## The

## Queen City

## **Corvette Gazette**

Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

## January 11, 2020

## QCCC Monthly Meeting

## & Chili Cook-Off

4:00 PM Social, Chili Taste Testing & Voting (\$1.00 per ballot)

5:00 PM Dinner – Hot Dogs (\$1.00) , Chili, Sides, Desserts, Water

6:00 PM Meeting and Chili-Cookoff Awards

DETAILS: RSVP by January 8, 2020 to Paulandchristineschmitt@gmail.com

Sign up to Attend \* Sign up to enter Chili \* Sign up to bring a Side or Dessert

LOCATION:

Hopewell Presbyterian Church

10100 Beatties Ford Road Huntersville, NC, 28078





January 2020

**CHARLOTTE, NC** Cruisin' the Carolinas since 1968



2019 Board of Directors and Staff			
President	Paul Mitchell		
Vice President	Richard Gwilt		
Treasurer	Craig Smith		
Secretary	Carolyn Zimmer		
Social Director	Donna Berst		
Automotive Director	Roger Winge		
Membership Director	Paul Schmitt		
Member-At-Large	Carl Bartlett		
QCCC Car Show Director	Tommy Loftin		
Newsletter Editor	Donna Berst		
Directory & Database	Paul Pelkey		
Webmaster	Roger Winge		
NCM Ambassador	Paul Mariano		
Club Photographers	Brian & Michelle Moore, Mike & Karin Mariano, Gerry Leppert and Mal Speer		
Historian	Travis Meredith		
Charity	Fred Rice		
Facebook Coordinator	Jamie Hinson		
Primary Sponsor Liaison	Keith Cross		

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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 . 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 <a href="https://queencitycorvette.com/?page\_id=330">https://queencitycorvette.com/?page\_id=330</a> 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

Happy New Year to all Queen City Corvette Club members! Your 2020 Board is ready to get the year rolling. We look forward to our new Board Members, Dick Gwilt as Vice President, Donna Berst as Social Chair, and Carl Bartlett as Member at Large. These new members are ready and willing to continue the exciting and winning ways of QCCC. We have already made plans for activities to get involved with, and we look forward to your usual excellent participation.

We start with the January meeting and chili cook-off, and the next meeting is our annual Valentine Dinner and meeting at the VFW, which is always a fun place. And right after that is the highlight of the year, the Awards Banquet on March 7. We again will have an excellent dinner at the Speedway Club, presentation of awards, and fantastic entertainment by Too Much Sylvia. This will be the first, biggest, and best party of the new decade. You don't want to miss this, so sign up at the upcoming meetings.

QCCC will again have several members at the upcoming Rolex 24 Hour race in Daytona the last weekend of this month. We will be cheering on the brand new C8.R Corvettes against the always challenging competition. And we plan to again bring home the award for the Corvette Club with the most members at the Corvette Corral.

We are in for a few weeks of cold and potentially nasty weather, so the cars are snuggled up in the garages for now. Be patient and stay warm, and we will be on the roads soon. That's when we can do what we do best.....

Love 'em, drive 'em, cherish 'em. It'll make you and your car smile.

Social Scene



## SOCIAL DIRECTOR

~ Donna Berst ~

Happy New Year!

It's a time for new beginnings and QCCC is no different.

As your 2020 Social Director I would like to encourage each of you to share ideas & suggestions you may have for YOUR club's social events this year! We will again, have individual coordinators for many of our meeting parties, trips and events.

Contact me if you enjoy decorating & party planning!

donnaberst@windstream.net

A huge thanks to Carolyn Zimmer for a year packed with fun events! You made 2019 memorable!

