



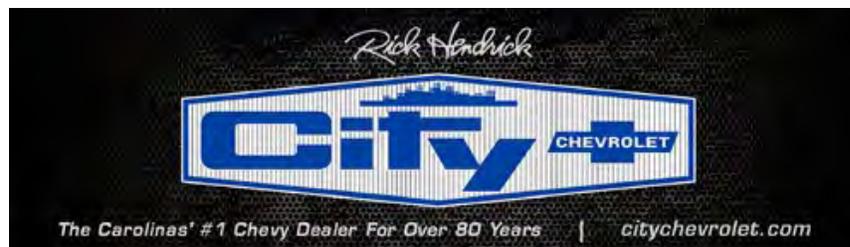
THE QUEEN CITY CORVETTE GAZETTE

Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

March 2017



2016 Annual Awards Banquet
The Speedway Club—Charlotte Motor Speedway
February 25, 2017



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IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Content</i>	<i>Page</i>
President's "Corvette Conversations"	3
QCCC Advertisers	4—7
Vice President's "Life in the Fast Lane"	8
QCCC Minutes / Website Link	9
Snapshot of Calendar	9
Social " Bonino Banter "	10—11
Automotive Director's "Thoughts"	12
Membership Director's "Thoughts"	13
NCM	14
Vintage QCCC	15—16
Track to Street (On Hold 'Til April)	-
Garage of the Month	17—20
Club Photos	21—23
Meeting Details	24

The **Queen City Corvette Gazette** is the official newsletter of the Queen City Corvette Club (QCCC), established in 1968, and is electronically published and distributed monthly by volunteers and members of QCCC. Additional information regarding QCCC is available at our website: www.queencitycorvette.com. 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. After an initiation fee of \$10.00 per person, club dues are \$100 per year to be paid semiannually or annually. These dues go to cover the cost of programs, events, running the club, and subsidizing the cost of our meetings. Club officers and supporting staff serve as volunteers. To become a member of the QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB, you must be at least 21 years of age, own a Corvette and attend at least three (3) monthly business meetings within a twelve-month period. Come check us out – we love to meet fellow Corvette Enthusiasts! For additional membership information, visit <http://queencitycorvette.com/Membership/> or contact our Membership Director at membership@queencitycorvette.com. We would love to have you join us for a monthly business meeting. If you can't join us, please WAVE!

QCCC's mailing address is: Queen City Corvette Club, PO Box 574 Paw Creek, NC 28130.



Queen City

Corvette Conversations

~ *Paul Mitchell, President*

Okay, let's get this out front and center. If you missed the QCCC Banquet, you missed the bestest, mostest, wildest, funnest social function of the year! We had the best location, best food, BEST entertainment, and absolutely the best group of party goers in the state. Social Director Pat did her normal excellent job along with her usual army, and this Banquet will be talked about all year. Rest assured, we will repeat next year. Be there!

Spring is approaching quickly, and with the relatively nice weather we have had recently, we are certainly looking forward to some warm weather activities. We just had the QCCC Car Care day at Auto Director Brian's garage, with lots of members getting oil changes and other needed things done to their car. Plus it's a really fun day visiting with everyone in attendance, especially watching all the "expert" advice given throughout the day. But you know, QCCC people can have fun anytime, anywhere.

The good folks at Streetside are welcoming us for our March meeting, then we have a day trip scheduled. Next comes busy April, with Auto Fair, the great BBQ at Loftin's garage, and then the annual trek to the Bash in Bowling Green. We have the largest group ever going, so we will again be very well represented (and noticed!) at the Museum. QCCC continues to make our mark in the Corvette world!

We are making progress on car show plans, and should have details soon. Your QCCC Board has been diligent in working on assigned tasks, and we have already achieved some of our objectives of the year, and will continue to work on others.

Yes, we are off to a great start. Engines are warmed, tires are checked, songs are on IPOD, and our right foot is itching to "mash the gas". Plans and reservations are made – all you have to do is participate. I look forward to seeing you at the next QCCC function. Cause now is the time for us all to -

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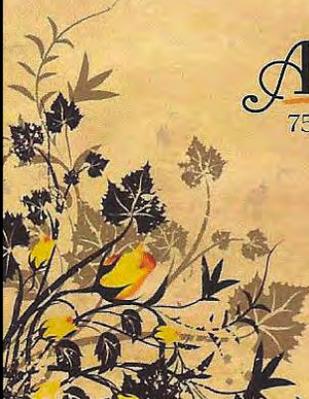
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LIFE IN THE FAST LANE



...SURELY MAKE YOU LOSE YOUR MIND...

