

The  
Queen City  
Corvette Gazette



Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

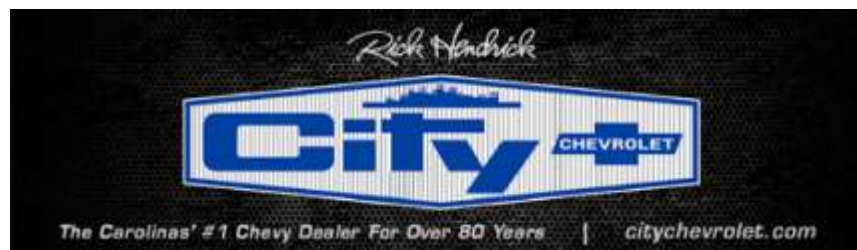
August 2020

# 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Gathering



*Cruisin' the Carolinas since 1968*  
[www.QueenCityCorvette.com](http://www.QueenCityCorvette.com)

***Hope to see everyone at our 52nd Anniversary Celebration  
At Victory Lanes on August 8th!***



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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 six-month period. Come check us out – we love to meet fellow Corvette Enthusiasts! For additional membership information, visit [https://queencitycorvette.com/?page\\_id=330](https://queencitycorvette.com/?page_id=330) 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

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



## Queen City

# Corvette Conversations

~ *Paul Mitchell, President*

So the summer is (theoretically) two thirds over, and QCCC is still patiently (?) waiting for things to improve. We have had a couple of small events that were fun, and attendance gradually improved at each one. But now we are going to get more and bigger events going for us. Of course, all with masks and proper distancing; we feel that we can do this safely and still have fun.

August 8th is our normal meeting date, and it's a special one. It is our annual Anniversary Celebration, and we are not going to let that go by without having an event. QCCC will celebrate 52 years of continuous operation, and that certainly requires recognition and celebration. Look for a Blast that will cover all the details. This will not be an official meeting, but will highlight our longevity and success. Please try to attend, if even for a short time. Hint – free ice cream! We also hope to have prospective members attend this event as well. Without meetings for the past several months, we have several prospective members that are patiently waiting to meet us and have some great QCCC fun so this will be an exciting day.

You have recently received a Blast describing a Cruise In on August 22. VP Ricky Bobby has lined up a fun event at the VFW in Indian Trail for us to get together while helping out that facility as well. The current situation has affected so many things, and the VFW needs our support to keep afloat. We meet there twice per year, so we will support them any way we can.

The Board has approved official meetings to be held starting with our September 12 date. That meeting and the October meeting will be held outdoors, with plans for the last two meetings of the year to be held in an indoor setting. Proper precautions will be taken at all QCCC events.

We appreciate all members' patience and cooperation during these past and very trying months. As stated before, with 52 years of continuous operation, NOTHING is going to stop or interrupt QCCC. We will regain traction and be stronger than ever. So again, take care and be hopeful and soon we will be able to 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 ~

It is unbelievable that we are entering into August and we have not had a QCCC Meeting in 6 months!!!! **But...** we have had several “social distanced & masked” gatherings and several more are in the works. So, check your email for BLASTS.

Thank you to VP Dick Gwilt for organizing the Victory Lane cruise-in! Even though we got a little rain it was a fun get together with 16 cars in attendance. Then last Saturday we had 22 corvettes for a sunset caravan through Lake Norman State Park, Downtown Mooresville & Davidson ending at Carolina Cones for a sweet treat! Thanks to my hubby for putting this trip together.

If you have an idea for a “safe” cruise-in or cruise-to locations, please contact me or one of the board members. [donnaberst@windstream.net](mailto:donnaberst@windstream.net)

**\* ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup>: QCCC Anniversary Celebration Cruise-In** Look for an upcoming BLAST!!!!

**Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>: Maggie Valley Creekside Lodge Maggie Valley, NC 28751** Tom & Terri have been busy lining up safe & socially distanced dining locations. Look for upcoming emails. If you have questions call Tom at 704-746-4527.

**Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>: Cruise-In to VFW Post 100 VFW Lane Indian Trail, NC 28079**

5:00 – 7:00 pm RAIN OR SHINE As a fund raiser, the VFW is offering carry-out or dine-in dinners, and a cash bar in the patio area. For just \$5 you can have a hotdog, chips, and soda or water. The BBQ dinner is \$6. **(CASH ONLY)** You can order food and drinks at the back yard patio window and eat at the patio tables, go to your chairs in the parking lot, or go inside to the socially distanced air conditioned Meeting Hall and bar room. **Questions & RSVP to [rgwilt@me.com](mailto:rgwilt@me.com)**

**Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>: Picnic at The Loftin’s Homestead 244 Hicks Rd in Troutman, NC** Mark your calendars and look for a BLAST and details in Next month’s Newsletter.