Thank you to Christine & Paul Schmitt for starting this year off right with our 8th Annual Chili Cook Off! This is their 4th year of putting this great event on! Hot! Hot! Hot!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<sup>9</sup> January 11th: Chili Cook Off & Meeting at Hopewell Presbyterian Church DETAILS: RSVP by January 8, 2020 to Paulandchristineschmitt@gmail.com

Sign up to Attend • Sign up to enter Chili • Sign up to bring a Side or Dessert



February 8th: Valentine's Party & Meeting

Indian Trail VFW Post

• Dinner catered by Rossini's (cost TBD) RSVP by 2/02/2020



March 7th: QCCC 2019 Awards Banquet

Charlotte Motor Speedway Club

Dinner (cost TBD), Awards and live music by Too Much Sylvia!
 Mark your calendars you don't want to miss this fun filled evening!



May 15th through 17th, 2020 - QCCC Maggie Valley Overnighter

See next page for details

### **DINNERS & LUNCHEONS**

### Weekly Wednesday Night Dinners (typically restaurants in South Charlotte)

- Every Wednesday unless otherwise notified
- Information is sent out via a BLAST
- Contact Jane Burt for more information or if you would like to plan a Dinner <u>fab4fan@carolina.rr.com</u>

Up-Yonder Dinner (typically restaurants in North Charlotte/Lake Norman area)

- Last Monday of the month
- Information sent via a BLAST
- Contact Tracey Comfort for more information <u>comfortangel90@gmail.com</u>

### Ladies' Thursday Luncheon

- The 3rd Thursday of the month
- Location information is sent via email
- Contact Peggy Wood to be added to the email list <u>chrisowood@att.net</u>

### Men's Thursday Luncheon

- The 3rd Thursday of the month
- Location information is sent via email
- Contact Nelson Sprague to be added to the email list <u>barnel@carolina.rr.com</u>

A new Committee headed by Ron Berst to plan QCCC Day trips, Cruise-ins & Overnight Events. He will have an informal meeting on Thursday February 6th to discuss location ide-



as and for anyone who is interested in leading a trip. Look for a BLAST or you can contact <u>ronberst@windstream.net</u> for more information

Thanks to all our many volunteers!

### Donna Berst ~ 2020 QCCC Social Director

It's not where you go but who you travel with that makes the journey special!

## OCCC Maggie Valley Overnighter - May 15th through 17th, 2020



Friday Group Departure at TBA from Zipper's Restaurant, 475 North General Blvd., Lincolnton, NC

**Lodging will be at the Maggie Valley Creekside Lodge** (42 Rooms blocked under QCCC) 2716 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751 To reserve a room please call 828-926-1301

Rates: 1 King or 2 Queens:

Creekside room Creekside King Jacuzzi room Off Creek room \$99.00 per night + tax
\$129.00 per night + tax
\$89.00 per night + tax

- Some rooms are up 1 flight of stairs
- All rooms are non-smoking
- All remaining rooms not spoken for from the block will be released by 5/01/2020





Friday - Lunch at Copper River Grill 828-210-8999

1302 Hendersonville, Rd. Ashville, NC 28803

**Saturday-** Dinner at J. Arthur's Restaurant 828-926-1817 2843 Soco Rd. (across the street from the hotel) Maggie Valley, NC 28751

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## **3rd Annual KKOA Icons of Hot Rodding**



## Questions? Contact Tom & Terri Pennoni 704-746-4527



The Carolinas' #1 Chevy Dealer For Over 80 Years

## **Queen City Corvette Club Discount Pricing**

## **Rick Hendrick City Chevrolet**

Having been with the Hendrick Automotive Group for over 18 years, my career started at City Chevrolet. As the flagship store, we strive to not only represent, but set the benchmark for the culture of the organization. We often say, "City people make City Chevrolet," and that's why I'm excited to not only come back to where I started (my "home") but also to rebuild the City pride in our teammates, customers, vendors, and partners alike.

I'm dedicated to rebuilding the relationship between the Queen City Corvette Club and Rick Hendrick City Chevrolet. Our team is looking forward to further fostering the connection through the mutual support of our organizations. You have my commitment. Chris Boone, General Manager

#### **NEW VEHICLES**

Members pay "Dealer Invoice" or "Supplier Pricing," whichever is less from Chevrolet. Rebates or incentives will be applied. General Manager may limit this offer to "in-stock" or "on-order" vehicles. Extra costs may apply for locates, transportation, or specialty vehicles.