We are one quarter of our way into 2017

....year #49 of the Premier Corvette Club in the Southeast USA...

Yes, the year is well underway, it started with a bang and is picking up serious momentum. Here we are rolling into March, with our next meeting scheduled for Streetside Classics on the March 11th. Continuing the theme of eating everywhere we go, it's going to be a Popcorn and Cookie Night. Can't go wrong with a chocolate chip cookie.....

What can you say about the Annual Banquet at the Speedway Club? Great dinner (my steak was perfect), great friends, the venue was excellent and the band, *Too Much Sylvia*, rocked dance favorites and music from the 50's all the way to current Top 40 radio hits all night long. Pat and her Team continue to outdo themselves year after year and event after event. The banquet was another example of how our club continues to be *First Class All The Way*.

Are you checking out the club website on a regular basis? Bob and Marilyn do a great job keeping it current and all "pictured" up with pictures from club meetings, events, etc. Banquet shots are on there already as well. Speaking of pictures and looking at some of me that are on there, I asked Ms. America, "is my hair is really that grey?" She just smiled

Quotes about Growing Old:

The longer I live, the more beautiful live becomes.....*Frank Lloyd Wright*

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream another dream.....*C. S. Lewis*

Laughter is timeless. Imagination has no age. And dreams are forever.....*Walt Disney*

None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm.....*Henry David Thoreau*

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at the March meeting at Streetside's. Get there early, check out all the cars they have for sale and let everyone see how cool your beauty is, too. Take a look at the event calendar on the website, there's something on there for everyone.

You won't want to miss next month's article, *Summertime Tunes*.

Remember,

There are only two classes- *First class* and no class.....*David O. Selznick*

Gary, Gwen and Snickers the Dog



Click [Here](#) for the QCCC Website Homepage

Click [Here](#) for Last Month's Club Board and Business Meeting Minutes

Click [Here](#) for Archived Meeting Minutes, Newsletters, Calendars, Etc.

Calendar Snapshot of Planned Events for the Next Few Months:

2017

March

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 4 | Car Care Day | Details & Information |
| 11 | QCCC Business Meeting | Details & Information |
| 18 | Whiskey Prison Tour Ride | Details & Information |
| 25 | Street Side Classics Cars and Coffee Cruise Inn | Details & Information |

April

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 8-9 | AutoFair at Charlotte Motor Speedway | Details & Information |
| 15 | QCCC Business Meeting and Club Picnic | Details & Information |
| 26-30 | National Corvette Museum Bash | See Paul Mariano |
| 29 | Street Side Classics Cars and Coffee Cruise Inn | Details & Information |

May

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 6 | Corvette Show and Thunder Valley Drags at Farmington Dragway | |
| 13 | QCCC Business Meeting | Details & Information |
| 27 | Street Side Classics Cars and Coffee Cruise Inn | Details & Information |
| 27 | Shelton Vineyard's Vettes for Vets | |



Bonino Banter

– The Social Scene



Happy St. Patrick's Day to all me QCCC Family!!!

We have just finished having a wonderful Valentine's Dinner and meeting in early February. Once again we want to thank Bob and Sandy Chichester for hosting this at the VFW Hall. They not only do all the pre set-up of tables and chairs but somehow since we were there last – the parking lot was paved!!! Now how is that for hospitality??? I definitely cannot forget to thank the Newsomes, Ocampos, Beckers, Snows, Rockholds, Wings, Marianos and Zimmers for helping with the decorating and Peggy Wood for again all the check-in. I may have left someone out – I apologize for this –all I know is when we ask for help – we always get it! THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!

Next we had our Annual Awards Banquet last Saturday. We changed it up a bit by having it this time downstairs in the ballroom at The Speedway Club. This proved to be fantastic! Once again Susan McEntire and her staff did a wonderful job for us. All we needed for the evening was on one floor and easy access yet we all felt “together” for the evening – and what an array of activity we had. Social time, two meat plated dinner that was scrumptious, our 2016 Annual Award Ceremony and to finish the evening with the award winning band “Too Much Sylvia”! A big THANKYOU to Bill Cruthis for coming up with the theme and carrying it out with posters and decorations on each table. Also Peggy Wood, Marilyn Becker and Joyce Lontz for their efficient check-in process downstairs. And to Keith Cross for working with Cam Stewart at City Chevrolet to have donated nice insulated water mugs with both our logo and theirs on them as a gift for each couple who came.

