

THE
QUEEN CITY
GAZETTE



Official Newsletter of North Carolina's Largest Corvette Club

July 2023

RK MOTORS
Charlotte
SALES • SERVICE • CONSIGNMENT



July QCCC Business Meeting

Saturday, July 8, 2023

RK Motors

5527 Lakeview Rd.

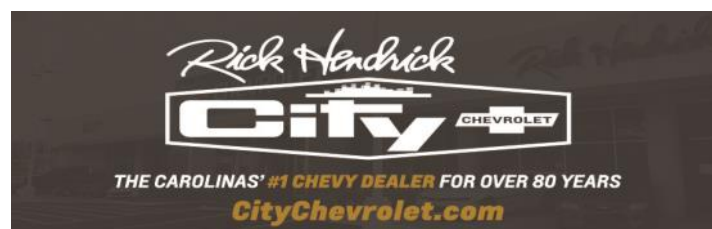
Charlotte, NC 28269

AFTERNOON MEETING

Remember: BRING YOUR CHAIR!

1:00 pm Social

2:00 pm Business Meeting



We Are Proudly Sponsored By City Chevrolet



2023 Board of Directors and Staff

In This Issue

President	Richard Gwilt
Vice President	Ron Berst
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Charity	Brenda Loftin
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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



July 2023

We are at full speed ahead with this club and at the half way point for 2023, our 55th year. Starting the month, 20 QCCC Corvettes headed to the Myrtle Beach Corvette Club Car Show. It was a nice getaway vacation and a good way to enjoy good weather and a great turnout with 370+ Corvettes representing 26 car clubs. This was also a good lead up to our QCCC Car Show which will be about twice the size.

On Friday June 9, a dozen QCCC members volunteered to perform kitchen and dining room duties at the new FeedNC facility in Mooresville.

Next was our June member meeting at the Speedway Club with another nice dinner afterwards overlooking the racetrack. The Charity Fund was increased by another big 50/50 collection along with proceeds from a gently-used Corvette clothing sale. Thank you to Donna, Peggy, Susan, and team for doing this.

Then it was off to the annual car show at Dale Earnhardt Chevrolet in Newton which many of our members have been attending for years.

QCCC members also attended various monthly and weekly cruise-ins around the Charlotte area. See the folks listed below if you are interested in going to the next one.

Waxhaw – Bill Robbins

The Point, Mooresville “Car Guys” – Reggie Black, Dick Gwilt

Waterbean Coffee “Cars & Coffee”, Cornelius – Roger

Charlotte Motor Speedway “Cars & Coffee” – Roger Winge

Keep your eyes open for other car get-togethers in your area and let Automotive Director, Tim Fridley know about it and he'll send out a Blast to the rest of the club for you.

Last weekend many of us attended a Charlotte Knights baseball game honoring Corvette's 70th year, hosted by the stadium.

Next week will be the annual July 4th Parade in Troutman hosted by Troutman residents Tommy & Brenda Loftin. It's always a big one with over 150 parade participants and hundreds of spectators lining the streets.

Have a safe Fourth of July and if you can't make it to the Troutman parade, I hope you enjoy a parade in your home town.

Dick Gwilt, President
rgwilt@me.com



[QCCC at Myrtle Beach Corvette Club Car Show](#)



[Myrtle Beach Corvette Club Welcome Party](#)



[Flags proudly flying](#)



[QCCC Cook Team at FeedNC](#)



[Cruise-In at The Point](#)



[Homer the Dragon and Jane](#)

[Charlotte Knights Baseball Game](#)





VP Stuff, Ron Berst

Last month I wrote about the National Corvette Museum and had a couple issues I would like to correct. There were two links that didn't work properly so here are the right ones:

In 2018 Tom Wallace, a former Corvette Chief Engineer, now a QCCC member was inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame. Below is the 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 his story.

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

Be sure to click on the videos for each, both are fantastic!!!

