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GAZETTE



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4:00 p.m. Business Meeting

Official Newsletter of North Carolina's Largest Corvette Club

November 2023



QCCC Business Meeting

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Atlantic Pinstriping & Vehicle Wraps

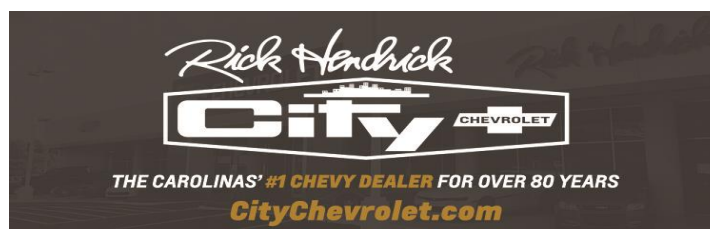
4108 Matthews Indian Trail Rd. Matthews, NC 28104

4:00 p.m. Social Time

5:00 p.m. Business Meeting

BRING CHAIRS!

See their business contact information on p. 15 as a Z06 Level Sponsor of QCCC.



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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



November 2023

What a month! Go! Go! Go!

We did our 4th annual fall trip to North Myrtle Beach October 6 – 8, with 33 members attending. We almost had a conflict with our lunch plans at Captain Archie's. "Oops!" It was Bike Week and in they came, louder than our Corvettes, but in true fashion, QCCC members got to the restaurant early and secured our tables. We had a surprise biker band play great music and our QCCC dance pro danced with a real biker. Thanks to the Myrtle Beach Corvette Club for meeting us at LuLu's (Jimmy Buffett's sister) for lunch on Saturday along the Intracoastal Waterway.

On Friday the 13th, the QCCC Cook Team volunteered at FeedNC in Mooresville to cook, serve, and clean for the breakfast and lunch hours, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. We do this every other month on the second Friday. If you would like to get involved, please contact our QCCC Team Leader, Kim Knight.

The next day was our Car Show planning meeting at Tommy and Brenda's garage making sure our Team Captains had their teams all ready for our Big Show and YES they were ready!

On Friday October 20, the Car Show started. At 7:30 am, when Jane Burt and I pulled into the Hendrick campus with the QCCC Trailer in the dark, standing there was Gary Cunningham and his Team, ready to set up our yellow QCCC tent to start the Heritage Museum and Race Shop Tours at 9:00 am, which ran every 30 minutes and ended at 3:00 pm. Since the tours were the only activities on Friday, I call it JV Day.

Then onto Varsity Day, Saturday. When Jane & I pulled in at 4:45 am to the Hendrick gate, already there were Michelle and Brian Moore stopping Tommy and Brenda until they showed them credentials! Thankfully, we were let in and we were off and running to set up our tents. We arrived so early, the sprinklers were still running. Pitch black with sprinklers going – we just laughed!

Thank you to the Registration Team and everyone who helped set up our tents, tables, and equipment. We had to laugh again watching Justin and his Parking Team set up to direct traffic and all I could see were their yellow shirts, no faces.

Just another fantastic QCCC Car Show coordinated by our Car Show Team of Tommy Loftin, Roger Winge, and Paul Mitchell, with me helping in the background along with our partner Hendrick Motorsports planning all through the year in their conference room. Thanks to their team led by Dale Ledbetter, James Potter, Scott Landis, and Sandy Holder, all their people came on Saturday to run the trolleys, take guests around in their golf carts, open up the Team Store, and furnish and operate the PA system.

How great were those trophies? What a huge smile on the award winners' faces when they saw and picked up the "race car parts" trophies hand-built by Hendrick engineers. These trophies weighed from 10 to 40 pounds, with some winners looking like they needed a hand cart to carry their prizes away.

Did you see the reaction our toy Corvette winner had when their ticket was pulled? The Hendrick team had the torch red C8 car tricked out and striped to look like one of their race cars.

I know all our QCCC members are so proud to be part of such a national Car Show and we have already started planning to make next year even better.

