

THE
QUEEN CITY
GAZETTE



Official Newsletter of North Carolina's Largest Corvette Club

October 2023



QCCC Business Meeting

Saturday, October 14, 2023

Brenda & Tommy Loftin's Homestead

244 Hicks Creek Rd. Troutman, NC 28166

2:00 p.m. Car Show Prep, T-Shirt pick-up & Social Time

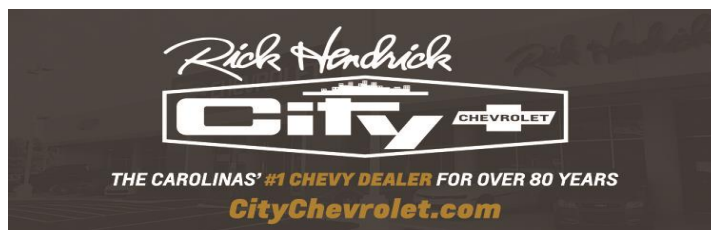
4:00 p.m. Business Meeting

5:15 p.m. Optional Pre-paid BBQ Dinner

See p.11 for dinner sign-up instructions, deadline is Oct. 9



*BRING CHAIRS * BRING SILENT AUCTION ITEMS *



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In This Issue

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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



October 2023

You should have been there! That's the NCM (National Corvette Museum) Hall of Fame weekend event inducting three new members: John Amgwert - Enthusiast - as founder of NCRS (National Corvette Restorers Society), Dan Binks - Racing - as Crew Chief for the #3 Corvette (among many Pratt & Miller duties), and David Wickman - GM/Chevrolet - as Corvette Test Engineer and manager of Corvette development activities at the Milford Proving Grounds. QCCC had a small group attending a banquet induction evening, getting to mingle and talk with the many VIPs in our Corvette world. Our own member, Tom Wallace, who himself is in the NCM Hall of Fame, was one of the presenters - a proud moment for those of us attending. Then there was Mitch Francis who all by himself, tried to push the new 2024 GT3.R race car onto the hauler. The best part is, he looked like he worked there.

We have already set up a block of rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn for next year's BASH in April 2024, and also have rooms for the big event that takes place every five years over Labor Day weekend: The Caravan 2024.

Next up was the Charlotte Motor Speedway AutoFair. 6:00 am did not seem so bad when some of us pulled in at 5:30 am. We had a great turnout of 45 Corvettes with John Meadows displaying his 1963 Split Window inside the exhibition hall over a three day period. Congratulations to Darrell Kirkley for being chosen the QCCC Best of Show representative. A big THANK YOU to Craig Smith for bringing his One Man BBQ Show for our members, and to Roger and Dee Dee for showing us for what must have been the 50th time, how to set up our yellow QCCC tent as our headquarters. Our biggest thanks go to Automotive Director Tim Fridley for organizing our day and bringing our 6:00 am coffee and doughnuts!

Then we moved on to Helen. No, not Helen of Troy, but Steve Bonino, Helen of GA annual trip for Oktoberfest. We had a great group of 20 cars with many of us experienced beer drinkers in search of yet another hat. Thank you Steve, for keeping up your family tradition for 28 years, and making it another QCCC annual event.

We just had our monthly member meeting at a new location for us at the American Legion post in Huntersville. We had a pleasant surprise of having just \$2 beer and I think a few of our members may still be there!

Finally, remember we are always looking for new members to be involved in our club as Board or Staff members, weekend and day trip coordinators. Volunteers, please make sure you have signed up for one of our Car Show Teams. It's a great way to help us be one of the top car shows in the country and meet people driving into the show coming from all over. This is not a local car show, but a big time national event!