Moving on... The 24 hours of Le Mans saw Corvette Racing taking the win in the LM GTE AM Class. This was the ninth victory for Corvette Racing at Le Mans, an incredible accomplishment! After starting on the pole, a shock absorber problem caused the No. 33 Corvette to go down 2 laps, last in their 21-car field. After repairs and a series of well-timed pit stops the No. 33 muscled its way back into the lead. At the end, drivers Nicky Catsburg, Ben Keating, Nico Varrone and Corvette racing had overcome adversity and once again conquered the prestigious but difficult 1st place trophy!

Next year Corvette Racing will look a bit different as Chevrolet will no longer field a factory team but instead shift to a customer racing program. According to Laura Klauser, GM Sports Car Racing Manager, "our desired plan is to launch in 2024 with four cars racing in IMSA – two in GTD Pro and two in GTD, also two cars in the WEC (which is the class the 24 hours of Le Mans is in)". It will be different, but this should mean more chances for Corvette to rack up even more wins.

On August 27th the IMSA race will be at Virginia International Raceway. Corvette Corral tickets are still available. If interested, this is the closest Corvette racing will be to Charlotte. It is usually a good one!

That's it for now.

Ron Berst, VP

Social



Scene

SOCIAL DIRECTOR

~Donna Berst ~

Happy July to all you Corvette enthusiasts!

It's that time of the year to start bringing your Car Show Silent Auction baskets, gift cards and Corvette-related items to upcoming meetings. Cheryl Bitters and her team will be collecting these items at the July, August & September meetings. Contact Cheryl with any questions at 704-910-9030.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday July 1st Troutman Intendance Day Parade. Be there before 10:00 AM. Staging area is located at the Career Academy at 258 Old Murdock Road. Lunch will be after the parade at the Village Taphouse and Restaurant at Perth Road and HWY 150.

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

Saturday July 15th Day trip to Richard Childress Museum & Lunch at Texas Steak & Taphouse. Contact Ken Brown to RSVP kmb4342@gmail.com Limited to 40 people.

Saturday July 22, 2023, FeedNC Charity Food Drive / Cars & Coffee gathering. 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
2456 Charlotte Highway / Hwy 21 Mooresville NC 28117 <http://www.feednc.org>

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

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

Friday September 15 thru Sunday September 17, 2023, Oktoberfest in Helen, Georgia. We will be staying at the SureStay Hotel in Helen, Georgia. Steve has reserved 25 rooms at \$189.00 per night plus tax. These prices are for a minimum of a two-night stay. This is the same hotel that we stayed at in 2019 and had just been renovated (much better than last year). The number to call to make your reservations is (706) 878-2191 reservations. Email Steve Bonino vettegs17@gmail.com for any questions and to be put on the list of those attending.

Donna Berst ~ 20223 QCCC Social Director

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



MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

July

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:

Total Membership	398
Total Families	219
Prospective Members	60
New Members Year to Date	36
Avg. Monthly Attendance	134

NEW MEMBERS:

Angela & William Brannick

Denver, NC

CORVETTE: 2023 Hypersonic Gray Coupe

Dan Gwilt – Associate Member

Syracuse, NY

CORVETTE: 2014 Crystal Red Coupe

Bill Johnston

Charlotte, NC

CORVETTE: 2023 Torch Red Coupe

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



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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.

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.

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.

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 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

QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB SPONSOR - PATRONS - ADVERTISERS

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Rick Hendrick

City CHEVROLET

THE CAROLINAS' #1 CHEVY DEALER FOR OVER 80 YEARS

CityChevrolet.com

The image is a dark-themed advertisement for Rick Hendrick City Chevrolet. It features the name 'Rick Hendrick' in a white script font at the top. Below it is a large white outline of a Chevrolet bowtie, with the word 'City' in a bold, sans-serif font and 'CHEVROLET' in a smaller font to its right. Underneath the bowtie, the text 'THE CAROLINAS' #1 CHEVY DEALER FOR OVER 80 YEARS' is written in white, with '#1 CHEVY DEALER' in orange. At the bottom, the website 'CityChevrolet.com' is displayed in orange.

