

THE  
QUEEN CITY  
GAZETTE

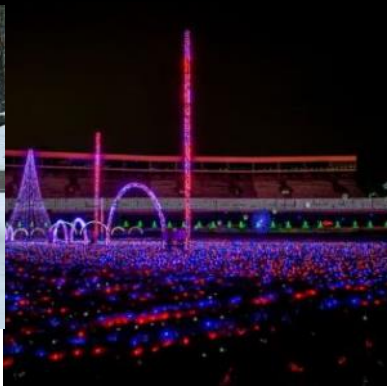


**Official Newsletter of North Carolina's Largest Corvette Club**

**December 2023**



"Santa's New Sleigh"



**QCCC Business Meeting**

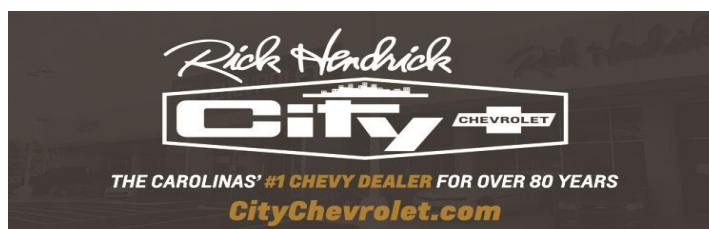
**Saturday, December 2, 2023**

**Charlotte Motor Speedway**

*5555 Concord Parkway, South  
Concord, NC 28027*

4:00 p.m. Social Time

5:00 p.m. Business Meeting



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2023 Board of Directors and Staff

In This Issue

<b>President</b>	<b>Richard Gwilt</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Ron Berst</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Morris Graham</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Kathie Finocchi</b>
<b>Social Director</b>	<b>Donna Berst</b>
<b>Automotive Director</b>	<b>Tim Fridley</b>
<b>Membership Director</b>	<b>Dan Brubaker</b>
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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](http://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](https://queencitycorvette.com/?page_id=330) or contact our Membership Director at [membership@queencitycorvette.com](mailto: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



**December 2023**

My last dance!

December will be my last month serving QCCC as President. It's been a whirlwind year – heck, it's been 4 years on the board – taking part in most of the QCCC activities or leading trips or events when needed. I also decided to buy a trailer to haul our QCCC tents and equipment around, so sometimes I even felt like an employee! It was fun hauling the trailer down I-77 with our QCCC and Hendrick logos all over it. What awesome advertising! When we asked new members how they heard about our club, I don't think anyone ever said it was because they saw the trailer on the road, but I got many thumbs up from other drivers.

### Fun Fact:

Our club grew from 320 members in April 2022, to 432 as of the November meeting. Dan does a great job of keeping up with all these new members, and thanks to Rick Accurso for sending new C8 buyers to us. I am proud to say we have something to offer every type of member from a Wednesday lunch or dinner, to an Up Yonder dinner, to day trips and overnight trips – from the beach to the mountains, National Corvette Museum visits, baseball games, and our Board, with Donna's social focus, have put on one heck of a show for QCCC this past year.

Tim has introduced our car lovers to many different car show events to choose from. Carl kept track of advertisers that our members could patronize. Mo kept us on the straight and narrow with our budget. Kathie kept track of all our birthdays and doubled the gift card amounts. Tommy had yet another "biggest and best" Car Show. And Ron went out and found new meeting places in great locations. Thank you to a great Board!

And I can't forget our Support Staff that gives our club such great visibility with news and pictures, both internally and externally, via on our website, Facebook, Blasts, and newsletters and directories. Thank you to a great Staff – Pam, Jamie, Alton, Travis, Paul P., Paul S., Paul M., Roger, and Brenda!

To close out our year, we came to my garage on October 28 for a Tech Talk session sharing stories about our cars and got a demonstration from Todd from City Chevrolet on the latest car care products.

Tim led a group for a Trunk or Treat Halloween hand-out to kids, with the Sheriff's Department.

Then we went on the annual Run To The Colors ride with our friends at Foothills Corvette Club, beginning at the North Wilkesboro Speedway where we were part of 250 Corvettes that ran two laps around the track.

Then we supported our friends at RoadRunner Vettes by attending their Corvette Angels event and donating toys to the Salvation Army for kids.