We have one more, busy month ahead in November, right up through our Holiday Party on December 2nd at the Speedway. Be sure to read all the Blasts that are headed your way. I hope to see you at our events, so put some miles on your Corvette before we slow down when the winter months show up.

Dick Gwilt, President

rgwilt@me.com



Captain Archie's – North Myrtle Beach



QCCC and MBCC at LuLu's on the waterway



FeedNC – QCCC Cook Team



Trailers on Friday



QCCC Car Show at 6:01 am



Toy Car Grand Door Prize



Amazing Trophies



Big crowd at the Car Show Awards Presentation



VP Stuff, Ron Berst

As the saying goes “Best Ever”, this surely applies to our 12th Annual All Corvette Car Show that ran on October 21st. A BIG Thank You goes out to Tommy Loftin, Paul Mitchell, and Roger Winge for all the meeting, planning and work that made this show a tremendous success! Additionally, the QCCC membership stepped up in a big way, signing up for the various committees and doing what it takes to make this one of the biggest and best All Corvette shows in the country!

Others will have the stats on how many Corvettes were on site, how much money the Heritage and NASCAR shop tours brought in, how much the 50/50 total was etc. Here is some info that you haven’t heard.

Because this show has gotten so big and prestigious, the show’s reputation is nationwide! Other clubs want to join in with us and plan outings with QCCC.

RK Motors (where we had our July meeting) has contacted me and would like to sponsor an award - best paint, best engine, best custom or something They want to be a part of it and want to support us!

Streetside Classics (our February meeting will be there) would like to set up a tent as an advertiser! They want to support us!

The Venice Florida Corvette Club brought a big group to the show and asked me to spread the word about their show on March 17th.

The Myrtle Beach Corvette Club (they brought over 20 cars to the show) president told me they want to do another day trip with our club this spring and hope we can continue supporting their show as well by continuing our fall beach trip.

The Victory Lane Corvette Club (they brought over 50 cars to the show) president asked me if we could consider a joint day trip next year! They want to hang out with winners!

The Charlotte Motor Speedway Cars & Coffee came to us and asked if they could bring a tent to the show. They did and were very pleased with the exposure they received. Their Cars & Coffee is the 3rd Saturday of each month, and they religiously promote and talk about QCCC each month...it’s a huge event and average over 600 cars each time. Come if you can.

There are more stories to tell. . .these are just a few. . .it just keeps getting bigger and better!

Lastly, we need to give the Hendrick Performance folks an extra big thank for allowing us to hold our show at their incredible complex. I spoke with Sandy who oversees the facilities and she told me that approx. 50 Hendrick employees come in to help us and work all day. What an incredible partnership we have.

If you didn’t make the show, make sure you don’t miss it next year, wow!!!

Our November meeting is on the 11th at Atlantic Wraps in Matthews. Social time is 4:00, the business meeting starts at 5:00. BRING CHAIRS!

That’s it for now.

Ron Berst, VP

Social



Scene

SOCIAL DIRECTOR

~Donna Berst ~

Thanks to Dick & Jane for planning another fun-filled trip to the Beach and ordering up the perfect weather! Also, a big thank you to Jack Perrault for leading the QCCC portion of the “Run to the Colors” to enjoy lots of corvettes and the fall foliage!

At our October meeting Jo Graham bought her famous “Spiced Nuts” so by popular demand she is sharing the recipe with us. Look for it at the end of my article....

Make sure to **SAVE THE DATE** for our December 2nd Meeting & Christmas Party at the Charlotte Motor Speedway Club. Come start the holiday season off by celebrating with your QCCC friends! A dinner after the meeting will be available in the banquet room, along with lots of prizes & music by a local DJ.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, MORNING November 11, 2023, Corvette Angels Toy Drive.

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

4 pm Social

5p m Business Meeting

BRING CHAIRS!