#### **PRE-OWNED VEHICLES**

Retail in-stock vehicles may be purchased for \$500 over inventory amount. Extra costs may apply for transportation or specialty vehicles. Vehicle must pass NCSI through our service department. Over 7000 pre-owned vehicles available through our Hendrick network. Shipping costs may apply.

#### **PARTS & SERVICE**

15% discount off posted customer-pay rate for GM original equipment parts and service labor. May not be combined with other coupons or specials.

#### **REFERRAL BONUS**

We'll thank you with a \$100 gift card when you refer a non-QCCC member who purchases a vehicle. Friends & Family of QCCC Members will receive a 10% Service discount.

#### **QCCC MEMBER CONCIERGE**

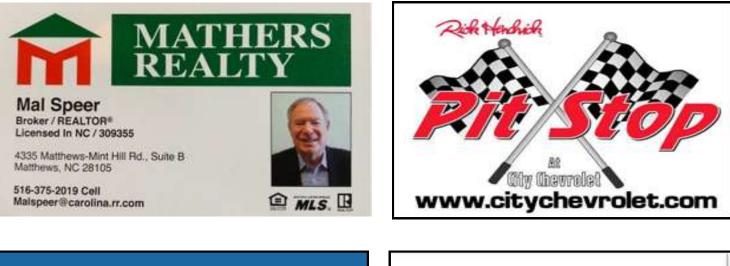
Rick Accurso

Inventory Manager & Corvette Specialist

#### 704-566-7447

#### Rick.Accurso@hendrickauto.com

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Happy New Year!! Things are kind of slow as we come off the holidays. Time to root for the new awesome C8.R Corvette race car which is making its debut in the Rolex 24 HR race at Daytona. Several QCCC members will be attending the race, look forward to seeing all attending members there. If you need to get your car fix over the next couple of months go out and attend one of the Cars & Coffee events listed below. They give you an opportunity to see a mix of cars and meet new car enthusiasts, see you there.





## UPCOMMING 2020 AUTOMOTIVE EVENTS

[See the QCCC Events Calendar on our website for details]:

- ROLEX 24 HR Daytona Race January 23-26, 2020
- Cars & Coffee

Cars & Coffee - Charlotte - First Saturday each month

Waterbean Coffee - Cornelius - 2nd Saturday each month

Cars & Coffee - Charlotte Motor Speedway - 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month

Streetside Classics - Last Saturday each month

Roger Winge Automotive Events Director Hello 2020! A new year, a new decade, and a new role for me as your Vice President.

Thank you to all the VPs that have come before. You all will be a hard act to follow.

It is time for me to play it forward and help contribute in keeping our club moving forward in its 52<sup>nd</sup> year, just like all those great Board members who have paved the way through the years. A special Thank You goes to the VP for the past two years, Mike Mariano!

There are some fun facts I want to discover about our club members this year:



- Where members grew up and relocated from which states dominate our club
- What members now do or did for a work career
- Where our members currently live around Charlotte north, south, east, west
- See if I can remember members' names, without their name tags by the end of the year
- See if I can remember my own name Richard, Dick, Ricky Bobby ?

If there are any fun facts that you would like to discover about our club or club members, let me know! It's all about the people, so let's get to know each other better, especially our new members and our vintage members.

I have been working with our President Paul Mitchell to secure this year's meeting locations and on getting bigger venues due to our growing membership count – now at 371!

Mark your calendars for the February 8 Valentine meeting at the VFW in Indian Trail.