The following weekend, we met at 7:30 AM (instead of 6:30 AM YEA!) to caravan to the Speedway's Cars and Coffee. At the same time, some of our members met and drove through the FeedNC location to donate over 1,400 pounds of food for their Thanksgiving food drive.

Next, we went off to the annual AmeriCarna Car Show with 35 of our Corvettes and once again, donated \$1,000 to the Evernham Family – Racing For A Reason charity.

Then it was time to eat again, so 45 of us met for our last Up Yonder dinner of the year – because we didn't get enough to eat on Thanksgiving day! HaHa!

Finally, to begin December, and bring 2023 to a close, we will participate in the Troutman Christmas Parade and complete the year with our Christmas meeting held for the first time at the Charlotte Motor Speedway overlooking the Christmas lights.

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as your President the past two years, so now it's time to help our new Board get off to a big year in 2024 and help them keep up our traditions of the past 55 years, and maybe start some new ones of their own.

Dick Gwilt, President  
[rgwilt@me.com](mailto:rgwilt@me.com)



Tech Talks at Dick's Garage  
October 28



North Wilkesboro Speedway  
Run to the Colors  
October 29



Corvette Angels  
QCCC Toy Donations  
November 11



Preparing to play the National Anthem  
Meeting at Atlantic Wraps  
November 11



Honoring our Veterans



Cars and Coffee  
November 18



FeedNC Thanksgiving Food Drive  
November 18



QCCC awarded "Most Entries from a Car Club" and support of the Ray Evernham Family Foundation at AmeriCarna



QCCC at AmeriCarna





## *VP Stuff, Ron Berst*

Yikes, Wow, Holy Cow! December is here, where did 2023 go? I heard a saying recently...days go slow, but the years fly by...very true.

Looking ahead I am excited about 2024. Here are just some of the events and dates that will be on the QCCC calendar. If you have been in the club for a while, you will already have many of these on your calendar, but with the number of new members that have joined us this year, this may help. QCCC rolls!

January - The Rolex 24 at Daytona Speedway. A large group of us attend to kick off the first race on the IMSA schedule. Corvette Corral tickets are almost impossible to get, but grandstand seats are plentiful.

March – Our annual awards banquet at the Speedway Club. A must-attend meeting with great food, beverages, and fun music by our favorite band, Too Much Silvia.

April – The Bash at the National Corvette Museum. A three-day Corvette information event. Chevrolet engineers host seminars that will answer any and all questions you have. Social time at the hotel is priceless.

August – The Corvette Caravan celebrating the 30th year of the National Corvette Museum, held once every five years, billed as the world's largest moving automotive event. Corvettes galore!

We will also be starting our 56<sup>th</sup> year with an anniversary celebration/meeting at Hendrick Motorsports, with ice cream and cookies too!

October – Our annual all Corvette car show at Hendrick Motorsports, one of the largest all-Corvette shows in the country. Don't miss this!

December – Christmas party/meeting at the Speedway Club. Good food, beverages, music, and prizes. A great way to end the year.

This and more are just some of what is ahead. Auto Fair (2), weekend trips, day trips, cars & coffees, Shelton Vineyards, the AmeriCarna car show. . .no one will be bored in '24.

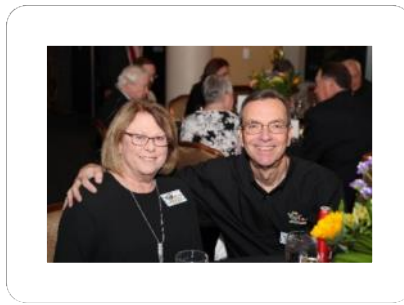
Finally, this December's Christmas party and meeting will be at the Speedway Club on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Social time is 4:00, meeting is at 5:00, a DJ starts at 7:00, hope to see everyone for our final event of the year!

That's it for now.

*Ron Berst, VP*

# Social

## SOCIAL DIRECTOR



# Scene

~Donna Berst~

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Thank you to Dick & Jane for organizing QCCC's part in the Corvette Angels Toy Drive/Luncheon and then planning the food drive for FeedNC. You two make an awesome team and we appreciate all that you do!