Saturday, November 25, 2023, Ray Evernham’s Americarna Car Show

Saturday, December 2, 2023, QCCC Business Meeting & **Christmas Party** at the Charlotte Motor Speedway, [5555 Concord Pkwy South Concord, NC 28027](https://www.charlottespeedway.com/locations/south-concord)

Both the meeting and the optional dinner will be held in the 5th Floor Banquet Room. There will be a self-pay open bar, an optional pre-paid dinner buffet after the meeting with a DJ to play your favorite listening and dancing tunes when we are finished eating. The Speedway Christmas Lights are visible from our room throughout the evening. Every 15 minutes during the musical portion of the evening 12 gifts will be given away to celebrate the “Twelve Days of QCCC Christmas”!

Donna Berst ~ 2023 QCCC Social Director

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

Jo's Spiced Nuts

Ingredients

- approximately 7.5 - 8 cups of nuts (bag said 7.5, but was closer to 8)
- a full stick of unsalted butter (adjust salt, if using salted butter)
- 2.5 tsp. salt
- 2.5 tsp. chili powder
- 3/4 tsp. ground black pepper

Instructions Preheat the oven to 325 degrees in convection roast & 350 degrees for regular baking.

In a pot big enough to hold all the nuts and stir around, melt the butter completely and add all ingredients. If in doubt, use slightly less seasonings and add to warm nuts. Add the nuts and stir until evenly coated.

Pour out onto a baking sheet so that the nuts are in a single layer. Roast or bake for 8 - 10 minutes; check for doneness. You want a nice mahogany color. If more time is needed, check every 4 - 5 minutes.

Taste while warm and add additional seasonings to your liking. Let cool on the baking sheet and store. Stores well.

Feel free to call Jo with questions: (704) 941-1557

AUTOMOTIVE DIRECTOR



HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Wishing all of you a wonderful holiday.

Hard for me to believe we are near the end of 2023. The year has simply sped by like a Corvette racing down the highway with no state police in sight!

Upcoming events include:

Road Runner Corvettes – Corvette Angels Toy Drive 11/11, 10 am – 1 pm at Charlotte Motor Speedway
Mooreville’s Veteran’s Day Parade 11/11. QCCC member, Mark Olejarczyk, is coordinating this event.

Reach out to Mark at rbswelder@yahoo.com for details.

Vettes for Vets event 11/10 – 11/11 in Charleston, SC.

Americana Live Car Show 2023 11/25. Limited to 35 cars. See the Blast for details and to signup!

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

DID YOU KNOW:

The first Corvette with a V8 engine was the 1955 model, which boosted its performance and popularity.

The 1963 Corvette Stingray was the first production car with hidden headlights and a split rear window.

The 1968 Corvette was the first with side exhaust pipes and a removable rear window.

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

November

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:

Total Membership	425
Total Families	235
Prospective Members	41
New Members Year to Date	64
Avg. Monthly Attendance	141

NEW MEMBERS:

Virgil Dumire & Kelly Sain

Lincolnton, NC

CORVETTE: 2021 Arctic White Coupe

David Humphrey & Mary Marshall

Mooresville, NC

CORVETTES: 2022 Red Mist Convertible

Richard & Cathy Pratt

Concord, NC

CORVETTE: 2022 Red Mist 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

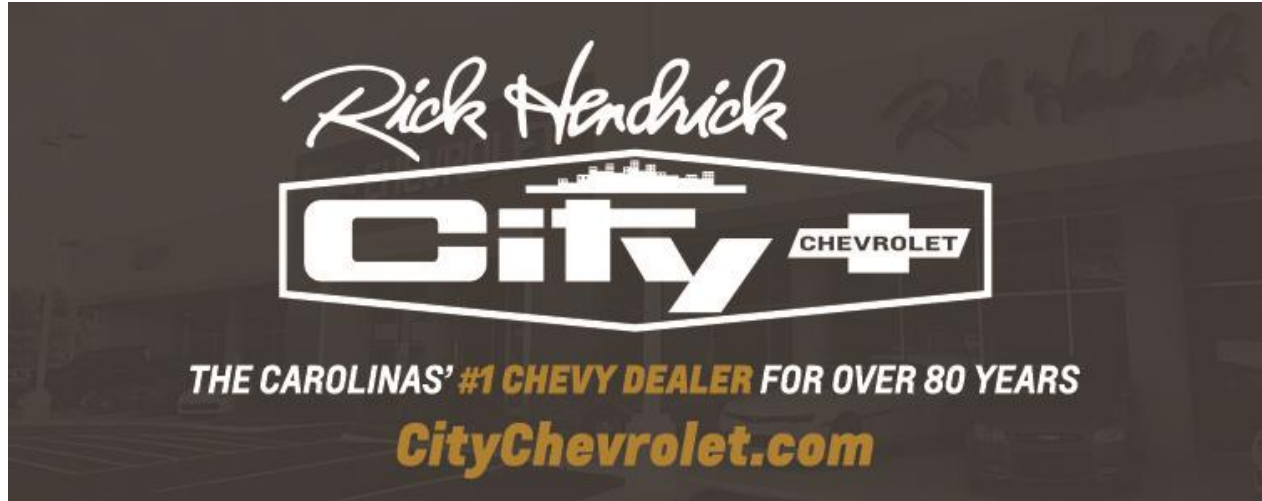
Rick Accurso
Inventory Manager & Corvette Specialist
704-566-7447
Rick.Accurso@hendrickauto.com

