

The Queen City Corvette Gazette



Official Newsletter of North Carolina's Largest Corvette Club

December 2022



QCCC December Business Meeting & Christmas Party

Saturday, December 3, 2022

VFW Post 100

VFW Lane

Indian Trail, NC 28079

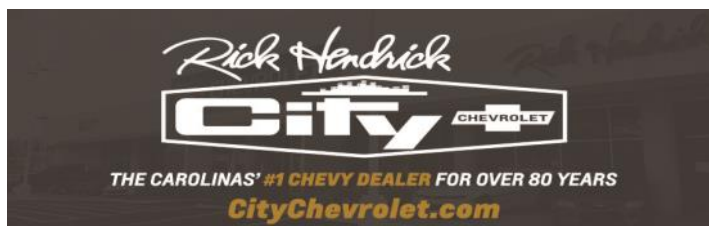
4:00 p.m. Social Time

5:00 p.m. Business Meeting

6:00 p.m. Optional prepaid Italian dinner

Wear your Merry & Bright Holiday garb OR your UGLY Christmas sweater!

Come join in the fun at the last QCCC event of 2022!



We Are Proudly Sponsored By City Chevrolet



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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 1621 400 Gilead Rd. Huntersville, NC 28078

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

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



As we just celebrated Thanksgiving, we all had time to reflect on our many blessings and that's what I would like to do here.

First, thank you to all our QCCC members for making our club the premier Corvette club to belong to. We had a slow start this year having to cancel both our January and February member meetings due to COVID/flu concerns and watched our membership drop to 320 members, but since the flood gates opened up in March, we have shot up to 382 members (matching our all time high) with one month to go. There are lots of new faces and people to call your new friends. We now range in age from 20-something to 90 years old!

Thank you to all our volunteers who get involved in QCCC events by leading trips and volunteering at our functions, along with being Team Leaders at our Car Show.

Thank you to our sponsor, City Chevrolet, all our advertisers, and Hendrick Performance, our Car Show partner.

Thank you to our Board and Staff members who do untold tasks behind the scenes. I know what you all do and am proud to be part of such a group of talented people.

Finally, I want to thank our two retiring board members: Automotive Director 5 years running, Roger Winge, and Membership Director for 2 years, Justin Cross.

Congratulations to our two new board members, Tim Fridley, Automotive, and Dan Brubaker, Membership, who will join our returning 7 board members for 2023.

We are now starting right back into planning our 55th year for QCCC by planning budgets, social calendars, automotive shows, and meeting locations so when we hit January, we can send out our event calendar for 2023 to all our members.

We have a very caring club as we started November by attending the Corvette Angels Show at the Speedway by donating toys to the Salvation Army for kids at Christmas, and just ended the month by attending Ray Evernham's AmeriCarna show benefiting the Ignite Foundation for Autism with our club donating \$1,000 to their cause.

So, yes, we are blessed to be part of such a great club and to be driving such beautiful Corvettes.

So I wanted to say, "Thank you".

We have one more event with our December meeting/holiday party at the VFW on Saturday, December 3rd and we hope to see you all in your ugly or nice holiday sweaters.

The Board and myself wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to starting our 55th year in 2023 with you.

Dick Gwilt, President

rgwilt@me.com

704-651-8613



Corvette Angels Toy Donations for Salvation Army



Guest Speaker, retired Corvette Engineer, Tom Wallace
presenting signed print of C7 ZR1
to QCCC President Richard Gwilt



QCCC presenting donation to Ray Evernham
for the Ignite Foundation at AmeriCarna Car Show



QCCC award won for most participation
by a car club at AmeriCarna Car Show



VP Stuff, Ron Berst

Ok, so where did this year go to??? So as we close out the year I am going to list some of the Corvette milestones that were significant in the history of the car we all love, Corvette, America's only true sports car!

1953-300 roadsters were produced, all had a 6 cyl, 150 HP engine with an automatic transmission.

1955-A 265 cubic inch V8 débuts along with a 3-speed manual transmission. Yippee!

1957-The famous 283 cubic inch engine arrived along with a 4-speed transmission option and fuel injection. Performance is here at last!

