

THE QUEEN CITY GAZETTE



Official Newsletter of North Carolina's Largest Corvette Club

May 2024



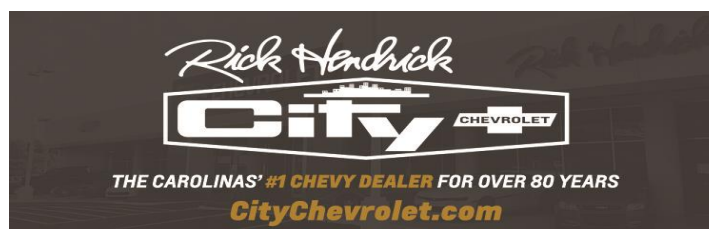
QCCC Business Meeting Saturday, May 11

Atlantic Wraps
4108 Matthews-Indian Trail Rd.
Matthews, NC 28104

4:00 Social

5:00 Meeting

Bring chairs!



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2024 Board of Directors and Staff

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 Stuff



May 2024

It's May already, where did April go? I guess time flies when you are having a good time! We started off with Auto Fair at the Charlotte Motor Speedway with 50 cars on Saturday, a new high car count!!! Craig and Donna Smith brought their very tasty BBQ and sides, the word is out and every year we have more cars! We should not be surprised! Thank you, Craig and Donna!

Next was the always great meeting at the Loftin's garage. Tommy and Brenda again went out of their way to open their home place to our club. Thank you, Tommy and Brenda! The weather, social time, can I say, meeting, and hot dog dinner were perfect. Thanks to Kim Knight and her helpers for the dogs and fixins.

The Wings of Eagles workday came next, again perfect weather and 20 QCCC members turned up to clean, repair and paint their buildings and grounds. Kim is always so thankful when we show up. This is one of our main charities and so worthwhile.

The Bash at the National Corvette Museum is going on as I write this newsletter. 28 QCCC members are getting the full Corvette info experience. The hotel social time is priceless! QCCC has been known to hit high gear and "unwind" their motors a bit.

A bowling party at Victory Lanes is also scheduled this same weekend. Katie Humphrey is organizing this and a good time is assured.

Whew, that's just what happened and happening in April!

Last month Larry Tucker organized a fantastic trip to the Nascar Tech center in Concord. An engineer from Nascar gave a tour and answered most every question except anything regarding future Nascar plans... almost like the type of answers Tadge gives when someone asks when the C9 or C10 will be released.

I had forgotten to list those that were recognized and won awards at our recent awards banquet at the Speedway Club back in March. Those that were not there missed a wonderful time, good food, and members that won awards which all combined to make the evening so joyous. Those that were awarded were:

Member of the Year - Dick Gwilt (voted by the membership).

President's Awards – Tim Fridley, Jane Burt, Ron & Donna Berst

VP Volunteer/Participation Awards:

Gold – Jane Burt (*again*)

Silver – Marilyn Becker

Bronze – Roger Winge

4th – Bob Becker

5th – Larry Finocchi

6th – Dee Dee Winge

7th – Jane Kranzler

8th – Kimberly Knight

9th – Warren Knight

4 way tie for 10th - Craig Smith, Alton Loe, Jo Graham, Bill Robbins

Rookies of the Year - Laurie & Mark Olejarczyk

Congratulations and Thank You to All! These are just some of the people who make QCCC the great club that it is!

Lastly, the board has finally decided on a club polo shirt! This can has been kicked down the road for too long. A decision was made and the color will be red! Donna had samples at the April meeting at Tommy's garage and took orders for them. See what you miss when you don't come to a meeting. :) There is a new Corvette Racing text design for QCCC (*The QCCC crown design is still available. We are not replacing it, just adding something new.*) A Blast will be sent out with ordering info (strictly optional).

WHEW!!!

Our May meeting will be at Atlantic Vehicle Pinstriping and Vehicle Wraps. Social time is 4:00 PM, meeting starts at 5:00 PM. **BRING CHAIRS!!!** Come if you can.

That's it for now.

Ron Berst, President



AutoFair April 2024





April meeting at the Loftin's





WELCOME BACK MY FRIENDS...

To the show that never ends, we're so glad you could attend, come inside, come inside...