Dick Gwilt <u>rgwilt@me.com</u> 704-651-8613



## SAVE THE DATE:

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, 2020

9th Annual QCCC Corvette Car Show at Hendrick Motorsports





**MEMBERSHIP NEWS** 

## QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB JANUARY 11, 2020

## **NEW MEMBERS-**



ROBERT KNORR & MARTHA SHORT CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 2015 BLADE SILVER METALLIC COUPE

#### MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS-

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP-	371
TOTAL FAMILIES-	203
PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS-	29
NEW MEMBERS 2019-	<b>50</b> *
AVG. ATTENDANCE	128
* All Time High	

### QCCC CARE AND COMPASSION-

John & Linda Meadows- John will be having heart catherization with a stent on Tuesday, 1/7. Please keep him in your prayers. Also, please pray for Linda who has had ongoing issues and pain with her right knee (surgery 5 years ago) and may require further surgery.

**IRIS BINDER-** We visited Iris the other day at the Autumn Care of Cornelius. A beautiful facility. She is doing well. Still has that magical smile that can light up the whole room. We asked her if there was anything we could do for her. She replied: "Come visit me!". So with that, if you have time during your day, go up and pay her a visit. She would love to see you. Continue to pray for Charlie for strength and peace, during this difficult time.

Ken Brown- Ken is home recuperating from a second Hip Surgery. (The first became infected). He is rehabbing at home and cannot be out with the pub-Lic. Emails and Cards welcomed along with prayer for a good healing.

**<u>REMINDER-</u>** QCCC DUES ARE NOW DUE!! PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECKS TO:

MR. CRAIG SMITH

QCCC

P.O. BOX 574

PAW CREEK, NC, 28130

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



## **National Corvette Museum**



#### NCM CORNER.

Happy New Year! I'm sure everyone has a clear view of what will be happening this year. You have no excuse not to know as your vision will be 2020. Okay, save the groans and just enjoy all the upcoming activities in the world of Corvettes.

First item on the agenda is the Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona which will showcase the new C8R Corvette. Then QCCC will host its annual awards banquet and then on to the NCM Bash in April. Sounds like a great start to the New Year for all of us Corvette aficionados.

And speaking of the Bash, there will be lots of new exhibits and changes to the museum to excite even the old timers to the NCM. Of course Chevrolet will be there with all the latest hardware and news of the new C8 Corvette. For those of you who will be making your first visit, you are in for a real treat. And for all, be sure and attend the open membership meeting to get the latest news on the future of the NCM.

On April 25<sup>th</sup> (at the Bash) the NCM will be raffling off a fully loaded Z51 C8 Corvette coupe. Tickets are only \$20.00 so be sure and purchase a handful. I plan on buying some at the Bash so my tickets will be on top.

Yes, I still have a few rooms left for the Bash but don't wait too long to decide you want to go. The Saturday evening Bash party reserved seating is on a wait list now as all five tables are full.

#### BOX SCORE

	of QCCC Family Units of NCM Members	-203 -106	
No. No.	of Lifetime Members of Duntov Society Mem of Spire Members	- 44 bers - 4 - 5	

Save the Wave Paul Mariano NCM Ambassador



## From Track to Street

Your Corvette Racing reporter filed the following racing report for the Roar Before the 24.

What a beautiful weekend to the debut the new C8.R Corvettes. They sounded great and we would like to report a rumor as to why they sound different. From several sources it was reported that Corvette changed the sound of the Corvette so that it could run on the NCM track. It was also reported that it sounded like the old FORD with a little mix of the Ferrari.

First let me address the sound. It sounds like a Corvette not the low guttural sound we are used to but a very low rumble with a hint of speed. Take it from me you will like it. Now as to the other rumor. I had the chance to talk to Dan Binks and asked him the question. He would not deny the rumor but did say and gave me a" you got to be kidding me look".

If you are one of the many going to the Rolex later this month you will have a ball. The new C8.R's are as beautiful as they look in the pictures. The yellow is Racing Yellow not the new 2020 green yellow. They are awesome looking and you can sense speed in them. During qualifying today they finished 3rd and 7<sup>th</sup>. Both were in the top 3 most of the time but the #3 car had changed shocks and missed the setup. That will be fixed for the 24.



