



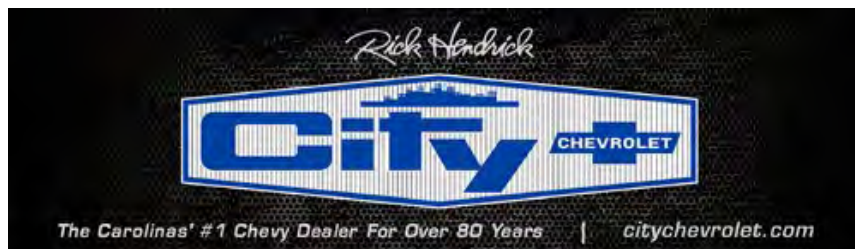
# THE QUEEN CITY CORVETTE GAZETTE

*Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club*

**June 2017**



**May Business Meeting—Corvettes in the Round  
Hopewell Presbyterian Church  
May 13, 2017**



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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 electronically published and distributed monthly by volunteers and members of QCCC. Additional information regarding QCCC is available at our website: [www.queencitycorvette.com](http://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](mailto: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*

Wow. I (and many of you) were thinking just a few weeks ago, when will the nice weather get here. When can I get out the Corvette and drive with the wind in my hair (or hers, if he has little to none), and feel sunshine while hearing beautiful exhaust noise. We had some warm weather in February and March (?) and cool weather in the real spring. But finally, here we are. All we have to worry about are thunderstorms. But Corvettes can outrun those, so what's the worry? My only concern is now the calendar is going too fast.

Here comes the great June meeting and dinner at the Speedway Club. Then comes the Earnhardt show, the Adams Car Care Clinic the next weekend. And it's already July 4<sup>th</sup>, but there will be a huge group of QCCC cars at the Troutman parade.

My point is, why does time go so fast when we are finally having some real fun? Come on calendar, slow down just a little so we can savor these times. Winter goes so slow, and summer seems to really zip by. The only true way to counter that is to participate in every QCCC activity that you can. So then, next winter, with your feet kicked up in front of the fire, you can sit back and think about all the great things you did with your Corvette and your QCCC friends during the summer of '17. That's the way to solve all your seasonal "disorders".

If you are able to attend, please remember the Victory Lane car show on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Yes, same day as our meeting, but starts at noon. You can attend this show at Twin Peaks in Concord, then come to the Speedway Club for our meeting. It's a drive of just a few minutes between the locations. We want to support our sister clubs as much as we can. Details are on our web site calendar.

Looking forward to seeing a large group of smiling QCCC members Saturday. It will be a great day to create one more of those unforgettable experiences. Another opportunity for you to -

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## Queen City Corvette Club Discount Pricing Rick Hendrick City Chevrolet

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- 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.

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# LIFE IN THE FAST LANE



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

## Memorial Day ushers in the start of Summer

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

Memorial Day has come and gone, the excellent Shelton Vineyards event is over for another year, and Summer is blasting in with its usual hot NC temperatures.

How and where did Memorial Day start? Originally called Decoration Day, it is a day of remembrance for those who gave their lives in the service of our country. Memorial Day was born out of the Civil War and a desire to honor those fallen dead. Its original official day was set as May 30<sup>th</sup> but later transitioned to the last Monday in May. The first year of its celebration was May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1868.

Memorial Day brings Summer and Summer brings vacations. Many of our club members have already begun their summer vacations, some short, some long, so nearby, some across country.

Just as Summer brings vacations, it brings many car events for us to choose from. Take a few minutes and review the QCCC event calendar, we have many activities planned for members. You can also google "NC area car shows" and you will be swamped with choices of shows, cruise-ins, and events. There really is something for everybody.

Summer brings area events that many club members like to participate in. Dale Earnhardt Chevrolet has a show that QCCC attends each year, and Victory Lane Corvettes has a show in its second year at Concord Mills Mall. Information for both of these events are on our club event calendar.

Summer brings the Troutman Fourth of July Parade, Beach Music and Vettes in Wilkesboro and of course, our Tailgate and Ball Game Event at Kannapolis Intimidators Stadium. All info is available on our club calendar. So many events and activities to join, participate and celebrate. Make your Summer of 2017 one to celebrate and remember.

## Quotes about Summer

*Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August.*

Jenny Han, 'The Summer I turned Pretty'

*The summer night is like a perfection of thought.*

Wallace Stevens, 'The House was Quiet and the World was Calm'



*Summertime is always the best of what might be.*

Charles Bowden

*I felt like summer had taken me over.*

Junot Diaz, ‘This is How You Lose Her’

Summer bring the best season of the year, and I hope yours is enjoyable. Summer’s pretty hard to top, so I’ll close. Remember,

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

*Gary, Gwen and Snickers, the Airplane Chaser*



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:*

#### **June**

2-3	Corvettes at Myrtle Beach - <a href="#">Overview</a>	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>
10	QCCC Business Meeting - Speedway Club - <a href="#">Dinner After Meeting</a>	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>
10	Corvettes @ The Peaks	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>
17	Dale Earnhardt Chevrolet Car Show	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>
24	Blackstone shooting Sports Event	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>
24	Street Side Classics Cars and Coffee Cruise In	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>