**Friday September 18<sup>th</sup> - September 20<sup>th</sup>: Oktoberfest Trip to Helen Georgia**

There are NO scheduled QCCC plans but you may attend on your own. Steve Bonino reserved 25 rooms for a minimum two-night stay. Steve will not be attending but is happy to share information with you. [vettegs17@gmail.com](mailto:vettegs17@gmail.com) **Cancel or Confirm your own reservation.** Baymont Hotel in Helen Georgia (706) 878-2111

**Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>: Picnic at The Davidson’s Farm in York, SC** Bring your own picnic dinner, beverages and chairs. More info to follow...

**\*\* Look for BLASTS about upcoming socially distanced Wednesday Night Dinners at Big Daddy’s Restaurant!!!!**

Praying you & your families are faring well. Hope to see you all SOON!

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



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## Queen City Corvette Club Discount Pricing

### Rick Hendrick City Chevrolet

Effective February 1, 2020

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

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#### **NEW VEHICLES**

Members pay "Employee Pricing" on all NEW, in-stock Chevrolet vehicles (C8 Corvette, select new models, and specialty vehicles excluded). Rebates and/or incentives will be applied. Extra costs may apply for locates, transportation or specialty vehicles.

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#### **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 8000 pre-owned vehicles available through our Hendrick network. Shipping costs may apply.

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#### **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.

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#### **REFERRAL BONUS**

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

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#### **COLLISION CENTER**

10% discount off customer-pay rates. Not applicable on insurance claims or rates.

---

#### **QCCC MEMBER PURCHASE CONCIERGE**

Rick Accurso

Inventory Manager & Corvette Specialist

704-566-7447

[Rick.Accurso@hendrickauto.com](mailto:Rick.Accurso@hendrickauto.com)

---

#### **QCCC MEMBER SERVICE CONCIERGE**

Saverio Longobardo

Service Advisor

704-566-7407

[Saverio.Longobardo@hendrickauto.com](mailto:Saverio.Longobardo@hendrickauto.com)

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# AUTOMOTIVE INSIDER

Same as last month, hope everyone is healthy and safe. Really missing all the club and car events and it is not looking good for several months to come. The Corvette Racing Team took first and second at Sebring. The next televised IMSA event will be Road America at Elkhart Lake, WI Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12 PM.

NOTE: ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS - Check Facebook Pages & Websites for the latest event news.

Here's some pictures to help battle QCCCWS (Queen City Corvette Club Withdrawal Symptom)!!



## UPCOMMING 2020 AUTOMOTIVE EVENTS

**NOTE: ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS**  
**Check Facebook Pages & Websites for the latest event news**

Roger Winge  
Automotive Events Director



# ***Car Show Director's Update and Charities***



As the Covid 19 virus continues to control our lives we are seeing numerous Corvette events being canceled or the structure changed drastically. QCCC Car Show is still on go as we are anticipating the restrictions to allow us to have our show. QCCC and the Hendrick staff is still working hard to prepare for the show. We have contacted numerous food and parts vendors and have a complete layout of the Hendrik Campus as to where everything will be located. This year QCCC will again be in its old location in front of the Team Store. Don't miss out on this and sign up for the show. It is at no cost to you and you will receive a QCCC Challenge coin and show t-shirt even if we have to make changes in the show.

The following will explain what you are to do:

By signing up to bring your Corvette you are agreeing to work the day of the show and bring a door prize item or silent auction item. All you have to do is go to QCCC website and go to Club Info, Event Signup, QCCC Member Only Car Show Registration and use password DUNTOV. Then fill out the registration form. It is that simple. We currently have over 50 QCCC cars entered. Once you have registered you will receive one of the numbered QCCC Car Show Challenge Coins as a token for your participation.

## QCCC Charity Committee

The Charity Committee is still working with both of our 2020 charities, Wings of Eagles Ranch and Kids First of the Carolinas and we are planning Fall activities with both. We will keep you informed with dates and times.

The 2021 Charity Committee is also working on our next years charities and we will provide our board with our recommendations in October and present it to the members in November.