PS: There is a part in the C7 Stingray that has the fish Christian symbol on it. The first person to tell me the part will receive a prize at the March meeting.

## **Stay tuned**

### See you at the next Corvette Race.

Boyd Kurt



Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



### **Know Your Past Presidents**

Morse---Styles---Pace

1. 1975: was a year for one term President David Morse He will forever be known for his enthusiasm for auto crossing. His call name for the CB radio was crash. It was well earned. David drove a C2 convertible, I would say around a 65. On his most famous venture he tapped the wall in the front then spun around and hit it again with the rear. This allowed him to change the paint color from blue to 63 tan plus adding wire wheels. Darrel Kirkley says drive 10 tenths if u want to win. David would drive about 12 tenths. Seldom did he return with an unscathed roadster when the event was over. We were at Myrtle Beach one fall racing on the beach. We noticed he had not come down yet, when his wife Lydia came down to the beach and told us he would be down in a little bit. She was going to the drug store to get some medicine. It turns out he was not sick. One of our group decided to take his hair piece and rub the tape on the inside with sand from the beach. Needless to say the tape would not stick with all that sand on it. Lydia was looking for more tape. No one lays claim to the deed, but D.K. and T.M. both remember this incident very well. JUST SAYIN.

On a better note. In 74 David had asked if he could build a bar for the back bedroom of the clubhouse. Many would bet against him and his type A, that it would be a mess. However when done it had a professional look to it, complete with a padded rail on top. All we did was buy the materials and he did a super job. David was also the main reason that the Corvette Porsche Challenges were birthed. David worked with Russ Thompson who drove a chocolate brown 911 porsche. They would argue all the time about who was fastest and since we could rent Charlotte Motor Speedway for \$200, the plan started to become reality. They started with a blank canvass. Porsche was successful at making the cones so tight that a Corvette would barely fit thru. They advertised that the first 100 of each make was the cutoff. Somebody had connections with the Camel G.T. racing series and they became our primary sponsor. (this was big, think how Camel GT, was the precursor to all forms of sports car racing.) This started a three year deal, '75,'76 & '77. Without the c-8 mid-engine Corvette we did not fair real well, although Bill Ingram had a 72 steel cities gray LT-1 that was stock and really quick. It was one of 250 built with factory air. Very quickly GM found out those cars would throw the A/C belt off under heavy track use so they guit making them. Anyway, he won his class and did very well in top times for the weekend. The bar and the Challenge were David's legacy. Even though QCCC was a small group, being President has always had its challenges. No matter how much he over drove his Corvette, we still had to salute him for these other contributions. He was the right guy at the right time for OCCC. Now with a bar we started to keep a keg and sell beer for 50 cents a cupful. Let the drinking begin, we got to pay the rent. It is estimated the four remaining vintage gang consumed approximately 14,560 beers at the clubhouse from 1974 thru 1979. So, thanks to David's bar, karma is getting us. Now it is payback time.

2. 1983 Dave Styles I knew Dave when he first arrived. It was a rough time as we had lost the clubhouse which was such a drawing card. Now we met anywhere we could get an invite from. Dave had a late C3, I am guessing around 1977. He had it painted Carolina Blue. David was a ladies' man. He was into shag dancing and pursuing the fairer sex. Dave was very laid-back yet I think his Presidency was successful. I know we did not have the board meetings that we have now. We were not yet to the era where racing vs social became intense. I would say that Dave was President in a time where QCCC was really into racing. Dave hung out with Richard Craig a lot. Richard relays a lot of stories of he and Dave, most of which we need not regurgitate. Kind of a what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas sort of deal. Dave was definitely the lead guy of the singles in the club. The wives and girlfriends called him, "Swavey Davey". The club was growing as the single (including divorced) guys was increasing. As we moved into the mid 80's a lot of the members had a plaintiff #1 to deal with. Dave was in the group of Presidents that felt the pressure of no clubhouse. Things were just different without the meeting place. There was pressure to find another clubhouse. Thru it all, Dave kept a good balance and helped us during a difficult time. We lost Dave to cancer in the late 80's. A fun person with a serious side making for a great President.