#### **July**

1	Troutman Independence Day Parade and Celebration	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>
8	QCCC Business Meeting - SRI Performance	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>
29	Summer Laps for Charity - Charlotte Motor Speedway	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>
29	Street Side Classics Cars and Coffee Cruise In	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>

#### **August**

12	QCCC Birthday & Business Meeting - Hendrick Motor Sports	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>
19	Beach Music and Vettes	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>
24-27	Corvettes at Carlisle	On Your Own
26	Combined Corvette Club Tailgate and Baseball Game	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>
26	Street Side Classics Cars and Coffee Cruise In	<a href="#">Details &amp; Information</a>
8/30-9/03	National Corvette Museum - Anniversary Celebration & Hall of Fame Induction	See Paul Mariano







## **From the Automotive Director's Desk**

~ Brian Kruse

I'm going to devote the first part of my musing to a big thanks to Tommy Loftin for stepping up and chairing our fall show. Those that attended the May member meeting heard Tommy calmly describe the detail he delivered to get this show off the ground. The QCCC Board of Directors trudged through a lot of confusion and reticence on the part of Bloomington Gold to pin a date. Fortunately, Paul Mitchell spent endless hours coaxing the concept forward. He succeeded in negotiating an agreement on the appropriate contribution of QCCC and BG.

I sat on the sidelines and admit I wasn't the best at cheering the concept on. In fact when I did speak up, my impression was that trying to partner with BG was a fool's errand and we should have a back-up plan. Luckily, the BOD was kind to me and politely kept up the force through my misgivings.

I'll not apologize for speaking up, somebody has to be wrong so that those that are right can validate their position. Those of you know that in the business world know when there is no opposing view, a concept going forward it is more likely to fail. By then, with no opposition, everyone has already had a sip of the success Kool-Aid.

For those that don't know me well, I'm addicted to G-forces. We call ourselves G-junkies and we get our kicks from being slammed around in a car on a track or a curvy road. I like to drive around with my best friend, and life partner, Barb. This requires great restraint on my part, as she does not enjoy "G's" as do I. We sometimes do so in a slightly dingy C6. We picked Cyber gray for the main reason that grime would not show on it. Truth be known, I would consider enduring a root-canal procedure over a show ready waxing of a car.

Partaking of G's is somewhat akin to acquiring a taste for good sippin' whisky. Most normal humans "shun the shot"; the bitter fire of rye whisky is a once-and-done-it proposition. However, IF a person finds the experience not so noxious, the second and any subsequent "gouge" becomes more worthy of consumption.

Straying from the Corvette theme a bit I will tell you what my Dad would often say:

"Whisky, like wine, men and bird dogs sometimes improve with age. However, some whiskeys, wines, men and bird dogs are great when they are young, but spoil as they age. Some whiskeys, wines, men and bird dogs have little to offer when they are young, but become great as they age. Other whiskeys, like some wines, men and bird dogs are no good regardless of age"

Notice nothing was said about the ladies. He always gave great respect and love for my mom, so I think he felt women would not be included in his statement.



I know he was quite proud of what I became, though I felt he couldn't predict the outcome when I was a teenager. He had a saying that he would occasionally quote (I think hoping I would get some subliminal message):

“Never brag about your shooting, your bird dog or your child, each will probably let you down right after the brag”

I wonder if the same holds true with cars? How about bragging on your driving ability? Old C-H I mentioned in last month's article might pay heed to my dad's second quote.

My dad was the person that endowed me with an interest in cars. My first, a '57 Chevy 2-door post, was purchased by me for \$100 in the spring of 1964. I had saved for it since the winter before when I got my driver's license. It had a 6-cylinder engine and a “3 on-the-tree”. Savin' a hundred bucks back then probably like a youngster trying to save \$1,000 these days. It wasn't long after transfer of title and a bit of driving, I found that at the service station my saying was “fill the oil, check the gas”. It would give a great puff of smoke upon cold start, and again once it warmed up.

Dad said it was probably valve seals and we could fix it ourselves. All I needed was a set of seals and a valve cover gasket. When we tore the rocker arms off, we found the rocker arm shafts were badly worn, so that meant a trip to the junkyard to find a good set. Finding rocker shafts not worn is a look and drop proposition. Dad got stung by a wasp when he lifted the hood of one car looking for “Excalibur”. After we found the shafts we needed, which we paid maybe \$2 for each and \$6 for the seals and rocker arm cover. That little job was 10% of the car price!!!. Dad had a homemade tool for compressing the valve springs. Job done and back on the road.