I must add one thing here.....I was honored and VERY SURPRISED to be voted “Member of the Year”. I feel so many were worthy of this yet I treasure my friendships with all of you and from the bottom of my heart I really appreciated this special award!

Now we are diligently working on getting Day/Overnight trips planned! Chris Wood with recommendation from Donnie Ocampo organized our first “day trip” to IOMax. It was a huge success and many that couldn’t attend want us to do it again! From this experience Chris proposed we form a Sub-Committee to the Social and Automotive groups to do behind the scenes calling and research to get the info we need to plan these trips. We have a running list of potential trip to explore. I am so happy that so far we have 5 members who have volunteered to help with this. We will be helping with the administrative part like creating the flyer to go out to you about the trip, etc. Once we know who is attending the trip - we will be looking for “Road Captains” to lead on that day.

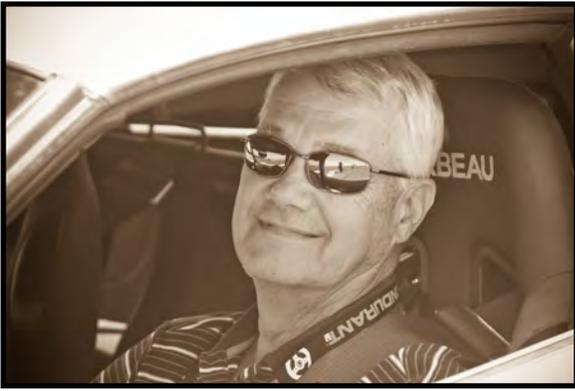
Please let me know -Pat Bonino (sbonino@carolina.rr.com)

if you would like to help here and there on this committee.

Now let’s get ready to drive our Vettes! Watch the website and emails for events, day trips, meeting information, etc.

Your Enthusiastic Social Director!

Pat



From the Automotive Director's Desk

~ Brian Kruse

This is the start of a really busy time for Corvette enthusiasts—all the races to attend, nice weather for driving, seeing friends, and all the other great things that attach to Corvette ownership.

I'm writing this in time for Cindy to edit it and then publish. I never dreamed how much work being Automotive Director can be. I've probably spent 20 hours at the computer, getting the list of Auto Fair participants together and trying to set up a communication link with them so their experience is what it should be. Please be patient with me on this, Gary left me a really great template and a tall reference point of QCCC success at this venue.

I have to give a special thanks to Norm Jungman. He is one special guy. He faithfully sends out information blasts. By now the QCCC membership has become used to how to respond to them. THANKS NORM!!!

When I send them out, the email of the responding contact will be listed. It will either be me or a QCCC member that has done all the leg-work on an event and they agreed to be the contact. Please respond to them. We will still occasionally use sign-up sheets, but you will see them go away, as the blasts Norm sends out are far more efficient at reaching our ever growing membership.

I just hauled about 20 gallons of motor oil and 10 or so used oil filters to the recycling center. They were a product of the first car care day of the year. If you weren't there, you missed a fun time, lots of Corvette Camaraderie, the neighbors admiring all the beautiful cars and fixin' a few little things. The temperature got to about 60 at noon, still jacket weather. The Crew Chief was stained with oil. His boss makes sure he leaves in the morning clean and pressed, and he does his best to go back home with a cleaning project for her. He also drafted Bob Motta as an assistant. He's still the boss of the two post lift, though. That's for your safety.

In keeping with the idea of this month's news from me, I would like to share my approach to Automotive Director. First, I'm not going to come up with event ideas and do all the detail planning. That is the job of each of you as active members of the QCCC. I see my role as that of a facilitator; a person that can help you navigate the ins and outs of event planning. So if you come up with an idea, I'll most likely ask you to do all the work, and be the adult supervision as well. Just ask Barb, Boyd, and John. I successfully dumped all the hard car care day work on them.

Have a Salubrious Day,

Brian

(salubrious synonym: wholesome)

Membership Director's Report

March 5, 2017



Happy St. Patrick's Day!! So hard to believe that it is just around the corner. A cultural and religious celebration that is held on March 17, the traditional remembrance date of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. The day commemorates St. Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. Celebrations here include public parades and festivals, drinking green beer, and, of course, the wearing of green attire. St. Patrick's Day is a public holiday in Ireland as well as the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand. You wouldn't know it with a last name like Schmitt but I am half Irish (Mom's side) and I will definitely be celebrating that day and may even have a few "green beers"!