3. 1985 & 1989 Melvin Pace--- Melvin was an enforcer. He was an imposing force with his 1968 Corvette Coupe. It was the first 427/435 hp car in the Piedmont. He was ahead of his time with that monster car as he added huge wheel wells and a wing on the back. All of it standard now on the C-7. Melvin and his plaintiff #1 raced every weekend. They both drove extremely hard and broke parts on a regular basis. Melvin was partial to Budweiser and he always bought cans. He had a CB handle of Pop Top which also was his plate. Underneath all the imposing external presence was a very good person who loved to race. He was one of the top members in points every year. Lest we not forget OCCC was the regional winner of the South East Reginol plus division champs for most of the decade of the 80's), plus national champions in 85 and 89. Melvin ran the parts department at the Cadillac dealer in Monroe. Sometimes he could help us save money on generic parts. I was not there for his Presidency but I feel he was instrumental in making OCCC known for his dedication to racing. As the racing days began to wain in the mid to late 90's it was a rough time for the racing segment of the club. Sightings of the Pop Top car became less and less until today it rests in the corner of his basement. Travis saw Melvin recently and he said he was going to drag it out of the basement and get it running on the street again. That would be awesome. Typical of QCCC, no project is too much for our members. Seeing Pop Top and hearing those side pipes rumble again would be awesome.

As you learn about these Past Presidents you can see they were leaders of their time and each had a different take on how to run things. The good ol days of QCCC were a blast and signs of good things to come;

### I dedicate this article to the memory of Philip Lewis.

## Phil was Vice President during the Steve Pelchat Presidency.

We lost Phil due to a motorcycle accident last month. Phil for some years also wrote a page in the newsletter about the new members complete with photos. That is how I first met Phil. He came to my garage and said he only had an hour. We started talking Corvettes and four hours later I said you better get going or the traffic from here to Rock Hill will be full. I know I am a better person for having met and enjoyed Corvettes together.

Submitted by: Bill Cruthis



Travis & David at the bar he built



Melvin on the road course at CMS



David Morse at CMS

Melvin Pace at Auto Cross

**QCCC Members & Guests Photos** There are many, many more to see on the website! Click <u>Here</u> to View the Photo Gallery

> Do you have club photos you would like to share? Click <u>Here</u> to <u>Upload</u> to the Photo Gallery

or copy and paste the link below to your browser:

http://qcccphoto.smugmug.com/upload/rZ6vZk/QCCCMemberGallery.

Please send an email to <u>photo@queencitycorvette.com</u> to let Karin know there are pictures recently loaded to the member upload gallery and to which event the photos apply.

## **QCCC 2019 Christmas Party!**







20

























Another great year of QCCC Photos.

Thank you Mal and all our other Club photographers !!!









Merry













E Br













## Lake Wylie 2019 Christmas Parade



## On facebook ?

## ICYMI – we have

## **TWO** Facebook pages?

## QCCC Members is a 'closed' group for only paid QCCC members www.facebook.com/groups/409674005715403/

- Members have to ask to join
- Once approved, any member can freely post your photos, car events, videos and share/post Corvette-related news.

Queen City Corvette Club is an 'open' page for anyone on FB

## www.facebook.com/QueenCityCorvette/

- Anyone on FB can "like" and "follow" our events
- Only our FB administrators can post on this page
  - Just ask and we'll post for you
- Anyone on FB can like or reply to our posts.





## QCCC Members QL 88 members

## Queen City Corvette Club





Catch the latest QCCC news by joining us on Facebook!

## Last Laughs

# You know you are a corvette driver when Siri says:

"In 400 feet stop and let me out!"



## WELCOME 2020