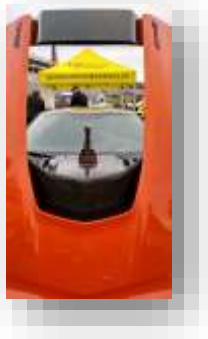
Thank you,

Tommy Loftin, QCCC Car Show Director

Brenda Loftin, QCCC Charity Committee Chairperson

# VP Report

# August 2020



## Saying Good-bye to an Old Friend

The day has come for QCCC member Jane Burt. Having bought a house in Salisbury, she has sold her house of 27 years where many of you have attended Jane and her late husband's famous QCCC BBQ. Eddie's children – Eddie Jr. and his son Lane, Beverly and her husband John – drove all the way from Texas to bring their Dad's prized possessions back with them.

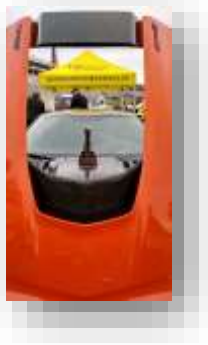
They filled a U-Haul with car parts, race and QCCC trophies, the famous BBQ Smoker, and yes, Eddie's 1966 Big Block Corvette which has been stored, and has not been driven for 52 years. The missing stickers will be replaced, the motor will be brought back to life, and the 25,413 miles on it will be long gone!

I had the pleasure of helping them push the Vette up onto the U-Haul trailer and taking pictures of Jane behind the wheel with a big old smile on her face. Jane also handed over the keys to the 2004 Corvette - which she and Eddie drove over 105,000 miles together in – to Lane for him to drive Texas. Thus completing the circle of life.

This would bring tears to anyone's eyes.

So remember, all of you working on, repairing, washing and polishing your Corvettes and wondering why you do it for an old car, remember, someday someone special will have a smile on their face.





On the QCCC Meeting front, we have in the works, cruise-in get-togethers on the following dates:

Aug. 8 Cruise-in to celebrate QCCC's 52 years! Details in future BLAST.

Aug. 22 Cruise-in to VFW. Details in future BLAST.

Sept. 12 Cruise-in and picnic at the Loftin's. Details in future BLAST.

Oct. 10 Cruise-in and picnic at Davidson's Farm. Details in future BLAST.

I am presently working on locations that accommodate both inside and outside activities for November, December, and January.

Dick Gwilt, VP  
704-651-8613





HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!! HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Hi QCCC Members!!!

We hope you are all keeping cool in this very warm weather and enjoying your time as much as you can!!! As we have shared in the past, the Board wants to recognize QCCC member Birthdays by publishing them in the Newsletter each month until we can meet again in person!! And if you really enjoy seeing these Birthday lists each month, we may publish these here even after we can meet again in person.

If you have an **AUGUST Birthday**, its' YOUR TURN!! (See the List Below) While we may not be able to celebrate your Birthday in person with each of you, our virtual Happy Birthday wishes are no less heartfelt!

**We wish you ALL a VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!**

And as we also shared previously, the Club is still presenting some lucky Birthday member, selected at random, a Restaurant Gift Card – now via EMAIL! If the Restaurant E-gift card winner each month is not yet ready to dine-in, the restaurants represented on the E-gift card are also offering Takeout and/or Curbside pickup.

The August Restaurant E-Gift Card ticket was picked at random by QCCC member Don Zimmer (hey, its convenient). Don is asking me for a salary increase for all this 'work' so, as I've said before -- if you are disappointed that your name wasn't selected, you can talk to Don!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS to: **CHUCK SOLLAND**, the AUGUST Birthday e-Gift Card WINNER

Hi CHUCK -- Please watch your EMAIL for your Restaurant E-GIFT CARD (make sure your email info QCCC database is correct!!).

Again, **HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to All on the August List!!

Hope its' not too long until we can all be together in person again!

Take Care, Be Safe, and Stay Healthy!!! (Sending lots of virtual hugs.....)

Carolyn Zimmer

QCCC Secretary

[Carolynz77@yahoo.com](mailto:Carolynz77@yahoo.com)



## QCCC AUGUST BIRTHDAYS\*



8/1 Merle Elko  
8/3 Susan Kurt  
8/7 Boyd Kurt  
8/7 Larry Tucker  
8/9 Polly McKee  
8/9 Ralph Snow  
8/10 Virginia Nibarger  
8/11 Ron Berst  
8/11 Becky Bernhardt  
8/11 Mike Watts  
8/11 David Faircloth  
8/12 Ben Hinson  
8/12 Floyd Schwartz  
8/15 Brenda Melodovitch  
8/15 Jim Campbell  
8/15 Judy Jacob  
8/16 Richard Taddonio  
**8/18 Chuck Solland \*\*\*\*\* E-GIFT CARD WINNER \*\*\*\*\***  
8/18 Dawn Faircloth  
8/19 Donna Berst  
8/18 Nick Kendall  
8/19 Andy Melodovitch  
8/21 Jeff Garris  
8/22 Phil Smith  
8/24 Gary Cunningham  
8/26 EO Oakley  
8/29 Theresa James  
8/29 Bob Bartlett  
8/30 John Walton

\*QCCC Members: If you would like your Birthday added or deleted from our Birthday List, please send an email to QCCC Secretary Carolyn Zimmer, [carolynz77@yahoo.com](mailto:carolynz77@yahoo.com).



