

# The Queen City Corvette Gazette



*Official Newsletter of North Carolina's Largest Corvette Club*

August 2021

***HAPPY 53rd ANNIVERSARY, QCCC!***

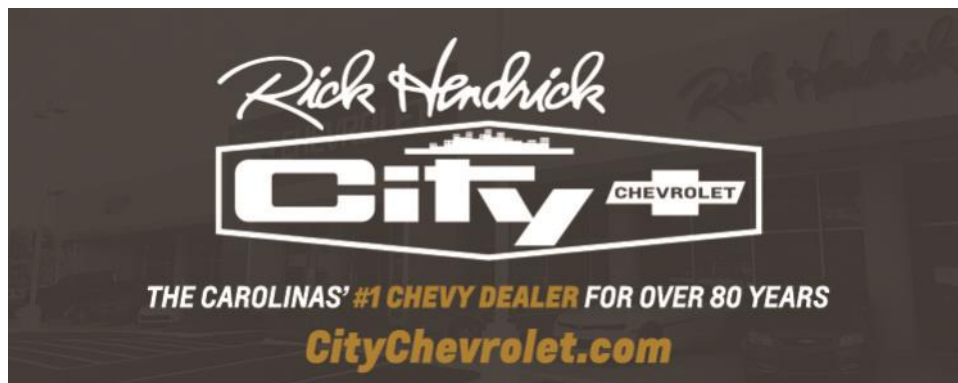


## **August QCCC Business Meeting**

**Date:** Saturday August 14, 2021

**Location:** Victory Lanes Entertainment and Events Center  
125 Morlake Drive, Mooresville, NC 28117

**Time:** Social 1:30 pm, Ice Cream/Cupcakes 2 pm, Meeting 3 pm



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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*

Buckle up tight, because we got a real streak of activities coming up for the next few weeks. Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>, special banquet on the 21<sup>st</sup>, just for a start. The meeting is our annual anniversary meeting where we will be celebrating 53 years of QCCC continuous operation. That's something that very few Corvette clubs can claim. We will recognize our founders and look at our growth by decade. And don't forget – free ice cream and cupcakes! Gonna be fun. Then on the 21<sup>st</sup> is our belated Banquet at the Speedway Club with fun, food, drink, and Too Much Sylvia for entertainment. You already have all the details, so sign up and be there for the festivities. At the end of the month is a great trip to the beautiful Western NC mountains in Maggie Valley. A very popular trip for the club, I've heard that what goes on around the campfire stays (or not) at the campfire.

Then here comes September and boy does this month have a lot to offer. Starting with Auto Fair at the Speedway. The Captain (Roger) is all excited to be able to get us together for this event for the first time in 2 years. It's always a beautiful day with lots going on, most importantly fellowship with fellow QCCC members. The next weekend a big contingent of QCCC members will travel to Helen, GA for the annual Octoberfest weekend. It's in the beautiful mountains of northwestern GA, great roads, and a really fun atmosphere in the little German town. Oh, and there's beer.

The next weekend is our September meeting, obviously a couple weeks later than usual due to the calendar. But this meeting is one week before the Car Show, so we will be doing things to get ready for the show as well as have our regular meeting. This will be at the Loftin Corvette and Horse Compound, always a great meeting venue at their beautiful home.

And obviously this is all leading up to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Queen City Corvette Show at Hendrick Motorsports on October 2. If you have been here before, you know it's lots of work, lots of activity, and lots of pride in a job well done when it's over. And there is so much to see. If you have not been here yet, you are in for a treat. Sign up, get door prizes or goody bag items together, and join in on the fun and great experience. It's going to be another epic QCCC event!

Whew! That's a full calendar for the next two months. And it'll be fun. You and your Corvette are going to be very happy and spend lots of time together. So, you know what to do.....Love 'em, drive 'em, cherish 'em. It'll make you and your car smile.

