THE QUEEN CITY GAZETTE



Official Newsletter of North Carolina's Largest Corvette Club

June 2023



June QCCC Business Meeting

Saturday, June 10, 2023

Speedway Club at Charlotte Motor Speedway

5th Floor Banquet Room 5555 Concord Pkwy South Concord, NC 28027

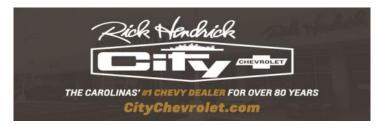
4:00 p.m. Social & Clothing Yard Sale

5:15 p.m. Business Meeting

6:30 p.m. Prepaid Dinner (6th Floor)

Note: PLEASE EMAIL <u>ronberst@windstream.net</u> IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING THE MEETING & <u>DID NOT ORDER</u>

DINNERS. If you purchased a meal, you <u>do not need to email</u> an RSVP as we know you are attending.



We Are Proudly Sponsored By City Chevrolet



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In This Issue

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Content	Page
President's Page	3-8
VP Report	9-10
Social Scene	11
Membership	12
City Chevrolet Sponsor Page	13
Sponsor, Patrons & Advertisers	14-16
Car Show	17
Charity	18
Secretary's Note & Birthdays	19-20
National Corvette Museum	21
QCCC History	22
Vintage QCCC	23-24
Photography	25
FACEBOOK	26

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



June 2023

Another big month for our club - starting out with visiting the NCM in Bowling Green for their annual Bash gathering. We had a good crowd of about 70 members enjoying our tradition of dinner at Montana Grille and socializing in the hotel lobby with our friends in Texas' Lonestar Corvette Club.

We learned that GM is bringing out three new colors in 2024 along with the new E-Ray, which were all on display. GM executives from Detroit, Harlan Charles and Tadge Juechter, were there all weekend working the crowd and answering questions about the E-Ray – and anything else anyone wanted to know about. By an amazing stroke of luck on Wednesday while touring the Assembly Plant, I saw my new Z06 just after it came off the production line!

The next weekend, about 50 of us went to a baseball game in Kannapolis in beautiful weather to watch the Cannon Ballers win and see an amazing display of fireworks after the game. We must do that again.

Next, John Looney hosted our monthly member meeting in Indian Land. It was nice to have a meeting in the south end of Charlotte and see members from "down yonder" – there were several Prospective Members from Waxhaw! So a big THANK YOU to John and wife Lynda for opening up your beautiful garage condos for us.

Last week, we made our sixth annual weekend trip to Maggie Valley, led by Mo and Jo Graham who took the baton from Tom and Terri Pennoni after leading us there for five straight years. Another great time was had by our "porch rockers" in front of the Lodge and also by us "fire loggers" behind the Lodge listening to the creek rush by and inhaling smoke from the fire.

Next up, this weekend will be the annual Shelton Vineyards Corvette Auto Show and Memorial Day Celebration where we will socialize with the hosts, RTP Corvette Club, and taste some fine Shelton wines.

Dick Gwilt, President rgwilt@me.com



At the parking lot entrance of the National Corvette Museum



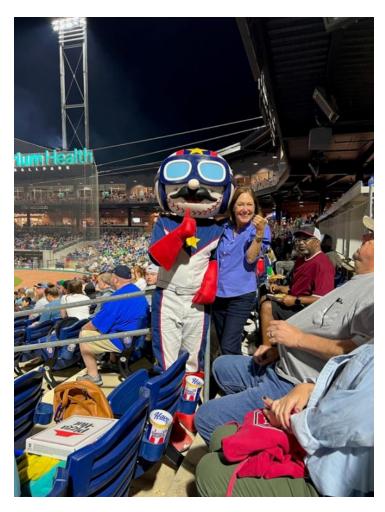
Bowling Green Lobby Time



Bowling Green Dinner Time



QCCC Baseball fans in Kannapolis



<u>Jane and Boomer,</u> the Cannon Ballers mascot



QCCC May meeting at Monte Carlo Garage Suites



QCCC May meeting at Monte Carlo Garage Suites



Maggie Valley Firemaster, Dick Gwilt



Fireside chats by the creek



Beautiful cars and beautiful mountains



VP Stuff, Ron Berst

In late April over 60 QCCC members made the trip to Bowling Green, KY to attend what is called the "Bash" at the National Corvette Museum, also known as NCM. If you have never visited the museum this should definitely be on your to-do list. The Bash is a three-day event that has seminars, exhibits and numerous Chevrolet engineers that are more than happy to answer most any question about Corvettes that you have...a must do event!