~MEMBERSHIP REPORT~

AUGUST 2020

Paul Schmitt

CARE AND COMPASSION-

**Sue Stickles-** Continued prayer for Sue. She is doing well as she continues her treatments twice a month through August.

[sjstickels@aol.com](mailto:sjstickels@aol.com) Sue- 704-564-0015 Please continue sending cards & emails.

**Al Kessel-** Continued prayer for Al who is having treatments for his illness.

[Alkessel42@gmail.com](mailto:Alkessel42@gmail.com) Emails are welcome.

**Fred & Gloria McCoy-** Fred having a difficult time with his illness. Please pray for Gloria & Fred for a speedy recovery.

[macvette@carolina.rr.com](mailto:macvette@carolina.rr.com) Cards & Emails are welcome.

**Pat Motta-** Pat is recovering from Metastatic Breast Cancer. Prayers are most welcome for Pat and Bob as they go through these treatments. Cards and Emails are welcome.

[ramrace@aol.com](mailto:ramrace@aol.com) 12725 Green Ashe Drive Huntersville 28078.

**Beverly Terry-** At home recovering from Knee Surgery.

[Bobterryfic@gmail.com](mailto:Bobterryfic@gmail.com) Beverly- 704-995-4037

**Norm Lontz-** Norm has Melanoma on top of his head. Treating him with immunotherapy. In late July he will have one injection every three weeks for one year. [nilontz@aol.com](mailto:nilontz@aol.com)

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Note: No New Members Due to COVID 19

<b>Total membership</b>	<b>343</b>
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>Prospective Members</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>New Members</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Avg. Mos. Attendance</b>	<b>129</b>



## National Corvette Museum



### NCM CORNER.

I don't know if you have wondered, like I have, as to what it would be like to spend a year on station in a nuclear submarine. I am now getting an inkling of how it would feel to be underwater for thirty days, come up to periscope depth and take a 360 degree view of the ocean and then submerging for another month. Any sighting of anything but water must be exciting regardless of the consequences. The past three or four months have been like nothing but water for me. Enough is enough, I'm ready to man battle stations. The only problem is that we have no weapons at this time to combat the enemy. So, it's down scope and submerge for another month. I hope all my fellow QCCC club members and friends everywhere are using their patience and staying out of harm's way until we are provided the ammunition we need to defeat the enemy that is stalking us.

My periscope did detect on its sweep two consecutive wins by the Corvette race team with their new C8R race cars. A very bright spot in a dreary year.

I have very few takers (13) for the trip to Bowling Green in September and that number has steadily decreased (to 7) as of this writing as people are wisely using great caution. I will be advising those on my sign-up list as what the overall plan for our club will turn out to be.

Should the Anniversary Event get cancelled or our trip gets put on the back burner, I encourage all of our members to help support the NCM by registering for the virtual event, shopping at the Corvette Store, buying a brick and buying a raffle ticket for a new C8 Corvette. Any support in any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Before I sign off, I offer all the best wishes and prayers to our QCCC members that are fighting against the various illnesses attacking them. Although you may not hear from each and every one of us, rest assured we are thinking of you constantly and can't wait to get together and celebrate your recovery.

### BOX SCORE

No. of QCCC Family Units	-108
No. of NCM Members	-187 (57.7%)
No. of Lifetime Members	- 42
No. of Duntov Society Members	- 4
No. of Spire Members	- 5

Save the Wave

Paul Mariano

NCM Ambassador

# *Vintage QCCC*

With the Vintage Gang:

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

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



*Mirror mirror on the wall, why are there two of us?*

*As you read this article, please pause and reflect how they accomplished this. Walt bought a 69 riverside gold/ tan skins. As his only car, he drove it with studded snow tires until after their marriage. Then Walt bought a "high lift" Ford ¾ ton pickup and Wendy drove the Corvette to her teaching job.*

*When you read of all the trips they took, I cannot imagine taking a baby on a long journey and the passenger having to hold the infant. Also, there is only 12 inches of pass through for luggage in the back. Then Walt put a bumper hitch on to pull snowmobiles. Point: snowmobiles are used in the snow which means you have to drive through snow to use them. The rear bumpers still have the holes under them where the hitch attached.*

