

# The Queen City Corvette Gazette



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

September 2021

## ***Car Show Prep***



### **September QCCC Business Meeting & Car Show Prep**

**Date:** Saturday September 25, 2021

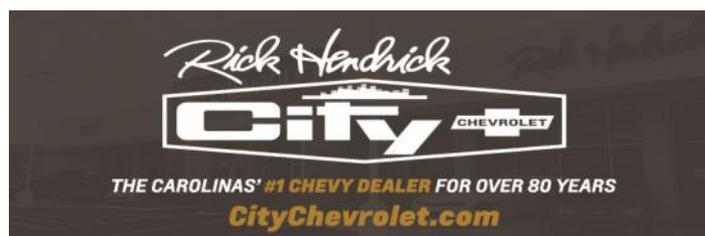
**Location:** Brenda & Tommy Loftin  
244 Hicks Rd.  
Troutman, NC 28166

**Meeting Details:** 2 p.m. Social, Car Show Prep & Training

**\*more details in Car Show Letter**

**5 p.m. QCCC Business Meeting**

**Reminders:** Bring your Chairs!!!! Bring your beverage of choice!



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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*

OK QCCC, strap on your big boy (and girl) pants 'cause we got it GOIN' ON for the next several weeks. We have a calendar loaded with some of the best activities of the year. So, get out and join the fun bunch as we put on miles and smiles for this fall.

We start with Auto Fair for the first time in 2 years. Roger does an excellent job coordinating this event, and it is one of the favorites of the year. We will have only one event this year, and only one day, but it will be great to get back on the grass (ok, the artificial turf) right in the front stretch of the Speedway.

Right after that is the trip to Oktoberfest in Helen, GA. Thanks to Steve Bonino, we have 24 Corvettes joining in this great event highlighting beautiful drives and beautiful beer (NOT at the same time, of course). Always a fun event, so if you're not going this year, put it on your calendar for next.

The next weekend (25<sup>th</sup>) is our September meeting, delayed a little due to these other events, plus it will give us a chance to do prep work for the car show. We will be at the Loftin Corvette and Horse Compound, a favorite meeting place for the club. Come to learn how to help at the show, but especially to enjoy the fellowship and a beautiful setting.

Of course, October 2 is the date we are looking forward to with much anticipation. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Queen City Corvette Show will be held at Hendrick Motorsports with our sponsor City Chevrolet and partner Hendrick Performance. This will be another epic event in the Corvette show world, and we need everyone to attend, help out, and be amazed at what this show has evolved into. Every QCCC member will be so proud to be a part of this.

Follow this up with our October meeting at the Davidson Farm, another beautiful outdoor setting just across the SC border. Bill and Julia have an event center that you will enjoy seeing, and again enjoying great QCCC fellowship.

Then on October 17 is the very popular Run to the Colors to Shatley Springs along with our Foothills Corvette Club friends. Some beautiful mountain driving, and a meal that you won't believe or forget.

So, how's that for something to do for the next 6 weeks. Great driving, great scenery, great car show, great fellowship. I look forward to seeing everyone at these events. This is QCCC at its best!

So, let's do it.....

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

## SOCIAL SCENE



SOCIAL DIRECTOR  
~ Donna Berst ~



### Upcoming Events

Our QCCC Annual Banquet was such a fun evening. Everyone got into the spirit of things while sipping on Margaritas, in their tropical attire & dancing the night away! Thank you to the many folks who worked behind the scenes in preparation, check-in, set-up and taking down the decorations. "QCCC is the best"!

A big thank you to all, who brought their Car Show Silent Auction & Door Prize Items to the August meeting!!! The last day to get your Car Show donations to us is at the September 25th Business Meeting at Tommy & Brenda Loftin's. Gift cards & Gift certificates are perfect if you would rather not make a Basket. You can also donate smaller individual items to be used for the Door Prize drawings.

Thank you to Tom & Terri for another fabulous trip to Maggie Valley, where 27 beautiful Corvettes cruised over curvy mountain roads. There were campfire tall tales told, bear sightings, plenty of laughter and lots of QCCC memories made!

There is an Up-Yonder dinner scheduled for the last Monday of September. Look for an email Blast!



### Upcoming Events

Friday September 17 – Sunday September 19, 2021, OKTOBERFEST TRIP TO HELEN, GA. Steve has all the details in place and 24 cars attending this fun fall event.

Saturday September 25, 2021 QCCC Business Meeting & Car Show Prep at Brenda & Tommy Loftin 244 Hicks Rd Troutman, NC 28166 Bring your Chairs!!!! Bring your beverage of choice!!!