1963-The first coupe body (the very valuable split window) and independent rear suspension were introduced as C2's.

1965-The 396-425HP big block (known as the Mark IV engine) arrives along with disc brakes. This was the last year of the fuel-injected 327 engine.

1968-This was the year of the first Corvette coupe with removable T-tops and a removable rear window. The 3-speed Turbo Hydra-Matic replaced the 2 speed Powerglide.

1971-All engines had reduced compression ratios to prepare for unleaded gas. After 18 years of horsepower gains, the power decrease starts.

1982-The C3 run ends after 14 years, the longest of all generations. An automatic transmission was the only transmission offered.

1984-First year of the C4 was introduced in March of 1983 and meant the long run produced over 51,000 units, the second highest volume of any year.

1990-The mighty ZR1 arrives, developed by Lotus and Chevrolet, and manufactured by Mercury Marine. This option was \$27,016 over base cost!!!

That covers just some of the big C1 thru C4 highlights. There are certainly many more and in future newsletters I might digress and list some of the failures and setbacks Corvette had... or I might not.

Next month, I will tackle the C5 thru C8 big milestones.

That's it for now; see you at the VFW for our December 3rd year-end meeting.

Ron Berst, VP

Message from the Treasurer. . .

Hi everyone! 2023 is almost here and you know what that means....



We look forward to you being part of the best year ever!! According to our Club Bylaws, 2023 dues (\$100) should be received by January 1st, 2023.

You can pay your dues....

Online at the QCCC website, through the Membership+ tab, select the QCCC dues payment option, enter our club password, then your information with debit/credit card info.

Or

You can mail your check to:

QCCC

P.O. Box 1621

Huntersville, NC 28070

Thank you for your early consideration.

“Mo” Graham, QCCC Treasurer

Social



Scene

SOCIAL DIRECTOR

~Donna Berst~

Another year is coming to an end, and I can't help reflecting on the wonderful friendships that we share in QCCC! I hope every one of you has a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!
Get ready for more fun times in 2023!

Saturday December 3, 2022, Business Meeting & Christmas Party with an optional prepaid Dinner afterwards. 4pm Social- 5pm Business Meeting - 6pm Optional Italian Dinner

Location: VFW Post 100, VFW Lane, Indian Trail, NC 28079.

Wear your Merry & Bright Holiday garb OR your UGLY Christmas sweater and come join in the fun at the last QCCC event of 2022!

Saturday January 14, 2023, Business Meeting at Victory Lanes Entertainment Center, 125 Morlake Dr. Mooresville, NC

Saturday February 11, 2023, Business Meeting & Chili cook-off at the VFW Post 100, VFW Lane Indian Trail, NC 28079

Saturday March 11, 2023, Awards Banquet for 2022 – “Driving through the Decades” theme. Location: Charlotte Motor Speedway Club, 5555 Concord Pkwy South, Concord, NC 28027 – 5th Floor Banquet Room

We will be working on next year's calendar of scheduled events & trips. If you would like to help with or have an idea for a cruise-in or trip, please contact me ASAP. donnaberst@windstream.net

Donna Berst ~ 2022 QCCC Social Director

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Effective October 1, 2022

When I started back at City Chevrolet 5 years ago, one of my many goals was to help grow and build our relationship with the Queen City Corvette Club. Little did I know how strong it would become in such a relatively short amount of time. Thank you to everyone for having faith in us and giving us the opportunity to show you the City Chevrolet difference. Let's make the years to come just as amazing and continue to build on this incredible foundation.

Chris Boone, General Manager

NEW VEHICLES

Members receive an additional \$1000 discount 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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Inventory Manager & Corvette Specialist
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We'll thank you with a \$100 gift card when you refer a non-QCCC member who purchases a vehicle.