This is my last month as Social Director and there are so many of you to thank for your help during the past four years. You volunteered to set-up, clean-up, serve food, do dinner check-in, decorate venues, make snacks & centerpieces, plan Overnight & Day trips, organize Up Yonder and Wednesday night dinners, hand out & sell QCCC clothing and anything else that was needed!!!! Kim Knight will begin in January, and I know you will all give her the same help & support.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, December 2, 2023**, QCCC Business Meeting & Christmas Party  
Charlotte Motor Speedway [5555 Concord Pkwy South Concord, NC 28027](https://www.charlotte-motor-speedway.com/), 4:00 p.m. social, 5:00 p.m. business meeting.

Donna Berst ~ 2023 QCCC Social Director

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



Up Yonder Dinner at Kick Back Jacks  
Nov. 27

# AUTOMOTIVE DIRECTOR



**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

I suppose most of us are looking forward to the holiday season while spending time with friends and family! Of course, there's always the opportunity to take the Vette out of the garage and DRIVE!

Upcoming events include:

- 2nd Saturday — Waterbean Cars and Coffee
- 2nd Sunday — Waxhaw Coffee Cruisers
- 3rd Saturday — CMS Cars and Coffee
- 4th Saturday — LKN Cars and Coffee

It's not too early to start thinking about Spring AutoFair at Charlotte Motor Speedway. The Spring AutoFair will be April 4-7! We had 45 cars attend Fall AutoFair, let's shoot for 50 QCCC members for the Spring!

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

## **Corvette Trivia...What was the only year the Corvette wasn't produced?**

Despite plans to the contrary, no **1983** Corvettes were ever released. Before the decision was made to skip this model year, 43 were produced. 42 were crashed in crashed tests or crushed. A single 1983 Vette was saved and is on display at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky. According to some, there were actually 47 1983's produced, and a few more 83's may actually still be in existence, but that debate has never been resolved.

*Thank you for your support over this past year. It has been my pleasure serving as Automotive Director. I look forward to participating in QCCC events in the New Year!*

Wishing each of you joy and happiness in 2024!

Tim Fridley  
Automotive Director  
Email: [fridleyt@hotmail.com](mailto:fridleyt@hotmail.com)

# Corvette Racing 2024

By Boyd Kurt, Your Corvette Racing Reporter



Photos: IMSA

Ahead of its first season of worldwide GT3 competition, Corvette Racing has announced an expansion its factory driver roster that will compete in championships and events around the globe with the new Chevrolet Corvette Z06 GT3.R.

Daniel Juncadella, Earl Bamber, Charlie Eastwood and Nico Varrone will be part of the group that will race Corvette Z06 GT3.Rs in either the IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship, FIA World Endurance Championship – or in some cases both.

They join existing Corvette factory drivers Antonio Garcia, Tommy Milner, Nicky Catsburg and Alexander Sims, all of whom will contest the full WeatherTech Championship season.

The eight collectively will compete as factory drivers for Corvette Racing – the brand that encompasses all factory-supported and customer Z06 GT3.R efforts going forward.

Juncadella and Bamber each will be part of Corvette Racing by Pratt Miller Motorsports' two-car effort in the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship's GTD Pro class. Both drivers will race with the factory-backed program in the Rolex 24 At Daytona, Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring and Petit Le Mans.

Juncadella will drive with Garcia and Sims while Bamber joins Milner and Catsburg.

In addition, Juncadella, who departs Mercedes-AMG after a lengthy stint with the German manufacturer, will have the distinction of driving the Z06 GT3.R in two championships as he joins TF Sport for its full-season effort in the LMGT3 class.

"I have to say, to see the legacy that Corvette Racing has created in the U.S. and to see the amount of awareness about the brand is very exciting," Juncadella said. "It makes me proud and it feels quite unique to be a Corvette factory driver."

Bamber will contest selected WeatherTech Championship endurance rounds in the Z06 GT3.R. Previously a long-time rival to the Corvette Racing program, Bamber already has tested the Z06 GT3.R, adding to a long list of GT3 cars he has driven throughout his career.

The Kiwi also remains under contract for Cadillac Racing's WEC program in 2024.

"It's really exciting to be joining Corvette Racing by Pratt Miller Motorsports for the long races," Bamber said. "I've been a part of some big rivalries for many years in IMSA racing. But this organization has won so many races and championships... it's really impressive."