## SOCIAL SCENE



SOCIAL DIRECTOR

~ Donna Berst ~



It's Party Time!!!! Sign up **NOW** for the social event of the year, our QCCC Annual Banquet. Wear your best Tropical Attire or your Dressy Duds and enjoy a night of great food, fellowship & fun! Reservations & payment must be received by Noon on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up details in the upcoming events article.

**A BIG thank you to all, who brought their Car Show Silent Auction Items to the July meeting!!!** We will continue to collect your donations at the August meeting. Gift cards & Gift certificates are perfect if you would rather not make a Basket. You can bring in smaller individual items that can be used for Door Prizes at our Car Show. (Examples: a single tub of car wax, shop towels, washing mitt, a \$5 Gas, Walmart, Starbucks or Dunkin' gift card, a coffee mug or an Insulated tumbler, etc) Look for Marilyn or myself at the meeting and we will collect your goodies.

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, we had 26 Corvettes caravan through Lake Norman State Park, downtown Mooresville & Davidson then onto Carolina Cones for a delightful evening of ice cream and friendship! We sat outside and enjoyed the lovely evening and closed the place down. We stayed so long they turned the lights off on us just like the good old days at the bar! 😊

There have been quite a few folks asking about a start-up date for the Wednesday Night and Up-Yonder dinners, that we so enjoyed before Covid began. For our newer QCCC friends who may not know about these dinners, they were informal get-togethers at local restaurants several times a month. The **last** Monday of each month was when the "Up-Yonder" bunch met. A north Charlotte or Mooresville restaurant was normally chosen. Tracey Comfort organized this and she, Chris Schmitt and I are checking around to see which restaurants would be able to accommodate us again. The "Wednesday Night Dinners" were held almost every Wednesday at restaurants in south or east Charlotte. Jane Burt coordinated these dinners and is looking into options for resuming the Wednesday dinners. Start-up dates will be communicated by email Blasts.

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday August 14, 2021**, QCCC ANNIVERSARY & BUSINESS MEETING 1:30pm Social Time – 3:00pm Meeting Time at the Victory Lanes Entertainment Center - 125 Morlake Dr. Mooresville 28117. Join us for ice cream & cupcakes during our social hour prior to the meeting. (Please bring your Auction & Door Prize donation items if you haven't already).

**Saturday August 21, 2021**, QCCC 2020 ANNUAL BANQUET Sign-up ***NOW*** for an Elegant Luau at the Charlotte Motor Speedway Club. Where you can spend time visiting with QCCC friends & guests, enjoy an outstanding dinner of filet & chicken Marsala with all the trimmings, followed by a fun filled night of entertainment by the renowned band TOO MUCH SYLVIA! A self-pay premium cash bar will be open throughout the evening. Wear your best Tropical Attire or just come as you are, but don't miss the event of the year! (Speedway Club dress code includes NO tee shirts, jean shirts or flip flops) **QCCC MEMBERS** – The cost is \$40 per person. *Pay online through the QCCC website. Go to Club Info+ then select Event Sign-up. PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS* who have attended at least one club meeting the cost is \$55 per person. *Mail your check to* Queen City Corvette Club, PO Box 574 Paw Creek, NC 28130 **but then you MUST RSVP by email to [donnaberst@windstream.net](mailto:donnaberst@windstream.net)** to be added to the dinner reservation list. See you then!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Friday, August 27 through Sunday, August 29, 2021**, MAGGIE VALLEY OVERNIGHTER Coordinators: Tom & Terri Pennoni [t\\_pennoni@hotmail.com](mailto:t_pennoni@hotmail.com) We will once again be staying at the Maggie Valley Creekside Lodge. To reserve a room please call 828-926-1301 **Maggie Valley Creekside Lodge** 2716 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. Tell Them you are with QCCC. **Once you have made your motel reservations send an email to [t\\_pennoni@hotmail.com](mailto:t_pennoni@hotmail.com)** so that he can keep you updated on any changes or details.