Dial forward to just before school started in the fall. By then, the transmission would pop out of second gear. So, he and I dropped the transmission out of the car, took it apart, determined the cause, and fixed it. By then I was pretty much getting into gear head stuff. Like any car guy I was always looking for the next car. Corvettes were just really cool cars that you could see once in a while on the road, or on in a showroom of a dealer. Owning one way, way beyond any dream. However, I was able to trade that '57 for a 1962 Corvair. At least the first four letters are the same.

That was a fun car! I became a member of the local Corvair club and got introduced to autocrossing. What a thrill that was. Corvairs had their engine in the rear, so the weight distribution was totally different than any other car. I autocrossed nearly every weekend. Now when you autocross a car even more stuff breaks. So now, dad and I were treating blown head gaskets, replacing clutches, suspension system parts, etc. By then, my income being what it was, dad subsidized my need for parts, and we enjoyed many evenings together getting the car ready.

So much for nostalgia. Not sure how the last couple paragraphs relate to the Corvette world. I thought I would share a bit of my car history for your reading enjoyment.

Brian

# Membership Directors Report

*Paul Schmitt*



**"Building a GREAT Corvette Club One Member at a Time"**



***Please Welcome Our Newest Members!***

**David & Michelle Hook**

**Tega Cay, South Carolina**

**1971 Corvette- 350 Cu.in.**



**Carl & BJ Belfiore**

**Mt. Gilead, North Carolina**

**1979 Corvette- Red**

**Hobbies- Car Clubs**





## **Gary & Linda Spencer**

**Denver, North Carolina**

**1975 Corvette Coupe- Blue- (original owner)**

**2017 Corvette Grand Sport- Collector's Edition Coupe**

**Hobbies: SCORE Mentoring Club in Charlotte, Gardening, Baking**

### **Membership-**

Total Members: 343

Total Families: 182

NEW Members in 2017: 12

Prospective Members: 35

### **Care & Compassion-**

I have added a **"SYMPATHY"** section on the QCCC Care site. This is for listing QCCC Members we have lost or our members who have lost family: parents, siblings, extended family.

**Please continue to pray for the Bob Denney family, Florence Prather family, Norm Lontz family, and the Laura Pelchat family.**

I will have Care & Compassion forms at EVERY meeting. If you know of someone who should be on the list please see me or visit the QCCC website under CARE bowtie.

### **JUNE EVENTS**

**June 17<sup>th</sup> Dale Earnhardt Car Show**

**June 24<sup>th</sup> Streetside Classics - Cars & Coffee**

**June 24<sup>th</sup> Blackstone Shooting Event- QCCC Members**

**July 1<sup>st</sup> Troutman NC July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade**

**July 8<sup>th</sup> QCCC Meeting Location- SRI Performance Inc.**

**Paul Schmitt**

**Membership Director- QCCC**



## National Corvette Museum



### NCM CORNER

One down – one to go. Trips to the NCM this year that is. I have rooms blocked at the Hilton Garden Inn and am starting my list before sending out the registration instructions. Our rate remains at \$115.00 plus tax per night. Free cooked breakfast as usual. Let me know as soon as possible if you want a room and a seat at the reserved table for the Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremonies. It will be first come, first served on the table seating as I have to buy multiples of five couples to secure a full table.

The inductees this year are Tommy Morrison, Jim Minneker, and Peter Brock. If you know who these gentlemen are, you don't want to miss it. If you don't know who they are, then you need to be there. This group of inductees is truly an elite selection. If the HOF ceremonies aren't enough, there will be plenty of seminars, tours and action at the Motor Sports Park. The Go Kart track will be up and running and an introductory course in Track Rattin' will be offered. So what's holding you back?

By the time you read this you will still have time to sign up and attend the 24 Hours of LeMans viewing party at the NCM on June 17/18. If you have a penchant to inflict self-pain for self-pleasure (that sort of sounds perverse doesn't it?) you can watch the entire race on the big screen while enjoying food, drink and the company of other Corvette race maniacs. The NCM is only one of three locations (Berlin and Tokyo being the others) that will be getting the direct feed from the LeMans circuit. Several of our QCCC members have already signed up for the torture so why not join them to lend aid, comfort and support for them and to cheer on the Corvette racing team to another 2017 victory?

I'm sure everyone knows by now that the plant tours have closed for eighteen months but if you are planning on a museum delivery for your new Corvette, don't worry. Once deliveries restart in the fall timeframe, museum deliveries will also begin again. You won't be able to get a plant tour at that time, but you will get a chit for a plant tour when they resume. In the meanwhile, tours of other venues will be offered to make the experience as gratifying as ever. Don't pass up the fun.