In late August the Anniversary Celebration is also held at the museum. Each year a select few are inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame. This is another great time to visit the museum.

These are the two main events held at the museum each year and there is so much more:

- The Museum has a fantastic collection of Corvettes from the past and the history and evolution of every generation is on full display.
- They have a huge gift shop where logo apparel and merchandise from all generations is available.
- There are raffles held on a continuing basis and the prize is a new Corvette. Two former QCCC members have won new cars! WOW!

The Museum has a board of directors comprised of fourteen people, three of which are current members of QCCC!!! These individuals are:

- Dale Ledbetter General Manager of Hendrick Performance
- Glenn Johnson resides in Port Neches, TX
- Chuck Fast resides in New Smyrna Beach, FL

In 2018 Tom Wallace, a former Corvette Chief Engineer, now a QCCC member was inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame. Following is a link detailing his accomplishments, incredible!

https://www.corvettemuseum.org/tom-wallace/

In 2015 Rick Hendrick, no introduction needed, was also inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame. Below is the link for his story.

https://www.corvettemuseum.org/rick-hendrick/

The NCM is rated as one of the top 12 automotive museums in the US by Road & Track Magazine. Since the museum is not directly supported by Chevrolet, membership by Corvette owners is critical. There are many membership levels available and a family membership is only \$100 per year!

The museum has a great website with all the info at https://www.corvettemuseum.org/

This is just the tip of the iceberg! There is so much more to tell and see about this fantastic museum. A visit is required to fully appreciate what this means for true Corvette lovers.

Paul Mitchell is our QCCC Corvette Ambassador for the Museum and can be reached at

paulmitchellncsu@hotmail.com if you have questions. Check it out, get excited and join today!

Our June meeting is at the Charlotte Motor Speedway Club on the 10th. Social time with refreshments and car enthusiasts is always enjoyed by all! Be sure to save the date and join us.

That's it for now.

Ron Berst, VP

Social



Scene

SOCIAL DIRECTOR

~Donna Berst ~

We had an awesome weekend in Maggie Valley! Thanks to Jo & Mo Graham for organizing this year's fun-filled trip! If you've never attended, plan to make it next year.

If you have an idea and want to lead a day trip, cruise-in, or a weekend destination just contact Ron at ronberst@windstream.net, Tom Pennoni at Pennoni@hotmail.com or me at donnaberst@windstream.net. We can help you choose a date, plan routes, and send out Blasts. It's easy peasey!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday June 2-4th Myrtle Beach Car Show Weekend Coordinators: Dick Gwilt & Jane Burt

<u>Saturday June 10, 2023, QCCC Business Meeting at Charlotte Motor Speedway Club – 5th Floor Banquet Room</u> 5555 Concord Pkwy South Concord, NC 28027

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The <u>Clothing Yard Sale</u> will happen during the social time. SO COME EARLY & BRING cash or a check. All proceeds will go to our Charity Fund. Some of the available items are: coveted Christine Alexander bling Jackets, New QCCC apparel, New & slightly used museum & corvette clothing. Come check it out....