CLUB PATRONS



WHEEL CRAFT

ADVANCED WHEEL FINISHES

Arrive in Style

WWW.WHEELCRAFT.COM

The image is a logo for Wheel Craft. It features a shield-shaped emblem on the left containing a stylized wheel with a blue and white color scheme. To the right of the emblem, the words 'WHEEL CRAFT' are written in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font. Below this, 'ADVANCED WHEEL FINISHES' is written in a smaller, black sans-serif font. Underneath that, the tagline 'Arrive in Style' is written in a blue script font. At the bottom of the logo, the website 'WWW.WHEELCRAFT.COM' is written in a white sans-serif font against a dark blue background.

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12th ANNUAL QUEEN CITY CORVETTE SHOW

SATURDAY OCTOBER 21, 2023



July Newsletter

As the QCCC Corvette Show gets closer and closer, the planning committee continues to fine-tune the show. We are currently starting to lay out the campus to accommodate all the things that will be going on. QCCC Corvettes will not be judged; however, we will have 15 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 give-a-ways we have at the show. Your car registration number is your door prize number.

If you have not registered your Corvette, it is time for you to do the following to register your Corvette:

- 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 time to bring you items for the Silent Auction. Last years silent auction team did a fantastic job bringing in over \$5,000.00 in sales. All silent auction items come from the QCCC membership and we need your help. We need items that will sell, such as baskets, tools, Corvette-related items or anything you have that you think has a value to it. Please bring your items to the July meeting or give them to any member on the Silent Auction Team.

Make sure you are signed up for a work detail. Last year we had over 150 QCCC members work in strategic spots to pull off one of the best Corvette shows in the nation. Every station is crucial to the success of the QCCC Corvette Show and we need your help, so please sign up for a work detail.

Thank you.

Tommy Loftin, QCCC Corvette Show Coordinator

Queen City 12TH Annual Corvette Show 2023

Team Responsibilities and Guidelines

Advertising / Trophies

Roger Winge
Paul Mitchell
Tommy Loftin

- Team to arrive by 5:30 AM
- Need 2 to 6 people
- Develop and purchase trophies
- Assist with PA system and announce give away items
- Deliver flyers, postcards and other means of advertisement
- Contact all Corvette Clubs in our general area with information on QCCC Car Show and Bloomington Gold
- Assist in collecting items for “Goody Bags” and assemble
- Contact outside vendors, food, car care items, Corvette Museum, etc.
- Organize trophy program
- Work with City to design shirts. Get approvals from City and Bloomington Gold.
- Get quotes and ask City to purchase shirts.
- Order shirts and pick them up.
- Design dash plaque. Get approvals from City and Bloomington Gold.
Get quotes and ask City to purchase dash plaques.

50/50 Raffle Tickets

Jane Burt

- Team to arrive by 7:00 AM
- Need 8 to 10 People for sales
- Need 8 rolls of tickets. Make sure there are no duplicate numbers and if possible, the same color.
- Pre-assemble raffle ticket packets for sales teams (150 packs of 25 tickets, 150 packs of 11 tickets, 150 packs of 5 tickets) Total tickets 8,150.
- Have starter money for each team (10 each \$5.00) Total \$50.00 each
- Have 50/50 operating area set up at main tent for sales and ticket and money drop off. Have a team to separate tickets and place in container prior to drawing.
- Organize 50/50 raffle at car show
- Achieve 2022 goal of \$5,000.00 in sales
- Count money and present winner at charity presentation. (Approx. 1:30 PM)
- Keep receipts of expense items for reimbursement

Charity

Brenda Loftin

- Must have charities available at car show to accept donation (no show will forfeit their donations)
- Present check to charities before trophy presentation. (Approximately 1:30 PM)