Dick Gwilt, President
rgwilt@me.com

NCM (National Corvette Museum) Hall of Fame Weekend



QCCC Member Tom Wallace presenting the NCM Hall of Fame Award

to

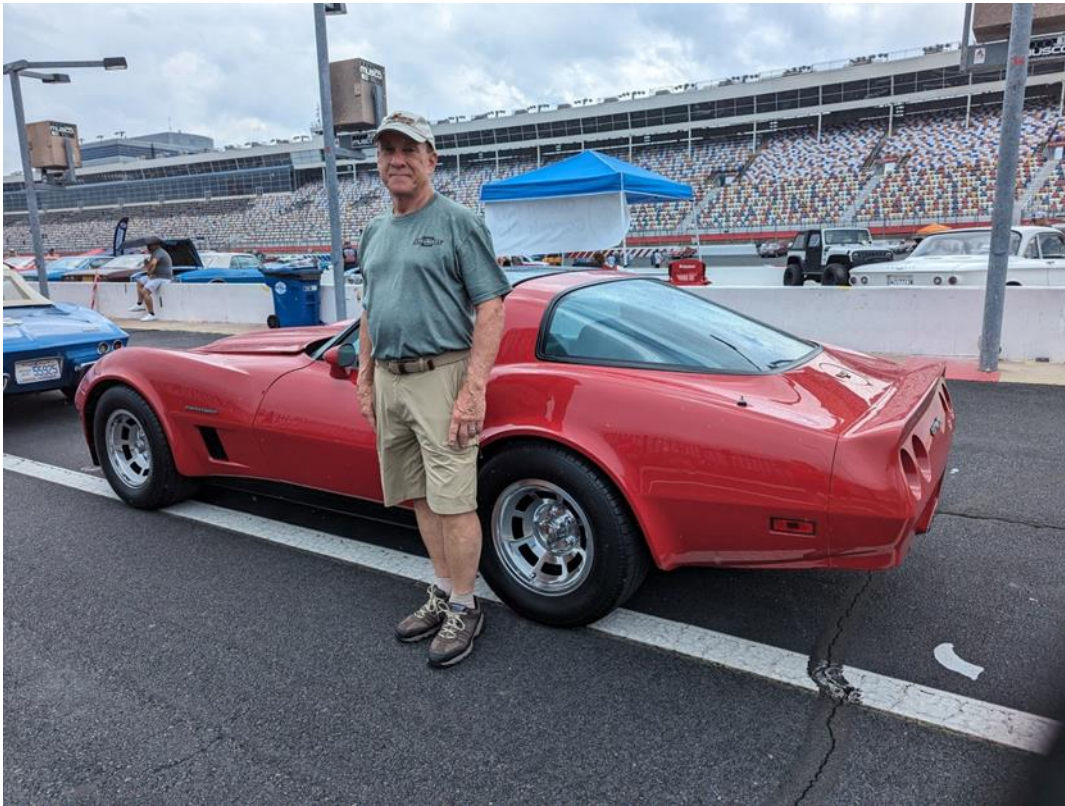
David Wickman



2024 Z06 GT3.R at NCM Anniversary Weekend



Mitch, the car mover



Darrell with QCCC's Best of Show entry at AutoFair



John Meadows' 1963 Display at AutoFair



QCCC ad in Mr. H's display at Auto Fair



Welcome to Oktoberfest in Helen, GA



Scenic drive in GA



Waiting to eat in Helen, GA



Having fun in the Festhalle



VP Stuff, Ron Berst

Saturday October 21st, 2023. By now that date might be burned into your brain...but just in case, I am going to add a bit more. This is the date of the Queen City Corvette Show, one of the LARGEST all Corvette shows in the country, right here in Charlotte, NC!!! As they used to say on the TV show, *Dragnet*, just the facts ma'am.

- ◆ The Hendrick Motorsports complex is better than perfect, the location is second to none, period.
- ◆ The Hendrick Heritage Museum has one of the finest and largest Corvette collections in the world! Normally closed to the public, tours can be purchased for only \$30.
- ◆ Tours of the Hendrick Nascar Race Shops and Engine Shop can be purchased for \$30.
- ◆ The trophies Hendrick employees make are like jewelry. Made of actual used race engine parts, they will be cherished by any car or class winner. Over 40 were awarded last year.
- ◆ The new Hendrick Racing Museum is full of racing cars and memorabilia from the past, plus a huge gift and souvenir shop. Admission is free!
- ◆ This is a charity show, last year \$27,000 was donated to local charities.
- ◆ 600+ Corvettes makes this one of the largest all-Corvette shows in the country put on by an all-volunteer Corvette club. Corvettes at Carlisle and Bloomington Gold are bigger but are run by private for-profit companies. My proud fellow QCCers, many people have spent many hours making this one of the very finest Corvette shows in the country!
- ◆ These are just some of the highlights, spending time with fellow Corvette owners, from QCCC and other clubs...priceless!

There are still some committees that need workers so just come to the October meeting at Tommy and Brenda's home and sign up, there are positions for everyone.

Lastly each QCCC family should bring an item to the October meeting for the silent auction (or a gift card). This is one of the biggest fundraisers of the show, let's make it the largest!