Saturday July 1st Troutman Intendance Day Parade

Saturday July 8th QCCC Business at RK Motors 5527 Lakeview Rd. Charlotte 28269 *AFTERNOON MEETING* 1:00 pm Social – 2:00 pm Business Meeting

Saturday July 15, 2023, Day trip to Richard Childress Museum. SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday July 22, 2023, FeedNC food drive & lunch. SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday August 12, 2023, QCCC 55th Anniversary & Business Meeting at Hendrick Motorsports Complex

Saturday August 19, 2023, Little Switzerland Day Trip. SAVE THE DATE

<u>Friday September 15 thru Sunday September 17, 2023,</u> Oktoberfest in Helen, Georgia, Coordinator: Steve Bonino. **SAVE THE DATE!**

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





MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

June

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:

Total Membership	395
Total Families	216
Prospective Members	62
New Members Year to Date	32
Avg. Monthly Attendance	132

NEW MEMBERS:

Jon Elliott Ray & Jenny Long – Associate Members

Charlotte, NC Beaumont, TX

<u>CORVETTE:</u> 2014 Blade Silver Coupe <u>CORVETTE:</u> 2019 Red ZR1

Laurie & Mark Olejarczyk Arthur & Linda Ray

Mooresville, NC Concord, NC

CORVETTE: 2003 Red 50th Anniv Convertible CORVETTE: 1989 Nassau Blue Convertible

If you have any changes with respect to your membership information (name, address, cars bought/sold, etc.) Please go out to the QCCC website and use the Member Information Update Form at this link: https://queencitycorvette.com/?page_id=3521 use the password 'duntov' to get into the form.

Dan Brubaker

QCCC Membership Director



The Carolinas' #1 Chevy Dealer For Over 80 Years

Queen City Corvette Club Discount Pricing Rick Hendrick City Chevrolet 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.

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.

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

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.

REFERRAL BONUS

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.

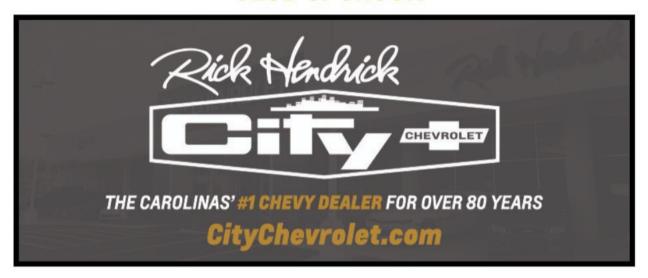
QCCC MEMBER SERVICE CONCIERGE

Saverio Longobardo Service Advisor 704-566-7407

Saverio.Longobardo@hendrickauto.com

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STINGRAY LEVEL











SPONSOR - PATRONS - ADVERTISERS THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



As the QCCC Corvette Show gets closer and closer, the planning committee continues to fine-tune the show. We have been meeting with Hendrick on a monthly basis and soon we will be going into a twice-a-month mode. We are currently starting to lay out the campus to accommodate all the things that will be going on. New for this year is a VIP Parking area near the Team Store for all participants who would like to spotlight their Corvette. The VIP Parking will cost an additional \$30.00, and has been a big hit for the show.

All QCCC Corvettes will be parked in strategic spots around the campus. QCCC Corvettes will not be judged; however, we will have 10 or so QCCC Hendrick Performance Choice Awards. These awards will be chosen by the Hendrick staff. All QCCC members are eligible for door prizes, the Hendrick grand prize and any other giveaways we have at the show. Your car registration number is your door prize number.

It is time for you to register your Corvettes:

- Go to QCCC website
- Click on 12TH Annual QCCC Car Show
- Click here for QCCC Members only car show registration
- Use your QCCC password and fill out the form

It is also time for you to bring you items for the Silent Auction.

Make sure you are signed up for a work detail of your choice. You can sign-up at the next QCCC Meeting. If you helped last year, then you are automatically signed up for the same work schedule. If you would like to change, you need to contact the team leader in the area you want to work.

Thank you.

Tommy Loftin

OCCC Corvette Show Coordinator

QCCC Charity Committee





Brenda Loftin, Committee Chair

Secretary's Note:



Hello QCCC Members!

It's time to celebrate June QCCC Member birthdays! Please join us in wishing everyone who is celebrating a birthday in June a very Happy Birthday!!!

At our May meeting, we randomly drew a lucky name from those in attendance celebrating birthdays. <u>Jim Ramandanes was our winner and he received a \$50 restaurant gift card</u>. Congratulations <u>Jim!</u>

Our next business club meeting will be on Saturday, June 10 at the Speedway Club in Concord, NC.