QCCC MEMBER SERVICE CONCIERGE

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

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November 2023



Jamie Dever 2017 White Coupe

2023 Queen City Corvette Club 12TH Annual Corvette Show

2023 Best of Show

Saturday was the perfect day for a car show! The weather was an absolute gorgeous fall day with plenty of sunshine and Queen City members came out by the droves. We had 154 QCCC Corvettes and over 200 members help with the show. Thank you so much for all that you do to make this the largest and best Corvette show of all times. It has taken over a year of planning, organizing and implementing to make all this happen. I would like to personally thank all the QCCC members who helped with the show and especially all the Team Leaders for organizing all your areas.

Here are a few stats that happened at the show:

- Heritage Center Ticket Sales 490 tickets/\$12,250.00
- Race Shop Ticket Sales 210 Tickets / \$5,250.00
- Donation to Hendrick Family Foundation will be \$17,500.00
- We had 756 Corvettes at the show
- 50/50 sold \$6,253.00
- Tim Fridley won the 50/50 with \$3,127.00
- National Corvette Museum had a goal of \$4,000.00 and they sold \$6,905.00

- The Food Trucks were bombarded with people and all said they exceeded their goals
- The Trolley Rides were full all day long with over 2,000 spectators

(A full exact list will be available as soon as all the data comes in.)

Trophy Presentation 2023

50/50 Drawing Winner:

Tim Fridley

Wings of Eagles:

Charles Troutman & Arron Sexton presented by Ron Berst on behalf of the Charity Committee

Hendrick Family Foundation

Dale Ledbetter presented by Gary & Gwen Cunningham

Longest Distance Driven

850 Miles John Marsiando/Coastal Corvette Club

Most Club Cars

Victory Lane with 53 Corvettes

City Chevrolet Award Presentation

Presented by: Todd Moyer & Rick Accruso

Winner name: Ron Smith 1965 Corvette

Jim Perkins Award Presentation

Presented by Pat Perkins

Winner name: Randy Pitt/1962 Corvette

Best Of Award - Paint, Interior, Motor, Modified Presentation

Paint	Winner name: Randy Tureck	1965 Corvette
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Interior	Winner name: Tim Masud	1966 Corvette
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Motor	Winner name: Jerry Lyndon	1959 Corvette
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Modified	Winner name: Charles Lingenfelter	1963 Corvette
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Hendrick Performance Award Presentation