*After all the journeys the car retains it's original paint and interior. I am telling you this was a major accomplishment. I lived through the same times with a 68, then a 70, then a 74. These cars are not made for long trips. I drove my 68 in Illinois winters and I thought that was a feat, but not even close to what Walt did. It is just amazing that the 69 was able to survive. By golly I say hats off to W and W for a job well done. Corvette Fever!*

*Submitted: Bill Cruthis*



# Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

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

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



7/8/2020

AT&T Yahoo Mail - RE: vintage article

RE: vintage article

From: WALT (oneowner6901@bellsouth.net)

To: bill\_cruthis@bellsouth.net

Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020, 11:12 AM EDT

Hi Bill,

Thanks for the interest in our '69.

Met Wendy by accident in July, 1969. Car was built on July 15, 1969.

Purchased the car in September, 1969. Very shortly after, had first date with Wendy.

Got married August, 1971.

Drove it daily in upstate NY until fall, 1971. With positraction and studded snow tires, I could go anywhere.

Bought a "high lift" Ford ¾ pickup in 1971. Wendy drove the Corvette to her 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teaching job in Rochester, NY (picture attached, winter, 1971).

Lived in Rochester, NY until 1986.

Put a bumper trailer hitch (it's in the garage?) on the car the first winter that I owned it to pull a snowmobile trailer.

Attached is a short write-up that was previously published in the NCRS newsletter and the QCCC newsletter many years ago.

Thanks for your interest.

Walt

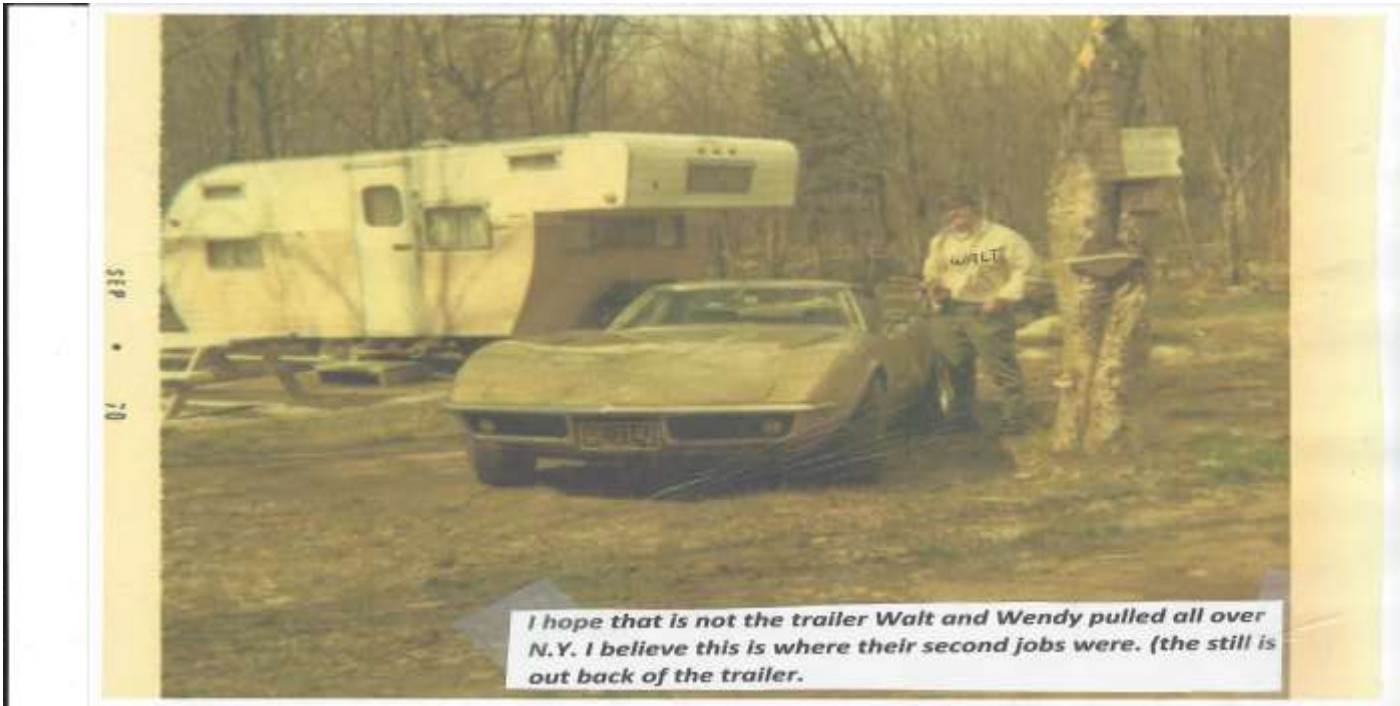
(think about this: driving a 2 year old Corvette to work in upstate NY during the winter????)