Silent Auction

Cheryl Bitters

- Team to arrive by 6:00 AM
- Need 6 to 8 People
- Collect silent auction items
- Develop auction procedures
- Prepare items for auction

Event Sponsors / Vendors

Tommy Loftin
Paul Mitchell

- Need 6 to 8 people
- Develop a team to contact vendors and car care suppliers for item donations
- Assist DJ with giveaways and prizes

Parking

Justin Cross

- Team to arrive by 5:30 AM (You may split shifts as needed) Shift is not over until all Corvettes are on show field.
- Need 20 to 25 people to help
- Responsible for show lay-out for each class
- Park all cars in one parking spot
- Non-show Corvettes will park in guest parking area
- Vendor Parking
- Help load and unload trailers and park them
- Responsible for safety at car show
- Be prepared for any emergency involving Police, Fire, Rescue, or Medic

Registration

Michelle Moore

- Team to arrive by 5:30 AM
- Need 12 to 15 people to assist
- Register all show participants
- Be the central information center upon entry into the show

Tally / Score Sheet

Craig & Donna Smith

- Team to arrive by 6:00 AM
- Need 5 to 7 people to assist. Mainly runners for score sheets.
- Develop tally procedures and organize tally area for maximum efficiency
- Tally score sheets
- Communicate with Head Judge on score sheet issues and duplicate score counts
- Assist in Awards Ceremony

Judging

John Callahan
Brian Moore

- Team to arrive by 6:00 AM
- Need 25 to 30 people to assist
- Develop judging criteria “show and shine”
- Have judging training school
- Organize all judges at the show
- Start on time and end on time
- Develop system for show cars and display only cars

Event Controller

Keith & Kelly Cross

- Team to arrive by 5:00 AM
- Need 6 to 10 people
- Work with committee chairs to get QCCC members shirt sizes and possible orders
- Distribute QCCC show shirts at the September club meeting
- Day of show operate the “Volunteer Check-In” to give out shirts and instruct members as to where they need to be and what time.
- Sell leftover 2022 QCCC yellow volunteer t-shirts. Short sleeve \$10.00 and long sleeve \$15.00
- Sell 2022 QCCC Car Show coins. \$10.00 each
- Sell past leftover QCCC Car Show coins. \$5.00 Each
- Give out show maps and directions to where things are located.
- Give out 2022 QCCC yellow volunteer shirts to members who did not make the 9/24/22 club meeting.
- Send all “last Minute” volunteers who were not on a team to a location to help someone somewhere.
- Be the “Lost and Found” table for the car show.

Heritage Center Tours

Gary & Gwen Cunningham

- Team to arrive by 6:00 AM
- Need 10 to 12 people
- Have designated table for tours
- Set up second table for tours at Heritage Center Door
- Coordinate tour times with both locations. Have radio contact with both locations.
- Have cash box at both locations
- Schedule times for tour 15 / 25 persons per tour
- Start tours at 9:00 AM and every 30 minutes. Last tour 2:30 PM
- Maintain list of attendees and times toured. Give list of all show attendees to Tommy Loftin

PA System / Announcements / Door Prizes

Chris Wood

- Team to arrive at 6:00 AM
- Need 6 to 8 people
- Door Prize announcing
- Door Prize winner posting (white board)
- Door Prize table monitoring
- All show announcements, as needed
- Information Table
- Assist DJ set-up
- First Aid Station
- Collect the Show Participants door prize ticket stub for drawing? Or Will those already have been separated and collected by registration
- Hold all “drawn” door prize ticket stubs and place them back in the box for the “Grand Prize” drawings and the Award Ceremony

Trolley Rides

Ron Berst

- Team to arrive at 6:30 AM
- Need 6 to 8 people
- Do announcements as Trolley Ride continues
- Load and unload people safely



June 2023

Paul DePascale wife Deb had a complete Knee Replacement Surgery on June 13, 2023. The surgery went very well; however, she is in a lot of pain and is having a hard time. She is home now and is recovering. Please pray for Deb and Paul for a speedy recovery.