2pm Social, Car Show Prep & Training – 5pm QCCC Business Meeting

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday October 2, 2021,** QCCC CHARITY CAR SHOW at Hendrick Motorsports Complex. All hands-on Deck!!! **Volunteer in some capacity and sign your Corvette up NOW!!!!!!!**

**Saturday October 9, 2021,** BUSINESS MEETING & BBQ DINNER at the Davidson's Farm 7410 Charlotte Highway, York, SC. **Bring your Chairs!!!! Bring your beverages!!!** You may purchase a boxed BBQ Dinner or bring your own picnic meal if you wish. The cost for the boxed meal is \$15 and you can sign-up & pay on our website <https://queencitycorvette.com/> under Club info+/Event sign-up. The meal includes, Pork BBQ, a bun, slaw, Mac n' Cheese, Maple-glazed Carrots, tea & dessert. **Register and pay online by September 28<sup>th</sup>.** **Also bring your Corvette Angels Toy Donations and give them to VP Dick Gwilt, if you will not be attending the November 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday morning toy drive.**

**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.**

**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.

**Saturday Morning November 6, 2021,** CORVTTE ANGELS TOY DRIVE

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**

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

---

#### **REFERRAL BONUS**

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

---

#### **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*

---

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

*Saverio Longobardo*

*Service Advisor*

*704-566-7407*

*Saverio.Longobardo@hendrickauto.com*

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The Temporary Sport Top is a lightweight, durable solution for short term interior protection when you're out and about.



QCCC on the move, move, move!

It's definitely been, and will be, a very active time for our club – from our member meetings, the Banquet, Maggie Valley, to a trip to the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green KY in just this past month. Next will be the Charlotte Auto Fair, the Helen GA trip, our member meeting at the Loftin's, and our Car Show on October 2. If you can't find something to do within our club, then you're just not looking close enough.

Speaking of last month's trips, I went from building bonfires for 54 QCCC members in Maggie Valley, to sitting at our QCCC table at the NCM Banquet with new members Lynne and Louis Dunn – all within ten days. Jane and I spent lots of lobby-time with the NCM Board President, Glenn Johnson (QCCC Associate Member from Texas). We also met the new NCM CEO, Sharon Brawner and presented her with a QCCC mask!

There are just four months left in 2021. Our member meeting locations are:

September 25 Tommy & Brenda Loftin's Homestead – Troutman, NC

October 9 Bill & Julia Davidson's Farm – York, SC

November 13 Charlotte Motor Speedway Club – Concord, NC

December 4 Victory Event Center – Mooresville

NOTE:

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

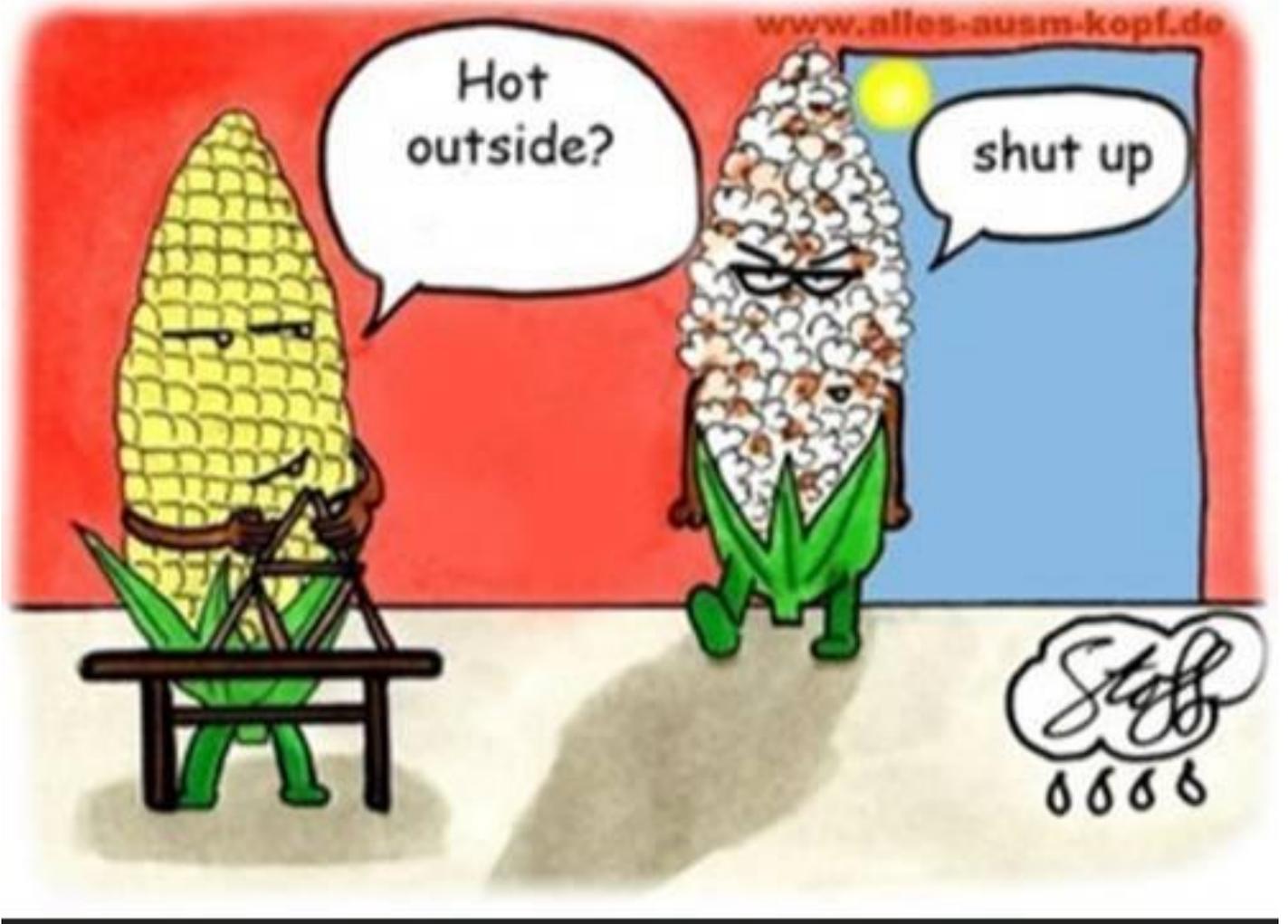
Dick Gwilt, VP

[rgwilt@me.com](mailto:rgwilt@me.com)



# Finding Dora!!







## MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER September

### MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:

Total Membership	367
Total Families	203
Prospective Members	48
New Members Year to Date	31
Avg. Monthly Attendance	89

### NEW MEMBERS:

**Charlie Golden**  
Charlotte, NC  
Corvette: 2010 C6



**Jim & Teresa Gillum**  
Davidson, NC  
Corvette: 2016 Long Beach Red Convertible Z06





September 11, 2021

Mark Lesslie Fisher, 58, of Salisbury, NC passed away Saturday, August 14, 2021, at Novant Health Rowan Regional Medical Center. Mark was born on November 2, 1962, in Rowan County, NC. His parents were John Burgess Fisher and Esther Lesslie Fisher. He attended Calvary Baptist Tabernacle Church on Stokes Ferry Road and was a member of the Queen City Corvette Club. He enjoyed spending time with his friends, family, and beloved pets, was a strong supporter of local athletic teams, and was an avid car enthusiast. He also loved spending time in the mountains, sparked by his years as a student at Appalachian State University. Surviving is his wife of 26 years, Misty Smith Fisher; son, Joshua Polk and wife Sabrina; daughter Kelli Fisher; grandchildren Archer and Shiloh Polk and sister, Eleanor Corriher. No service will be held at this time, a Celebration of Life will be planned at a later date. Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Fisher family.

**COVID 19- Prayer's for QCCC Members, Family and Friends-** Special prayers for all our QCCC Members, Family and close friends. Praying that God keeps them safe and touches those that do have it. This has been a terrible pandemic and we pray for those that have it, and those that are fighting it. We also pray for the underlining illnesses that affect this Virus and make it more lethal. Praying that Our Lord keeps us all safe in our Club.

We also pray for those with other illnesses such as Cancer, disease, viruses, bad knees and hips, etc. that do not want to be placed on this list. We pray for a complete healing.

**NOTE:** I will be continuing with Care & Compassion for 2021. If you would like to be placed on the C&C monthly list send me a **text first** saying that you sent me an email. I am not in my email all the time.

**We all need care, compassion & prayers when we are sick. Please do not hesitate to place your name on the list. We are all family.**

Paul Schmitt- [paulandchristineschmitt@gmail.com](mailto:paulandchristineschmitt@gmail.com) 585-944-1926



# AUTOMOTIVE INSIDER

QCCC has 35 members attending Charlotte Motor Speedway 2021 Fall Auto Fair on for Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We will have a great time and the weather is supposed to be perfect!!

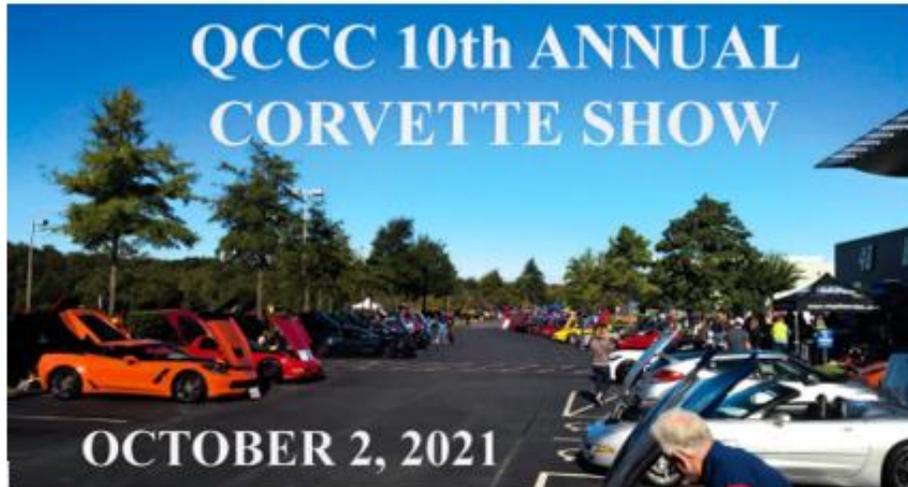
**IF YOU ARE A QCCC MEMBER AND YOU ARE NOT SIGNED UP FOR THE QCCC CORVETTE CAR SHOW AT HENDRICK MOTORSPORTS SATURDAY OCTOBER 2, 2021, PLEASE SIGN UP NOW!!! WE CURRENTLY HAVE ONLY 92 OF 188 QCCC FAMILIES SIGNED UP (NOT GOOD). WE ARE WORKING HARD TO MAKE THIS YEAR'S SHOW A HUGE SUCCESS AND NEED ALL MEMBERS HELP. SIGN UP ON THE QCCC WEBSITE [Club Info – Event Sign up].**