The October business meeting is at Tommy and Brenda's homeplace. Social time, car show tee shirt pickup and car show team training start at 2:00, the business meeting starts at 4:00 and optional self-pay BBQ dinner is at 5:15

That's it for now, hope to see a big turnout on the 14th.

Ron Berst, VP

Social



Scene

SOCIAL DIRECTOR ~Donna Berst ~

Thanks to Jo & Mo Graham for planning the fun afternoon “Brews In” to the Royal Bliss Brewing Company! All who attended enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere, yummy food, craft beer & fellowship!

Oktoberfest in Helen, Georgia was another awesome QCCC event! Thanks to Steve Bonino for all his time and efforts, making this annual trip so memorable! Make plans to join us next September.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 5 to Sunday, October 8, 2023 Fall trip to North Myrtle Beach, SC
Coordinators: Jane Burt fab4fan@carolina.rr.com Dick Gwilt rgwilt@me.com ,
LOCATION: Ocean Drive Beach and Golf Resort 98 North Ocean Blvd. North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
<http://www.OceanDriveResort.com>

Saturday, October 14, 2023, QCCC Business Meeting & Car Show Prep at Brenda & Tommy Loftin’s Homestead 244 Hicks Creek Rd. Troutman, NC 28166

-2:00 pm Social Time, pick up Car Show T-Shirts & Car Show Team Training

-4:00pm QCCC Business Meeting

-5:15 Optional BBQ Dinner \$13 per person

BRING CHAIRS!

LAST CHANCE TO BRING SILENT AUCTION ITEMS!

BRING your own Beverages (alcoholic & non-alcoholic)

BBQ DINNER can be purchased BY NOON ON MONDAY OCTOBER 9th. ORDER ONLINE at Queencitycorvette.com (*password is duntov*) under Club Info/Event sign ups.

Saturday, October 21, 2023 QCCC ALL CORVETTE CAR SHOW

Saturday October 28, 2023 Corvette Tech Talks at Dick Gwilt’s Garage 9:00-11:00 am. RSVP to rgwilt@me.com [if you’d like to have lunch at Shoal’s Grille afterwards.](#)

Sunday October 29, 2023 Run to the Colors with the Foothill’s Corvette Club.

<http://foothillscorvetteclub.net/2021/08/31/run-to-the-colors/>

Look for a QCCC Blast in October with meet-up instructions.

Saturday MORNING, November 11, 2023 Corvette Angels Toy Drive. **SAVE THE DATE.** Look for an email Blast.

Saturday, November 11, 2023 QCCC Business Meeting at Atlantic Wraps
4108 Matthews Indian Trail Rd. Matthews, NC 28104

Saturday November 25, 2023 Ray Everham's Americarna Car Show

Saturday December 2, 2023 QCCC Business Meeting & Christmas Party at the Charlotte Motor Speedway.
SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!

Donna Berst ~ 20223 QCCC Social Director

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

AUTOMOTIVE DIRECTOR



It's finally FALL with cooler weather and leaves changing color! A perfect time to experience the Tail of the Dragon! Put the roof down and head for the mountains!

Fall AutoFair was a great success. QCCC had 42 cars in the show. By far, the greatest Corvette presence at AutoFair. Congratulations to the following show winners:

First Place C1/C2 – Paul DePascale	First Place C3/C4 – Mark Londre
First Place C5/C6 – Don Lowe	Second Place C5/C6 – Quentin Gross
First Place C7 – Chris Farrell	Second Place C7 – Scott Danjou
First Place – C8 – Keith Overcash	Second Place – C8 – Eric Matthews
Highest Milage on the Odometer – Keith Cross	Participant’s Choice Award – Keith Cross
President’s Choice Award – Mo Graham	QCCC Best of Show – Darrell Kirkley

While many of us will be in Myrtle Beach from 10/5-10/8, there are several events coming up on the weekend of October 7-8. Keep an eye on Blasts for additional information. Some of the upcoming events include:

- RK Motors Grand Reopening - 10/7
- Mitchell Community College Student Government Association presents, Cars on Campus - 10/7
- Road Runner Corvettes – Corvette Angels Toy Drive 11/11, 10am – 1pm at Charlotte Motor
- Vettes for Vets event 11/10 – 11/11 in Charleston, SC. More details to follow.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE QCCC FACEBOOK PAGE!