Hope to see you there! :)

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.

Karin Mariano	6/1
Dora McKenna	6/1
Craig Perry	6/1
Arthur Ray	6/1
Kim Kadel	6/3
Tim Fridley	6/4
Donn Kegel	6/5
Sopheap Bayne	6/9
Margo Gross	6/10
Roberta Lowe	6/10
Christine Columbia	6/13
Paul Mitchell	6/16
Cindy Peoples	6/16
Ron Plantan	6/17
Brenda Smith	6/17
Tim Roche	6/19
Gene Gage	6/20
Martha Short	6/20
Jane Freeman	6/21
Nelson Sprague	6/21
Jerry Fitzgerald	6/22
John Freeman	6/22
Carolyn Auten	6/23
Ken Brown	6/25
Kelly Cross	6/27
Jim Echols	6/27
Patricia Vettorino	6/27
Corvette Birthday	6/30
•	



NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM - NEWS AND UPDATES

Paul Mitchell – QCCC Ambassador to the NCM

June 2023

Yep, the May weather has been a little strange. Some summer, some repeat of March, but we should be over the roller coaster ride and truly into great summer and Corvette weather. That means doing all the activities that QCCC offers.

But, let's also keep in mind the support of the National Corvette Museum by QCCC. Our membership of the Museum is 165 members, or 42%. As our membership increases, the percentage of Museum membership drops, so we need to increase Museum membership as well.

Let me review the types of membership.

Individual - \$65 per year

Family - \$100 per year

Lifetime - \$2,000

Senior individual - \$750 for 20 years

All memberships include free admission to the Museum, receiving the Americas Sports Car magazine, and discounts to Museum store merchandise, purchased there or online. So, there are some great advantages, in addition to the ongoing support that QCCC gives the Museum.

Please let me know if you have recently joined or upgraded your membership so I can accurately track our numbers.

And as always, thank you for your support. Now let's get on the road and have some fun!

QCCC HISTORY

OK, I admit I'm old and don't quite understand the role "social influencers" have in our society today, but they obviously have had a big effect on what is socially acceptable and what is now popular. But when I was younger and easily influenced, there were people I read about who definitely influenced me and my decision to purchase a Corvette and adopt the Corvette hobby.

Some examples of early Corvette influencers were of course Zora, Bill Mitchell, Harley Earls, and all of the men who actually developed and built the cars we love. But the "Father of the Corvette Club" and a huge influence on the Corvette lifestyle was a man named Joe Pike.

In 1959, Chevrolet employee ,Joe Pike was an avid Corvette enthusiast and earned the position of National Sale Promotion Manager for Chevrolet, and boy, did he run with it. He recognized that true sports car people liked to hang out with others that shared that interest. Joe took over as editor of "Corvette News" magazine, a bi-monthly publication from GM that was started in 1957 and distributed free to new Corvette owners. He not only had articles about Corvette competition events but started promoting the idea of organizing local clubs and ways to attract new members. Each issue had a complete list of Corvette Clubs, with the president's name and address listed for each club. It was information in an issue of Corvette News that got Queen City Corvette Club's founder, Earl Ferrell, to consider forming a club, which he did in 1968. And here we are, 55 years later!

Joe also had quite an influence on Chevrolet upper management. Every time a four-door Corvette was proposed he shot it down. It was Joe who thought of naming Corvette colors after famous racing tracks: Sebring Silver, Daytona Yellow, Riverside Red, Nassau Blue, to name a few. Using leather for seat skins and the teak wood steering wheel were also inspired by Joe Pike.

By 1959 there were already a few random Corvette Clubs, but it was Joe Pike's idea to form a national organization to promote and organize the clubs. The National Council of Corvette Clubs (NCCC) was formed to provide social outlets for Corvette people and to experience the car's performance in safe, responsible ways. NCCC has since provided a standardized set of rules for events, an incentive points program, and insurance to cover sanctioned events.

In the formative years, Queen City Corvette Club joined NCCC in 1971 and it helped the club grow throughout the seventies and early eighties. QCCC became very competitive during that period and won several regional championships and even a national championship in 1988. However, as the club moved further and further away from the competition events to strictly social, it was voted to leave NCCC in 2000.