### *Auto Fair Over the Years*



### **AUGUST AUTOMOTIVE SCHEDULE**

- Saturday September 11th – Waterbean Cars & Coffee Cornelius, NC
- Saturday September 18th – Charlotte Motor Speedway Cars & Coffee Concord, NC
- Saturday September 25th – LNK Cars & Coffee Mooresville, NC



Queen City Car Show

9/6/21

We have only one month left before the QCCC Car Show and this is my final push to make sure everything runs smoothly. We are still in need for more judges and help with parking, so if you haven't signed up for a work detail this is your chance to do so. We are still looking for more Corvettes, so bring yours and ask a friend to bring theirs as well. If you have not brought your donated items, please bring them to the September Meeting at The Loftin's on September 25<sup>TH</sup>. We still need door prize items and goody bag items.

Arrival times for Saturday October 2<sup>ND</sup> at Hendrick Performance is as follows; Gates will open at 5:30 AM, Registration, set-up and parking should arrive no later than 6:00 AM and all other QCCC Members should arrive by 7:00 AM. Gates will open at 8:00 AM and all activities should be up and running at this time. Judging will start at 10:00 Am. Trophies will be presented at 2:00 PM.

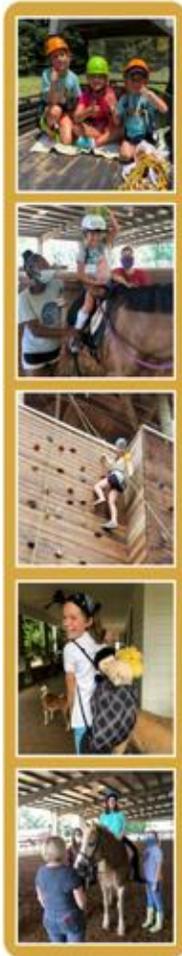
The following is the schedule for the 25<sup>TH</sup> meeting

- 2:00 PM
  - Stuff Goody Bags
  - Count, Separate and Band 50/50 Tickets
- 3:00 PM
  - Judging School with Brian Moore and John Callahan
  - QCCC Team Leader Briefing
  - QCCC Team Leaders receive their Team T-shirts for distribution
  - Continue to Count, Separate and Band 50/50 Tickets
- 4:00 PM
  - Team Leaders to meet with each team for instructions and T-shirt distribution
- 5:00 PM
  - QCCC Monthly Meeting

Tommy Loftin, QCCC Car Show Chairperson

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## QCCC 2021 Charity Wings of Eagles Ranch



### THERAPY, SUMMER CAMP, AND FRIDAY FIELD TRIPS

I want you to rejoice with us as we share a few highlights from the summer. The Ranch was able to hold four weeks of typical weekly therapy lessons, as well as three Friday Field Trip Adventures, two Field Trip Adventures for at-risk youth and two full week long Summer Camps.

Snoopy, Woodstock, Charlie Brown and Lucy all came to camp this summer...The Campers and their mascots visited several national parks. They went zipping, climbing, fishing, swung on the flying squirrel, rode horses, and had adventures in the woods. They played hopscotch, twister, 4 square, and kickball in the arena. In art, they made their own tie-die camp t-shirt, painted horses on glass, made a bumble bee bird feeder and tic-tac-toe boards. They sang camp songs and had devotions every morning in our outdoor chapel from Pastor's Jerry, Zach and Robert!

#### This summer the Ranch served a total of 191 riders!

Not only did God show up in a big way. He showed off and made 2020 the largest summer programming year in the history of the Ranch! We had an amazing group of volunteers that gave so generously, freely, and FEARLESSLY of their time and energy and love.

#### Be ready for next year!

2021 camps will be done in reverse...We will start with Horse Lovers (June 14-18) and finish with Adventure I camp. Cabarrus College OTA students will be at Adv. I camp (July 26-30)

### RANCH HAPPENINGS

#### LESSONS WITH OUR VETERANS!



#### CMPD TEAM BUILDING DAY

The RE.A.C.H Academy enjoyed two days at The Ranch, alongside the Concord police horse, for a fun team building experience.



#### IRRESISTABLE PORTRAITS FUNDRAISER



Thanks again to Karen Goforth for another year of beautiful photos and donation from your shoot! We greatly appreciate you!

#### Teenage orphans from Korea experienced The Ranch...

Thanks to Sarah Koh from Life Together, a non-profit, working with Korean teenagers in welfare homes. Life Together was founded to do right: seek justice, defend the oppressed, and take up the cause of the fatherless. (Isaiah 1:17)



### HORSE DRIVE-THRU DURING COVID-19





QCCC Charity “Wings of Eagles Ranch” presents “*Fall at the Ranch*”

October 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2021

3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

The QCCC Charity Committee is planning on a Corvette ride to Wings of Eagles, *Fall at the Ranch*. This will be another fun day for QCCC and a big support for Wings of Eagles Ranch. As you know, they had to cancel their big fund raiser, Dancing in the Dirt, and this is a last-minute drive for an end of the year fundraiser. Chris has asked if QCCC could bring a bunch of Corvettes as a drawing card for them, and our answer is YES WE CAN. Plan on coming out and supporting our charity. Details will follow with a couple of blast as reminders.