“When I did my first test at Road America, you could see why they’ve been so successful. I’ve driven the Z06 GT3.R and I think the package is really good. These guys have built fantastic GTLM cars over the years, and I don’t see why the Corvette GT3 should be any different.”

In WEC, Eastwood joins the Corvette factory lineup alongside Juncadella as TF Sport’s two professional drivers. It’s a familiar relationship for Eastwood, who has driven for TF Sport in the championship from 2018-20 and the current season.

“This certainly ranks up there for me, joining such a brand like Corvette and an organization like GM,” he said. “It’s what so many drivers wish for their whole career.

“It seems to be an amazing place to be, and you can see that because so many drivers stay for so long.”

Varrone, Corvette Racing’s rising star in this year’s WEC, will transition to full-time WeatherTech Championship duties in his first year as a factory driver.

He rejoins AWA – a team with which he won this year’s Rolex 24 At Daytona in the LMP3 class – and will partner with Anthony Mantella.

“It’s a big honor to be a factory driver for Corvette,” Varrone said. “It’s also nice to be back in IMSA next season with everyone at AWA. These are people that I know from this year and doing the endurance races in LMP3. It was a good year.”

Corvette Z06 GT3.R program manager Christie Bagne added: “As we move into GT3 and customer racing, it is important that we add to our roster of drivers that are available to teams.

“We are excited about the wealth of experience in our Corvette factory lineup. Both GM and our teams will benefit from the learnings from each driver.”

“This article was copied from Sportscar 365 and info from Corvette Racing and Pratt Miller Motorsports”.



## MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

December

### **MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:**

Total Membership	429
Total Families	238
Prospective Members	49
New Members Year to Date	68
Avg. Monthly Attendance	136

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

**Rick Heinrich**

Mooresville, NC

**CORVETTE: 2023 Hypersonic Gray Coupe**

**Steven & Samantha Poole**

Concord, NC

**CORVETTE: 2021 Red Mist Coupe**

**Mickey Smith (Associate)**

Little Rock, AR

**CORVETTE: 2023 Amplify Orange 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*

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### **NEW VEHICLES**

Members receive an additional \$1000 discount on all NEW, in-stock Chevrolet vehicles (C8 Corvette, select new models, and specialty vehicles excluded). Rebates and/or incentives will be applied. Extra costs may apply for locates, transportation, or specialty vehicles.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **QCCC MEMBER PURCHASE CONCIERGE**

*Rick Accurso*  
Inventory Manager & Corvette Specialist  
704-566-7447  
[Rick.Accurso@hendrickauto.com](mailto:Rick.Accurso@hendrickauto.com)

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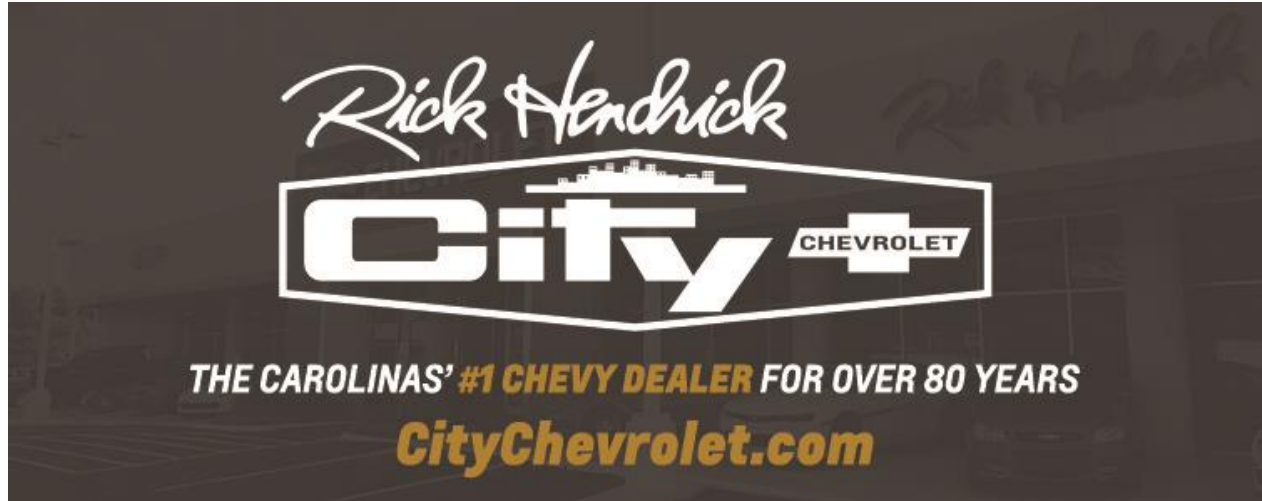
### **QCCC MEMBER SERVICE CONCIERGE**