Save the Wave

Paul Mariano  
NCM Ambassador

### BOX SCORE

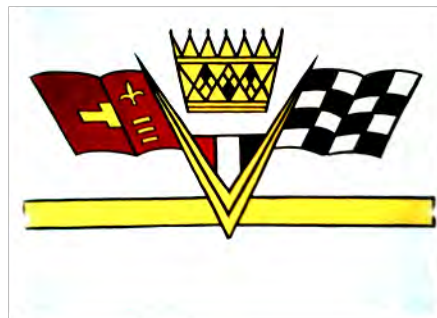
No. of QCCC Family Units	181
No. of NCM Members	104 (57.5%)
No. of Lifetime Members	41
No. of Duntov Society Members	4
No. of Spire Members	4

# *Vintage QCCC*

With the Vintage Gang:

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

**More “Adventures” from QCCC of Decades Past**



## **YOU NEVER KNOW...**

If you spend 8 hours sitting in a folding chair behind your old car at car shows, you have the opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people. Most have simple questions about the car or comments about one like it from their past: “My uncle had one of those that would pull the wheels in all four gears.” Anyway, it is an interesting way to spend a day, and after showing the same car for over 40 years I thought I had heard it all.

But at the most recent Auto Fair a pretty young lady with several youngsters asked who owned the ‘64 coupe and was directed to me. She said, “My grandfather designed that car.” I had never heard that one before. Maybe he was a member of the staff in St. Louis in 1964, or worked for GM in Detroit, but design the car? That's a bold statement! So I asked: “Who was your grandfather?” Her reply was something I wasn't expecting: BILL MITCHELL! I jumped out of my chair! Bill Mitchell was head of styling and one of the Babe Ruths of the Corvette and General Motors world during the fabulous 50's, 60's and 70's. His influence on the cars of that era is legendary. During his forty two years with GM, he was responsible for many iconic vehicle designs that still “wow” us today. Look it up!

Bill's granddaughter Wendy introduced us to the rest of her group which included her mother, (Bill Mitchell's daughter), Lynne, Lynne's husband Art, Wendy's 13 year old son Benjamin, 10 year old daughter Marli and Benjamin's friend Hunter. Lynne and Art had moved to Kannapolis to be close to their daughter and her family that live in Cornelius. Lynne had read about the Auto Fair and thought it might be an opportunity to let the grandchildren learn a little bit more about their great-grandfather and see examples of the cars he was so instrumental in designing.

Jeff Barrett, a Corvette owner, Corvair collector, historian and restorer, served as tour guide. Jeff had developed a special friendship with Lynne since he was instrumental in restoring her original Corvair that her dad had given her on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. The special 1960 Corvair two door coupe had a sun roof, pearl blue paint and many other custom modifications. It was featured in car magazines as the “Super Monza” and now belongs to the Corvair Preservation Foundation. It was interesting to learn from Jeff how active the local and national Corvair clubs are and how dedicated they are to their cars and its history.

Lynne said her father had a special connection with Corvettes and had one modified for her mom with an automatic transmission and had the driver's seat moved up because she was too short to reach the pedals. And of course we have all heard about the ‘63 coupe's split window that Bill loved and fought to save. But, after customer complaints about visibility, and an order from upstairs, the divided rear window was removed for the rest of the C2 run.

Several QCCC members met the Mitchell's descendants that day and found them to be a delightful family that appreciated the rich history that Bill had left on the automotive world. He had taken building cars into an art form. It was certainly a pleasure to meet them all and be able to tell them how much we all appreciate the contributions that Bill Mitchell and his staff made to the cars that we love.

We hope that establishing this connection with Lynne and her family will lead to us having them as special guests at a QCCC event where they can see first-hand the appreciation we all have for her father's art. And we hope Jeff and his fellow Corvair enthusiasts join us at our big all-Chevy show October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Hanging out at the Auto Fair show can result in meeting some VERY interesting people. You never know.

Travis Meredith, *historian*





## ***From Track to Street***

# **CORVETTE RACING AT LE MANS: All About Preparation**

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### **CORVETTE RACING AT LE MANS: All About Preparation**

*Team eager for eight hours of track time ahead attempt at eighth class win*

- Corvette Racing to make 18th consecutive appearance at Le Mans
- Garcia, Magnussen, Taylor reunite in No. 63 Corvette
- Gavin, Milner, Fässler try to add Le Mans to last year's Daytona, Sebring wins
- Team conducted two-day private test at Road America in advance of Le Mans

**DETROIT** (June 1, 2017) – Corvette Racing has returned to France for the first steps toward what it hopes is a ninth class victory in 18 consecutive appearances at the famed 24 Hours of Le Mans. The annual Le Mans Test Day on Sunday will give the team – and the rest of the field – eight hours of track time ahead of the twice-round-the-clock event.

The Test Day is broken up into a pair of four-hour sessions around the 8.5-mile Circuit de la Sarthe, which is a mix of permanent race track and public roads. It will allow Corvette Racing to validate findings from its own test at Road America earlier this month. All six drivers for the Le Mans program – Antonio Garcia, Jan Magnussen, Oliver Gavin, Tommy Milner, Jordan Taylor and Marcel Fässler – sampled the Mobil 1/SiriusXM Chevrolet Corvette C7.Rs in low-downforce trim and on Michelin tires specific for Le Mans.