DID YOU KNOW: The original Corvette logo, (Figure 1 below), was designed by Robert Bartholomew, an interior designer at Chevrolet in 1953. This emblem was destined to appear on the 1953 Corvette prototype which was introduced to the public for the first time at New York’s Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in January of 1953. It had crossing staffs with the checkered flag on the right-hand side, and the American flag on the left-hand side. However, four days before the Corvette was to go on display at the show, Chevrolet management decided that it should be redesigned. The problem with the proposed emblem was that it included the American Flag which is illegal to use on a commercial product. Right before the show, redesigned emblems were attached to the front hood and steering wheel of the Corvette. The new emblem contained the checkered flag on the right side as well as the white racing flag, red Chevrolet bow-tie symbol and a fleur-de-lis.



Figure 1

If you are interested in leading an event, let me know. I can and will assist!

Tim Fridley
 Automotive Director
 Email: fridleyt@hotmail.com



MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

October

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:

Total Membership	419
Total Families	232
Prospective Members	60
New Members Year to Date	58
Avg. Monthly Attendance	139

NEW MEMBERS:

Wolfgang Grassler

Salisbury, NC

CORVETTE: 2023 Torch Red Coupe

Ed & Nadine Tarantino

Troutman, NC

CORVETTES: 1989 Red Coupe

2006 Monterey Red Convertible

2019 Shadow Gray GS Coupe

Paul Young

Waxhaw, NC

CORVETTE: 2020 Arctic White Convertible

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

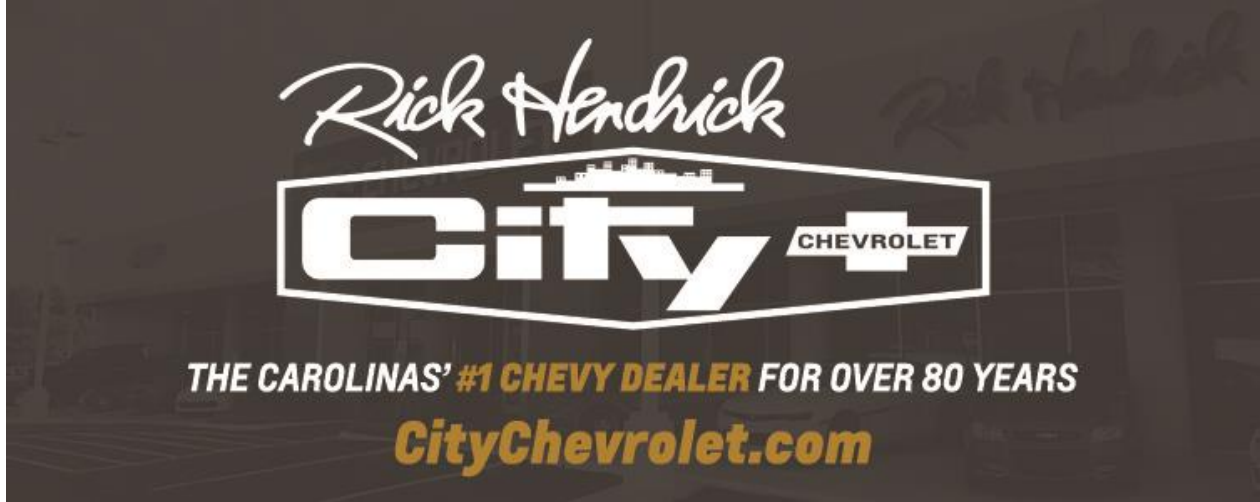
Rick Accurso
Inventory Manager & Corvette Specialist
704-566-7447
Rick.Accurso@hendrickauto.com

QCCC MEMBER SERVICE CONCIERGE

Saverio Longobardo
Service Advisor
704-566-7407
Saverio.Longobardo@hendrickauto.com

QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB SPONSOR - PATRONS - ADVERTISERS

CLUB SPONSOR



CLUB ADVERTISERS

Z06 LEVEL

The advertisement for ACES Complete Auto Care features a blue and green gradient background. At the top, the word "ACES" is written in a large, stylized, blue font with a lightning bolt effect. To the right of "ACES" are four playing cards: the Ace of Spades, Ace of Clubs, Ace of Hearts, and Ace of Diamonds. Below "ACES" is the text "Complete Auto Care" in a black, serif font. Underneath that is the phone number "704-684-0265" in a large, red, sans-serif font. In the center is the Corvette logo. To the left of the Corvette logo is the text "Chris Farrell, Owner" followed by "118 Business Park Dr." and "Indian Trail, NC 28079". To the right of the Corvette logo is the ASE logo (ASE Certified Master Auto Technician) and the text "50 years combined experience" and "Official NC Inspection Station". At the bottom, the text "Visit us at www.acesautomotivenc.com" is written in a small, black, sans-serif font.