*Saverio Longobardo*  
Service Advisor  
704-566-7407  
[Saverio.Longobardo@hendrickauto.com](mailto:Saverio.Longobardo@hendrickauto.com)

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It is with great sadness to inform you of the tragic death of Brett Noland Birindelli, 22, the oldest son of Blake and Paula Birindelli. Blake and Paula have been Members of QCCC since 2022.

Sadly, Brett passed away on November 13, 2023. Bret was born on December 3rd, 2000, in Charlotte, NC. He was a 2019 graduate of Ardrey Kell High School. He was a loving son, very kindhearted, a good friend and touched many in his short life. He brought joy to all who knew him. A private burial will be held at Forest Lawn Cemetery. Left behind to cherish his memories, are his parents, Paula and Blake, as well as his brothers Devin and Kyle.

Please remember the Birindelli Family in your prayers as they go through this most difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to <https://classroomcentral.org/> or a charity of the donor's choice.

Cards and emails may be sent to the following:

Blake and Paula Birindelli

8017 Green Cane Dr.

Charlotte, NC 28277

704-620-5212

[bbirindelli@gmail.com](mailto:bbirindelli@gmail.com)

Online condolences may be left at [www.heritagecares.com](http://www.heritagecares.com)

Thank You.

*Paul Schmitt*

*QCCC Care and Compassion*

**Secretary's Note:**



Hello QCCC Members!

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

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

Our next business club meeting will be on Saturday, December 2 at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, NC.

Hope to see you there! :)

Until then, warmest regards .....

Kathie Finocchi  
QCCC Secretary  
(704) 905-0394

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

## December Birthdays

Brian Kruse	12/1
Mitch Francis	12/2
Mark Londre	12/2
Heather Mitschele	12/3
Beth Walton	12/3
Roger Winge	12/3
Anna Luree Wright	12/3
Cathy Nelson	12/4
Don Wiswall	12/4
Terri Pennoni	12/5
DeeDee Winge	12/5
Larry Newsom	12/8
Judy Armstrong Cruthis	12/9
Wendy Krupowicz	12/10
Elena Binder	12/11
Brenda Loftin	12/11
Fred Rice	12/11
Linda Meadows	12/13
Pamela Murawa	12/13
Rebecca Wright	12/14
Sue Brown	12/15
Greg Miller	12/15
Tom Page	12/16
Paul Schmitt	12/16
Bill Elko	12/19
Beth Kendall	12/19
Rob Humphrey	12/21
Bob Becker	12/22
Bill Cruthis	12/22
Kathie Cox	12/23
Gary Artis	12/26
Barnet (Barney) Peterman	12/26
Rick Mills	12/28
Hedi Stewart	12/30
Joe Estwanik	12/31
Richard Pratt	12/31
Cam Stewart	12/31



## NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM – NEWS AND UPDATES

Paul Mitchell – QCCC Ambassador to the NCM

### December 2023

As the year winds down, we reflect on our many blessings and the joy of Corvette ownership. Because of QCCC, we have the best experience with our cars because we enjoy so many opportunities with our drives and our fellowship. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a very Merry Christmas! Can't wait to see what great times 2024 brings us!

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



### 2024 Silver Flare Corvette Coupe

**12/7/2023** Drawing: Dec 7, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time **\$100.00**



### 2024 Riptide Blue Corvette Convertible

**12/14/2023** Drawing: Dec 14, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time **\$175.00**



**2024 Build Your Own Corvette Stingray or  
\$85,000 1/18/2024** Drawing: Jan 18, 2024 2:00 PM Central Time **\$250.00**



# QCCC HISTORY

With owning an old Corvette and sitting behind it at shows off and on over the last fifty years, you hear a lot of responses from observers. One of the most frequent goes like this: “(I, my dad, my uncle, a friend, someone I knew) had one of those back in the day, sold it because (got married, got divorced, had a baby, needed the money, got a ridiculous offer) and always regretted selling it. Wish I had it back”. If you talk to just about any old car enthusiast, not just Corvette owners, you can always get a story about “the one that got away” and wish you had back. If you fall into that category and had one get away, here's a story you'll like.