Thank You QCCC for your support,





## Happy September Birthdays!!!!

Hi QCCC Members!

The summer seemed to go by super quickly this year, and it sure was a hot one, but with September upon us the cooler Fall weather should not be far away. There are lots of September events planned so hope you have signed up for one or more of them. Have you registered on our Website yet for the October 2, 2021, QCCC Corvette Show and your volunteer assignments? ALL QCCC Members need to participate!!! Hope you have lots of fun this month and share good times with Corvette buddies. AND, also this month, please join us in celebrating our September Member Birthdays listed below!!! Join us wishing them a.....

### 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 September 25 business meeting at the Loftin Homestead in Troutman, NC 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 September Meeting!!!!

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



## QCCC BIRTHDAYS\*



### **September**

- 9/1 Allen Pritchett (A)
- 9/1 Martin Oehler
- 9/2 Lori Lessoff
- 9/4 Becky Ross
- 9/6 Norm Jungmann
- 9/8 Will Bradley
- 9/9 Pat Bales
- 9/9 Gloria McCoy
- 9/11 Vinny Vettorino
- 9/12 Sharon Meredith
- 9/12 Doyle Coop
- 9/14 Lynne Solland
- 9/16 Steve Bales
- 9/17 Steve Kaufmann
- 9/19 Sandy Davies
- 9/20 Paul Manuel
- 9/24 Gary St John
- 9/26 JC Roberts
- 9/27 Sue Plyler
- 9/29 Cindy Newsom

\*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**



### **NCM CORNER**

Well, we are almost through another summer, and again under the clouds of COVID (It's like luggage, it just won't go away!!!).

Many of us decided to avoid getting exposed to the delta variant and unfortunately, missed out on the 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event at the NCM. Kudos to those who braved the elements, true Corvette Fever!!!

For those who didn't attend, the NCM has made the seminars held during the Anniversary Event available on their website. Also, congrats to QCCC and especially **Jamie Stamey** for the 1<sup>st</sup> place in Social Media category at the Anniversary!! Way to go Jamie!!!!

Another big announcement made was the selection of a new President and CEO, Sharon Brawner. What a great addition to the NCM leadership legacy!!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting, and those who have not joined the NCM.....I will be seeking you out!!

Save the Wave

Mike Mariano  
NCM Ambassador



# Vintage QCCC



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

\*Any new members/prospective guys within driving distance, are welcome to join us at QCCC Men's Breakfast, held on the first Thursday of each month at Westlake Restaurant in Denver (Rt. 16). Contact Bill at [bill\\_cruthis@bellsouth.net](mailto:bill_cruthis@bellsouth.net) to add your name and email to the distribution list.

“This Little Pig Went to Market”

I am not sure in the old days that we gave much thought to the Marketing Department at GM. We just bought what we could afford and knew we had at least 40 years of work- producing time ahead of us. In talking with Larry Tucker and some others at Maggie Valley, we learned there was interest in what we thought about the evolving job of marketing our Corvettes over the years. I will give you my take on it which includes knowledge I have gained from the vintage gang members.

In the beginning (the first 4 years) it was all about just getting the first American sports car noticed. The ads compared European sports cars to the newbie in the states. '53-'56 Corvettes were pretty crude so there was not much to brag about. Things started to change with the '57. It hit one hp per cubic inch (283) and the ads began to change.

The next 5 years ('58 thru '62) showed great refinements plus improved performance. The car was selling itself and the Corvette Culture was growing. You can be sure the marketing arm was behind the creation of NCCC (National Council of Corvette Clubs) and Blue Bars magazine given to all new buyers. GM knew the popularity of the small block Chevy and they timed it just right. Get ready. . .there is an explosion coming in the C-2!

With some great design teams under Bill Mitchell and engineering with Zora the future of the car was safe until the C-4. Now here is an interesting move by Marketing. Notice with the '63 onward until about '75 that anything Corvette had was available each year. Some years had up to six available engines. In '63 you could get a Z-06, the big gas tank option was out there, you could order from 230 hp base engine to 360 hp fuel injection. Marketing went less for cruising and all out towards performance i.e. billboard of split window coupe with “They don't write songs about Volvos”. What drew me to think about this was in my early purchases of a '68 327/350 then a '70 350/350, '63 327/340, '65 327/300, then '74 454/270. It took me all those cars before I realized I really wanted that C2 or C3 big block with the cool hood and all the horses. It was my fault GM put it all out there, I just kept getting it wrong. By the time I bought the '74 the big block hood was the same as the small block except for the 454 numbers on it. The important thing to take away was GM Marketing put it all out there and it was up to you to make all the right decisions.

