

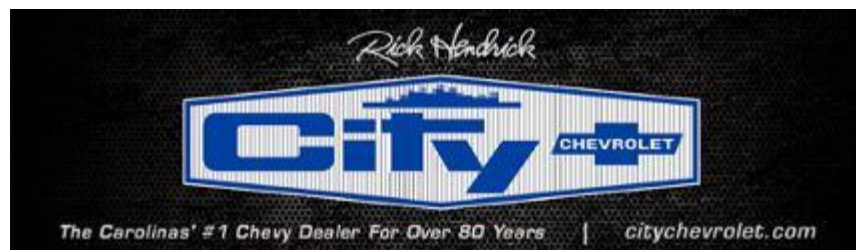
The
Queen City
Corvette Gazette
2020 Christmas Edition



Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

December 2020

*Happy
Holidays*



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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 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 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

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



Queen City

Corvette Conversations

~ *Paul Mitchell, President*

This year is all but over. And we are all ready to see it go, so we can start fresh with 2021. Even though things will not be our usual normal, in time it will get to something more comfortable, more safe, and more fun! Let's just be patient and hopeful.

As I reflect on this year, even with all the sad and bad stuff, many good things come to mind. First that strikes me is the compassion that QCCC members have for our fellow comrades and our community. For example, 77 QCCC Corvettes got together to ride by Al Kessel's home before his treatment began. Nearly that many showed support for Brian Kruse prior to his major surgery. And nearly 100 Corvettes paid tribute to Bob McCall as we drove by his house to support the family. But that's not all. QCCC supported the Kids First charity with 2 truckloads of food and a donation, took carloads of food to the Mooresville food bank, participated in the biggest toy drive with Corvette Angels, gave money to Wings of Eagles Therapeutic Ranch, and over 30 members worked all day at the Ranch to clean trails, plant, and paint. It's clear to me that QCCC will respond to whatever noble cause is out there, no hesitation, no questions, just amazing support. That makes me so proud of this club, of each and every member, and the impact that has been made in the greater Charlotte area.

I am also very proud to have been able to be on the Board of QCCC for the past six years, with one more to go. I am very proud to say to people that I am the president of the best Corvette Club in the nation, because of the support and dedication of the members. I am proud that QCCC holds the best club run Corvette show in the USA. I am very proud of the Board Members that have served with me while I have been in office. I am especially proud and thankful for the current Board members that are staying in their position for one more year to help us have a great experience as we get back to normal. QCCC is an amazing group of caring, dedicated people. Even in a year where we have less than 50% of our normal activities, QCCC makes an impact in so many different ways. And that is something for every one of us to be very proud of. I sure am, and I know you are too.

As we approach this Holiday Season, Paige and I wish each one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing much more of everyone as we get into 2021. Before long we will be doing it again, the thing that keeps us going...



Love 'em, drive 'em, cherish 'em.

It'll make you and your car smile.



Twas the month we had Christmas

A QCCC Christmas tribute

By Paul Mitchell (with apologies to Clement Clarke Moore)



Twas the month we had Christmas, and all through the club

We decorated our houses, all rooms and each shrub.

Our lights were twinkling and our fires were ablaze

We all were festive and enjoying the craze.

The parties were constant, the laughter was fun

We shopped till we choked, and then we were done.

As we lay down at night, under the stars

We wonder what Santa had for our cars.

Performance or sparkle, we wondered aloud

What would we get to make our cars proud.

On Eckler, on Zip, Mid America too

Catalogs confirmed what we already knew.

When we opened our gifts and saw what he brung

Our hearts were happy and we all felt so young.

Yes gifts for our cars make us smile with glee

But the real gift we have is simple and free.

Great friends in our club, the best car in the land

Other car people just don't understand.

We love our Corvette, and our club we are in

Life is so good, the best it has been.

So love them and cherish them, our fabulous car,

And drive them to restaurants both near and far.

So enjoy this season, with laughter and cheer

Thanks for the fun, let's repeat it next year!