Old friends John and Jane Freeman rejoined QCCC several years ago and even though I knew he had owned multiple Corvettes, I learned he had recovered his pride and joy, his first Corvette and it had renewed his love of the Corvette hobby. First a little background:

Now back in 1979, 20 year-old John Freeman satisfied his dream of owning a Corvette by purchasing a blue 1969 roadster. A friend had owned the car and it had been vandalized, sprayed black, and John purchased it from the insurance company for only \$1800.00. With a little elbow grease, the black color was removed and the original blue paint was saved. John and wife, Jane joined QCCC later that year and become very active members, participating in all of the events including competition. While enjoying club membership for the next few years, John and Jane's business (Freeman's Car Stereo) had really taken off and with the time requirements and expanding new stores, the decision was made to sell the car (another good reason). A friend of John's named Rik Craig from Morganton, NC bought it from John in 1982 for \$5900.00, (it was Rik's first Corvette and he got so involved in the Corvette hobby he started “Rik's Corvette Parts”, but that's another story). Anyway, John and Jane's businesses kept them busy for the next 30 years and they owned many Corvettes and collector cars over that period, but John longed for the one that got away, his blue '69.

John tried to locate the car over a period of years, but Rik had sold it many years earlier and it had changed hands so many times the trail had gotten cold. But in 2019, John persisted and Rik finally found the canceled check he had given John to pay for the car and it had the vin number on it. With that information John hired a private detective with a law enforcement background (who will remain nameless) and within a matter of hours he had located the blue '69 in Clovis, New Mexico. It had not been tagged or driven since 1998 and the current owner was “going to restore it someday”. He was reluctant to sell, but John, along with many of his friends named “George”, finally reached a number that secured the purchase.

After having the car shipped back to North Carolina, John cleaned up the old paint, which, while not perfect, is very presentable and suits John's needs as a driver. Other improvements have been made since 2019, including all new interior, up-graded brakes, steering and suspension, a fresh ZZ4 engine, a 5-speed manual transmission and a 3.73 rear end. John has done most of the work on the car himself and drives it frequently, putting over 11,000 miles on it since its completion.

With having owned many Corvettes, new models, resto-mods, classics, this is still “John's Car” and the one he has always had the most fun with and it's going nowhere again.

Travis Meredith, *historian*

# Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

*Bill Cruthis, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith*

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



## Always Catchin' Up

This month I will complete the Vintages by discussing my own early days and finding my need for speed. I was into hot rods early on and was guilty of putting models of them together so fast that often the wrong parts got glued and most of the wheels would not turn. Painting was also rushed, ending up with multiple runs. Can we all spell high strung? Sadly, this would last well into high school. Somehow, I missed out on early education with the real McCoy. Having no garage space anywhere plus cold Illinois winters and hot Illinois summers, I took the easy way out. Dad would have been happy to help, but had only garden and carpentry tools. I failed to have the drive needed to get my own hot rod. I started working in the drugstore at age 15 and all of that little check went right into savings for college. It wasn't much at 25 cents per hour and it did take a lot of my free time after school and on weekends. Looking back, I could have done as the others, but I spent my free time in athletics. I knew I was a jock for either the NBA or the PGA. Little did I know that I had zero chance of either.

Now, my best friend got him a '50 Chevy for us to hang with the uptown crowd. He replaced the engine and serviced the brakes. It was a 3 speed on the column. I wish I would have learned from him. I was spending 12 hours playing basketball, if we could sneak into the high school gym. The folks always had 2 cars. To get one for a weekend night you had to keep them clean. The '68 Chevy Biscayne was a 2 barrel. Dad had a '58 Olds with all that chrome down the sides.

The seeds were growing. Next came Dad's '62 Olds and Mom got a used '62 Pontiac Catalina. It was black with a white rag top and a great burgundy, white, and silver stripe interior. Wow, now I am hooked. All this time I was thinking about these Corvettes in town. My first race was on a Friday night up on the Square. I had 5 classmates in the '62 Olds and the football team captain had 5 in his Dad's '62 Plymouth Fury. I can't remember how it started, but all of a sudden we both peeled off the Square, down Main Street, out Route 10 for an endurance race out through the farmlands of Illinois. There are not many paved roads in the country as farm equipment was hard on them. We were power sliding the gravel curves, with our passengers egging us on. I was learning about my need for speed. From that night on it was who wants to race.