Let me take an opportunity to highlight the next three club meetings and their locations:

May 11th ***Atlantic Pinstriping and Wraps (Indian Trail)***

4108 Matthews-Indian Trail Road, Matthews NC 28104

4:00 Social, 5:00 Meeting

June 8th ***Charlotte Motor Speedway Club***

3:00 Social, 4:00 Meeting, 5:00 Dinner

July 13th ***RK Motors Classic Cars***

5527 Lakeview Road, Charlotte NC 28269

1:00 Social, 2:00 Meeting

(Please note earlier than usual start time)

Wow! Our meetings continue to grow in many ways, most importantly in FAMILY, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting at Atlantic Wraps...bring your chairs!

That's all for now! It certainly is ***Life in the Fast Lane.***

Thanks,

Gary

Vice President



The Social Spotlight

“May the month of May be a month of sunshine, happiness, and endless blessings.”

Queen City has numerous opportunities to get the car out and socialize with other QCCC members this month.

On May 1st, there is a tour of a restored WWII B-29 Bomber located at the Statesville Airport. Meet-up will start at 9:30 at Kats Patch Restaurant in Troutman. Cost begins at \$10. Please see the Blast for more details.

Pack a picnic lunch and celebrate Cinco de Mayo on Sunday, May 5th with a drive to Morrow Mountain State Park in Albemarle, North Carolina. Donna Berst has rented a covered shelter with picnic tables. Please see the Blast to RSVP and get more information.

May 17-19 is the annual overnight trip to the Creekside Lodge in Maggie Valley. The hotel has reserved 43 rooms for QCCC members. Please see Jo Graham’s Blast for details of how you can join the fun.

Celebrate the 13th annual Corvette Auto Show at the Shelton Vineyards on May 25th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Bring your friends and family, the admission is free. A Blast will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next business meeting at Atlantic Wraps on May 11th. Snacks and lemonade will be provided.

Meanwhile, I hope your month is positively a**MAY**zing!

Kimberly Knight

Social Director

AUTOMOTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings everyone in the Queen's Kingdom. The big news from your Automotive Director is our record setting attendance at AutoFair. We had 50 cars on Saturday! I lost a dollar bet with President Berst as I bet, we would have 35 on Saturday and he said 25. He was right on the money.

Trophy winners were (to the best of my memory, I lost my notes)

Tommy Loftin: Best of Show and Best C1

Tim Fridley: President's Choice and Participant's Choice (modern)

John Meadows: Best C2 and highest milage

Kieth Cross: Best C3

Thomas Hans: Best C4

Mitchell Francis: Best C5

Rosalie Kirkley: Best C6

Scott Danjou: Best C7

Eric Matthews: Best C8

Jeff Fawcett: Participant's Choice (vintage)

We can't go backwards and with new members joining every week, we will need 55 or 60 next year!

It is car show and cruise-in season. Watch for Blasts but don't reply to them!

See you out there!

That's all folks from Looney Toons!

John Looney

jplooney74@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

May

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:

Total Membership	431
Total Families	243
Prospective Members	47
New Members Year to Date	22
Avg. Monthly Attendance 2024	171

NEW MEMBERS:

John Boffemmyer

Concord, NC

CORVETTE: 2024 Riptide Blue Coupe

Bill & Nancy McLellan

Mooresville, NC

CORVETTES: 1978 Silver Anniversary Coupe, 2017 Sterling Blue Coupe

Please check your information that appears in the member directory to make sure it is current. If anything needs to change (address, phone number, email, currently owned Corvette, etc.) you can use the following link to update:

https://queencitycorvette.com/?page_id=3521 [REDACTED]

You can now order replacement nameplates with “member since YYYY” added under your name. The price is \$10 per nameplate. You can use the following link to request them:

https://queencitycorvette.com/?page_id=5209. [REDACTED]