**Friday September 17 – Sunday September 19, 2021**, OKTOBERFEST TRIP TO HELEN, GA. This is a fun filled weekend trip! Make your reservations at the **Baymont Hotel** (706) 878-2111. The price is \$139.00 per night for 2 queen beds plus tax. *Be sure to tell them that you are with the Queen City Corvette Club to get the special rate. Email Steve Bonino once you have made your room reservations. [vettegs17@gmail.com](mailto:vettegs17@gmail.com)*

**Saturday October 2, 2021**, QCCC CHARITY CAR SHOW at Hendrick Motorsports Complex.

**Saturday October 9, 2021**, BUSINESS MEETING & BBQ DINNER at the Davidson's Farm.

**Sunday October 17, 2021**, RUN TO THE COLORS & LUNCH IN SHATLEY SPRINGS. Mark your calendars to attend this event organized by The Foothills Corvette Club. Look for email Blasts!

**Thursday/Friday October 21 or 22 to Sunday October 24, 2021**, NORTH MYRTLE BEACH TRIP **Contact Dick Gwilt [rgwilt@me.com](mailto:rgwilt@me.com)** for more information. Make your reservations (mention QCCC for special rooms/rate) **Ocean Drive Beach and Golf Resort** 98 N. Ocean Blvd. North Myrtle Beach SC 29582 [www.oceandrivoresort.com](http://www.oceandrivoresort.com) 843-249-1436 800-438-9590 Social/Lunch w/ Myrtle Beach Corvette Club on Sat. Oct 23.

**Saturday October 30, 2021**, TABLE ROCK, SC DAY TRIP Plan to join us for this scenic drive. Look for email Blasts in the fall with more information.

Please let Ron or me know if you have any ideas, for future QCCC day or overnight trips or cruise-ins!

Donna Berst ~ 2021 QCCC Social Director

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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**

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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.*

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

*Rick Accurso*

*Inventory Manager & Corvette Specialist*

*704-566-7447*

*Rick.Accurso@hendrickauto.com*

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

*Saverio Longobardo*

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*704-566-7407*

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Hot fun in the summertime!

We just had our first ever QCCC Member Meeting at Billy Boat Exhaust in Mooresville with a GREAT attendance of 110 members. For those of us who came early, we watched Billy put a C7 up on the lift and install a new exhaust system in just thirty minutes.

Our latest member to receive a new 2021 C8 Corvette from our sponsor, City Chevrolet, is Bud Curva. Jim Campbell’s silver C8 should be arriving this month and that makes a total of 11 QCCC members to purchase a 2021 C8 from City Chevrolet.

I hope if you want a 2022 Corvette, you have your order in with our contact at City, Rick Accurso. As this car is still in high demand, you could have to wait for a 2023 if you procrastinate. WOW!

I recently had the fun of signing up my two year old grandson for a future lifetime membership to the National Corvette Museum. They have a “Lifetime Legacy” membership available. You can either go to the website to read about it under “Lifetime Member”, or better yet, ask Mike Mariano, our new NCM Ambassador about what various memberships they have to offer.

The meeting locations for our next three meetings are as follows:

August 14      Victory Lanes Entertainment and Event Center  
                         Mooresville, NC  
                         Social 1:30   Ice Cream 2:00   Meeting 3:00

September 25   Tommy & Brenda Loftin’s Homestead  
                         Troutman, NC  
                         Social 4:00   Meeting 5:00

October 9      Bill & Julia Davidson’s Farm – York, SC  
                         Social 3:00   Meal 4:00   Meeting 5:00

**NOTE:**

Times and details are subject to change, so look for a BLAST two weeks before each event.

Dick Gwilt, VP [rgwilt@me.com](mailto:rgwilt@me.com)





Future Lifetime National Corvette Museum Member!



Aug. 1, 2021 Hot fun in the summertime!



## MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

### August

#### MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:

Total Membership	349
Total Families	191
Prospective Members	50
New Members Year to Date	27
Avg. Monthly Attendance	92

#### NEW MEMBERS:

**Don & Roberta Lowe**  
 Troutman, NC  
 Corvette: 1972 Convertible &  
 2010 Grand Sport Coupe

**John & Lynda Looney**  
 Lancaster, SC  
 Corvette: 2014 Laguna Blue Z51 Coupe





## **AUGUST 2021**

**Al Kessel-** We laid our dear friend Al to rest on Sunday, August 1, 2021. The viewing at Gordon Funeral Home and the First Baptist Church Service were a beautiful tribute to the love and respect of family and friends. He had wonderful life, cut way too short, and we will sorely miss him. There were approximately 40 QCCC Members that attended the church service followed by the QCCC Corvette honor parade to the gravesite. Al's son led the way driving his Nightrace Blue Corvette. He had an US Air Force military send off with a 15-gun salute followed by the touching rendition of Taps that filled the afternoon air. Please continue to remember Gerri in your thoughts and prayers. Send her a card, note, or email. Al really loved QCCC, as was mentioned by several speakers at the service.

**Paige Mitchell-** Paige is recovering from a second back surgery. She is home recovering and would like your prayers for a fast recovery. This was the second surgery in less than four months. Cards and emails are welcome.



# AUTOMOTIVE INSIDER

Well, it looks like the only automotive events coming up this month will be the various Cars & Coffee meetings (see schedule below). I will send out a blast a few days before each event with details.

Charlotte Motor Speedway 2021 Fall Auto Fair is on for Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Get signed up for the event as there are only a few spots available.

## *Cars & Coffee pictures*



## **AUGUST AUTOMOTIVE SCHEDULE**

- Saturday August 14th – Waterbean Cars & Coffee Cornelius, NC
- Saturday August 21st – Charlotte Motor Speedway Cars & Coffee Concord, NC
- Saturday August 28th – LNK Cars & Coffee Mooresville, NC

Roger Winge  
Automotive Events Director



## **10<sup>TH</sup> Annual Queen City Corvette Club Corvette Show 2021**

**October 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2021**

July has been a busy time for the QCCC Car Show preparations. We had 2 meetings in July with The Hendrick Performance team. City Chevrolet has presented us with our annual donation, purchased t-shirts and supplied us with goody bags among other things. We anticipate that this year's show will be the biggest yet, with a goal of 500 Corvettes, vendors, food trucks, Bloomington Gold Judging, Heritage Center tours, silent auction, special Hendrick displays, trophies, awards, free give-a-ways and much more. We are asking that all QCCC members get involved in some way to help make this happen. As a QCCC member you should be proud to be part of one of the largest Corvette events in the country. You should also be proud to wear one of our yellow QCCC t-shirts so that all the Corvette enthusiasts can see that you are a working part of this show. I am asking that you please get on board and help pull this off. Our sign-up participation is very low and we need your help.

To register your Corvette; go to the QCCC website and go under Club Info – Event Signup – Car Show Member Signup for the no fee member registration. You can also register in person at the August club meeting and each meeting afterwards. Our Corvettes will not be judged; however, we will have 20 QCCC Participants Choice Awards and we will be parked in front of the Heritage Center this year. This will also be the time to sign-up for the work detail of your choice and bring donated items.

### **Work Detail Team Leaders are as follows:**

Advertising & Trophies	Roger Winge, Paul Mitchell, Tommy Loftin
50/50 Raffle Tickets & Charity	Brenda Loftin and Ron Burst
Silent Auction	Donna Burst
Event Sponsors & Goody Bags	Tommy Loftin and Paul Mitchell
Parking	Darrell Kirkley and Larry Miller
Registration	Michelle Moore
Tally & Score Sheet	Craig and Donna Smith
Judging	John Callahan and Brian Moore
Main Tent	Keith and Kelly Cross
Heritage Center Tours	Reggie and Suzie Black
Announcements & Door Prizes	Paul Schmitt and Chris Wood

### **Donation items needed:**

Gift baskets / buckets / tubs / gift cards, for silent auction are needed and you can make and assemble them or bring items and the committee will assemble them. The Committee will provide the bows, cellophane and filler for your basket, if you wish.