When a '67 silver with black stinger 427 and side exhaust showed up in town, I told my folks that was me. Their reply: You might want to study real hard. I had three more years of college. I had a real downer when I took a date to the homecoming dance at SIU University. I pulled into the parking lot in my hot Pontiac and was walking toward the sorority house to pick her up when two '66 marina blue convertibles came in with side pipes roaring. I turned green with envy and slowly exited the parking lot. I had one year of school left and that summer a fraternity brother graduated and came to work where I was interning. You guessed it, driving a '67 roadster. So it was obvious, someone was telling me something. I listened and now my new E-Ray will be my 13<sup>th</sup>, many of which I wish I still could maintain.

Moving South gave me a chance to let the need for speed loose. I found a great home at QCCC. I have been so blessed to have found these three teammates to share our car adventures over these 50 years. They have been so kind to tolerate some of my insane questions.

They all had quite a jump on me and I always wished I had learned early as they did. If you don't know something, it is nice to know someone who can help you. I am still catching up. The Vintage Gang of QCCC are the very best and am proud to be part of them. In the end all we have are the memories and QCCC provides more than most folks will have.

Attached is a copy of my receipt of the first Corvette I bought. I ordered a new '69 in November 1968 to be ready by May 1969, but, like now, the plant went on strike. Used Corvettes dried up instantly. I found a used '68, the only one in the St. Louis Post Dispatch the day I graduated. I had my first car and THE RACE WAS ON!!!

Thanks to all!

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Cruthis

**RETAIL ORDER FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE**

DATE 6-5-69

TO \_\_\_\_\_

DEALER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

SALESMAN'S NAME Angie Schwartz

PURCHASER'S NAME D. William Cruthis

STREET ADDRESS 120 South Walnut

CITY Clinton STATE Ill.

RES. PHONE 935 2647 BUS. PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CHEVROLET

PLEASE ENTER MY ORDER FOR THE FOLLOWING  NEW  CAR  USED  TRUCK YEAR 1968 MAKE Chev.

SERIES Corvette BODY TYPE convert. COLOR B. Green TRIM Black

TO BE DELIVERED ON OR ABOUT 19 STOCK NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CASH DELIVERED PRICE OF UNIT	\$ <u>3895.00</u>	USED CAR TRADE-IN AND/OR OTHER CREDITS	
ACCESSORIES	\$ _____	MAKE OF TRADE-IN	<u>none</u>
		YEAR	MODEL
		MYI OR SERIAL NO.	BODY
		BALANCE OWED TO	
		ADDRESS	
		USED TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE	\$ _____
		BALANCE OWED ON TRADE-IN	
		NET ALLOWANCE ON USED TRADE-IN	\$ _____
		DEPOSIT OR CREDIT BALANCE	
		DOWN PAYMENT (Trans. to Left Col.)	\$ _____
		4. TOTAL COST OF ALL INSURANCE:	\$ _____
		(Indicate below charge for each type; specify "not included" for each type not included.)	
		a. Fire and Theft	\$ _____
		b. Additional Coverage	\$ _____
		c. Comprehensive Coverage	\$ _____
		d. \$ _____ Deductible Collision	\$ _____
		e. Creditor Life Insurance on Life of	\$ _____
		(Insurer and Policy No.)	
CASH SALE PRICE OF DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLE	\$ <u>3895.00</u>	5. OFFICIAL FEES:	\$ _____
STATE AND LOCAL TAXES	_____	6. UNPAID BALANCE:	\$ _____
License, License Transfer, Title, Registration Fee	<u>27.00</u>	(sum of items 3, 4 and 5)	
1. TOTAL PRICE OF UNIT	\$ <u>3922.00</u>	7. FINANCE CHARGE:	\$ _____
2. DOWN PAYMENT:	\$ <u>1500.00</u>	8. CONTRACT BALANCE:	\$ _____
consisting of <u>27.00</u> in cash		(Sum of Items 6 and 7)	
and/or \$ <u>1500.00</u> trade-in allowance on trade-in; see statement in right hand column for details.		Contract balance to be paid in <u>30</u>	
3. AMOUNT UNPAID ON THE CASH PRICE: (difference between Items 1 and 2)	\$ <u>2395.00</u>	monthly installments of \$ <u>93.54</u>	
		each, commencing on <u>July 10</u>	
		19 <u>69</u> , and on the same day of each successive month thereafter of as follows:	
		9. TOTAL TIME PRICE:	\$ _____
		(Sum of Items 2 and 8)	