Unfortunately. Mr. Pike suffered a stroke in 1990 and was confined to a wheelchair. He passed away in 1994. After his passing, Chevrolet General Manager Jim Perkins said, "If you look at the people responsible over the last forty years for the enduring greatness of the Corvette, you see Joe Pike front and .center." I'd like to add that he was certainly the largest "social influencer" of Corvette Clubs, too.

Travis Meredith, historian

Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



More Bench Racing

The Vintage Group gathers about 4 times a year for a Saturday night dinner and gab fest. The most recent excursion was to the home of Darrell and Rosalee Kirkley on tax day, April 15th. The gang of 4 were there plus the Miller's and the Jame's, both couples from the era of the late 70's.

As talk turned to racing I realized how much has changed since then. In the beginning we were a bunch of youth who bought a Corvette as a daily driver, grocery getter and all around useful mode of transportation. Then we met others of the same link and bingo, a group was formed. The common link was finding folks who would suffer the same hardships as you in daily driving. The early cars were not as dependable as they are today. So, we went to hanging out at each other's garages to formally meeting and that was it. Soon the group found NCCC (National Council of Corvette Clubs) and we learned to take some of the racing from the street to the track. Of course, racing is the art of going faster and faster until hot rod failure or operator error gives bad results. At least those old Corvettes lent themselves to easy fixes. The club was lucky to have survived those days as any competition can cause hard feelings. We had one mechanic who worked on members' cars while still maintaining a mechanics business. His CB handle was the "Car Dr". He always had a cigarette lit and dangling from his lips. If you stayed in good favor with him you could get faster service plus sometimes you might have him help you find a new engine or other parts. As competition grew more intense, the load on him increased to a point where he could not keep up and some would have him work on their engine only to find out he had given yours away to another member that he was late getting finished. This, of course, was not helpful, but he had us captive. Where else could we find a place that really enjoyed Corvettes, had a barn full of parts, and was a pretty good mechanic?

Racing grew quickly and so did the rule book of NCCC. To be fair there were many classes in which you could enter based on the changes you had made. A classes were big block cars while B classes were for small blocks. B pure stock would be showroom 350 etc. Pure stock cars could only have tire size changes, no internal engine upgrades. B modified cars had headers, internal engine upgrades etc. C and D classes were for lower horsepower cars while RP was for track ready. They got real serious about this. If you thought someone had a rumbling sound and were certain of a cam change you could protest and make him tear down his engine to prove it was stock. I believe if you were proven wrong you had a monetary duty to make them whole again. It seems like I remember one time where a tear down was granted.

Now we have grown up and GM has also. Cars of yesterday were not close to those of today. Back then, there were plenty of places to test your skills. both track and street, a risky business with a fragile product. Where today's cars are track ready, but for most of us, too costly to race. My first Corvette, a used '68 cost me 25% of my yearly salary. If true today, that would mean a new Z06 is around \$130,000. That would make your salary to be \$520,000. No wonder we have so many C8 cars and Z06s. You guys are making so much money.

It is good the way things worked out. This way nobody got hurt and we patched those old cars back together and today, we can just drive to eat. The old days of QCCC were fragile, but we became a tight group. You have to admire those today that are still racing, Wonder how crazy they would have been back then?

The meal at Darrell and Rosalie's was great! Company was great! We got to hear Steve Jame's C-7 and no, it is not stock. It was Darrell's 75th birthday. He is the baby of our group. And that is the way it was/is as this year marks the 50th year since we all first met. Old QCCC was a great place to be!

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 Alton Loe via email: photo@queencitycorvette.com

Instructions on how to upload your pictures/videos:

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

Then send an email to photo@queencitycorvette.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.

Thank you!

Alton Loe

QCCC Photography Coordinator



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.

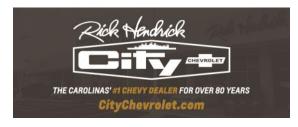
Queen City Corvette Club is an 'open' page for anyone on Facebook

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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