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

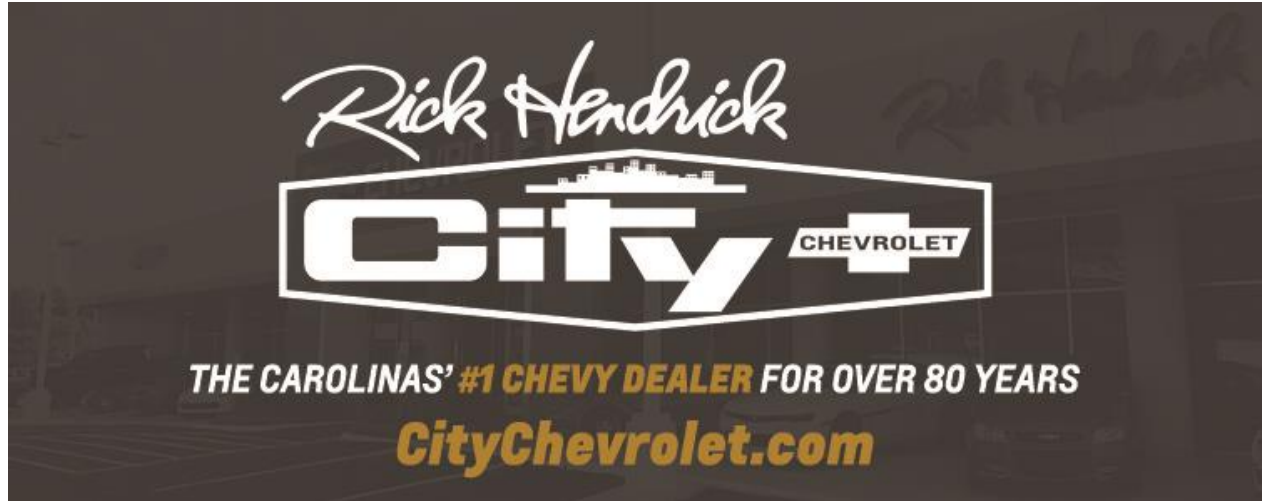
Rick Accurso
Inventory Manager & Corvette Specialist
704-566-7447
Rick.Accurso@hendrickauto.com

QCCC MEMBER SERVICE CONCIERGE

Saverio Longobardo
Service Advisor
704-566-7407
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Travis Grimm, Corvette Specialist
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13th Annual Queen City Corvette Show

The QCCC/Hendrick planning team met on April 15th. We finalized some key points that needed attention. Some of the points included parking for QCCC, food trucks, VIP and vendors. Other items included the possibility for spectator parking in one of the GM parking lots. We also discussed a safety team, blocking off Stow Lane, two standards of judging and the trophies to go with it. They will not start the new parking construction near the lake until December.

Registration is open to all QCCC members and perspective members. Go to QCCC website and click on car show, then QCCC members. Put in the password then fill out the form. Registration is free to QCCC. Do not register your Corvette under non QCCC member.

Hendrick Homecoming is May 24-25, 2024. Go to Hendrick Motorsport website for more information. This is for their fans and is open to the public at no charge.

Thank you for helping with the 13th Annual QCCC Corvette Show.

Tommy Loftin

QCCC Corvette Show Director



QCCC CHARITY

May 2024



April was a big month for our two QCCC Charities.

At **FeedNC**, the QCCC Kitchen Team, led by Kim Knight, was back at it on Friday, April 12 helping out in the kitchen washing dishes, cooking, serving, and chopping. We also helped out in the dining room taking breakfast and lunch orders, serving the food, serving coffee and tea, and bussing tables. This time, we even helped in the Food Pantry carting customers' food to their cars and bringing the carts back.

THANK YOU Bob & Marilyn Becker, Donna Berst, Cheryl Bitters, John Boffemyer, Jane Burt, Jim Campbell, Luanne Levigne, Pam & Richard Murawa, John & Cathy Nelson, and Mary Anne Wonn for volunteering!



Mary Anne, Richard, Pamela



Jane, Marilyn, Luanne

Our annual clean-up day at **WINGS OF EAGLES** was Saturday April 20. This year, we were the only group helping to spruce up the Ranch that day. Twenty of us accomplished this by pulling weeds, planting rose bushes, painting inspirational signs, putting up a wall in the picnic pavilion and painting it, cutting grass, trimming bushes, driving a tractor, and painting a swing set. **THANK YOU** to everyone who came and worked – especially the ones who are not even members of QCCC yet!