CORVETTE SOUNDS

Sung to the tune of Jingle Bells

By Paul Mitchell



Dashing down the roads

In a high horse Corvette car

O'er the hills we go

It's fun and we want to go far

Sounds from exhaust ring

Making spirits bright

What fun it is to shift and brake

On a beautiful road tonight

Corvette sounds

Corvette sounds

Love the noise they make

Oh what fun it is to drive

Mash the gas and hit the brake

Corvette sounds

Corvette sounds

So good to hear them roar

So drive them fast, drive them far

It'll make your spirit soar



Social Scene



SOCIAL DIRECTOR

~ Donna Berst ~

Yay, it's December and thankfully the final month in 2020!!!!!! As we look forward to a new year and getting back to our old routines, it amazes me that through the worst year possible there was so much good to be found everywhere...

I usually close out my article with the saying "It's not where you go... but who you travel with that makes the journey special"! We have been blessed to "travel life" with the wonderful individuals in this club. This year has been a huge challenge to stay connected. Many of us haven't been able to attend any events or meetings since March. Others, who did get together, have felt the awkwardness of not sharing a warm handshake, hug, or smile.

Through it all, I have discovered how important our QCCC friendships are. We miss those treasured friends we have not seen in months and those who have been lost to us forever. This year we made special bonds with a great group of new and prospective members. We gave food, toys, money and volunteered our time to our charities. Many of us made phone calls or texts regularly to check on each other. And we came out in masses to cruise-by to encourage and honor fellow members. QCCC your heart shone brightly in the darkness of 2020! You make the journey special!

I look forward to next year and the fun activities we are planning. So, stay safe & warm. Have a Merry Christmas and be ready to PAAAAAARTY later on in 2021!

Donna Berst ~ 2020 QCCC Social Director

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





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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 "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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REFERRAL BONUS

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A short personal Christmas story:

Childhood Christmases

Every Christmas to this day brings back memories of my childhood Christmases, my parents always made them special for my brother, sister, and me. It always started the day after Thanksgiving when my dad would build a rather large train table in the basement. I know he enjoyed the trains, village lighting, and electronics as much as we did. It is funny that these train tables started out 4 feet by 8 feet and ended up being one quarter the size of the basement over the years, and eventually stayed up all year long. Closer to Christmas the house was decorated, the outside decorations were not to the level of Clark Griswold but nice. No gifts were ever visible before Christmas morning, we always had to wait for Santa to make his rounds! I remember one Christmas when Santa's helpers were in the basement assembling our first bicycles on Christmas Eve. They seem to be having difficulties and a few harsh words were heard up in our bedroom. Before bed, the cookies and milk were left on the living room end table and off to bed we went. Then Christmas morning, my brother, sister, and I would always race to the living room, the Christmas Story movie comes to mind. We would then sit and wait for Santa's helpers to wake up after a long evening making Christmas for us. I want to thank my parents for always making Christmas special for my brother, sister, and me!!

To all Queen City Corvette Club families and friends!

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Automotive Events Director

Roger W Winge

VP Report



December 2020

Well here we are at the end of a crazy year like no other, with the implementation of group shutdowns.

We will just have to plan ahead for 2021 and be ready to go when we can get back together as a group. That's what I will be doing – keeping in contact with our friends who allow us to meet at their facilities, and helping to plan events for next year.

The glass is still half full and I am thankful for many things:

The opportunity to serve on our Board and experience first-hand what a great group of people make up our club with their caring and concern for each other

Thankful that our Board members agreed to serve again next year, as we will need all that experience to get through this

Thankful for all the fun outdoor events we had this past year to see some friends and drive our cars

Thankful for the continued support from our primary sponsor, City Chevrolet, and the support of our advertisers

Thankful for GM finally introducing the awesome mid-engine Corvette, which should excite a whole new generation of enthusiasts and in turn, will add members to the QCCC for the next 50 years

And a final thanks to our Membership Director, Paul Schmitt for serving the last five years. We will miss his sense of humor, smiling face, and look forward to his continuing in the Care and Compassion work for our club.

Dick Gwilt, VP





MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

MERRY CHRISTMAS QCCC!