# Vintage QCCC

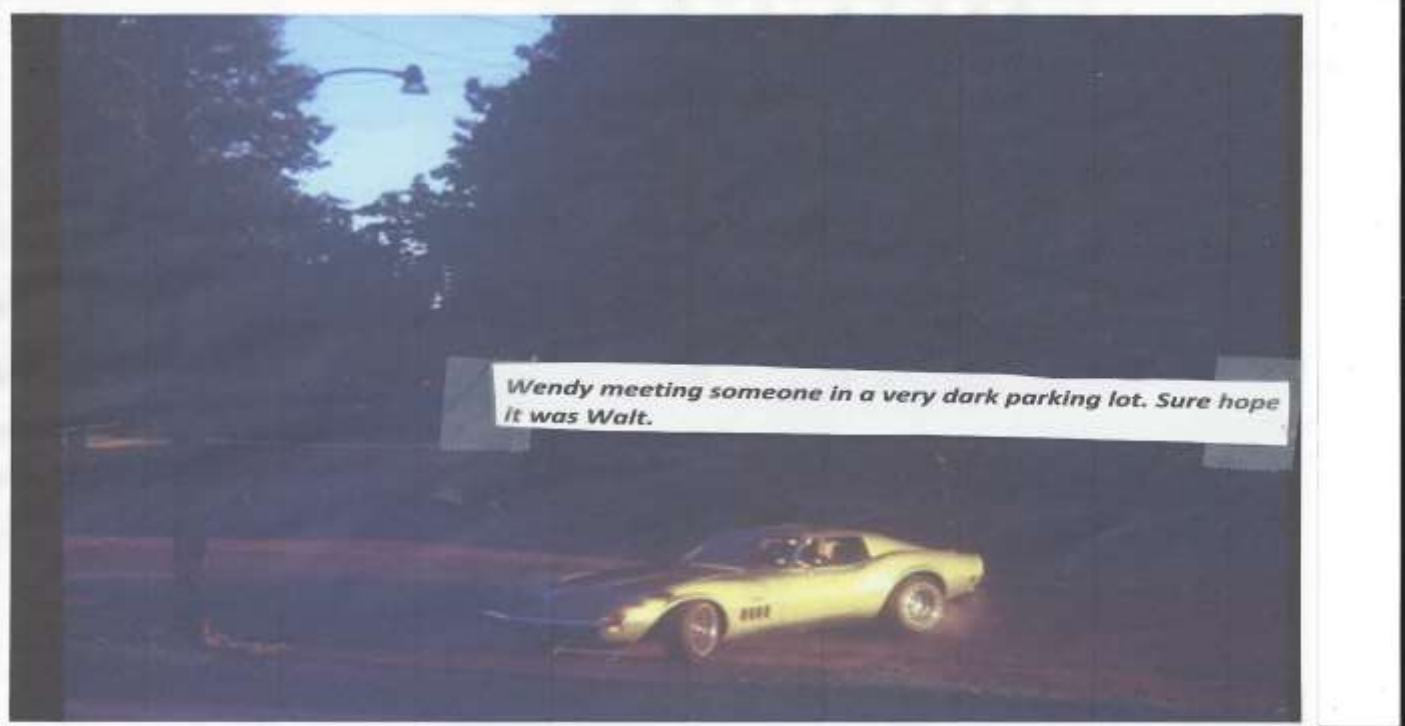
With the Vintage Gang:

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

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



*I hope that is not the trailer Walt and Wendy pulled all over N.Y. I believe this is where their second jobs were. (the still is out back of the trailer.)*



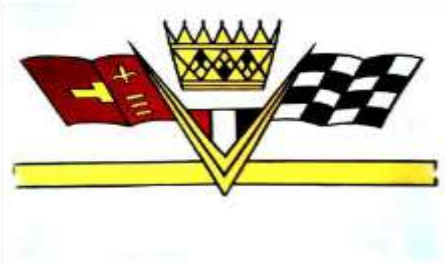
*Wendy meeting someone in a very dark parking lot. Sure hope it was Walt.*

# Vintage QCCC

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The following article is a re-print (with permission) from *The Corvette Restorer* about one of our members.