Well I cannot finish this article without commenting on our QCCC Annual Banquet which was held last Saturday at Charlotte Motor Speedway. It was the third Annual Banquet that we have attended and I would say that it was the **BEST** one thus far! About 150 members were there to celebrate the Stars, Stripes, and Corvettes theme, with special recognition given to John Greenwood, including beautiful posters of his memorable 1976 Spirit of Sebring Corvette. Everything was located on the fifth-floor main ballroom with easy access to two bars. The food was outstanding along with the great service given by the wait staff. CMS continues to astound me with their quality of food and the professionalism of their staff. At our place settings were two beautiful coffee mugs donated by Rick Hendrick's City Chevrolet and Cam Stewart. The award-winning band "Too Much Sylvia" was spectacular! They played many of our favorite songs all night long and we danced until our feet, knees, and hips gave out! Special THANKS to Bill Cruthis, Paul Mitchell, Pat Bonino, Peggy Woods, Marilyn Becker, Keith Cross, Steve Harshbarger, Cam Stewart, and many more, for making this event such memorable one.

On the membership side, for those of you that were not at the February Meeting, the QCCC Board and Members voted in two Associate Members. They are George and Beverly Hoover of Lansdale, PA and are friends of Paul and Barbara Mariano. They are involved in National Corvette Museum activities as well as IMSA Racing. We had the privilege of meeting them at the Rolex 24 in Daytona in January. They have three Corvettes: a 1998 Pace Car; a 2008 Atomic Orange Cpe-4LT; and a 2014 Arctic White Convertible-3LT.

Our Total QCCC Membership thru February 2017 is as follows:

- Total Members: 330
- Total Families: 176
- Prospective Members: 31
- Members *Removed in February: 25

*NOTE - Members that were removed have either sold their Corvette, did not wish to renew their membership, moved, or passed away.

Hope you all have a great St. Patrick's Day! Hopefully I will see you all at our next meeting at Streetside Classics. Also mark on your calendars for "***Cars and Coffee***" to be held at Streetside Classics on March 25, 9 am-12 Noon. Bring your Vettes and support our Queen City Corvette Club! Cars and Coffee will be held on the last Saturday of the month throughout the year.

All the best,

Paul Schmitt





National Corvette Museum



NCM CORNER

Before we go one more sentence, Kudos to Ms. Bonino and her gang for a great Awards Banquet. If you missed this one, you missed "the one". Food, music and fellowship all of the highest caliber. Well done people.

I guess the corps of members going to the Bash is pretty well set. Hard to get a totally accurate head count, but for sure QCCC will have eighty members there. Be sure and continue to look over the agenda as things to do are constantly changing. An autocross has been added on Saturday and Sunday. The Bash has many events to offer. Don't pass on the opportunity to make the trip one to remember.

Good news for you that enjoy autocrossing. The Nashville Corvette Club will be hosting an Autocross on Saturday (April 29) and Sunday (April 30). Pre-registration is required so log in to the events section on the NCM website and check out the agenda for the NCM Bash. There you will find the URL for the Nashville Club where you can register for the autocross. The address is a mile long so I leave it to you to go hunting for it. Price is \$65.00 per day. Enjoy!!

I put out an e-mail to all those going to the Bash that Bill Ingram has six tickets for a VIP Tour of the Assembly Plant. Price is \$50.00/per person and well worth it as you see things not offered on the regular plant tours. With all the mystery going on at the plant, who knows what you may catch a glimpse of? Contact Bill to see if he has any tickets left. The tour is scheduled for Thursday morning. You won't regret it.

Have you become a new member of the NCM in the last six months? Or have you purchased a museum brick or Corvette raffle ticket? If so, please let me know as those things generate points that allow me to keep my Ambassador rating. I thank you for your support of the museum.

With all the new members in the club, I'm sure some of you have questions about the NCM, the events, or what all the fuss is about. Not wanting to speak overtime during the meetings, I may be overlooking some information you are inquisitive about. Please don't hesitate to look me up before or after a meeting or at one of our many dinners and let's talk about it.