NOTE: Chris, of Wings of Eagles, was gratefully surprised by the completion of the pavilion wall! It just goes to show that when you have all the proper equipment and knowledge, anything can get done. And this was made possible by Steve and Samantha Poole bringing their contracting expertise and work van full of tools with them.



Building a wall – Arthur Ray, Bob Becker, Steve & Samantha Poole



Painting a wall – Arthur Ray, Paul DiPasquale, Bob Becker, Chris Cronin, Jamie Sargent, Larry Finocchi



Dig a hole, fill a hole – Jamie, Larry



Biggest Weed Award – Linda Ray



Tallest job, shortest person – Jane Kranzler



Torch Red Tractor & driver Dick Gwilt

Great job, Volunteers! Thank you for supporting our charities.

Dick Gwilt,

Charity Chairman

rgwilt@me.com



Hello QCCC Members!

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

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

Hope to see you at our May Meeting!

Until then, warmest regards,

Charlotte Brubaker
QCCC Secretary
(847)254-4966

If you would like your birthday added or deleted from our list, please send an email to me at charlottebrubaker@hotmail.com.



May Birthdays

Charlie Meade	5/1
Joseph Epifania	5/2
Janice Estwanik	5/2
Deb DePascale	5/3
Dave Kadel	5/4
Peggy Marlowe Wood	5/5
Debbie Meade	5/5
Steven Poole	5/5
Joyce Lontz	5/6
Linda Mills	5/6
Don Smith	5/6
Jud Self	5/8
Quinton Friesen	5/12
Luanne Levigne	5/12
Connie Anderson	5/13
Markus Bersinger	5/14
Richard Panuski	5/14
Frank Sancineto	5/14
Janet Chubb	5/16
Morris Graham	5/16
Jerry (JG) Lewis	5/16
Gail Friesen	5/17
Susie Plantan	5/17
Rosalie Kirkley	5/18
Ann Oakley	5/19
Lois Watts	5/19
Lynne Dunn	5/20
Jane Kranzler	5/21
Linda Roberts	5/21
Bob Hill	5/22
Rick Leppert	5/23
Joanna Mangiapanella	5/24
Louis Dunn	5/25
David Nowlan	5/25
William Brannick	5/26
Jim Nisley	5/27
Jill Castle	5/28
Allen Cox	5/28
Mike Callea	5/30
Jim Ramandanes	5/30



NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM – NEWS AND UPDATES

Paul Mitchell – QCCC Ambassador to the NCM

May 2024

The Bash has ended. I hope all members that attended enjoyed the visit to the Museum. You saw 3 new colors, a new spoiler for the Stingray Z51, and new wheels for the Z06. Alas, no sighting of the ZR1. I'm sure that will be the main attraction at the Anniversary event in August.

Corvette raffles continue, and here are the latest opportunities:

2024 Hypersonic Gray Corvette Convertible

Price: **\$200.00** Tickets: 1500 Available: 1139

Drawing: May 16, 2024 2:00 PM Central Time

2024 Arctic White Corvette Coupe

Price: **\$100.00** Tickets: 2000 Available: 1736

Drawing: June 13, 2024 2:00 PM Central Time

Thank you all for your continued support of the National Corvette Museum. We currently have 176 Museum members in the club, or 41% of the membership. Please consider joining if you are not currently a member. The Museum is the “mecca” of the Corvette world, as no matter how many times you go there, it is a special feeling when you walk in and view all the attractions. Please contact me if you have any questions about membership.

QCCC HISTORY

My wife of almost 56 years is not a Corvette enthusiast. She knew when she met me that I was an over the hill gear head but I guess she loved me and I found her irresistible, so we got married. She endured my passion for cars, attending all types of car related events, shows and races. I had exposed this sweet young thing to all of the loud sounds, dirt, smells, intoxicated rednecks and vulgar language associated with racing back then and she went along willingly. I was headed toward turning my '68 396 Chevelle into an all out drag car when Corvette fever struck me and I had to have one. After failing at ordering a new 1970 Corvette, mainly because of a union strike and insurance costs, I found the '64 coupe I still have today. When I surprised her with the purchase, she thought I had lost my mind. My buddy, Jim Whitley, who had purchased a '69 Corvette told me about QCCC. We attended a road rally as guests, had a great time and joined the club. I have to give Sharon a lot of credit, in the early years she went with me to all of the club functions, including the races, with grace and patience. She certainly enjoyed the parties and the road trips, but the car stuff was not her cup of tea. In fact, when the doctor came in and said "it's a boy", the first thing she said to me was, "You have a son, now I won't have to go to any more races". What was different about being in the club were the friendships that were developed and she found herself becoming great friends with the other members. As the old saying goes, "we came for the car and stayed for the people". After our third child was born we finally dropped out in the early 80's to raise our family.