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Update for October 2023

I can't believe it is October already and the car show is soon at hand. 2023 is going to be a remarkable year for our car show. With QCCC, City Chevrolet and Hendrick Performance promoting such an event, it is most likely going to be a huge success. We are anticipating over 700 Corvettes this year with food vendors, craft vendors, Corvette-related vendors, kids corral, special VIP parking for some of the most astonishing Corvettes ever and plenty more for all to do for the day.

Our Corvette show is believed to be one of the largest Corvette shows sponsored by and put on by an individual Corvette club. QCCC and our Corvette show is a large impact in the Corvette world. Corvette enthusiasts from all over the nation are familiar with our show. Our show brings in some of the most profound Corvettes in the nation to compete for one of our Famous Hendrick Race Team Trophies. To win a QCCC Corvette Show trophy puts that Corvette into another category of perfection and is considered one of the most sought-after trophies in the Corvette world. We, as QCCC members should be proud to be involved in such a Corvette treasure.

The Corvette show is requires a lengthy planning process and starts months before this years Corvette show takes place. Registration and advertising start in early February, then comes vendor participation, silent auction planning sessions, strategic parking for an overflow Corvette show and how to get all those people through the Heritage Center and Race Shop tours. All of this takes place behind the scenes by our Corvette Show Planning Staff and our Team Leaders.

All of this planning, organizing and work doesn't go unnoticed. At the end of all this process we donate a large portion of the proceeds back to charity. This year QCCC Charity is Wings of Eagles Ranch, and they will receive a donation of \$10,000.00 from the show. Also, the largest portion of the Heritage Center and Race Shop tours go to The Hendrick Family Foundation. This year we anticipate donating over \$15,000.00 to this charity.

With all this said, you can understand why QCCC puts so much emphasis on our Corvette Show. It creates a bond between members and leaves a sense of pride just being associated with such a strong organization. Due to our efforts, we will bring over 700 Corvettes together in one place with the same goal in mind, Corvettes. We will also bring in over 3,000 spectators just to see what we have achieved, one of the largest Corvette shows in the nation. Yes, we/you are involved in such a feat.

Now, onto the begging part, we still need help with judging and parking. The team leader for judging is John Callahan and Brian Moore. The parking team leader is Justin Cross. You can contact either of these team leaders or myself to show your support.

We also still need your Corvettes. We currently have 120 QCCC Corvettes signed up for our event. Our goal is to have over 150 Corvettes from QCCC. Remember registration is free, so go to Queencitycorvetteclub.com and click car show registration. Then go to QCCC Member Car Registration and fill out the form.

Lastly, we need your help to get the word out to the general public about our show. They can go online to register for Tour Ticket Purchases at Queencitycorvetteclub.com and click car show registration. Then go to Tour Ticket Purchase and fill out the form and sign up for the Heritage Center or Race Shop tours for \$30.00 each per person. Mr. Hendrick's personal museum is not open to the public, so this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them to see Rick Hendrick's private Car Collection. He has about 250 cars on display in this museum. The public can also purchase tickets the day of the show on a first come basis.

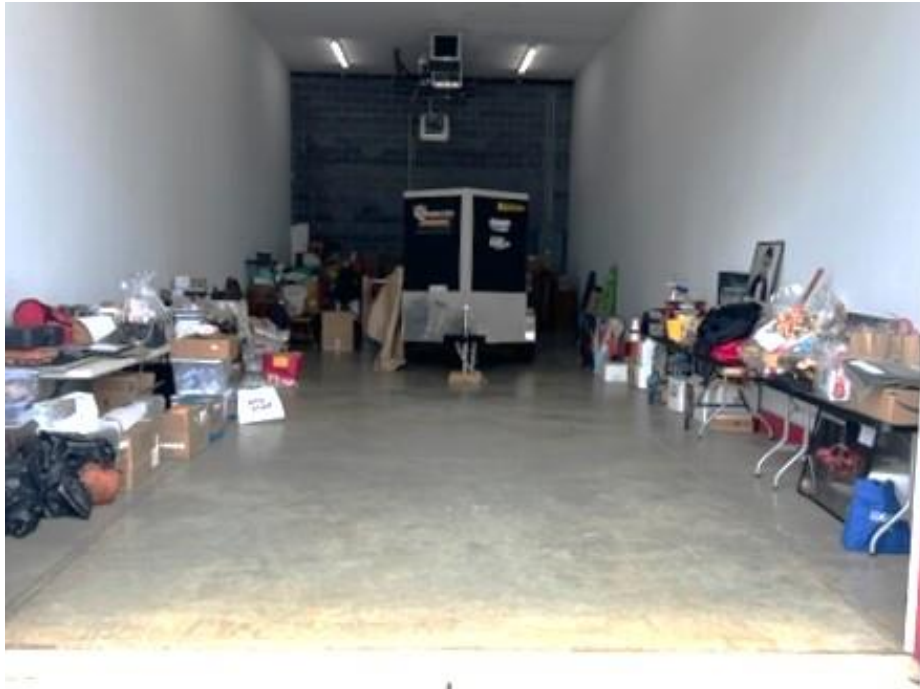
Thanks to all Queen City Corvette Club members for your dedication to this event.