Save the Wave

BOX SCORE

Paul Mariano
NCM Ambassador

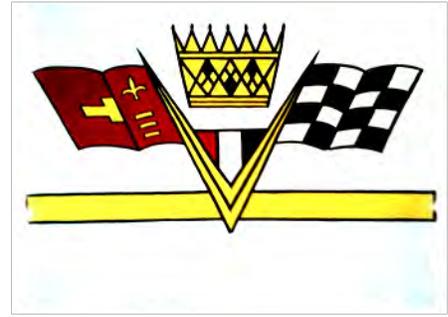
No. of QCCC Family Units	179
No. of NCM Members	105 (58.6%)
No. of Lifetime Members	40
No. of Duntov Society Members	4
No. of Spire Members	4

Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Richard Craig, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



What's a Little Tug of War Amongst Friends?

I suppose every organization has had its little tiffs. Those times when everything just did not mess exactly right. I will try to enlighten you of the only major dust up, although it was ongoing, that QCCC ever experienced.

In the beginning, as many a story has started, QCCC was a group of high spirited, young, mostly single fellows. They brought with them considerable racing experience and knowledge, most of which was learned on roads in and around Charlotte. As this group gathered, some brought the facts that Corvette clubs all over the country were racing at tracks because their club had joined NCCC (The National Council of Corvette Clubs.) Since we were racers we looked into this. On the surface it seemed to work. However, two requirements were evident. Each member must pay yearly dues and be a NCCC member. Plus quarterly, your club must send a Governor to the quarterly conference of NCCC. By meeting these requirements you were officially insured to race on tracks, but only against the clock. Wheel to wheel racing was not covered. I do not remember the yearly dues total for NCCC but I do know QCCC dues were \$5 per month and as treasurer in 1976 it was very hard to collect. We had about 30 members or \$150 / month dues and we rented the clubhouse for \$150. Therefore other expenses had to be covered by the bar profits. (We drank a lot of beer.) Then as the club grew slowly and 25 year olds became 35 year olds, families and careers took off. QCCC was no longer a bunch of street racers with a frat house. We had multiple serious racers, who took good street cars, made them race cars, bought trailers and tow rigs. However, this aging process took a toll on the racing side of QCCC. We gave women the right to vote in 1976 and that was key to some changes (not in a bad way). We found ourselves with less time to devote to racing and a lot of time devoured by family and work. The end result was a split in the membership with those who chose not to race asking why they were paying dues to NCCC and getting nothing in return. This situation hung on until 1979 when the non-racing voices were part of the demise of the clubhouse. There just was not enough money to pay the rent (now \$175) and pay to send a Governor to a quarterly meeting usually in the Midwest. The lines were drawn between racers/social and show cars/social. We all agreed on the beer drinking part. Without the clubhouse, meetings revolved to apartment complex meeting rooms and member's homes. To their credit the racing group held out strong enough to win the national championship in points in both 1985 and 1989 for NCCC. Plus many years in the 80's we were regional champions. Due to career, I missed the 90's and up until 2009. I did receive an invitation to the yearly August birthday meeting which I think was in 1998. It was held at Jane and Eddie Burt's house. I went hoping to meet old friends from the 70's but none were there. During the meeting one member spoke and encouraged more racing but it was not well received. So somewhere after 1998 we outgrew organized racing and became a strictly social and car show group. The cost of racing and the fact that older folks learn you can die or get hurt seriously doing this probably contributed. If you think we were not serious about racing, look at last month's article and watch the whole video. You will see some pretty nice cars bouncing off the mountain at the hill climb. Plus one Corvette went thru the chain link fence at CMS, while another dropped a wheel off in the drainage ditch. Two major items of

note came from all this. First, as we present awards at our annual banquet, understand that started as awards for racing accomplishments. Best male and best female driver. Best male and female rookie driver, points champions 1,2,3 for men and women, and the hard luck award for the year. As we became strictly social it became harder to come up with awards programs. Lastly we were started and even incorporated (1976) as a non-profit social club. There is no mention of being a charitable club in our Charter or By-laws. However NCCC as part of their laws required us to have x number of events per year where we donated the proceeds to the Spina Bifida Charity. We gladly did this and I believe when we dropped out of NCCC the club approved replacing Spina Bifida with local charities. Over the years we have been a good community partner and given generously to many charities. All of that started with NCCC.

So while we are a docile group, we did have one splitting of the ranks that nearly sunk us in 1979. President Sam McGee to his credit pulled us all together and we came thru it, but it was really a rather close call. Back then the treasury could get negative in the bank very easily. Thank goodness cool heads prevailed and time marched on with us intact.

Just a little history of how we got here to this great place in our history.