As I sit here and write this, I realized that this will be my last QCCC Newsletter article. It's a shame we couldn't have a December meeting as I would have preferred saying goodbye to you as your Membership Director in person. COVID has had a huge impact not only on our lives this year, but on our club as well. It was and is a great social outlet for our 350 Members. We will survive this, as our club continues to get stronger not only in Membership numbers, but in friendship and love. We have the BEST Corvette Club in the south.

I remember my first QCCC Meeting as your Membership Director, on January 14, 2017, at the 5th Annual Chili Cook Off. Those Chili-cook offs throughout the years, are one of the most fun events we have and hopefully will continue for many more years. We always had large attendance giving everyone an opportunity to enter their favorite recipe chili and the chance for the first, second, or third place prize. The camaraderie, the food, and the laughs were over the top!

Another initiative that we started back in 2017 was Care and Compassion. I never realized how important it would become when we first started it. It has really given the members the opportunity to encourage each other by sending cards, flowers, emails, notes, phone calls, but most importantly to PRAY for each other. Prayer as we know, is a solemn and powerful request, addressed to GOD for help in spiritual and physical healing. He is the mighty healer and performed many miracles in this club. FYI, I will continue on in the Care & Compassion capacity for 2021.



On a final note, my wish today is to remember that when it comes to Christmas, we should think about the gift of Jesus that God gave to us. He came bringing us hope and light in a very dark world. You will never find equal joy, peace, or security in any other gift you receive. This gift can only be found in Him. Let Him live in your heart and let His light shine through you to others. Let us tell others about this perfect gift at Christmas. Let us tell them of the LOVE that Jesus offers all of us and the hope He gives us for Salvation.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the opportunity and privilege of serving as your Membership Director over these last four years. I have met so many wonderful new people and grown deeper friendships with others, and I'm so grateful for that. I wish you all the most joyful Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous New Year!!

Paul Schmitt

Membership Director QCCC

December 2020





Missing all of you for Christmas

Funny how I didn't realize how many Corvette friends and family members I haven't seen face to face until I spent time writing this holiday letter. Covid 19 has put a hardship on all our families and love one's. I am sure that all of us have been struck with the realization of how this virus has affected our lives'. Just know that I wish I could see all of you way more often than I do, but the Pandemic restrictions and life itself gets busier and busier.

Family is a huge part of Christmas, then again, Family is a huge part of LIFE, right? This includes our Corvette Family as well. Christmas brings out the goodness in us long enough to consider the less fortunate and to consider giving a little more outside of our own little world. Yes, even today, in a world of rage and argument, sickness and Covid 19 you can see people put all the anger and judgement down long enough to give of themselves just a little more. We wish peace for everyone more, we wish everyone to be of good cheer, we are saddened to see the lonely and the poor at Christmas time. We long to embrace our friends and hug our families again. There is an air of celebration on this birthday of Baby Jesus Christ. At Christmas we praise His coming into this world and we celebrate this Holy Time. There is joy and anticipation for children, with bright lights and cookies and Christmas carols and virtual Christmas plays. Christmas songs are everywhere. Mistletoe and Christmas cards are dropped into mailboxes everywhere with good wishes, love and peace to all.

I hope all of our Corvette Family has a Very Merry and Joyful Christmas

Tommy and Brenda Loftin

Just remembering a Christmas past

I was probably around 11 years old and had two stair step brothers, one around 9 and the other around 7 years old. On this special Christmas Mom and Dad got all three of us a bow and arrow set. Boy was it a beauty. It had the bow and a set of about a half dozen arrows. As we struggled to shoot the arrows at a target, and after losing many of them in the grass, we or may I say I decided to shoot the arrows straight up in the air and when they landed, they would stick in the ground. La la, easy to find the arrows and no more lost ones. I am sure you are on the edge of your seat expecting me to say the unspeakable, but no we did not get hurt. This is how three red neck brothers had fun growing up in the country.

Tommy



National Corvette Museum



NCM CORNER.