Tommy Loftin

2023 QCCC Corvette Club Corvette Show Director.

tloftin@roadrunner.com

704-902-1330



There's still room in Dick's garage for more Silent Auction items for the Car Show!

Please call Cheryl Bitters or Dick Gwilt when you have more items to donate.

QCCC Charity Committee



— SAVE THE DATE —

Celebrating 25 Years

*Dinner & Dancin'
in the Dirt*

OCTOBER 21ST, 5-9PM

FAMILY EVENT.

Secretary's Note:



Hello QCCC Members!

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

At our September meeting, we randomly drew a lucky name from those in attendance celebrating birthdays. Mark Olejarczyk was our winner and he received a \$50 restaurant gift card. Congratulations Mark!

Our next business club meeting will be on Saturday, October 14 at Brenda and Tommy Loftin's Homestead in Troutman, NC. At this meeting, important car show information and trainings will take place.

Please plan on attending!

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.

Barbara Sprague	10/2
Barbara Kruse	10/3
Tom Pennoni	10/7
Barbara Mariano	10/8
Laura Sancineto	10/8
Gary Spencer	10/10
John Montera	10/11
Ray Long	10/13
Lynda Looney	10/15
Doug Wright	10/15
Glenn Johnson	10/17
Michelle Moore	10/17
Kathy Lewis	10/19
Rebecca Hill	10/20
Kristine Selzer	10/20
Mike Mariano	10/21
Craig Smith	10/21
Kalyn Matthews	10/23
Robert Knorr	10/24
Aldene Loe	10/24
Jeff Fawcett	10/26
Dawn Taylor	10/26
Liz Carpenter	10/27
Kathy Miller	10/27
Merrill Quintrell	10/28
John Dail	10/30
Donna Perry	10/30
Justin Cross	10/31
Jenny Long	10/31
Karen St John	10/31



NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM – NEWS AND UPDATES

Paul Mitchell – QCCC Ambassador to the NCM

October 2023

Each year at the anniversary meeting on Labor Day weekend the Corvette Museum inducts 3 new members to the Corvette Hall of Fame. The list of inductees is amazing, covering all aspects of the Corvette world for the three classes of members – Enthusiasts, GM/Chevrolet, and Racing.

The Corvette Hall of Fame was established by the National Corvette Museum in 1998 to confer official recognition upon the most influential individuals in the history of the Corvette and honor their achievements. Corvette Hall of Fame inductees have distinguished themselves, not only through their accomplishments, but also by their high standards of integrity and character that reflect and enhance the reputation of the Corvette and the National Corvette Museum.

Go to the Museum website and click on Hall of Fame to see the current members. One of note is Rick Hendrick, for obvious reasons. The other of note is QCCC member Tom Wallace, who was inducted in 2018, Tom was Corvette Chief Engineer from 2005 to 2008, and during his tenure the 2009 638 HP ZR1 was developed! Tom was also a professional race car driver, and participated in 24 Hours of Daytona, 12 Hours of Sebring, and Talladega 6 hour race. The only other Chief Engineer that was also a race car driver was none other than Zora Arkus Duntov! We are proud and honored that Tom is a member of QCCC!

As mentioned in last month's article I will be attending an Ambassadors Conference in Bowling Green in November. If anyone has issues, compliments or suggestions for the Museum please let me know so I can address them at the meeting. The Museum personnel are very interested in our input and certainly want to hear from us on any topic.

Car show time is approaching. Please get silent auction items together and bring to the meeting at the Loft-in's on October 14. Get your car registered – FREE – as we need 50+ member cars at the show. Sign up for a job at the show. And get ready to be a participant in the biggest and best club-run Corvette show in the country!