Get well cards can be sent:

8200 Brynmar Dr.

Charlotte, NC 27280

ddepas@aol.com

Thanks!

Paul Schmitt, QCCC Care and Compassion

paulandchristineschmitt@gmail.com

Secretary's Note:



Hello QCCC Members!

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

At our May meeting, we randomly drew a lucky name from those in attendance celebrating birthdays. [Karen Mariano was our winner and she received a \\$50 restaurant gift card. Congratulations Karen!](#)

[Our next business club meeting will be on Saturday, July 8 at RK Motors in Charlotte, NC.](#) Social begins at 1:00pm.

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 kathie@hotmail.com.

Debbie Rockhold	7/1
Linda Hambrecht	7/5
Priscilla Pelkey	7/6
Brian Peoples	7/6
Deb Troutwine	7/6
Peggy Conover	7/7
Peggy McNamara	7/7
Paula Birindelli	7/9
Anthony Levigne	7/12
Jessica Miller	7/12
Laurie Schwartz	7/12
Jane Burt	7/13
Kimberly Knight	7/13
Carol McIntyre	7/14
Carl Bartlett	7/16
Sandie Holland	7/18
Russell Raduazzo	7/19
Jeff Crosby	7/20
Lisa Weathers	7/21
Donna Rice	7/23
Teresa Gillum	7/24
Gerry Leppert	7/24
Sylvia Self	7/25
Larry Miller	7/27
Jim McNamara	7/30
Tom Rockhold	7/30
Sandy Chichester	7/31
Paige Mitchell	7/31
Karla Wallace	7/31



NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM – NEWS AND UPDATES

Paul Mitchell – QCCC Ambassador to the NCM

July 2023

Don't forget the amazing Corvette raffles that take place year round. There are different levels of ticket cost, from \$20 to \$300, with odds increasing as the price of the ticket increases. These raffles are a huge part of the financial success of the Museum, so you are really helping out when you purchase a ticket. Plus, QCCC has had 2 winners in the past. Maybe the next one is you!

Here are the current raffles:

2023 70th Anniversary Carbon Flash Coupe VIN 00001 6/29/2023

Price: **\$300.00** Tickets: 1953 Available: 920

Drawing: June 29, 2023 7:00 PM Central Time

2024 Build Your Own Corvette Stingray or \$80,000 7/13/2023

Price: **\$250.00** Tickets: 1500 Available: 1084

Drawing: July 13, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time

2024 Riptide Blue Corvette Coupe 8/10/2023

Price: **\$150.00** Tickets: 1500 Available: 1239

Drawing: August 10, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time

2024 Arctic White Corvette Coupe 9/2/2023

Price: **\$20.00** Unlimited Raffle

Drawing: September 2, 2023 3:00 PM Central Time

GOOD LUCK!

The Museum Ambassadors are heading up a program to get a retirement card from each Corvette club for retiring Corvette Plant Manager Kai Spande. Kai has been the manager since 2016. We will have a card at the July meeting for all QCCC members to sign wishing him a great retirement. If you own a 2016 and up car, when you sign, put the year of your car so he knows how many Corvette owners he had a part in helping us make our dreams come true.

See everyone at the July 8 meeting!

QCCC HISTORY

It is ancient Corvette lore that sometime in late 1953 the first two Corvette owners passed each other going in the opposite direction. Recognizing that even though they had never met and didn't know one another, they immediately knew that they had something special in common, and threw their left arm out the window and gave each other a vigorous wave. That action started a tradition that continues to this day: the “Corvette Wave”.