As 2020 draws to a close, I am sure there is not one among us not glad to see it go. I am aware several of our members have had their health impacted by the virus and I can only hope that is the end of that situation and that nobody has been financially harmed beyond repair. With all the disruption heaped upon us it makes our New Year's wish list very easy to compile. It may be presumptuous of me but here is my list:

An effective and readily available COVID vaccine for all

A healing for all those impacted by the disease and other health issues

An awareness in everyone as to what is required to remain safe until the vaccine is in effect

We are able to make up for all the good times we missed in 2020

A happy, and more importantly, a safe holiday season for all

I can think of more but that should suffice to make 2021 a brighter and more enjoyable year.

I hate to be a nag (no I don't) but I have to keep reminding you to keep your National Corvette Museum membership up to date. It's easy to look over the reminders with all the misery in the world and the happiness of the holidays impinging on our brain so try to be alert. If you aren't a member you really should consider joining as the good times and museum trips will be resuming soon. Don't be left out when all the festivities begin again.

And speaking of the holidays, it is Christmas shopping time and most of us will be doing it on line to avoid the people. So please visit the Corvette Store and get your favorite Corvetter and Corvette a befitting gift. Raffle tickets for a new C8 Corvette make great stocking stuffers. The only bad part of giving them as gifts will break your soul if someone wins a Corvette with it. You will, however, become their favorite benefactor.

In hopes of a better year in 2021, wishing each and every one a most Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

BOX SCORE

No. of QCCC Family Units	-108
No. of NCM Members	-194(56%)
No. of Lifetime Members	- 42
No. of Duntov Society Members	- 4

Save the Wave

Paul Mariano

NCM Ambassador





Happy December Birthdays and a Very Merry Christmas!!!

This has certainly been an unprecedented year for all of us and most of our regular club events and celebrations had to be cancelled. However, we wanted to keep the Birthday celebrations alive through the Newsletter and email, and we hope you join us in celebrating our member birthdays here every month.

The **QCCC December** Birthdays are listed below. Please join me in wishing everyone on the list:

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

As we do every month, we drew a lucky Birthday member's name, at random, and a Darden Restaurant Gift Card will be presented to the winner. The **December** Birthday Restaurant Gift Card WINNER is:

Mark Londre

CONGRATULATIONS **Mark!!!** You will receive your e-Gift Card via email through Amazon, so please watch your email (or spam)!!

Wishing you all a very **Merry Christmas** and many Blessings for a Safe, Healthy and Happier New Year!!!

Virtual Hugs,

Carolyn Zimmer

QCCC Secretary

Carolynz77@yahoo.com



QCCC BIRTHDAYS*

December

- 12/1 Brian Kruse
12/2 **Mark Londre **E-GIFT CARD WINNER****
12/3 Beth Walton
12/3 Anna Luree Wright
12/3 Roger Winge
12/4 Cathy Nelson
12/5 Buzz Brescoll
12/5 Terri Pennoni
12/5 Dee Dee Winge
12/8 Larry Newsom
12/9 Judy Armstrong
12/10 Wendy Krupowicz
12/11 Fred Rice
12/11 Brenda Loftin
12/13 Linda Meadows
12/13 Pamela Murawa
12/15 Sue Brown
12/16 Paul Schmitt
12/19 Bill Elko
12/19 Beth Kendall
12/21 Rob Humphrey
12/22 Bob Becker
12/22 Bill Cruthis
12/24 Helen Speer
12/26 Gary Artis
12/26 Barney Peterman
12/28 Rick Mills
12/28 Mal Speer
12/31 Linda Artis
12/31 Joe Estwanik

*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.

Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



The lost decade

This month we will dive into the forgotten decade. I do not believe any member was here for the whole decade. Some of the vintage gang was here for the beginning, and the Zimmers might have been here for the end of the decade therefore, I am relying on much of the information acquired from Richard Craig. By the way Richard has sold his home and moved to Rock Hill, South Carolina. He worked very hard inside and outside to freshen it up and he got a good price, so best of luck in the future. Some may want to send him an email and tell him atta boy Richard.