QCCC HISTORY

Well, here we are, only weeks away from our biggest car show ever. Expecting over 700 cars from all over the Southeast, it's an opportunity for our club to show just how it's done! I hope all of you have figured a way to participate in some way, you don't have to drive a "show car" to enter, just come and help. If necessary, ride through Auto-Bell and join the fun.

But looking back (since this is the "History Article", I must), we will examine QCCC's very first real car show. The year is 1974 and the club is active in the National Council of Corvette Clubs sanctioned events which are mostly made up of competition events. They did have rules for car shows and we had attended a few that other clubs held in our region. The biggest show in the area then was at a Chevrolet dealer in Laurens, SC. We took about twenty cars and did pretty well considering all were daily drivers. Plus we had displayed our cars at South Park Mall several times and received a great response. The club even had displays at the annual ISCA (International Show Car Association) Custom Car Show that was held at the downtown civic center every February. It was decided that it was time for us to put on our own show.

Plans were made and our sponsor at that time, LaPointe Chevrolet on East Trade Street in downtown Charlotte, agreed to letting us have it at the dealership. They cleaned out the service department and emptied the showroom for us. They even advertised it in the Charlotte Observer. The day of the show arrives, we put five or six cars in the showroom, and the rest lined up in the service department. There were about fifty cars from six or more regional clubs participating. The big winners were two trailered cars from Atlanta, a perfectly restored black '63 Fuel Injected Coupe and a '64 customized Coupe with a paneled candy apple red paint job. The irony of this photo of my '64 on the LaPointe showroom at the 1974 car show is that 10 years earlier my Corvette was there as a brand new unsold unit in LaPointe's inventory.

The club had several other car shows during the late seventies and early eighties, mostly at the new sponsor's dealership, the Chevrolet store on South Boulevard (sorry, they changed hands so many times I can't remember the names) and even at the minor league baseball stadium in Fort Mill. They were moderately successful, but the competition events ruled the day. QCCC changed direction in the early 2000's and became more social-minded and car shows weren't a priority. But with the help from Hendrick Motorsports and City Chevrolet, QCCC has developed into a well-oiled machine when it comes to putting on an unbelievable car show, even if a hurricane interrupts and forces a postponement like last year. Let's hope that never happens again, but it is an example of how this club comes through, no matter what.

Travis Meredith, *historian*



Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



Slower but Still Fast and Crazy

Last month we got an insight into Vintage Gang member Darrell Kirkley's early need for speed, so this month we will peek in on our Historian, Trav's early fire for Corvettes. We do know he was at the inaugural Charlotte World 600 which had to be quite a spectacle for a 12 year old! That is a long race and the cars were not as durable as they are today. It was quite a show and it started the blood pumping. Once in high school funds were acquired to purchase a light weight Comet. That put him in with the In Crowd of Garringer High auto crazies. Soon he found where the action was in North Davidson. In fact, he became known as The North Davidson Kid or Travelin' Trav. (I am surprised he did not run into Reggie Black as North Davidson was where he was also leaving black marks on Derita Road.) He had successfully graduated from model cars to the real thing, although he still dabbles in the former today and has many in his house displayed in at least 2 rooms. In fact, a couple of years ago, he made each of the other three Vintage Gang members a model of the cars we had back in the '70s. When you drag race you learn quickly which cars you should be buying. So next up for him was a 396 Chevelle. Who has not had that thought? I need to add that Trav is a talented artist, not only creative, but also able to put those visions to paper (witness our many club t-shirts and posters).

After high school Trav tried to test the starving artist theory and found it to be true. Then it took little time to find out white shirt and sport coat at a large company like Burroughs was not his I.D. He landed at Charlotte Body Shop with owner, Dave Gray, who was his father-in-law. Over the many decades to follow he built quite a reputation for his many talents and honesty.

Now back to the need for speed. Somewhere he crossed paths with 1071 QCCC President Jim Whitley, who still resides in Sherrills Ford. Jim was sporting one of those new C-3 Corvettes, a 1969. Like most of us, Trav had to have one. So even though he and Sharon were starting to have a couple terrific daughters and one like father, like son, he went lookin' for a new 1970 Corvette, Cortez Silver/Black 350/350 4 speed. I just happened to have that exact car at that time. While Jim Whitley was President, Trav and Sharon joined QCCC and he became Jim's Vice President. In his search for speed he tried to purchase such Corvette but he found the monthly payments plus the quarterly insurance plus the late payment were not young family-friendly just as Darrell had found on his most desired hot rod. So, he ran across the red '64 365 hp 4 speed/ac coupe that he still has today. Little did he know then what he was getting and it would look good even if somebody was faster. At the Matthews Festival this Labor Day it still drew a crows all day long. Back in 1971 it was time to enjoy that need for speed via QCCC events, drags, autocross, hill climbs and high speed events. That's about all a good family man could afford. So that is how 1/2 of Vintage Gang started with different seats at the first World 600 at CMS and years later became great friends via QCCC.