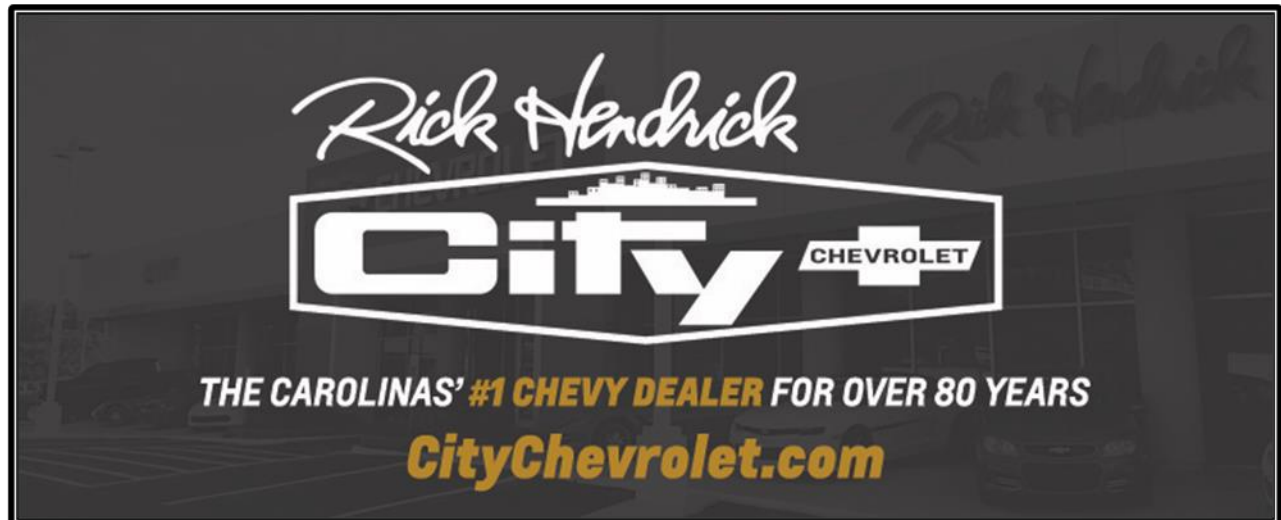
Friends & Family of QCCC Members will receive a 10% Service discount.

QCCC MEMBER SERVICE CONCIERGE

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Service Advisor
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MEMBERSHIP

December

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:

Total Membership	382
Total Families	210
Prospective Members	73
New Members Year to Date	53
Avg. Monthly Attendance	107

NEW MEMBER

Sal & Carol Ciresi

Cornelius, NC

CORVETTE: 2022 C8 Grey Coupe Z51 Package

Tim Leazer & Lisa Weathers

Concord, NC

CORVETTE: 2021 C8 Accelerate Yellow Coupe

Ron & Susie Plantan

Mooresville, NC

CORVETTE: 2014 C7 Dark Grey Coupe

Justin Cross

QCCC Membership Director



DECEMBER 2022

Christine Schmitt-Christine had successful surgery on her knee last Friday. The old implant has been removed and all the bacteria has been removed. She is now on a regimented antibiotic program for six weeks and has a steel brace on her leg to keep the knee stable. She came home today, Tuesday, and is resting comfortably. Rehab will start in a few weeks and hopefully she will be back to QCCC events. Thank you all for your prayers and beautiful cards. Please continue your prayers, that the bacteria and infection has been removed and a successful rehab takes place. Thank you all for your care and concern.

Paul and Christine

Betsy Kashinsky-Betsy is at home resting from a bad fall that split her lip last week. I spoke to Richard and she is home and is doing fine. They are still waiting for home to place her in. As soon as we find out we will let all the QCCC Members know the address. Please continue to pray for Richard and Betsy as they make this decision as to the right home and for peace and strength at this time.

Thank You

Norm Lontz-Norm is scheduled for a biopsy of the spot in his lung on Nov. 30. Procedure is at 11 am but he needs to be at CMC Main at 9:30. Then a few hours in recovery. He will be there around 6 hours.

Our daughter is coming to stay with Jason, our son. I am praying it's nothing. We won't know results until Dec. 7.

Please keep us both in your prayers.

Joyce

Norm Jungmann- Continue to keep Norm in your prayers as he grieves his beautiful wife Marge and now the loss of his daughter Linda. If you have a moment, give Norm a call, send him a text or email, or just take him to lunch. He needs our support, friendship, and compassion.