The “Corvette Wave” is now an integral part of the mystique and culture of the Corvette owner experience. Corvette owners who wave at fellow Corvette owners when they pass on the road, show a mark of recognition that you are among the elite group of intelligent people who are driving America's True Sports Car. If you are new to the Corvette hobby you may have already experienced passing another Corvette and receiving the wave. And Zora would roll over in his grave if you didn't wave back. I'm not sure who wrote these rules of waving, possibly the recipient of that first wave in 1953. Anyway, here are the rules:

There is no excuse for not waving at your fellow Corvette owner.

Although most Corvette owners have the class and understanding to accept when their wave is not returned, not waving is a serious breach of proper Corvette etiquette.

Whoever sees the other Corvette first, starts the wave.

There isn't any rule about who waves first. This is simple; if you see another Corvette, wave!

Rules 1 and 2 apply to both sexes.

As far as who starts the wave, it doesn't make a difference if you are a man or women. Rules 1 and 2 apply.

Any type of wave is okay.

Whether you shoot a big wave up through your open Vette top, out the window, or a quick salute with your hand on the steering wheel, any wave that can be seen by the other Corvette driver is okay. However, this does not include any style of jester that can be interpreted as obscene or insulting.

A late wave is better than no wave.

If you suddenly realize that a Corvette driver is passing and waving at you, get a wave off as soon as possible. The other Corvette driver may see your wave in their rear view mirror and realize that you were just a little late in getting your wave going.

So you can see the underlying concept here is simple: Wave at your fellow Corvette owners, whoever they are, whenever you see them. This will show you are a person who understands the full measure and etiquette that comes with your proud ownership of a Corvette.

Travis Meredith, *historian*

Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



Sand in Your Shorts

Let's revisit one of the greatest weekends in QCCC's history. Pictures can tell what the words cannot.

First, having grown up in the Midwest, this constant beach thing was new to me. However, as Trav and Darrell can attest, spending time at the beach was mandatory if you were raised here. Therefore, QCCC did not make a beach trip as an event, they went several times each year. When you are 25 in the 70's and driving a Corvette, that is where the girls are. Vegas has nothing on Myrtle Beach. Beach music rivaled Rock-n-Roll in the Carolinas.

On a crisp fall day in 1975 a handful of QCCC guys headed out to Myrtle Beach for the typical weekend of Schlitz long necks and a last of the summer brush-up on their tans. Travis was one of the group. Another of the members who enjoyed every day of life was Rick Wilson. They wanted to spend the last moments with a look at the ocean. Things were not as restricted then as they are today. Not considering the consequences, Rick drove around the end of road guardrail and was very soon going in and out of the surf. From the photo we have it is a wonder he did not get stuck. He was having a ball with pedal matted as he could side all around. Soon others joined him, not in the surf, but driving on the hard-packed sand. Alas, along came one of the locals finest complete with blue lights. He was courteous and informed the group that driving on the beach was not permitted. Something about running over folks, but he did mention we could talk to the Mayor and try to get a permit to do so. When they got back and informed the group of this situation, it was decided to make it a club trip in '76. After some thought and discussion, someone said let's race on the beach like NASCAR did in Daytona. So it came to pass that Travis Meredith, Richard Breyer, and one other from QCCC made a trip back to ask for permission. We sent the right folks as they were successful and it was a NCCC sanctioned event for the fall of '76. I believe it was in October when the beaches are mostly empty.

We arrived after work on Friday and rose early to set the pylons for the track and the timing lights and the first car went off as the sun was coming up. Very soon we got educated. Corvette power on wet sand did not make for a great launch. It turns out we had to keep shoveling sand into the ruts made at the start finish line. Then you went north through some gates on the wet sand before sliding through a big sweeping curve and through more gates going back south to the finish line. Everyone got 3 timed runs, but there were problems. The tide was going out so the northbound route kept changing with the amount of water in the sand and the southbound lanes were up in the dry sand. The ocean washes a very smooth wet surface, but at low tide it leaves a very bumpy surface where it does not reach. Then add to that we, of course, were pedal down and sliding all around. A gentle throttle would win the day by not making ruts but gliding across the surface. We were constantly filling in ruts. The south side was like driving a pickup on a farm trail.