Fast forward to 2011, when we re-joined QCCC. The kids are on their own raising their own families and we are certainly enjoying being grandparents. And once again the Club has become an important part of our lives, renewing old friendships and making new ones. And I still get my Corvette fix and Sharon still likes the parties and road trips. But she has found a unique way to participate in the car stuff. If you have attended the club's car shows, the last ten or twelve Auto Fairs, the Americarna car show and various other car events, you might have seen the red square cookie tin with the QCCC logo on it. Inside are her "car show" homemade brownies. The reason they are designated "car show" brownies is she is famous for her brownies for all sorts of occasions. There are illness brownies, funeral brownies, birthday brownies, golf outing brownies, road trip brownies, in fact, brownies for almost anything. She makes them from a mix but with a few changes. There is no secret recipe, but they aren't the kind that will set you free or make you giddy and unresponsive. She has never complained about making the brownies. It's her way to participate in the car stuff without actually being there. That makes me very proud!

Travis Meredith

Historian & 1974 President

Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



Part Two of Three

(Boyd Kurt, Steve Pelchat, and Keith Cross)

Boyd Kurt: '09 & '10 avg. members 249

Boyd was vice president serving under Q. They say competition makes you better, and those two are pretty competitive. The new club forming in Charlotte in '07 was a challenge to our presidents to not lose too many members plus putting a dent in our acquiring new members. Folks had a choice and it could get intense when some left and others had to decide to go or stay. So Boyd along with Q had to focus on delivering what the members needed. Boyd is a people person and you could not have a better leader to getting the numbers back up. He turned to humor and got everybody to chill out. Along with the C-6 hitting full stride we survived and made room for not one but two new clubs. You can see the membership rose to 249 with a bright future. He really enjoyed entertaining with the help of Mr. Sock. He says that growing the club was his most enjoyable time and losing members to the new clubs, sometimes close friends was the most difficult. Boyd stepped down after 2 years but continued by becoming newsletter editor.

Steve Pelchat: 2011 – 2012, members 215-288

He was a quiet leader but a serious Corvette Junky. Steve was easy going and I remember he would always say, "ok everybody, find a chair. Let's get this meeting over with so we can go eat. He never had a long meeting but kept on a level path. We were just steady. The past was behind us and we had moved on quite nicely.

Biggest Challenge: As we got more deeply involved with the National Corvette Museum with Paul Mariano as our ambassador, things were happening and finances were tight. (remember the economy was lousy then) Would it be great if the Corvette clubs would help us to build our own race track? The NCM ask for clubs to pony up \$15,000 to buy one acre of land where the track is now. Several of our members dug deep and bought their own acre. The Becker's for one. We only 144 families so it was a tough sell. Steve is pretty persuasive. We made it. Again, remember only ½ our members belong to NCM. It does not sound like much but when we start collecting at every meeting it gets thin very quickly. I believe Steve as the first president that had issues with the size of the membership causing us to struggle to find meeting places. Also, Steve was the person with the creative thought to have a small coral at our car show for same owner for over 50 years, a great tribute to these members.

Steve has had some health issues so was not able to respond, so this is from my best memory.

Best wishes for improved health, we miss you.