Door prize suggestions are wash and shine products from Adams, Armor All, Maguire's, Griot's, Mothers, Detail King, Chemical Guys, 3M, etc. These products will be separate items for door prize give-a-ways. All car entrees, including QCCC will qualify for these items. We need at least 100 items for door prizes.

We will also be assembling 300 goody bags for each paid entry. If you have a business or know of someone that has a business that would like to donate small items to be included in the goody bags, please let me know. Also, if you could contact car care suppliers and ask for item donations it would help greatly. We can also use advertisement items from almost anyone from the local area as stuffers.

We need you to sign-up, show-up and help with this annual event. If you would like to be more involved in the show or if you have positive suggestions, please contact me and we can discuss them.

Thank you in advance for all that you are going to do.

Tommy Loftin, QCCC's 10<sup>TH</sup> Annual Corvette Show Director

[tloftin@roadrunner.com](mailto:tloftin@roadrunner.com)

704-902-1330

## CAR WASH AND DETAILING





## Happy August Birthdays!!!!

Hi QCCC Members!

Wow – it seems like this year is going so very fast!! But there are so many fun activities we can still look forward to – the QCCC Anniversary Ice Cream Social and the Fabulous QCCC Banquet Luau, just to name two. And of course, August still has plenty of warm sunny weather for us to get out and drive our Corvettes. Hope you get to have lots of fun this month and share good times with Corvette buddies. AND, also this month, please join us in celebrating our August Member Birthdays!!!

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

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

As you know, we randomly draw the name of a member present at our business meetings who is celebrating a Birthday that month, and present him or her with a Darden Restaurant Birthday Gift Card. So please plan to attend the August QCCC Anniversary Meeting and Ice Cream Social at the Victory Lanes Entertainment and Events Center in Mooresville to see who our lucky Gift Card winner will be!!!! Check out the QCCC Website Calendar for details.

Hope to see you all at the August Meeting AND the Banquet Luau!!!

*Carolyn Zimmer*  
*QCCC Secretary*  
[carolynz77@yahoo.com](mailto:carolynz77@yahoo.com)





## QCCC BIRTHDAYS\*



### **August**

- 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 Mike Watts**
- 8/11 David Faircloth**
- 8/12 Ben Hinson**
- 8/12 Floyd Schwartz**
- 8/12 Michelle Leonard**
- 8/15 Brenda Melodovitch**
- 8/15 Jim Campbell**
- 8/15 Judy Jacob**
- 8/16 Richard Taddonio**
- 8/18 Chuck Solland**
- 8/18 Dawn Faircloth**
- 8/19 Donna Berst**
- 8/18 Nick Kendall**
- 8/19 Andy Melodovitch**
- 8/22 Phil Smith**
- 8/24 Gary Cunningham**
- 8/25 Jim Leonard**
- 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).



## NCM CORNER



Hello QCCC members and I hope that those of you who are planning to go on the NCM Anniversary run in September, are getting as excited as I am. Lots of new changes at the museum for us all to take in, like the new Stingray Grill that is opening on Aug 12<sup>th</sup>, as well as the new 'Corvette Powered' exhibit.

We still have some rooms available for those who wish to join us in Bowling Green. Some of the events include Koerner C5, C6, & C7, Join moderator Kai Spande for a discussion with Dick Ruzzin and Jordan Lee Global Chief Engineer Small Block Engines, MSP Touring, Sip-n-Paint, and KY Derby Museum visit. Plus, you will get to meet the who's who in the Corvette community. There will also be new merchandise at the Museum store and event T-Shirts and Polos.

For those of you who have children and grandchildren, you may want to inspire them to enjoy the Corvette Community as well. You can do this by considering a 'Next Generation Membership'. The donation is a one-time amount that covers the Next Generation member until they reach the age of 18. There are two price brackets, based on the joining age of the child. Children ages 0-9 \$400 and Children ages 10-18 \$200. Benefits include Free admission, 10% discount in Store, Discounts on NCM sponsored children's programs, Membership packet including toy Corvette when joining, Quarterly emailed newsletter, Birthday gift each year. To order a membership call member relations supervisor Bobbie Jo Lee at 270-467-8833.