Aren't QCCC a special group of folks!!!

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.

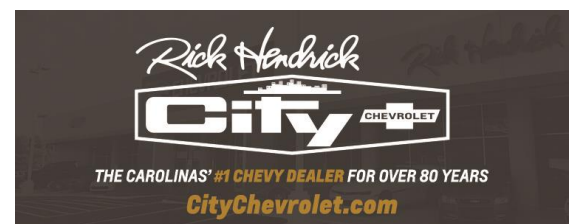
Queen City Corvette Club is an 'open' page for anyone on Facebook

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].

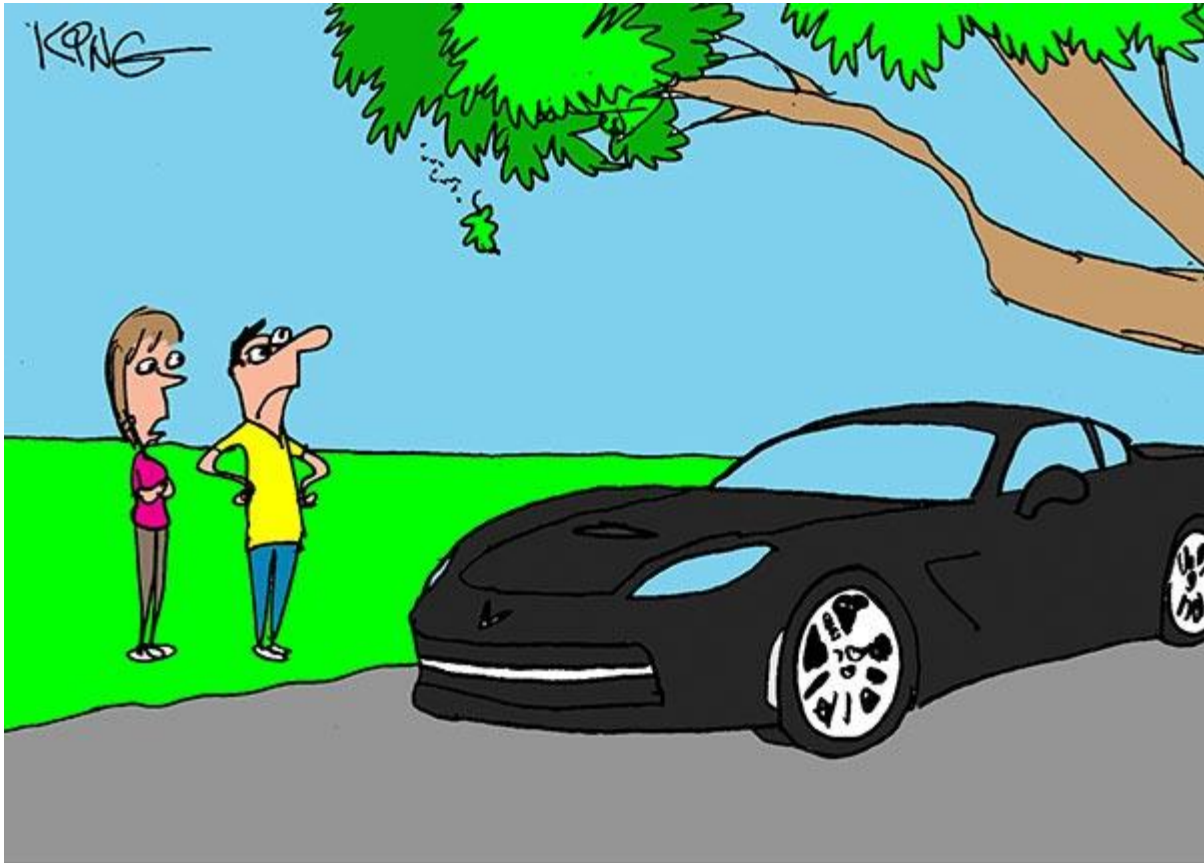


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Corvette Humor



"Fall will be here soon. Every year we go through this. If you don't want leaves to fall on the Corvette, then park it in the garage."