The decade of the 80's was off to a rough start. First, we lost the clubhouse due to the rent rising. This had been our meeting and drinking frat house sort of, kind of like animal house. This hit about the same time as the racing vs social was raising its ugly head again. The 70's had been great to QCCC as we saw major and constant growth in new members. Having the clubhouse greatly impacted this. We had some members with show cars, some who had daily drivers, and some had race cars on trailers. Many of the weekend racers cordially enjoyed the social events plus many of the social and weekend trip folks enjoyed helping out at the racing events. In the last half of the 70's we had become a serious race-oriented group. The clubhouse had been the base where all the groups would come and discuss racing and social events over some cold brewskies. Make that many cold brewskies. Much like Cheers, you felt right at home. Instead of Norm it was Travis who upon arrival would comment "have one or be one". Nobody knew what the hell that meant, but it was a staple.

Not until it was gone did we realize what we had lost. We started meeting at apartment complex clubhouses, and members houses. (see Jane Burt who held club meetings more than once in her living room.) As the decade moved on racing was actually the dominant theme of QCCC. I guess it was easier to keep racing however fragmented, but social slipped even worse. It seems impossible that we flourished on the track so well. A lot of the holding of QCCC together fell to then President Sam McGee who was not afraid to put his foot down when one side or the other got out of control. As we grew, new members were less keen on having to pay the required QCCC dues and pay to send our auto rep. to quarterly meetings all over the U.S. There were some really intense discussions at some of the meetings.

The racing was just dominant. QCCC won the championship of the region almost every year of the decade. On top of that we were National Champions in 1988. (see attached shadow box of jacket patches for winning). Remember we were a club of about 20 couples and Charlotte was still a small berg at the time. You won points for entering a speed event, then you won points for winning a speed event. We went to speed events in New Orleans, Roebing Road in Georgia, Rockingham, Darlington, Statesville, Greer Drag Way in SC, and many others. Helping us win the Region and National awards was the fact that we were in the hotbed of racing in Charlotte and many of the events were close by. Additionally, the QCCC women loved to race and almost all of the spouses raced and earned points. I know Richard Craig would get off work Friday at 5 pm, go home and pack his 85 coupe with clothes for the weekend plus put his hoosier tires in the back of the 85 and some tools on the passenger seat and head to Roebing Road. Once there he would park outside the gate as it was locked up by the time he arrived and would sleep in the car until someone arrived Saturday morning. That is how serious the racers of QCCC were.

Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



A lot of credit goes to the Presidents of the time starting with Sam McGee in 1977, Roy Elgin 1980, Bill Pegorch 1981, Jerry Rhinehardt 1982, Dave Stiles 1983, Scott Jordan 1984, Melvin Pace 85 and 89, Larry Gunter 1986, Donna Helms 1987, and Jerry Stevens 1988. These were the folks in charge during the rocky decade of the 80's. Other than the beginning years the 80's were without a doubt the riskiest time where we might not have survived. The racing for the most part waned on its own in the 90's as social entertainment took over with Jane and Eddie Burt leading the way. As the price of the cars, parts, and labor was just too much for a weekend hobby. This is why today we all marvel at Brian Kruse, Craig Perry, Eric Matthews and Bill Ingram as they take today's hot rides on the track.

Even though we don't have organized racing now, there are plenty who would like to take a lap or two at V. I.R. (especially in someone else's Corvette). We lack insurance to cover us now, but when the SCCA invited us to an autocross at Z-Max, Darrel Kirkley was first to get there. He also was the first to get sent home for breaking 10 seconds in the quarter mile with no roll bar.

You never know, QCCC may get to race again one day. It was fun in the 80's, but it would be more fun with today's Corvette.

See photos of Richard Craigs 1967 and 1985 that he raced. Melvin Pace still has his 68 427 "pop top" and promises to get it running again. A timed lap of Charlotte Motor Speedway is a Walter Mitty moment for sure.

No doubt racing also held us together for the decade. Those who did not race sure wished they had once the opportunity was gone. Some raced seriously and the others benched raced at the bar.