NOTE: Care & Compassion will continue for 2022. If you would like to be placed on the list, please send me an email on your concerns. We all need Care, Compassion & Prayers when we are sick or when we lose a loved one. Please keep all the Members in your prayers.

Thank You.

Paul Schmitt, QCCC Care and Compassion

paulandchristineschmitt@gmail.com



AUTOMOTIVE INSIDER



Let me start off by saying this is my last month as QCCC Automotive Events Director. I want to thank all the members who have helped me and attended the various events over the last 5 years. Hope everyone enjoyed many Auto Fairs (Spring & Fall), Shelton Vineyards Vettes for Vets, Dale Earnhardt Car Shows, VIR IMSA Races, Americarna Live Car Shows, and a boatload of Cars & Coffee. I welcome Tim Fridley as the new QCCC Automotive Events Director and will support him with his new venture.

QCCC had a great showing at the Americarna Live Car Show in Davidson Saturday with 35 members Corvettes participating in the show. QCCC once again took home the 'MOST ENTRIES FROM A CAR CLUB' award! (see picture below)

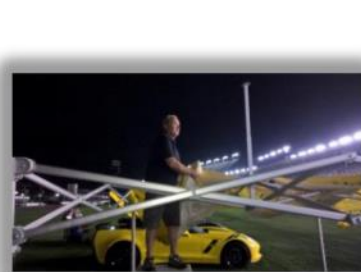
2022 AMERICARNA LIVE CAR SHOW



DECEMBER AUTOMOTIVE EVENT SCHEDULE

- Saturday December 10th – Waterbean Cars & Coffee - Cornelius, NC
- Saturday December 17th – Concord Cars & Coffee - Concord, NC
- Saturday December 24th – LKN Cars & Coffee - Mooresville, NC

HERE'S A FEW MEMORIES FROM THE PAST 5 YEARS



Signing Off - Roger Winge - Automotive Events Director - *Merry Christmas*

Secretary's Note:



Happy Holidays QCCC Members!

Once again, it's time to celebrate December QCCC Member birthdays! Please join us in wishing everyone who is celebrating a birthday in December . . .

a very Happy Birthday!!!

At our November meeting, we randomly drew a lucky name from those in attendance celebrating birthdays. Debra Fitzgerald was our winner and she received a \$25 gift card from Panera Bread. Congratulations Debra!

We are hoping to see all of you on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at our business club meeting which will be held at the VFW in Indian Land, NC.

May you and your family be truly blessed with good health, much happiness and prosperity this Holiday Season and in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!

Until then, warmest regards. .

Kathie Finocchi
QCCC Secretary
(704)905-0394



If you would like your birthday added or deleted from our list, please send an email to me at katfino@hotmail.com.



Happy Birthday

DECEMBER

12/1	Brian Kruse
12/2	Mark Londre
12/3	Beth Walton
12/3	Anna Luree Wright
12/3	Roger Winge
12/4	Cathy Nelson
12/4	Don Wiswall
12/5	Terri Pennoni
12/5	Dee Dee Winge
12/8	Larry Newsom
12/9	Sal Ciresi
12/10	Wendy Krupowicz
12/11	Fred Rice
12/11	Elena Binder
12/11	Brenda Loftin
12/13	Linda Meadows
12/13	Pamela Murawa
12/15	Sue Brown
12/15	Greg Miller
12/16	Paul Schmitt
12/19	Bill Elko
12/19	Beth Kendall
12/21	Rob Humphrey
12/21	Micah Patterson
12/22	Bob Becker
12/22	Bill Cruthis
12/24	Helen Speer
12/26	Gary Artis
12/26	Barnet (Barney) Peterman
12/28	Rick Mills
12/28	Mal Speer
12/31	Joe Estwanik



NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM – NEWS AND UPDATES

Paul Mitchell – QCCC Ambassador to the NCM

It's hard to believe that the year is ending, the Holidays are upon us, and after this week's club meeting we are in for a long winter's nap, at least until January, when we start up again with another calendar full of great events for QCCC.

