver base Corvette. Then for the Pace Car you had to apply the upper black paint and the red pin stripe. The Silver Anniversary would need lower darker gray paint with a dark gray pinstripe. Then both cars would need all the other decals which were available from GM. The pitfalls of trying to make a clone were few but very noticeable. First the pace car only came with silver interior which was not available in any other model. Both models came with the YJ8 aluminum wheel option (\$340), the Pace Car wheel had a red stripe around the edge of the wheel (as this story unfolds remember who painted a red stripe around his black wheels last year.) They also all had the sport mirrors, however less than 2,000 1978 base cars were void of these. Other than the serial number, that was about all the visible changes. Originally they were to have special Goodyear tires that said Corvette in white letters but that idea was scrapped when they went from the original 300 Pace cars to 6,500 and I do not think any such tire was ever made. At year end 40,274 Corvettes were built with 6,502 of them being Pace Cars. There is no tally of how many Silver Anniversary cars were built.

Some enterprising folks saw an opportunity here to make some cash because the demand for these cars outpaced GM's ability to produce. One such entrepreneur was and still is in our midst. You have heard the stories of Darrell Kirkley's talents when working with Corvettes. He now saw a way for some quick cash and to his credit he never misrepresented any of his cars for anything other than a clone. He would order or buy off the showroom the new silver '78 , apply the paint and decals then sell them as Pace Car or Silver Anniversary clones. The Pace Car clones would have black or red interior while the Silver Anniversary cars would have black or oyster inside. It is thought that he would clear a profit of about \$2,000 per car at which time he went on to buy the next one. All total Darrell states that he did about 4 of each model, clearing a profit of \$16,000. Now today that would not buy a used Honda, but back then I was working pretty hard for a salary of \$19,000 a year, so it was quite a windfall. When you think of the vision and then the talent it took to get these results, you

see why I have always said of our good friend, he is like an alley cat, he will always find that scrap of food that the other cats miss.

So, before you buy that '78 Pace Car or '78 Silver Anniversary Edition, just like the '67, 427 cu., 435 hp. , you better know your stuff, because there are more of them out there than ever left the factory.

For Sale: 78 Silver Anniversary Edition L-82 4 spd , two tone silver/gray, oyster interior, \$18,597. It is a Silver Anniversary. Phone BR-5409. Ask for Buggy

The good old days with QCCC. We wish you all could have been there. We were way cool, sorta.

Bill Cruthis

QCCC Members & Guests Photos

Many More on the Web Site...





From Track to Street



Corvette Racing is getting ready for the 2016 season. What is new? Corvette has a new improved C7R with new performance and safety features. They have already practiced at Sebring and several other race courses. Ford has a new race team with the new Ford GT and should make some cool racing this year. Also BMW has a new Z4 and Ferrari and Porsche are bringing new or updated cars to Daytona.

With all the changes we should have our work cut out for Corvette Racing. Listed below are the first three races for 2016, well at least two are races. The Roar Before the 24 is a practice but a great time to meet the new drivers and see the new cars up close. I will bring you up to date after the Rolex the last weekend of January. Stay tuned for an exciting we hope race season.

See you at the next Corvette Race.

Boyd Kurt





Cruisin' the Carolinas since 1968

**Event of the year
2015 Annual Awards Banquet**

January 23, 2016

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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 5:00 pm
Plated Dinner 6:30 pm
Awards & Entertainment until 11:30**