With a number of positive developments from the test in-hand, focus turned toward making final preparations on the two Corvettes and sending them – as well as a collection of equipment – to Europe. As Corvette Racing has learned in nearly two decades, proper prep can only help in a race the magnitude of Le Mans. It certainly has helped the team win three straight events in the IMSA

WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, where it leads the Manufacturer's, Driver's and Team championships in the GT Le Mans class.

Also helpful is the success that Corvette Racing has experienced in its previous 17 years. That includes eight class victories and a combined 18 wins for the six drivers.

Garcia, Magnussen and Taylor reunite together in the No. 63 Corvette C7.R for the first time since 2014 when they finished second together in the GTE Pro class. Gavin, Milner and Fässler – who share the No. 64 Corvette – have driven together for the last two years in IMSA's premier endurance events with victories last season in the Rolex 24 At Daytona and Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring.

Following the Le Mans Test Day, Corvette Racing will complete final preparations for the 24 Hours of Le Mans on June 17-18.

**ANTONIO GARCIA, NO. 63 MOBIL 1/SiriusXM CHEVROLET CORVETTE C7.R:**

"There is always something to learn in testing from previous years. Once again this year, we have learned and improved on some items. We ran through a few new ideas and ways on how to make the car faster around Le Mans, and getting used to the low downforce configuration. All the drivers were happy afterward and we were all fairly consistent. I still think we can optimize things a little more. I feel really good driving our car. I think I'm at my best at the current moment. But I hope there is more room to improve and make a little more difference to the team as I can. Every day I keep focusing on trying to go a little bit faster."

**JAN MAGNUSSEN, NO. 63 MOBIL 1/SiriusXM CHEVROLET CORVETTE C7.R:**

"What's most useful from a test like Road America is that you get to run through the same setups that you run at Le Mans. That way it isn't a huge shock to the system on how the car behaves when you get to Le Mans and the Test Day. We were all quite comfortable in the direction that we are going. Everyone was pretty happy. But Le Mans is Le Mans. We don't know what will be thrown at us when we get there. We're well-prepared. There is a good feeling within the team of what we can do. Whether that will be good enough, only time will tell. We are all anxious to get going to see what kind of race it will be for us."

**JORDAN TAYLOR, NO. 63 MOBIL 1/SiriusXM CHEVROLET CORVETTE C7.R:**

"The test at Road America went really well. I only get to drive the Corvette a couple of times a year, so any track time is beneficial. It's a little bit of an adjustment. But having guys like Antonio and Jan with me, it's easy to look at their data and get an idea of what I need to do to get back up to speed. The whole team has been great working with me on that. But having two days at Road America was huge. It was great preparation and I felt really comfortable in the car after those days. I feel like I'm the best prepared I've ever been heading to Le Mans."

**OLIVER GAVIN, NO. 64 MOBIL 1/SiriusXM CHEVROLET CORVETTE C7.R:**

"The test at Road America was very positive. Everyone got lots of time on different specs of the Michelin tire. All the feedback was positive and heading in the right direction. Fundamentally the team is well-prepared. We seem to be in a really good spot in the way the team is running the races; there is good communication and data transfer across the cars, which is excellent. We've had Marcel in

the car for Daytona and Sebring, and that has worked out very well the last couple years. The team has won three races in a row, and bringing that into Le Mans is only a good thing."

**TOMMY MILNER, NO. 64 MOBIL 1/SiriusXM CHEVROLET CORVETTE C7.R:** "There are always a lot of variables that go into Le Mans – track surfaces, weather and things like that. You're never sure what you have until you get there. That's why the Test Day is so valuable. I think we all came away from our test happy with how our car felt and we're feeling pretty happy with our starting point for the Test Day. The engineers have done a great job with the package for the car this year and making it as nice to drive as possible for being in low downforce."

**MARCEL FÄSSLER, NO. 64 MOBIL 1/SiriusXM CHEVROLET CORVETTE C7.R:** "It was definitely different driving the car in the low downforce kit (at Road America). In the beginning, it was not too easy to get used to. How you approach corners is much different, but I have to say the car did feel very good. For Le Mans, it's almost like I have a new track to learn ahead of this race. So many of the corners will feel completely different (than in a prototype). The fast corners like the Porsche Curves will be a different approach. With a GT car, you are moving more and braking more than I am used to. There are other corners that will be different as well."

**DOUG FEHAN, CORVETTE RACING PROGRAM MANAGER:** "We are heading back to Le Mans for our 19th consecutive time, and it is always such an honor to compete there. The importance of what this event represents is something that isn't lost on anyone at Corvette Racing. This isn't just a race but a true event, and it is what we work toward all year long. The Test Day is important for everyone – the drivers, engineers, crew – to reacclimate themselves with the challenges Le Mans brings every year. We have positioned ourselves for what we hope is a trouble-free Test Day, and then we can turn our attention to preparing for the world's greatest endurance race."