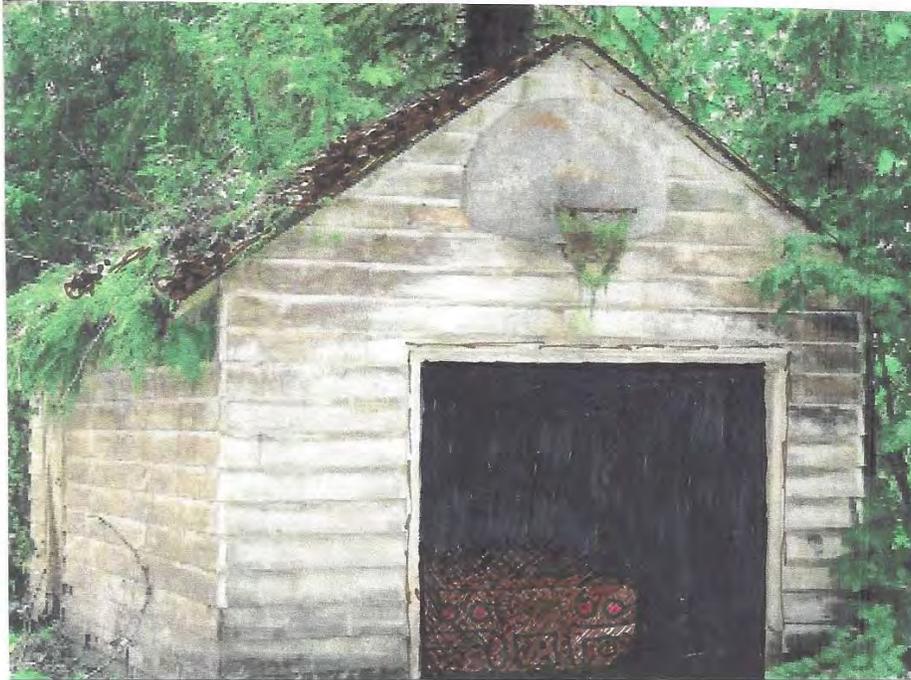
Submitted

Bill Cruthis

QCCC

GARAGE OF THE MONTH

AND/OR CORVETTE CAVE



Some are pretty to look at, and done up pretty bold
Others you can work in, on Corvettes that are old.
They house history and mystery,
With oil on the floor,
Now's your chance to see, what's inside the door.

QCCC Garage/Corvette Cave of the Month for March

Our March Garage of the Month belongs to Bob and Benita

Bob's first garage attention came back about 3 years ago when he won the famous Corvette Fever award of the month. That award was a trophy with two doll house twins beds mounted on it. It was the Member to Most Likely to Have Twin Beds in the master bedroom. He received that award when it was discovered that he had a 3 car garage with three lifts so it held six Corvettes. However his wife's Mercedes was parked outside. You will see in the early photos that somewhere along the line he came down with Cunningham Steeleritis.

Bob sends the following description of his garage:

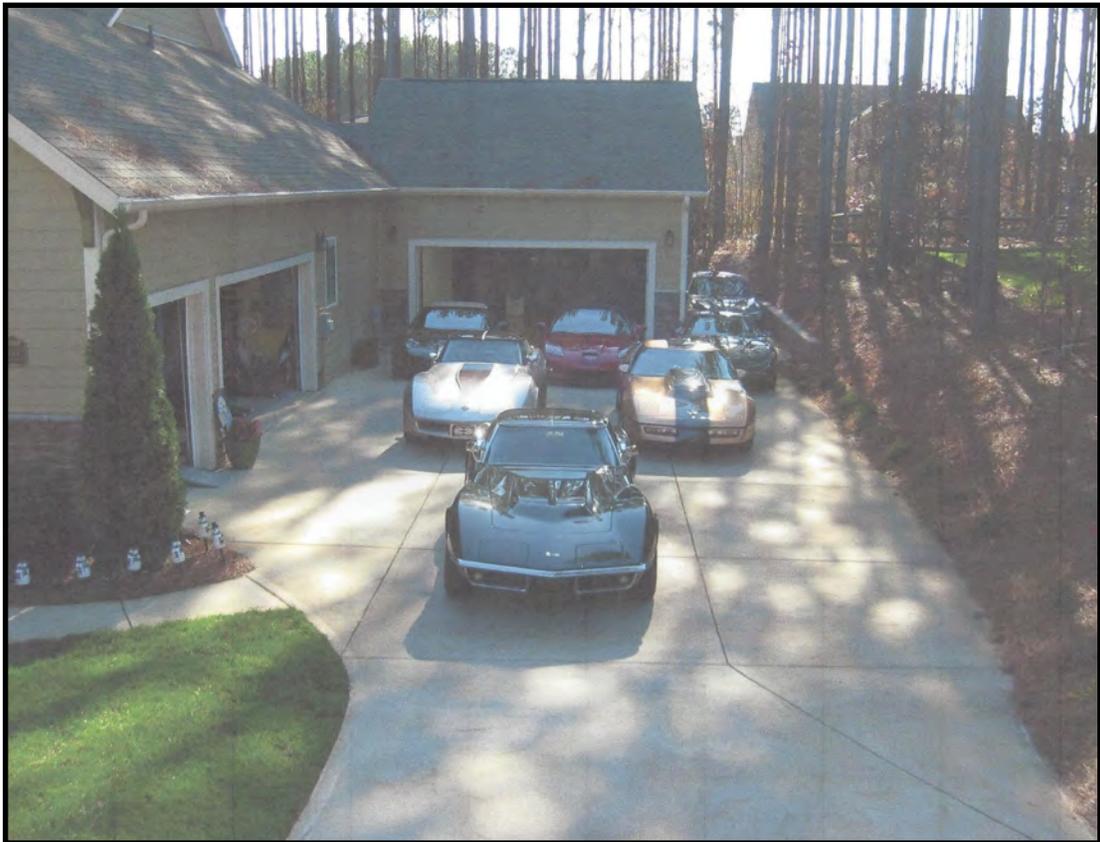
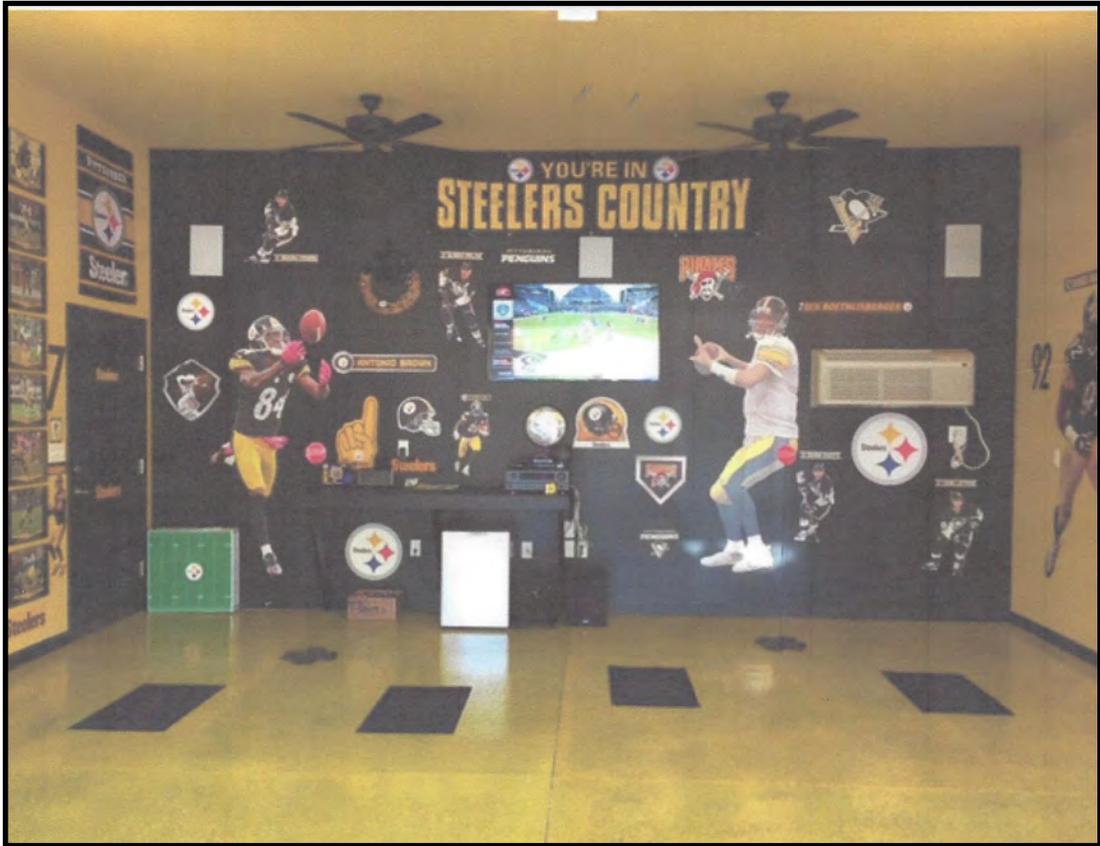
"My goal is to own 8 Corvettes. When we moved to Charlotte and began looking at houses to build, I told the builder that I was not interested in looking at any models that didn't have a three car garage and the ceiling in one garage had to be 11 feet or higher. He asked why so specific on the ceiling height? I told him, I'll be stacking cars. He looked at me with total confusion, but we researched the models and we settled on the "Camila". Once in the house I had the first four post lift installed to support the 4 Corvettes we moved here with. The next year I bought the 2010 Grand Sport, so I got the second lift installed. This one was a single post lift. The next year I bought the '69 and the third lift was installed. Making plans for the future and the pressure from the women of QCCC, once they found out Benita was parking outside, I built an additional two car garage with 12 foot ceilings. This garage will eventually have 2 single post lifts installed when I buy a C2 and finish off with a C7. Note the picture of the inside of the new garage. It's our Steeler tailgate garage!!!"