Save the Wave

Mike Mariano

NCM Ambassador

Walt and Wendy Krupowicz, their daughters, Jennifer & Gretchen and grandson, Michael take "Family Museum Delivery".



# *Vintage QCCC*

***With the Vintage Gang: Bill Cruthis 1974,  
Bill Ingram 1973, Darrell Kirkley 1973,  
and Travis Meredith 1970***



## Ole Times There Are Not Forgotten

After a brief phone call with one of our Historians (Trav) this week, I am changing direction with this month's news. We keep losing our dear friends, in fact it may not be long before they have QCCC North up and going up there in those puffy clouds. This time it was Mr. Al Kessel. I don't seem to be very good at thinking all of you (self included) will not always be there. I hope most of you got to know Al. His personal life story was tremendous and his business accomplishments were enormous. I was speaking with him at a men's lunch at Azeteca when he said, "See those buildings over there? I built them." Such a private person, who would have known. Gerri, such a wonderful partner for him. Our thoughts and prayers to her and the rest of the family.

As we talked Wednesday, I was thinking how blessed we have been in our lifetimes. To the opportunities that QCCC has afforded us.

**Opportunity:** to know some of the best people in the land. We know Corvette people bleed red, white, and blue. I am reminded of vintage member, Bill Ingram, who says he really likes the cross cut the membership offers in ideas, knowledge, occupations etc. Just about anything you need to know can be found amongst our members, the least of which is info about the cars.

**Opportunity:** If you had bet me when I was in high school that I would one day be driving (well, I called it racing) around Charlotte Motor Speedway, you would have won that bet. When we had the (75) South East Sectional, Corvette-Porsche Challenges (75,76,77), National Conventions for NCCC (78, 91) a lot of the members were home town folks and used to Nascar, but for us transplants it was awe inspiring. Sitting on pit road waiting for your lap and looking around at the grandstands really struck me. Of course my first event with QCCC was the 75 South East Sectional, and I went off first because I had volunteered to be a corner worker for the day and I needed to get my runs out of the way. As I hit the left onto the road course in my 63 split window, the rear end gears sounded like a giant eating a metal sandwich. Then to embarrass myself more, I had to retrieve my ford ranchero and trailer to clear the track while everyone waited for my butt to get out of the way. So much for first impressions. Still being at the speedway in those early days would be equivalent to having your fraternity softball team working out at the Cubs training camp in Scottsdale or your 3 on 3 basketball team practicing at the Bulls court in Chicago.

**Opportunity:** to travel with this fun group, to car shows, to the beach, and other places of interest. As a transplant, it did not take long to learn a lot about this beautiful area. From the mountains to the sea. We laughed about the early days as CB radios hit about 1976. We would start a caravan to the beach, which back then was all two lane roads and a slower drive. The first car would come on the CB and say all clear come on, and the whole caravan would go left lane hammer down over hills and around curves trusting blind faith to the leader. We probably scared the Be Jesus out of some folks. Where else could you climb in a shopping cart to be pushed down the road in a race? Where else could you have a hill climb in the mountains with a tree in the middle of the road at the bottom? Where else could you race on the sands of Myrtle Beach? And on and on and on.

**Opportunity:** Then as now, you need something, anything, need knowledge, need an extra set of hands, help moving, help with your car,....just ask and you will receive.