You have a perfect opportunity to see a race near Charlotte. VIR is coming in August and the Corvette Corral is not yet sold out. Better hurry though as it usually sells out. You can drive up Sunday morning and see the race and be home by 10:00PM so you can get to work Monday.

You ask what is there to do besides seeing good racing at my favorite track. Visit the vendors, get free stuff, see the drivers, do the grid walk. See all of the cars up close and personal. Meet some great people. Have a ball.

See you at the next Corvette Race.

*Boyd Kurt*





QCCC

# GARAGE OF THE MONTH

AND/OR CORVETTE CAVE

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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.

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## QCCC Garage/Corvette Cave of the Month for June

### Brian and Barbara's Garage Story

I've always been a maker, builder, fixer, mechanic, electrician, and tinkerer. Barb has been very tolerant of these weaknesses and, of course supported me for many, many years. Most of you know, we moved to Charlotte in 1983 three daughters, household furniture, and 2 classic Corvairs. One was a 1964 convertible that belonged to my dad. He gave it to me when I was in school at the University of Tennessee studying engineering. Barb and I used that car as transportation; we didn't have a lot of cash flowing into the household, The GI bill, and whatever I could make welding and fixing things. Slowly and eventually our fortunes improved; I finished graduate school and took a faculty position as a research associate at the University.

The 1964 convertible became a restoration project. By then, Barb and I had bought a split-foyer home in Halls (a suburb of Knoxville). I used my excess energy and cash to bring that old ragtop back to its former glory. As that restoration was complete, a 1966 Corvair Corsa coupe fell into my hands. I got the car and the title in exchange for rebuilding a Corvair engine for another enthusiast. Getting the car home involved cutting down a cedar tree that had grown through a hole in the driver's floor pan and found its way out the driver's window. Remarkably, the window was intact.

Making a short story long, I took about a year restoring that Corsa and what a beauty. Ronnie Cooper of Cooper Corvette fame in Knoxville painted it (he also taught me how to do body work) in exchange for..... well, let's just say I did a small project in exchange for the paint job.

Working at the University had some really great perks. The Prof I worked for brought me into his side consulting business. Going from blue jeans to a 3-piece suit, well the income was substantially higher. By then Barb and I had a stable of 4 cars: a new 1981 Olds Cutlass diesel (yes, I'm a sucker for the junk GM builds), Barb had a Volkswagen Rabbit, and of course the 2 Corvairs.

The time came for Brian to move on. There is another long story, but basically I shuffled out my resume and quicker than overnight mail, Duke (Power back then) made me an offer I could not refuse.

So, we packed up like the Beverly Hillbillies and headed to Charlotte. We bought a little house in Olde Providence (WITH a BIG, BIG garage). Well with growing children into every sport and school activity imaginable, car time took a back seat and over the course of a couple years, the Corvairs were sold and forgotten. There simply was not time for that hobby.

The years passed; new hobbies came and went, kids went to school, married and had their own kids. I was traveling a lot, running large projects for Duke, when Duke up and sold the division I was in to another company. That came with an offer to relocate to Virginia. The new company liked me better on the road than in the office, so I found myself in Paducah, Kentucky running a project. I think my political-office skills are better suited to places where no one knows me. I only got to go home once a month, so on the weekends, I would explore western Kentucky. One trip found me in Bowling Green visiting the NCM. Well, that visit started the car furnace (the pilot light was always lit) and my calls home to my long-suffering wife started to center on "hey whaddya think about us getting a Corvette???"

If you are still reading and not too bored, I will reveal that about two weeks after I started the dialog, I found a really nice silver C5 ragtop. Barb gave the nod, and we (well I bought it with verbal permission) became the proud owners.

We made many long trips in that car, as far west as Colorado in one trip. Time came to sell it and buy the 2011 GS we still have. Shortly after that we bought the Y2K FRC. Both resided happily in our garage.

Well, having 2 Corvettes necessitated installing a 4-post lift in our Virginia home. Things were crowded, but I did manage to take the Y2K and modify it for track duty.

Dial ahead to 2012. I'm at VIR running the Y2K when my bosses' bosses' boss calls me. Even though I was down the food chain organizationally, we knew each other well. He called asking what I was up to. At the time, I was burning off "comp time" which I accumulated along with the project completion bonuses. He asked if I would like to go on a long term assignment. I said "no", I'm going to retire at the end of the year and Barb and I are moving back to Charlotte. Well, he had (what I call) a really big turd to polish, and he said if I would go down there, with a big can of PROJECT BRASSO, some rags, etc., he would pay my relocation to Charlotte AND throw some more money at me. Of course, like most of us, anything that isn't immoral, illegal, or really bad for our health, and involves money, I said yes. Whoosh!! I was gone, stuff moved to Charlotte, and here we are.

Now for the garage story; which is what you read this far to find out. Barb and I moved to Overlook renting a house with a 3-car garage. Our plan was to find THAT house. The Overlook house wasn't it, though a very nice house to say the least. Our search was for one with a downstairs bedroom, nice neighborhood 3-car garage AND room for a detached garage. Do you know how friggin' hard it is to find something like that? Well, after looking at over 100 places, we finally landed here on McILWAINE. We had joined QCCC and were beginning to make new Corvette friends.