Purchaser agrees that this Order includes all of the terms and conditions on both the face and reverse side hereof, that this Order cancels and supersedes any prior agreement and as of the date hereof comprises the complete and exclusive statement of the terms of the agreement relating to the subject matters covered hereby, and that THIS ORDER SHALL NOT BECOME BINDING UNTIL ACCEPTED BY DEALER OR HIS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE AND IN THE EVENT OF A TIME SALE, DEALER SHALL NOT BE OBLIGATED TO SELL UNTIL APPROVAL OF THE TERMS HEREOF IS GIVEN BY A BANK OR FINANCE COMPANY WILLING TO PURCHASE A RETAIL INSTALMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE PARTIES HERETO BASED ON SUCH TERMS. Purchaser by his execution of this Order acknowledges that he has read its terms and conditions and has received a true copy of this Order.

PURCHASER'S SIGNATURE D. William Cruthis DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPTED BY: A. Schwartz DEALER OR HIS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

FORM DE4-133 (9-68) THE REYNOLDS & REYNOLDS CO., CELINA, O., DALLAS, LOS ANGELES PRINTED IN U.S.A.

## 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](mailto:photo@queencitycorvette) or give him a call (his number is in the club directory).

Thank you!  
Alton Loe QCCC Photography Coordinator  
[photo@queencitycorvette](mailto:photo@queencitycorvette)



## 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/](http://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.

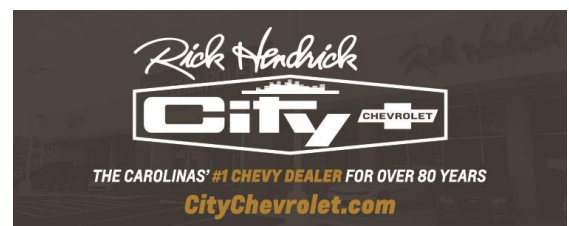
**Queen City Corvette Club** is an 'open' page for anyone on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/QueenCityCorvette/](http://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].



Sponsored by:



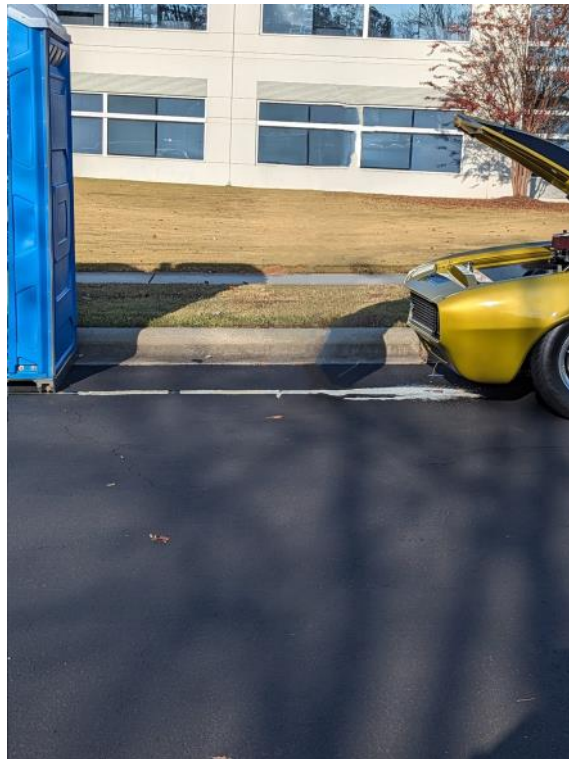
**Catch the latest QCCC news by joining us on Facebook!**

## CORVETTE HUMOR

Dear Santa,  
All I want for Christmas...



Some humor from AmeriCarna:



Oops! "He didn't quite make it to the porta-jon in time" .