# *Vintage QCCC*



***With the Vintage Gang: Bill Cruthis 1974,  
Bill Ingram 1973, Darrell Kirkley 1973,  
and Travis Meredith 1970***

Opportunity: to build lifelong friendships that spanned over business and family changes. The Vintage Gang has 50 years of such. Think about the ten families that took their own National Parks Tour trip. Gone over 30 days, drove 10,000 miles, so much they all had to get an oil change. That group will always have a closeness. Think about the cars, think about Tommy and Reggie and John restoring cars together. You can never break those memories. I can tell you first hand going to an autocross in Statesville turned sour. It rained so we loaded the cars on our trailers in a hurry resulting in my 63 coupe being loaded to far up causing the tongue weight to be a bad fulcrum. (it was bad enough already as Trav says I was pulling a trailer made for an I-9 bulldozer with a base ranchero so the trailer and car weighed twice the tow vehicle. Coming back on I 40 in the hills, it got sideways allowing me to see both sides of the coupe as it swung like a pendulum. I was glad to have everyone traveling with me to help out. Well maybe with the exception of Danny Shaver, who always saw the humor in things and he offered this “bet you couldn’t drive a ten penny nail up your ass right now”.

Opportunity: to give back thru our charities with our time, money, gifts. It is one thing to be blessed and quite another to try to pass some of it. along to those less fortunate. Wonder what the dollar amount would be since 1968 of value given by QCCC to charities?

Quite honestly Corvette and QCCC have provided me (us) a shot at some pretty high end adventures that I would not have thought possible. i.e. don’t forget Ron Fellows Driving School.

As we continue to lose our valued members, I would encourage each of you to get to know as many members as possible. They all have something to offer you, to broaden your horizons. Learn about their lives and their personal conquests. There is so much knowledge and talent in our group. This is what makes us strong and will carry us on forever.

Travis and I had a great phone talk the other day and just a few of the memories we spoke about had us both grinning from ear to ear. We could have talked all day about stuff we both remember. But that is what QCCC is all about. As Chris Wood says “you come because of the car, you stay because of the people”.

For those we have lost, we thank you for being a part of this magnificent group and for your contributions. We will join you again one day. In the meantime Y’all keep em straight up there!

Submitted: Bill Cruthis





## QCCC....HOW IT ALL BEGAN

It's the summer of 1968. Twenty two year old high school buddies Earl Ferrell and Carl Brown had acquired new Corvettes in 1966 and spent time together cruising Charlotte and hanging out at a local service station enjoying their cars.

Earl had grown up with a mechanic father and a driveway full of cool cars. In high school he drove a modified 55 Chevy and later a 327 65 Chevelle SS. But the Corvette bug bit Earl and he wound up with a striking 1966 silver coupe with silver interior and a 327/350 hp engine. He added side exhausts and American mags to complete the look of the day. Earl was an avid drag racing fan and years later converted his pride and joy to an all out drag car that was very competitive.

When Earl's neighbor Clyde Richards bought a new Corvette the duo became a trio. The *Corvette Club of North Carolina* was not very active and didn't appeal to the trio so it was Earl's idea to start a new club. With influence from a "*Corvette News*" magazine article titled "How to start a Corvette Club", the new club was formed.

With Earl as president, recruitment started immediately. Earl had some business cards printed where you could write in your name and phone number and he would leave them under the windshield wipers of every Corvette he saw sitting still. Butch Bigham remembers being at LaPointe Chevrolet having a problem solved on his new 68 (he was there a lot) when Earl approached him in the service lane. Butch joined in July.

The first thing on the agenda was a name. They all agreed it should have a direct connection to Charlotte and being called the "Queen City" that name was chosen.

The bi-laws were drafted and approved and stated that charter members were to be voted on by August 9, 1968. There were four charter members on that date.

The first club logo was patterned after a fender emblem from a 1966 427 Caprice and tags were made from photo engraving printing plates (source unknown) and hand painted.

By mid 1969 a core group of members included Russell Bryant, Danny Canup, Rodney Floyd, Bill Hardy, Ken Bruner and others had joined the fun. Early events were simple social gatherings, lots of cruising in caravans, including some road trips, and some fun rallies where you had to follow some vague clues to navigate to the destination. But mainly it was an excuse to get together and talk Corvettes.

It is important to note that that QCCC was really the vision of one man: Earl Ferrell. He and his wife Martha were loyal members from the very beginning, attending almost every event even as they added two sons to their family. He wasn't one of the hell-raisers, he was quick to lend a hand and after founding the club and being the first president, he quietly let others lead the club he started. Unfortunately, Earl battled cancer and after a long painful fight, he passed away on October 20, 1987 at the age of 41.