1975 thru the end of the century the government tried to ruin the car with all the bumper and other regulations. Gas kept getting more junk and detuned motors ran on 10% ethanol. Luckily for GM the baby boomers were recipients of their parent's wealth as well as their own hard work. These were not great cars but they sold all they could make. They had flogged the C3 to death, yet 1979 was the best sales year in history. Even so it only had two engine options, base L-48 at 195 hp and the L-82 at a whopping 225 hp. Marketing was on coast. I mean what could you do with this product.

C5, C6, C7. . . now the big change! The demographics were about to change in a big way. Like it or not, the purchaser of the new Corvettes was getting gray around the temples. To be sure, the hotrodder of older Corvettes had to grow up. I bought my first Corvette, a used '68, right out of college. It was my only car. Need lumber, go the store, drop the top and wedge it under the dash for the trip home. Ice or snow? Just get the windshield defrosted and head to work.

# *Vintage QCCC*



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

The average age of my first Corvette Club, probably 26, now probably close to 70. So what changed for GM marketing? During the first 47 years the cars were bought to be driven then worn out and traded for the next and newest Corvette. We all know that back then the cars were not as durable. Most were wrecked in the front and sides as the engines outperformed the brakes.

Starting with the C5, once again GM was making a great ride and the buyers, those old white men with gray hair had the 401K to not only buy the new Corvette but to have it as a third car and to have a garage to store it. Wall-ah! The Garage Queen was born! This trend had to worry GM as they started to lose the repeat buyer whose garage queen could last a lifetime. So the solution shows up starting a little with the C5 then head on with the C6. Now remember with the C2 and C3 you could order anything available with multiples of most options. So I ordered a C6 Lemans Blue/Gray roadster 400 hp, a cute little car with only one engine option. It was a straight-sided beauty and I was totally happy. Then low and behold 2006 saw the return of the Z06 with the voluptuous fender flares, the 427 motor and all the stuff I wanted on my blue convertible. So I proceeded to buy a used '09 Z06 jet stream blue.

It wasn't until the 2010 models came out that I had discussions with another vintage member who opened my eyes to the process. Almost any sports car with a new platform has about 3 years to saturate their buyers i.e. their devoted fans, those in it for speed, and any they can switch from other brands. Now remember the garage queens? Today unlike days of old a large percentage of the devoted fans just are not wearing out their cars. So how does Marketing suck them in? First, bring out the base car that everyone raves about then in 1, 2 or 3 years bring out the rest of the package. Today, that means start with the base and throw in a Z51 package, then bring the Z06 later. This Z06 attracts the race guys interest and looks really hot. Then, next bring the Grand Sport to get those base cars traded in for the Z06 look alike, and lastly, bring the ZR1 to get some Z06 guys to trade up. This is all done to get those who jumped on the first base car to want to move up. It is genius marketing! I fell for it.

Then once I figured this out, the C7 was coming. I held off, knowing the GM plan. Then when the Z06 came out I sprang on it, getting serial #434, in 2015. Then knowing the Grand Sport was coming I got the Z25 gray/blue collector edition serial #008. Sure enough the C7 went thru the process, base car, Z06, Grand Sport then ZR1. How clever to keep your demographic folks buying new Corvettes! If I keep both of these cars for 50 more years they will be so valuable. Or I could trade up for a C8, Z51, Z06, ZR-1, if the mood hits me over the next 5 years.

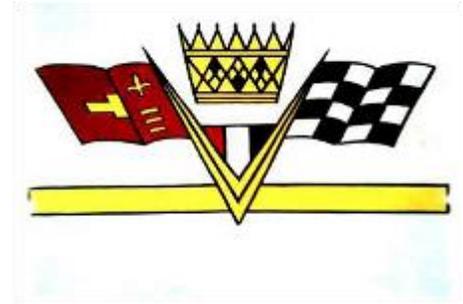
Lastly, the C8 will follow the same path. What has now changed for Marketing. First nothing needed for the old guys who either have the funds or the trade-in to make the jump to a new C8. However, GM must know we are running our last race until we get to the track in the clouds. Nothing else needed to secure some of us trading up. The new hurdle is where do you get our replacements? I believe by holding the price low they are after the highly successful young'uns that also look at BMW, Mercedes, Audi, Porsche, Ferrari, and Lexus. I hope they get a large percentage so our cherished brand can survive. Some of these folks are brand loyal, but getting beat by a less costly, better looking hot rod may sway them. Some of them just can't see getting their hot rod serviced at a Chevy dealer next to an Equinox. i.e. Porsche persons. Expect the C8 to travel the same road from base Z51, to Z06, to Grand Sport, to ZR-1. The path will take many years unlike the old days where you could get base 230 hp, 300 hp, 350 hp, 370 hp, 390 hp, and 435 hp all in one year. In these numbers you can see the base Z51, the Z06, the Grand Sport and the ZR-1 all available in the same year. But there were no garage queens back then.

# *Vintage QCCC*

With the Vintage Gang:

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

*More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past*



So hats off to GM Marketing...they got me 12 times and I was always pretty happy. They have done a great job and while I wish I had figured it out sooner I am glad they have been successful as that ensures the next great Corvette is still coming. Just for the record I would have bought all 12 of mine anyway. In fact, if I had the funds it would have been 20 or 30. So that is one man's take on a fascinating trip into the evolving Corvette. I think I am right and hope this is of interest to all.