One of those main events is the upcoming Michelin Bash at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY (the official "other home" of QCCC). Put April 26 – 30, 2023 on your calendar for this amazing trip with about 75 of your closest friends. This is one of our biggest and most popular trips for the club, and you don't want to miss it. Anytime I ask a first-time attendee about the Bash, all they can say is how great it is – the Museum, the displays, seeing new car models and options, and especially enjoying the camaraderie of QCCC members. This is one of the best ways to get to know people, so make plans to attend this year. I will notify you when the Bash registration opens on the Museum website.

Thank you for the responses I have received so far on the status of Museum memberships. I have a good list started, but I need to be sure everyone is recognized as a member. And if you are not yet a member, please consider joining.

Paige and I wish all QCCC members a joyous Holiday season. We look forward to many fun activities in the New Year.

And, as always, thank you for your support of QCCC and the National Corvette Museum.

QCCC HISTORY

There is still a buzz and sighs of relief that our postponed Car Show was such a whopping success. The hard work and dedication of everyone involved resulted in one of the best shows ever. The positive response to the “Golden Gears” display of Corvettes that have had the same owner for fifty years has me thinking “where do we go next”? As historian, I am thinking of past QCCC cars and their owners and how we might get them into next year's show.

The very first car that came to my mind is the 1966 Coupe belonging to QCCC's founder Earl Ferrell. If we numbered all the Corvettes that have passed through this club, this car would be serial number 1. Here's the story:

It's the fall of 1966 and the new 1967 models are arriving at the dealerships. There is a little disappointment in the Corvette community that the new C3 body style did not arrive as predicted, so there was a little chill over the 1967 models. Ironically, today the '67 is the high-water mark of all C2's. So, when Earl found a brand-new leftover 1966 Corvette Coupe at the Chevy dealer on South Boulevard, he was able to put together a really good deal to make the purchase. He traded his lavender colored '65 Chevelle Malibu SS and drove off in his dream car.

Earl's '66 was unique in that it was silver exterior with silver interior, not only a rare color combination, but very striking in appearance. The car was equipped with a 327 cubic inch, 350 horsepower engine and a 4-speed transmission. He almost immediately added the factory side mounted exhausts and a set of American Torque-Thrust wheels. This car was so gorgeous that I can truly admit that seeing this car for the first time was the initial spark that set off my “Corvette fever”, I had to have one.

So, Earl drives his pride and joy daily and along with some buddies, forms QCCC to complete the full Corvette experience with like-minded gearheads. (You can see that story in the August 2021 newsletter History article). But around 1969 bad luck hit Earl and his '66, literally. He was involved in a traffic accident on Sharon Amity Road that did some damage to the front of the car. While being repaired, he decided to make some changes. A '67 big block hood was added along with flared fenders, wide Ansen slotted wheels and the color was changed to maroon. These changes were not uncommon during this period and Earl's cars fit right into what was popular for that time.

As QCCC entered its racing phase in the early 70's, Earl tried his hand at autocross events with the '66, but his heart was into drag racing. As the years passed, Earl drove the '66 less and less on the street as he continued to make the necessary changes to make his car move competitive on the drag strip. Finally, in time for the 1978 NCCC Convention hosted by QCCC and held here in Charlotte, Earl's '66 had evolved into an all-out drag car, and he won the MB class (modified small block) with an 11.87 ET. His closest competitor turned a 12.60. The photo shows his wheel-standing launch at this event.

For the next few years Earl continued to tinker with his toy as it became more and more competitive as a drag car. One of the last things Earl did was to have it painted back to silver with gray accents like the '78 Silver Anniversary edition. He and his wife, Martha, were always huge supporters of QCCC, as he quietly let others lead the club he started, and they enjoyed all the activities the club had to offer.

Unfortunately, Earl battled cancer and after a long painful fight, he passed away on October 20, 1987, at the age of 41. Martha still has his '66 along with his 1960 Corvette that was his father's. They haven't been touched in 35 years. Wouldn't it be great if we could display this car at next year's car show? Just thinking. . .