By the end of 1969 the club had grown to around 15 members, with a unique black ball in a cigar box system for approving new members and voting restricted to male members only.

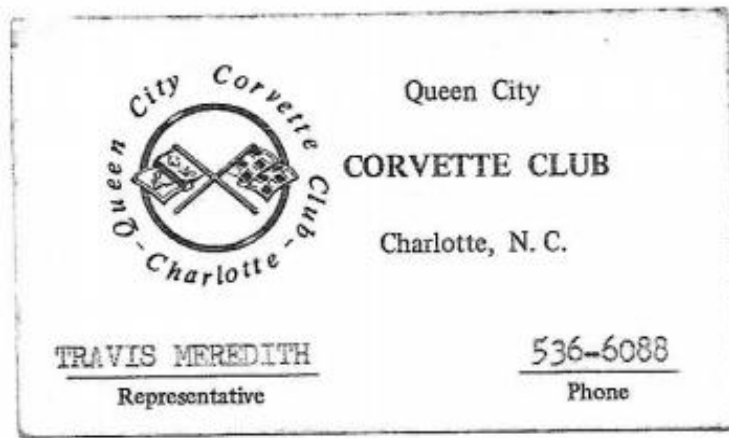
It is ironic to think that 53 years have passed since these very young men in their early 20's found a way to own a Corvette and form a group of like minded people to spend their spare time with. The cars were the common denominator, but the close relationships developed quickly and it became a brotherhood. Of course none of this would have worked if the wives and girlfriends had not joined in and soon it was one big happy family. As it remains today.

Next month we will follow the evolution of the club into the early 70's.

Travis Meredith, *historian*



FIRST LOGO



RECRUITMENT CARDS

To All QCCC Members:



WANTED/NEEDED anyone who takes pictures or videos with their phone or camera!!!

If you go to an event and take pictures/videos – please upload them to the QCCC photo library. That way they can be shared by all members!

We could also use members to volunteer to take pictures during the events. If you are interested and want to do that, please contact me via email : [cb8613vette@gmail.com](mailto:cb8613vette@gmail.com).

Here are the instructions on how to upload your pictures/videos:

Do you have club Photographs or Videos you would like to share?

To upload to the “QCCC Photo Gallery”, copy the web link below into your web browser and follow the screen prompts.

<https://qcccphoto.smugmug.com/upload/rZ6vZk/QCCCMemberGallery>

Please send an email to [photo@queencitycorvette.com](mailto:photo@queencitycorvette.com) or [cb8613vette@gmail.com](mailto:cb8613vette@gmail.com) with a notation of the Date and Event for which the Pictures/Videos were taken.

The mail message will notify the Club’s “QCCC Photo Gallery” administrator that new Pictures/Videos were recently posted so they can be added to the public viewing web site.

Thanks;  
Carl Bartlett  
Cell : 704-281-8673  
email : [CB8613Vette@gmail.com](mailto:CB8613Vette@gmail.com)



## Join Queen City Corvette Club on Facebook

### *Queen City Corvette Club has two Facebook Pages*

**QCCC Members** is a 'closed' group for 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.

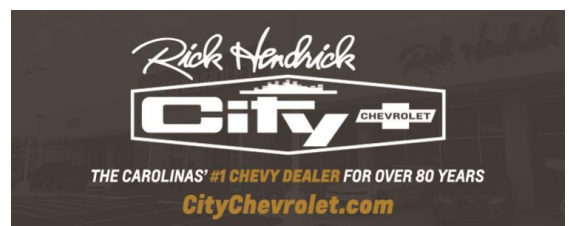
**Queen City Corvette Club** is an 'open' page for anyone on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/QueenCityCorvette/](http://www.facebook.com/QueenCityCorvette/)

- Anyone on Facebook can "like" and "follow" our events
- Only our Facebook Administrators can post on this page [just ask and we will post for you].



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