## Looking Back by Walt Krupowicz

Sometime around 1962, my interest in Corvettes started. A guy in my neighborhood brought home a 1962 fuel-injected convertible, which caught my attention. There was something about the curves and lines that drew me in and I was hooked. A few years passed; it was 1968 and I was with Uncle Sam stationed in El Paso, TX. It was there that I had my chance to visit a local Chevrolet dealer and see the new Stingray. It was love at first sight! I wanted one and thought about someday when I would own my first Corvette.

As it turned out, someday came sooner than I imagined. In September 1969, fresh out of the service and back home, Ray Benson Chevrolet in Utica, NY, received a shipment of five 1969 Coupes; all were identically equipped with base engine with few options, and each was a different color. The Riverside Gold one with the saddle interior called my name and without hesitation, I became a Corvette owner.

It was right about this time that I met Wendy. As a matter of fact, our first date was a ride in my new car. She had said no at first, but changed her mind when I told her it was a Corvette. She was in college in upstate New York, and one weekend we decided to go to Montreal on a road trip. When we stopped at the border crossing, the customs agent decided we looked shifty and asked us to open the trunk. It took a few hours and more than one agent to make someone realize there was no trunk and that we weren't trying to pull a fast one!

A couple years went by, and Wendy and I were married in August 1971. We toured the New England states for our honeymoon, taking the Corvette with us. It was a great time. We did everything—watching horse races in Saratoga, NY, motoring up to the top of Mt. Washington, searching for covered bridges, and seeing the sights of Boston all in our Corvette!

A few years later, our first-born came home from the hospital in the Corvette. It was the first of many rides for Jennifer. Her first long trip came in February 1975, a trip that couldn't happen today. Wendy and I decided to join some friends on a trip to the Daytona 500 and the newly opened Disney World. The three of us drove all the way to Florida in the Corvette.

The one not driving was holding the baby; it was a sight to see. We parked that car in the infield of the track and watched the race. That was the beginning of another love, but that is another story!

Four years later, our second baby, Gretchen, came home from the hospital in the same grand style. How many kids get to say they came home from the hospital in a Corvette and can drive that same Corvette 33 years later? The years went by uneventfully and somehow we managed to



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keep the Corvette in the family. The winters in upstate New York were brutal, but posi-traction and studded snow tires make a great combination, especially when you have a snowmobile in tow. I think back on it now and it had to be a sight to see a Corvette towing a snowmobile in all that snow and ice!

In 1989, we decided to leave New York behind and move to Maryland. The Corvette needed to get there, but there was no one to drive it. So, we drove the car into the back of an 18-wheeler and packed the rest of the house contents around it. The neighbors at our new home in Maryland thought they had seen it all! As the movers were unpacking the furnishings, a '69 Corvette rolled off the truck and was put into the garage much like the couch went into the living room. The years went by, and many an afternoon saw Wendy and me out for a ride enjoying the Maryland countryside.



North Carolina beckoned in 1993, and we moved lock, stock, and Corvette to the big city of Charlotte. This time, I drove the Corvette to its new home, but we arrived at the same time as one of the biggest ice storms that ever hit the area. We thought we were leaving that all behind!

In 1994, we decided to attend Bloomington Gold7 for the Silver Salute to the '69. We drove to Illinois, received the Survivor Award,<sup>7</sup> and joined in a panoramic photo event that featured just '69 Corvettes. It was the first time we had ever displayed the car, and we were amazed at the number of people that came up to us and started the conversation with "I used to have a car just like that, but . . ." It also was our chance to join NCRS.

We drove the car to Virginia Beach for a chapter meet hosted by the NCRS Mid-Atlantic Chapter in 1996 and chose to flight judge the car. We hoped it would earn at least a Third Flight. We came home with a blue ribbon for a Top Flight, a green ribbon for long distance, and big smiles on our faces. Later that year, I decided that I wanted a C4 and an LT4 would do just fine. I didn't have to search far, and in October, I brought home my second Corvette and parked the 1996 in the garage next to the '69.

In April 1997, I drove the '69 and Wendy drove the '96 to the NCRS Regional at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY. We toured the Corvette plant and had a memorable picture taken with both cars tail-to-tail in front of the Museum. It



made for a nice Christmas card that year. By the way, the '69 came back from that trip with a blue ribbon for a Top Flight at a regional meet. (We had smiles, too.) It was time to think Bowtie, but I was also thinking of all the parts I had replaced or discarded over the years due to wear and tear.

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Oh, well. We qualified to take the car to the NCRS National Convention in Lake Placid, NY, that summer.