Travis Meredith, *historian*



Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



In a Parking Lot Long, Long Ago

I hope many of you got by to see the Golden Gears-winning Corvette Cars in their corral. For us old guys it was a special day as an old friend accepted our invitation to display his car for the show. So next to Travis Meredith's 1964 Coupe sat Melvin Pace's 1968 coupe. I told Travis those two cars pretty well sum up QCCC. Melvin was our President in 1985 and 1989. Trav was President in 1972 and 1976. Between 1972 and 1990 the two of them glued QCCC back together several times. It was a great day of bench racing with Melvin. He, like most of us has found some health issues. He is finding it harder all the time to get into and out of the old 427 '68 roadster. Because of issues with his back, he must take the T-Top off of the driver's side and store it in the back, then he can get in and out of the car. Folks, that is a lot of determination and passion. Not only did he buy the car new but has kept it all of 53 years. At one point myself, Trav, Melvin, Bill Ingram, Darrell Kirkley, and Larry Miller were all standing and bench racing. I thought to myself, how many decades of Corvette ownership was in the conversation. Certainly, we had all the QCCC years covered. I think Melvin, who arrived wearing his original QCCC jacket was pleased. Many times, during the day, old friends would stop to visit. All of them glad to see Pop Top as his license notates, back on the road again.

During Trav's tenure he had to deal with wives getting to vote, issues with the clubhouse, dealing with the Charlotte Motor Speedway use, the Sandkhana (racing on Myrtle Beach, and 3 years of Corvette\Porsche Challenges at CMS, plus the regular event issues. Melvin had the challenge of holding the club together as we were racing so much that we won the National Championship for NCCC. Problems he faced were as the cars went up in price we were becoming more of a social club and less a racing club. Now if you think those two veins did not cause an excess of testosterone then think again. I was in some of those meetings; it was hot and hotter. It was like politics today; you were not going to change many minds. The issue being to race we had to get insurance and to get insurance we had to join National Council of Corvette Clubs. Members who did not race were reluctant to pay dues to something they got no benefit from. NCCC required every member pay them dues, a Governor of the club would attend a quarterly 3-day meeting and one event per year our club had to designate where all proceeds were to be given to Spinal Bifida charity. Most members were not too keen on this. So, Melvin had his hands full.

Making the day complete, Robert Scognamillow stopped by to visit. Robert was a heavy racer with his 66 450 hp convertible. He was the chief Corvette mechanic for 5 decades at City Chevrolet and he retired last year. Hendrick group missed his talent and they persuaded him to come back but he no longer is on the line. When you had that whole group of six you have QCCC's racing days covered pretty well.

We would love to see Melvin come back around. He would be such a great asset. For those who missed the Golden Gears Corral here is what you missed:

1957's Paul DePascal and Jim Holland

1964 Travis Meredith

1968 Melvin Pace

1975 Gary Spencer

I still maintain the most treasured award QCCC has is the Golden Gears award. You had to buy the Corvette at an early age and have the kohonees to resist selling. How many times do you say it is not for sale when you get the pestering "how much would you take for it?" Then, there is temptation of trading up for the latest and greatest. That is the one that got me. After 31 years I got so much that I could buy a new C6 with change left over, and poof, the split window coupe was gone. So, most of us are approaching 70 or past it, meaning you had the wisdom and funds to purchase a Corvette at 20 years of age. I did not and I can not think of a scenario where I would have done that. We salute the 8 members who are Golden Gears award winners.

Thanks to all of QCCC for putting on a great event. Travis summed it all up as we waited for the awards when he said, "these are the real car people right here".

Thanks to Melvin Pace for bringing back the memories of ole Pop Top, the first '68 big block, tire smokin' loud and fast Corvette sold in N.C. You helped keep QCCC alive and well. It was great to see you again.

Respectfully submitted: Bill Cruthis

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.

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 or 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



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/

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

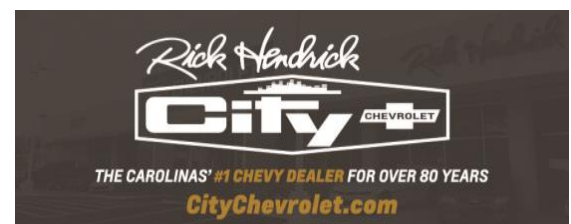
Queen City Corvette Club is an 'open' page for anyone on Facebook

www.facebook.com/QueenCityCorvette/

- 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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