Keep Bob and Benita in mind when we vote in November for Garage or Corvette Cave of the year.

Thanks

Bill Cruthis





QCCC Members & Guests Photos

There are many, many more to see on the website!

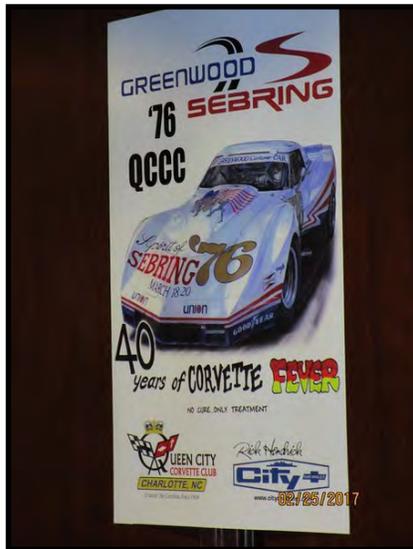
Click [Here](#) to View the Photo Gallery

Do you have club photos you would like to share?

Click [Here](#) to Upload to the Photo Gallery



*There are **so many great Banquet photos** that I couldn't possibly choose which ones to add to this photo page, so just click **[here](#)** or on any photo below to go straight to the Banquet photo album and see all of them!*



In Memoriam

Fred Lentz

September 24, 1937—February 8, 2017



On **facebook**?

Join our **QCCC Members** page!

*Use the page for all things related to our club,
our members and Corvettes.*

- Post photos during club meetings, on caravans and at club sponsored events.
- Show us your Corvette in action!
- Share/repost Corvette related articles & news.

www.facebook.com/groups/409674005715403/



The screenshot shows the Facebook group page for the Queen City Corvette Club. At the top is the club's logo, which features a crown, a checkered flag, and a red Corvette flag, with the text "QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB" and "CHARLOTTE, NC" below it. The group name "QCCC Members" is displayed, along with the tagline "Cruisin' the Carolinas". The page is set to "Closed Group" and shows that the user is "Joined". There are buttons for "Share" and "Notifications". Below the header, there are tabs for "Discussion", "Members", "Events", "Photos", and "Files", along with a search bar. The main content area shows a post by "Jamie K Stamey" from "Yesterday at 12:58pm" with the text: "Have you seen the updated list of Top Tier gas retailers? Check into www.TopTierGas.com periodically to keep up with changes. (Top Tier gas". On the right side, there is a section for "ADD MEMBERS" with a search bar, a "MEMBERS" section showing "71 Members" with profile pictures, and a "DESCRIPTION" section that says "QCCC Members Only" and "Members are encouraged to use the page for al... See More".



Cruisin' the Carolinas since 1968

**March 11, 2017 Business Meeting
Announcement**

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

Streetside Classics

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 new showroom. 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. Visit them at www.streetsideclassics.com.

Streetside has moved to their new location in Concord (as of Sept. 1). They have an additional ten thousand square feet of space for more car inventory and more room for our meetings. The new address is -

**800 Derita Road
Concord, NC
Easy access via Poplar Tent Road or Concord Mills
704-598-2130**

*****REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS*****

Social Time: 4:00 pm

Meeting Time: 5:00 pm