## The First Ten Years are the Hardest

QCCC over the years has almost always had good camaraderie with the other local Corvette Clubs. In the early days we were close to Plastic Cars of Statesville, Carolina Classic Corvettes, Coastal Corvette Club, and the club out of Columbia, S.C. Much of this was due to racing events.

Around 2016 Bill Miller and wife, Lorraine, were forced to drop out temporarily from QCCC to devote all their time to Road Runner Corvettes which they started in 2011. I am proud to tell you they are celebrating 10 years of that organization. The club is molded in the personality of Bill and Lorraine, with positive attitude, integrity, class, and welcoming warmth. You see Bill and Lorraine are natural born leaders. Their club is limited to 30 members and they have to exhibit the above traits to be considered.

I worked with Bill and Jerome Johnson for many years on their Corvette Angel program. This was close to my heart as my mother had a desire to be Santa Claus and on Christmas Eve in my hometown of Clinton, Illinois (pop. 6000) she would load her car with gifts for unfortunate children. Being a school teacher she knew exactly where to take them door-to-door. I can't count how many kids she made Santa a reality for as they would have no gifts otherwise. She kept all this under wraps as it was not about her, it was Christmas for the kids. This is why I tell you every year, if you are an owner of a Corvette then you have won the lottery of life, and shame on you if you don't bring some toys to the Corvette Angels Day.

Lastly, let me say to all who are not aware of Road Runner Corvettes, they consider themselves a Sister club to QCCC and they admire our leadership and the things we have accomplished and hope to follow in our footsteps. They have supported our Corvette Show with nearly 100% of their club participating, including years where they went to their college homecoming at Winston Salem State, then left early to get to our show around 10 am. That tells you a lot about their commitment!

I am proud to say that on this joyous year for them Mr. Miller has bestowed upon me an honorary membership to RRV. I am deeply humbled by this gesture and just proud to say that since knowing this group my Corvette family took a giant leap forward.

# Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

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

*More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past*



If you love Corvettes do me a favor and just drop a line via e-mail to Bill Miller and Jerome Johnson wishing them 50 more years of success in their organization. Look them up at our car show (congratulate them for 10 yrs.) and thank them for coming. They will be the ones smiling as they shine their cars. You'll be glad you did and you will meet some really great folks.

Please read Mr. Miller's letter to their members for 10 years of great fun, you can tell it is from the heart as they made his dream come true. Also see attached photo copy of the 10 yr. anniversary coin that I received. Let's continue to build on our great foundation between these two great organizations.

Respectfully, Bill Cruthis Past President QCCC

Remember bring the toys, let's set a new record this year.

Bill Miller = [bwmj0127@yahoo.com](mailto:bwmj0127@yahoo.com)



# Vintage QCCC



## A personal letter of thank you from the founder!

Road Runner Vettes has grown, prospered, and sustained throughout the years due to immeasurable contributions from a list of members, companies, and organizations. For that, as Founder, I am forever grateful! This Thank You Letter cannot capture all that have impacted Road Runner Vettes in positive ways. Just know your kindness, gifts, talents, cooperation, and support have been, and will continue to be forever grateful!

City Chevrolet, Cosmopolitan Auto, HMO companies, Meineke of Denver, Turner Asphalt and Verizon have sponsored RRV events throughout the years. Your financial and in-kind support always seemed to occur at critical times. Thank you all!

Terra Gibbs, Keith Hunter, Jerome Johnson, Kerry Norton, and Greg Raye have all personally sponsored activities, multiple times, for the enjoyment of this membership. Several members, too many to name, also provided sponsorship of our RRV Classic golf tournaments. Your personal commitment to RRV means the world to me! You care for and love RRV as much as I do. I thank you with immense gratitude!

Corvette Angels grew incredibly fast. We have collected nearly 10,000 toys in this short period of time to bring smiles to faces of countless children. This doesn't happen without the members of RRV, and Carolina Classic, Generations, Metrolina, Queen City, and Victory Lane corvette clubs. Your loyal support of Corvette Angels year in and year out have brought tears to my eyes. Please accept my "peace sign, two taps over the heart," my friends! Kudos to the long list of clubs and individuals that I missed.

And finally, a special shout out to the RRV Angels and the prior members of the President Club. Their loyalty and tireless support have made our memories grand! I want to especially 'shout out' Jerome Johnson. None of you can begin to imagine the labor of love this Brother has put into RRV behind the scenes. Numerous times Jerome has taken personal time to perfect planning of an event, including driving caravan routes multiple times. Has held personal and group walk throughs to account for every detail. Reached out to members, lobbied other clubs, sought sponsors or just contributed however possible. He is tops of the President Club members we have been fortunate to have impacted RRV in some way. Delores and Greg (Raye) are strong honorable mentions. Both have been heavy enablers of RRV's year in and year out, including participating in nearly every RRV event. Keith Hunter, Fred Johnson, and Terra Gibbs are others who throughout the years continued to be deeply involved. All the aforementioned members are previous members of the President Club. Sandra, who has served on two boards, participated in almost all events, and has been very hands on every year, is an honorary President Club member. Ditto for Pep.