Keith Cross: 2013-2014, members 301-329

Keith had a great presidency. I know because I was there as his V.P. in 2014. He held the 45th birthday party with the theme of "Cruisin' the Carolinas since 1968". Keith then got this added to our logo. He got a new board position of

Member-at-Large to be available to sub in if a board member has to drop out. Keith was without a V.P. for most of 2013. He was a great leader in donations and the NCM was moving fast on the race track. Keith got donations for a QCCC granite bench at NCM plus a brick donated when a member passes. He got us in the banner program at NCM where we have a QCCC light pole banner changed out every 2 years and the old one we auction off for charity. See one at Tommy's garage at the April business meeting. NCM was moving fast and we were now a major player thanks to Paul Marino and Keith. Time for QCCC to become a lifetime NCM member, more donations. The museum was engraving names on the floors, on the walls, on the granite benches, just about every where and Keith had QCCC all over the place.

Speed bumps: We had two wives that were granted Lifetime Membership status. It wasn't that did not deserve it, but they sold their Corvette. We were starting a slippery slope here as this could lead to some problems. Keith came up with the Lifetime Achievement Award and we cancelled the Lifetime Membership. At that time if member sold their Corvette he/she had until the end of the current year 12/31 plus a maximum of 12 more months to acquire a Corvette. The Lifetime Service Award qualification probably needed some fine tuning. *(Currently, there are similar awards; however, qualifications have changed through the years.)* Also, the staff position of Historian was created in 2014 and Travis has done a bang up job with it. The Vintage member jacket patch was created after starting out as a jacket, a great reward for members active for 15 years. We knew we had to retain folks to be able to help our newer members. Charities were cut from about six to two in order to be more manageable. See a candid photo of Keith posing as a Porsche Race Driver.

Submitted by Bill Cruthis



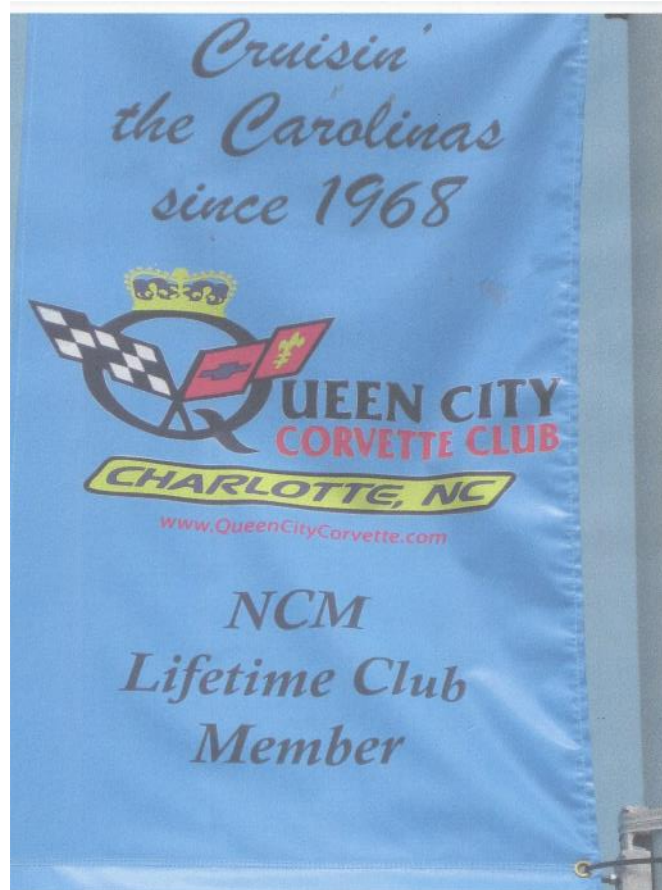
President Cross was surprised when we dressed him as a Porsche race driver complete with pipe



QCCC granite bench donated by QCCC to the NCM



Paul Mariano, QCCC ambassador to the NCM, receiving QCCC award as a club lifetime member



QCCC banner that hung at the NCM

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



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.

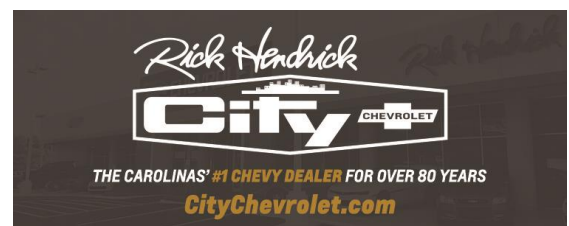
Queen City Corvette Club is an 'open' page for anyone on Facebook

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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Catch the latest QCCC news by joining us on Facebook!