Talk about going full circle. On the National Road Tour, we stayed in a hotel in Utica, NY, three blocks from the dealership where I had purchased the car. I drove the '69 and Wendy drove the '96. I think she got the better end of the deal in creature comforts. Anyway, while the '69 was parked on the judging field, Wendy and I drove all around the area and saw the same sights in our '96 that we had seen many years before in the '69. During the convention, the '69 received a two-star award. Looking back, I guess I could have taken better care of the car, but 80,000 miles takes their toll, and like the commercial says the memories we have are priceless. Oh, and just to make the Flight Award set complete, we drove the '69 to the NCRS National Convention in Bowling Green in July 2000. There it was awarded the blue ribbon for a Top Flight at a national meet. The three ribbons and the certificates look nice on the wall!

Life went on and for a few years, the two Corvettes resided in our garage. In January 2001, Wendy got the bug for a C5, and now the '96 has been replaced by a 2001 Dark Metallic Bowling Green convertible. It sure is fun.

We decided there was one last award we would like for the '69. We would attempt to complete the steps for the Founders Award. What makes this process so interesting for me is that Jennifer, my oldest daughter, who came home from the hospital in this car and who took the infamous trip to Daytona in this car, accompanied me on each leg of the journey. She and I headed down to Charleston, SC, to have the car flight judged at a chapter meet, and she went with me to Stone Mountain, GA, to complete the Founders ops check. I have to say it was like the car knew she was being judged. Everything worked, except for one little switch! Most of us can't say that after all these years! Anyway, Jennifer accompanied me on the road trip to Hershey for the national meet too, and now we have the yellow Founders shirt.

I somehow have a feeling that this will not be the end of the story. The '69 Corvette has been a part of our lives since the day Wendy and I met, and it is very reassuring to know that the story won't end there. The next generation is coming along to write its own chapter. I can only hope that it will be as rich as this chapter has been. (So far!)

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## **Some Corvette Trivia from Gary Artis: (answers on page 25)**

1. In what year and what engine was "reverse flow cooling" introduced?
2. On what date was the 1,000,000th Corvette produced?
3. According to Goodyear, how far and how fast could you run on a new run flat tire in 1997?
4. On what date did the National Corvette Museum open to the public?

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## 1969 Corvette For Sale Spent Entire Life with GM Employee Who Designed the C3 Door Handles

By  
[Mitch Talley](#)

Jun 25, 2020



The fellow who's credited with the innovative design of the 1969 Corvette exterior door handle certainly put his creation to good personal use over the past half-century.

The designer, who worked nearly 40 years at General Motors, retired as head of design staff at the GM Tech Center in 1983, but not before he had bought a [1969 Corvette](#) brand new on Oct. 15, 1969. He's owned it ever since.

This one-owner Stingray is now being [auctioned on ebay.com](#), with bidding set to expire on Tuesday, June 30. So far, nine bids have increased the offering to \$12,100, still below the reserve amount.

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"Even at 95 years old, he was an excellent steward to have had the ownership of this Corvette for 50 years," the listing reads, "and now his family hopes to find someone to provide the care that he did."

The car is described as a "simply unaltered/unrestored original," and it will go to the new owner in the same condition as when the sellers, ClassicAuto Showplace, found it.

"Please note that this Corvette has not been detailed, prepped, or cleaned up," the listing says. "This is exactly as it came out of the original owner's garage to us."

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The car has just 43,768 miles on the odometer, an average of only 875 miles per year. The seller notes that it was started and driven short distances on a regular basis every year.

This survivor is said to have been well cared for by its original owner, used sparingly over the years, and kept in his home garage on a carpeted floor.

Naturally since it hasn't been restored, the Riverside Gold paint is not perfect, with various flaws and untouched chips visible in photos, but no major body flaws or damaged areas are present.



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The interior, meanwhile, is described as "excellent and original," with everything still working, including "the very cool fiber optic interior lights for the blinker and outside light functions."

You can listen to the car cranked up and running on a YouTube video that accompanies the listing. In the untouched engine compartment is the numbers matching 350/300 horsepower engine connected to the M-40 Turbo Hydra-Matic automatic transmission. The smog pump has been removed at some point but will be included with the sale. This Stingray is also equipped with power steering/brakes, AM/FM radio, and soft ray tinted glass.

On **facebook**?

# ICYMI – we have TWO Facebook pages?

**QCCC Members** is a 'closed' group for only paid QCCC members  
[www.facebook.com/groups/409674005715403/](http://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/](http://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.



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**Queen City Corvette Club**



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# LAST LAUGHS