I cannot end this Letter without finally acknowledging my wife, Lorraine, for her tireless, sometimes emotional, but always 'all in' support to make this vision come true!

Thank you all!

Bill "Hollywood" Miller  
Founder

# QCCC HISTORY



## QCCC: 1970-1971 GROWING PAINS

As a new decade begins, the **Queen City Corvette Club**, only sixteen months old, is off and running. 1970 was an interesting year in the club's history. Charter member Clyde Richards took over as President from founder Earl Ferrell and membership was up to around twelve. But, as with any newly formed group, there were growing pains. The original group were very dedicated car guys, their focus was all about anything to do with their Corvette. Some of the new members were more about the social aspects of the club and making new friends. And there were a few who were just twenty-something hell raisers who were looking for a good party. There was a lot of heavy drinking during club functions and it seemed every club activity wound up like a toga party without the toga. The club was struggling to find its true identity and not everyone agreed what that was to be.

By the end of 1970 there seemed to be a standoff between those who felt the club was a car club and just a car club and those who believed it to be just a social group looking for a party. The result was both sides disagreeing to the point that they all quit the club. Those who remained seemed to be the members that could strike a balance between having fun socially and promoting the Corvette hobby at the same time. When the dust settled, two of the founding members had left the club and new leadership was stepping forward. Better days were ahead for QCCC.

In January 1971, QCCC elected Danny Canup President. Danny had a calm, matter of fact demeanor and a great sense of humor, much like current President Paul Mitchell. This is just what the club needed after the turmoil of 1970. Membership grew quickly, the wives and girl friends became a lot more included and everyone was having fun again.

With the club very stable, or as stable as a bunch of twenty-somethings could make it, activities increased and varied greatly. Who would drive blindfolded thru a parking lot course with a navigator shouting directions? Dress up like the 50's for a scavenger hunt and sock hop? Take a beach trip in February? It seemed every crazy idea was implemented. And isn't fun the best thing to have?

Sometime mid 1971, a new member joined whose influence would change the direction of QCCC for many years. Don and Mary Francis had moved to Charlotte from Michigan with a job transfer. He was a rep for the Oldsmobile division of GM and was the first yankee I ever met (remember, there were only 38 yankees in Charlotte in 1971). Don and Mary were long time members of a huge Corvette club in Michigan and very active in all aspects of the Corvette hobby. He brought with him his 1967 maroon big block Corvette, which was set up for auto cross, but still driven on the street. They sought

# QCCC HISTORY

out QCCC and joined immediately. As soon as he arrived, he started talking up NCCC, (the National Council of Corvette Clubs), the nation-wide sanctioning body for everything Corvette. At that time, QCCC leadership had no clue what NCCC was or why we should even consider joining. Don found out that the closest Corvette club affiliated with NCCC was a small group of dedicated racers in Greenville, SC. A meeting was arranged with two of their members, Sam Henderson and Fitz Williams, at a restaurant on South Tryon Street in Charlotte. There the benefits of joining the National Council were discussed and we all left very impressed and enthusiastic. At the next meeting QCCC voted to join NCCC and Don Francis was elected Governor (the club's representative). The next NCCC meeting was in Cincinnati, Ohio, President Danny Canup, Don Francis, myself, and some other fool left after work Friday in Danny's wife's Kingswood station wagon and drove to Cincinnati. The meeting lasted all day Saturday with representatives of Corvette clubs from all over the USA there. The best part was that the club from Dallas, Texas brought a trailer load of Coors beer for everyone to enjoy. There was a lot of enjoyment which continued until early Sunday. It was a long trip home Sunday afternoon. Nevertheless, QCCC was now in NCCC and more car events were planned.

As an NCCC member, when QCCC had a sanctioned event it was broadcast to other member clubs throughout our region, which at that time was the entire southeast, and the entire country. All of our events became bigger with more participation outside of our own club. We also attended other Corvette club's events, it seemed there was something to do every weekend. NCCC had a points incentive program where individuals and clubs competed for Championship recognition. It was amazing how far people would travel to get a few "points".

By the end of 1971 QCCC's course had been set, the members were very enthusiastic about the club's future and bigger and better things laid ahead.

Next month, we'll continue to explore the early 70's.

Travis Meredith, *historian*

*Side Note: Ironically, the first road trip Sharon and I went on with QCCC was a weekend trip to Maggie Valley in the early fall of 1970. We had four cars.*

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.

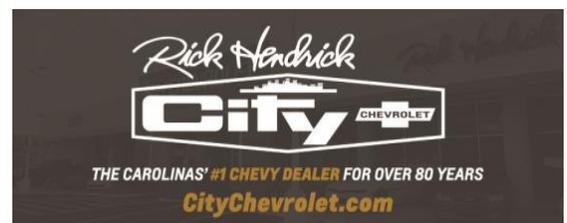
**Queen City Corvette Club** is an ‘open’ page for anyone on Facebook

[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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