We were at an UpYonder dinner and met John and Helen. At the time, Barb and I were in the middle of moving our stuff out of the Overlook house to the new house. The garage was 90% complete, in the dry and waiting for a little more work and final inspection. After meeting John, he asked what I was doing. My reply was "workin' like a rented mule" moving all our crap the movers won't touch to our new house. John made the big big mistake of offering to help. I took him up on it and he spent the next week helping us move. About the time we finished moving the junk, the garage was finished.

Since the plan all along was to have a 4-post on the house side and a 2-post lift in the garagemahal, John and I headed to Greensboro to buy 2 lifts. John and I are a lot alike, we will spend a King's ransom for something, and do it ourselves even though it would be cheaper and more time-effective to hire it done. We unloaded lifted set up aligned and put into service both lifts. Along the way, John and I wired the garage, insulated it, and the winter of 2013, we christened the garagemahal by bolting a hundred ponies to the Y2K (laymen's terms: we modified the engine).

Later that year, John and I hung all the drywall then with the help of Bill Miller, painted it. Later that year, John and I epoxied the floor. My daughter, Jennifer did some decorating posters, etc, and that is where it is today. It was designed as a working garage, not a shrine, so the floors have ground in oil. John and I spend a lot of time in it, working on our rides and occasionally fixing the Corvettes of other QCCC members. My estimate is that probably 50 QCCC Corvettes have been in the garage for one reason or another. When the C7's first came out, Wade Stickels was the first one on the lift. It was fun to see what GM had changed from the C6's.



It is a great retirement hideout. May not be the prettiest or the neatest. I would say it is a reliable draft horse, not a fancy show horse. There have been a lot of laughs and grins at the car-care days, and I look forward to hosting more.

- Brian

So now you have the story of Brian and Barbara's garages. Remember, we vote in November for garage of the year. So far:

Trav and Sharon

Henri and Henrietta

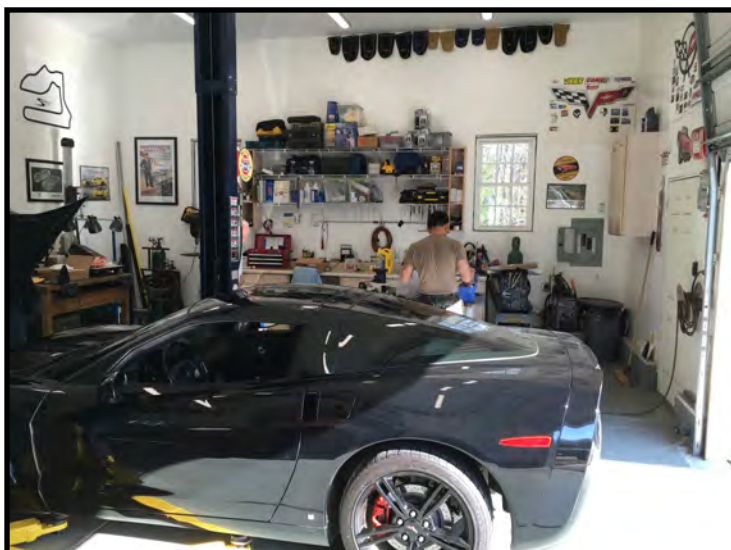
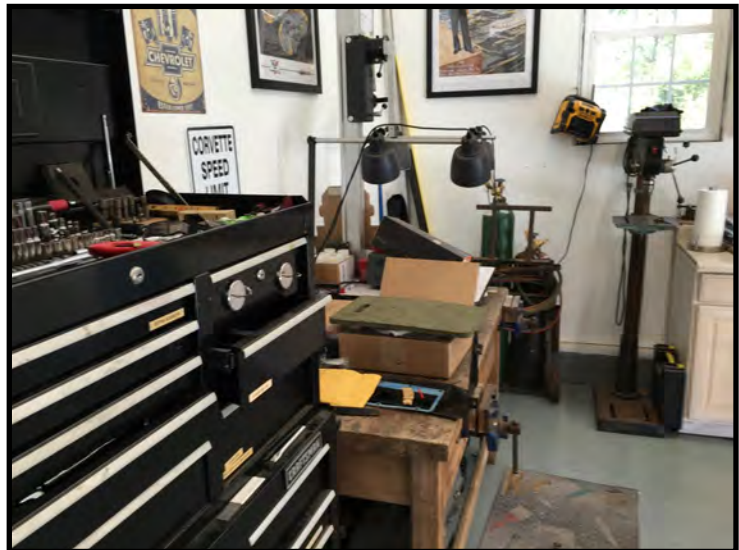
Bob and Benita