Bill Henderson, a member in the 70's was invited to the August meeting at Hendrick in 2016. When we asked him what he thought about the QCCC that he helped get started, he said "this was a poor man's club when he was a member". He could not believe all the new and shiny Corvettes. That sums up what happened to racing. The cars just got so pricey and repairs out of site. If anyone challenged us to a race we were there. Ask Russ Thompson (911 Porsche) who started pushing Dave Morse that he could whip his 66 Corvette. Result was 3 years of the Porsche Corvette Challenge at CMS. Great years to be in QCCC.



Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past

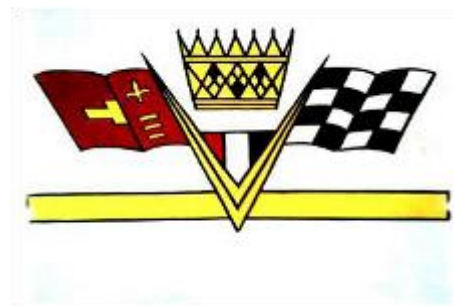


Vintage QCCC

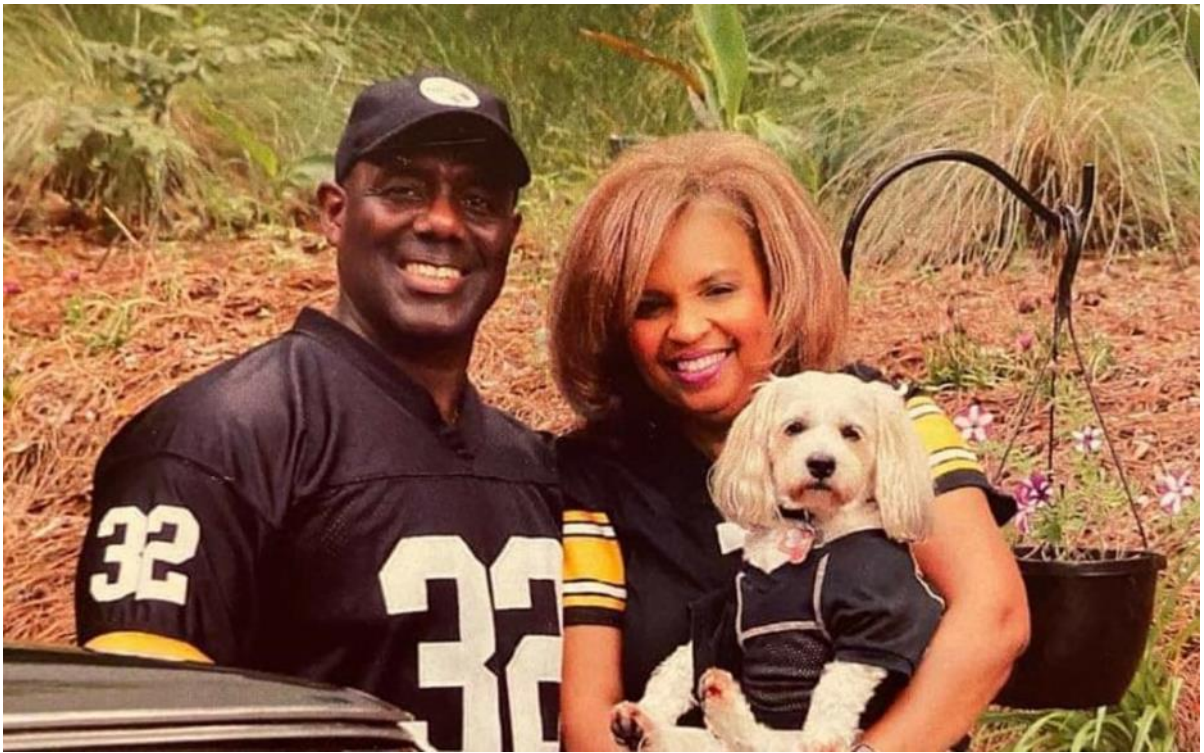
With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



Remembering our dear friend, Bob McCall



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.



Groups



Pages



QCCC Members

88 members



Queen City Corvette Club



**Catch the
latest QCCC
news by
joining us on
Facebook!**

LAST LAUGHS