Presented by Dale Ledbetter

Winner name: Jeff Hayes 1963 Corvette

Judged Corvette Trophy Presentation by Tommy Loftin

C-1 Runner up	Name: Chuck Murray
---------------	--------------------

C-1 Class Winner	Name: Wayne Price
------------------	-------------------

C-2 Runner up	Name: Kevan Saxton
---------------	--------------------

C-2 Class Winner	Name: Julian Polk
------------------	-------------------

C-3 Runner up	Name: Edward Wagner
---------------	---------------------

C-3 Class Winner	Name: Steve Warren
------------------	--------------------

C-4 Runner up	Name: Glenn Heinrich
---------------	----------------------

C-4 Class Winner	Name: Billy Jeffrey
------------------	---------------------

C-5 Runner up	Name: Debi Colomb
---------------	-------------------

C-5 Class Winner	Name: Mike Saul
------------------	-----------------

C-6 Runner up	Name: David Wilhoit
---------------	---------------------

C-6 Class Winner	Name: Jared Rumer
------------------	-------------------

C-7 Runner up	Name: Bob Romanelli
---------------	---------------------

C-7 Class Winner	Name: Tony Pinto
------------------	------------------

C-8 Runner up	Name: William Phillips
---------------	------------------------

C-8 Class Winner	Name: Alex Sikorski
------------------	---------------------

BEST of SHOW	Name: Jamie Dever 2017 White Coupe/ ettes for Vets
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Hendrick Performance Grand Prize / C-8 12-Volt Corvette

Presented by James Potter

Winner: Gordon & Ellen Boyd

Queen City Corvette Club 12th Annual Corvette Show
Hendrick Choice Awards
2023

Dan Brubaker

Steve & Samantha Pool

Bill Ingram

Gary Artis

Roger & Dee Dee Winge

Erick Matthews

Ron Berst

Joseph Epifania

Brenda Loftin

Chris Ferrell

Paul Depascale

Craig & Donna Perry

Tim Leazer

Kathie & Larry Finocchi

Secretary's Note:



Hello QCCC Members!

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

At our October meeting, we randomly drew a lucky name from those in attendance celebrating birthdays.

[Justin Cross was our winner and he received a \\$50 restaurant gift card. Congratulations Justin!](#)

[Our next business club meeting will be on Saturday, November 11 at Atlantic Wraps in Indian Trail, NC.](#)

Hope to see you there and **Happy Thanksgiving!**

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 [kat-fino@hotmail.com](mailto:kathie@hotmai.com).

November Birthdays

Dick Coulter	11/3
Walt Krupowicz	11/4
Corinne Smith	11/4
Brice Auten	11/5
Richard Gwilt	11/6
Helena Watts	11/7
Bud Curva	11/8
Norm Lontz	11/9
Jon Elliott	11/10
Jonni Ingram	11/12
Bill Johnston	11/12
Eric Matthews	11/12
Betty Snow	11/12
Dan Brubaker	11/14
Christopher Farrell	11/14
Elaine Page	11/15
Richard Kashinsky	11/17
Sue Stickels	11/17
Cathy Pratt	11/18
Debra Fitzgerald	11/19
Stephen Taylor	11/19
Larry Finocchi	11/20
Estela Harshbargar	11/21
Kent Dahlstrom	11/27
Chris James	11/28
Fred McCoy	11/29
Nancy Thompson	11/29
Angela Brannick	11/30



NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM – NEWS AND UPDATES

Paul Mitchell – QCCC Ambassador to the NCM

November 2023

Here are the upcoming Corvette raffles. Buy a ticket and support the Museum. You might win a new C8!

2024 Hypersonic Gray Corvette Coupe 11/16/2023

Drawing: Nov 16, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time

Tickets Remaining: 784

\$150.00

2024 Torch Red Corvette Convertible 11/30/2023

Drawing: Nov 30, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time

Tickets Remaining: 1216

\$200.00

2024 Silver Flare Corvette Coupe 12/7/2023

Drawing: Dec 7, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time

Tickets Remaining: 1641

\$100.00

2024 Riptide Blue Corvette Convertible 12/14/2023

Drawing: Dec 14, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time

Tickets Remaining: 1847

\$175.00

As you know the Museum had their merchandise tent at our show. Their goal was to sell \$4,000 worth of merchandise. They were thrilled to report the sales for the day was \$6,905. Way above their goal! Just another success story for our great show. Thanks to all members that worked so hard and made this great and now famous show a success. The show will just get stronger and better as we go forward. Just like QCCC!!!