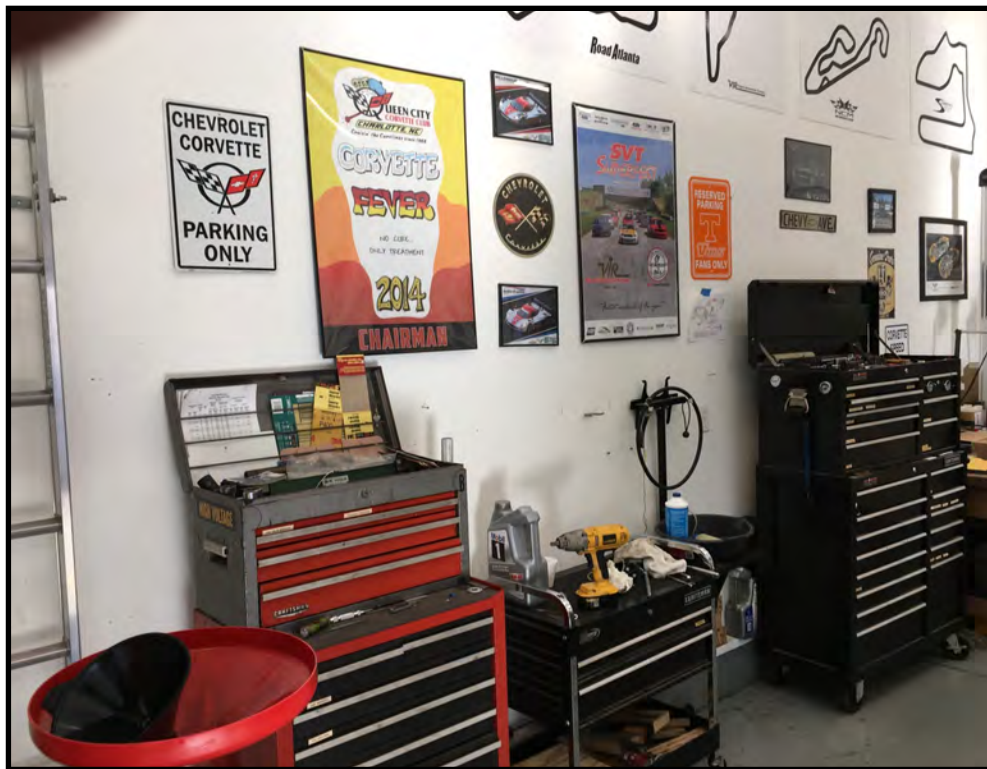
Bill and Julia

Darrell and Rosalie

Brian and Barbara

Submitted by: Bill Cruthis













## *QCCC Members & Guests Photos*

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

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*Please send an email to [photo@queencitycorvette.com](mailto:photo@queencitycorvette.com) to let Karin know there are pictures recently loaded to the member upload gallery and to which event the photos apply.*





## IN MEMORIAM



### **Robert Dewain Denney**

May 28, 1937 - May 10, 2017

Robert Denney, 79, of Mooresville, passed away on Wednesday, May 10, 2017.

He was born on May 28, 1937 in Ft. Wayne, IN. Mr. Denney enjoyed the Queen City Corvette Club where he has been a member since 1995. Bob enjoyed picture taking and served as one of the Clubs photographers.

Bob was preceded in death by his loving pet, Doodles. His second pet was a black Pomeranian named Richie. Richie knew that he was King of the domain. Richie will reside with Mrs. Sandy Welsh till his death.

He is survived by two daughters, Rhonda Peacock of Port Huron, MI, Renea Metzger of Hanford, WA; and son, Rodney Denney of Scottsdale, AZ. Bob's most special friend was Mrs. Sandy Welsh who he shared many lovely memories. Bob also enjoyed many friends from the Club that he cherished very much.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, June 4 from 1:00-3:00 pm at Heritage House of Cavin-Cook Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Piedmont Veterans Assistance Council (PVAC), 1007 Briarcliff Road, Mooresville, NC 28115 and/or the Humane Society of Lake Norman, 110 Robinson Rd, Mooresville, NC 28117.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, is serving the Denney family. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).



Born: May 28, 1937  
Death: May 10, 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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/409674005715403/)**



**QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB**  
CHARLOTTE, NC

QCCC Members  
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**RECENT ACTIVITY**

**Jamie K Stamey**  
Yesterday at 12:58pm

Have you seen the updated list of Top Tier gas retailers? Check into [www.TopTierGas.com](http://www.TopTierGas.com) periodically to keep up with changes. (Top Tier gas

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+ Enter name or email address

**MEMBERS** 71 Members

**DESCRIPTION** Edit  
QCCC Members Only

Members are encouraged to use the page for all... See More

**GROUP TYPE**



## **June 10, 2017 Business Meeting** **Announcement**

### **Speedway Club**

**At Charlotte Motor Speedway**  
**555 Concord Parkway South**  
**Concord NC 28027**

**More details to come**

### **PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF TIMES**

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

**Meeting Time: 5:30 pm**

*Looking forward to seeing everyone there!*