When it was all over, everyone had a blast and they were all ready to go again, not withstanding all the complaints about the early entrants had a big advantage as the course deteriorated pretty badly with each run thru it. When I was at Ron Fellows Motorsports Track in 2015, we introduced ourselves and where we were from. I said QCCC in Charlotte. At our first break a fellow came up to me and said he was

from Louisville, Kentucky and had once taken two Corvettes long ago to race on Myrtle Beach. Small world! Little did we know we were solidifying a solid reputation as a mover and shaker in the Corvette Club world.

Photos:

Rick Wilson driving in the surf in 1975.

Buzz Cagle's 1967 427 concours car in the sand waiting for his turn.

Looking south a car makes the sweeping curve to head to finish.

Viewing on the inland side of the track, QCCC members, identifiable are Rick Wilson and Harry Jackson. Notice the cop with the helmet on.

View of the parking lot early Friday afternoon.

View of the drivers meeting later on Friday. Notice the valuable C-1, C-2, and C-3. Many members identified: David Morse, Jenny Hunter, Pete and Peggy Walther, Linda Pace, Harry Jackson, and Robert Scognamillow.

Epilogue: Sand was everywhere. Anywhere you had liquids leaking or undercoating, it was stuck to your car forever. In fact, when Travis did a complete frame off on his '64 he still had sand in the frame rails.

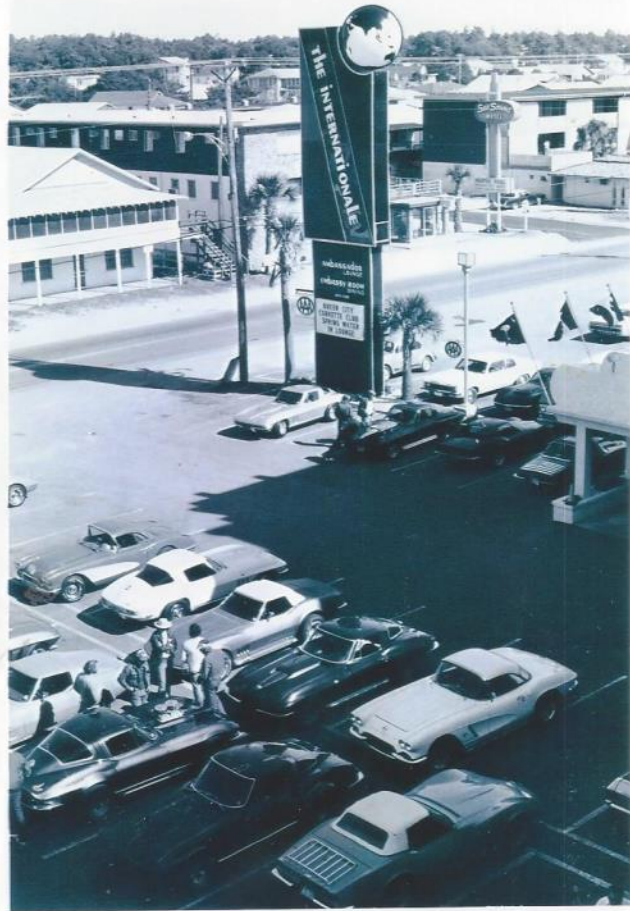
Good times of yesteryear with QCCC!!!

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



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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.

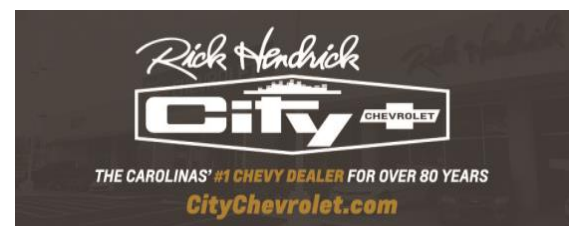
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