QCCC HISTORY

I'm going to postpone a great history story to brag on our recent car show, which I consider to be "historic". This has to be the best executed event I have ever even been close to in my many years of car related activities. Each year this show has improved and the club and the decision makers have learned what works and what doesn't and after 12 years of trial and error, we have it down pat. Hats off to Tommy and everyone who had on a yellow shirt for what is a total group effort. I am truly looking forward to next year and I'm sure there are over 700 participants who feel the same way.

The amount of spectators has grown considerably. It was really great to see so many young families with their children attending and having a good time. The only way our hobby survives is to get the kids to appreciate and have a desire to own a Corvette and to get involved in club activities. Thanks to Jamie for her excellent posts on Facebook, which I think contributed to the turnout.

With the success of the "Golden Gear" display, I'd like to thank Bill Cruthis, Steve Harshbarger, and the rest of the "Vintage Gang" for all the effort, planning and execution of what has turned into a very popular part of the car show. It's fun to hear comments from the spectators, "no one is crazy enough to keep the same car for 50 years", and they want to know how and why. When Jamie highlighted this display on Facebook, it got over 900 likes, so there must be interest.

We had four cars representing this group this year: Paul DePascale's '57, Kirk Castle's '66, Gary Spencer's '75 and my '64. You may not know that there are other QCCC members who have "Golden Gear" cars and for various reasons, couldn't attend this year's show.

The absolute longest family-owned Corvette in the club would be the 1966 roadster that was bought brand new by Eddie Burt. After driving it on the street for about a year, he turned it into an all out drag racer and raced all over Louisiana and east Texas before moving to Charlotte in 1992 and retiring it. When Eddie passed away in 2018 the car was left to his son, Eddie Junior, who is an Associate Member of QCCC and lives in Texas.

Another is Steve Pelchat, who purchased his 1960 Corvette in 1970 for \$500.00 at the age of 16. Steve has had several strokes that prevented him making the show this year.

Walt Krupowicz purchased his 1969 Corvette brand new and even though it doesn't see much time on the street, it still remains totally stock and has several NCRS awards.

Jim Holland has a 1957 Corvette that he bought in 1973 for \$1600.00 and was in the "Golden Gear" display last year, but had a scheduling conflict this year and couldn't attend.

Past President and former long-time member Melvin Pace still has his one-owner 1968 Corvette big block that he showed with us last year as a guest, but couldn't make it this year due to health issues.

I really doubt there are many Corvette Clubs in the country that have this many members that have either been smart or dumb enough (your option) to keep the same car for over fifty years. The goal for next year is to have as many of these cars at the show as possible.

Final car show comments: Once again I apologize to Michelle for coming in the back way, I promise it won't happen again and what she said to me really didn't hurt my feelings, too much, for very long, a lot. For gosh sakes everyone, please come in the main entrance next year, even if you are pulling a trailer. And no matter what anyone says, Keith Cross really could be a radio announcer or even sell Popeil pocket fisherman or sham-wow. Well, maybe a tater peeler?

Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



If You Have The Knowledge You Can Find The Speed

In the last two months, we have looked at two the of Vintage Gang, Darrell and Travis. So this month let's look at Dollar Bill Ingram. It was obvious that Bill was hooked on all cars early on. But unlike the rest of us, he was reading magazines and soaking up facts like a big sponge grabs water. You see he has a photographic memory like nothing I have ever seen. This would pay off later. Once he got that valuable driver's license he started to get the itch. With his Dad having to pay for all of his brothers, with a couple in law school, it was obvious any mode of transportation would be up to him. In his search path was a '55 Chevy, 6 cylinder but that was fixable. Getting it home he took on the task of putting a V-8 in place of the 6 banger. This was a learning experience and I don't know how much friend help was involved. I have been to his childhood home, Arlington, Virginia and I do not recall a garage, just a carport. Meanwhile, I was in Illinois at this age I was probably trading baseball cards and putting model cars together and Steve Pelchat, at age 16, was buying his first Corvette. I am still trying to catch up.

Fast forward to the mid-sixties and Bill graduates from USC and starts doing cost audits for a major firm. He has his first Corvette, a '67 roadster in Marina Blue. Corvette fever strikes again! To this day he claims that was one of his favorite cars. But we have moved on to the late '70s. Now, with a head full of facts, it did not take long for him to figure you make more money working for yourself. So what did he like? Cars! He pops up with a small shop between Monroe Road and Independence after selling out of his house basement that held 5 cars. The new shop footprint with, I believe, one bay for mechanic duty. He started with some Corvettes. Very soon he knew that you cannot make a fortune selling just Corvettes. Now all that magazine knowledge he has would pay off. He will be stiff competition as he gives 110% all the time. There were lean times but in the end he sold Mercedes, Porsche, Corvettes, and other used sports cars. He could find cars, great cars, to flip that the rest of us could not find. With new growth Bill moved the shop out by the airport for a bigger footprint which did not turn out to be a high traffic area. Eventually, he built Southern Imports on the Boulevard 74. Thus far, a lot of the funding came from the purchase and resale of the Corvette Pace cars. (He moved just shy of 30 of them in the southeast region. Darrell was instrumental by delivering many of them.) Now he had the space with a big footprint, showroom, multiple service bays and he was in the high traffic area. Somewhere around here he picked up a nice roll back truck. He really went after used Mercedes and eventually Beck New and Used Mercedes was history. Always on top of things, dollar shifted again. He smelled the demand for the new Hummer and hit another home run. He sold a ton of these and did very well servicing them. Now retired, he still finds several cars a year, buys them and flips for positive cash. One thing I can't master that he does well, anything he owns is always for sale, but only if he stands to make a substantial profit and the rarer it is the higher the price. Looking back, Bill always could find those special cars: a '67 427 coupe with aluminum wheels, side pipes, silver, black stinger hood; a '72 steel cities gray LT-1 air coupe (1 of 200 with a/c); and a black over saddle '77 coupe with the new aluminum wheels (the ones none of us could get due to a strike at the Mexican plant where they were made). He pulled in the drive one Saturday in a 308 Ferrari. After pursuing it, he said "you want to take it for a drive" and I did. Lest you think he had no interest in speed, ask the Porsche driver that tried him out on Park Road. Ask any of us that saw him flog the LT-1 around Charlotte Motor Speedway at the Porsche Corvette Challenge. Also, the infamous flight from the State Trooper chase into South Carolina. To date Bill has driven more exotic sports cars than any of us.

Dollar Bill has had and driven almost any brand he wanted but he is happiest at the Corvette Club. As a tribute to all you QCCC folks, he finds you all have so much to offer: all the events and all the different but great cars. With his dealerships he had everything from Ron Fellow's collector edition C6 Z06 to Bentley, Porsche, Lexus and others. He has attended other makers club meetings but says they are just bland. Now, he has the 2019 ZR-1 and the 2023 Z06 and they look good in the garage. Talk about a need for speed. . .that's some 1400 hp and he does not hesitate to use it.

Like so many of QCCC members, Bill is self made. What a great group we have! You can start to see how these four guys' lives have been intertwined for 50 years and what fun we have had. All of us have never been without at least one Corvette.

So now you know a little more about the 3rd Vintage Gang member. Thanks to all of you for making QCCC fun and interesting so that we appeal to a real car guy with a need for speed so he keeps hangin' around.

QCCC had a good foundation!

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 share them with us. That way they can be shared by all members!

How to share your photos: Please email Alton and let him know you have photos to share and the event where you took the photos. Also, give him the name and date of the event. He will send you a link where you can copy your photos. Once they are on this link, let Alton know and he will upload them to our website.

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 or give him a call (his number is in the club directory).

Thank you!
Alton Loe QCCC Photography Coordinator
photo@queencitycorvette



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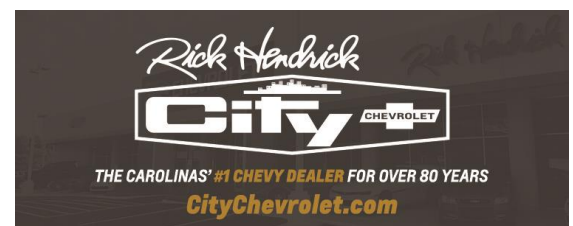
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