

THE QUEEN CITY GAZETTE



Official Newsletter of North Carolina's Largest Corvette Club

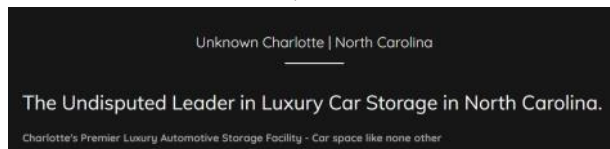
September 2024



QCCC Business Meeting

Saturday, September 14, 2024

Euro Prestige Imports/Car Storage
8350 Arrowridge Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28273

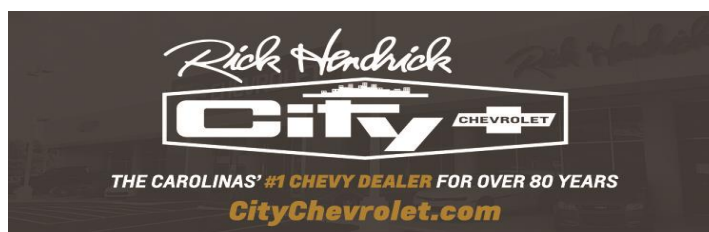


4:00 Social Time

5:00 Meeting



Non-members: Please contact our Membership Director via membership@queencitycorvette.com to attend as a guest or prospective member.



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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 Stuff



September 2024

Let's get right to it...August has been a busy month in the world of QCCC. On the 3rd there was a Mecklenburg Co. Sheriff's Stars and Cars event to help children get ready for back to school. The Sheriff's Dept. is building community support and helping needy families at the same time. When we show up, the excitement generated is much appreciated.

Mo and Jo Graham led a trip to Asheville for a weekend of fun. 16 people had a great time. Thank you Mo and Jo!

On the 4th Victory Lane Corvette Club held their car show at Parks Chevrolet. QCCC was well represented, and we won the award for most cars by a club...another trophy for our "club house". Additionally, Gary Cunningham, Richard Panuski, Darrell Hinklin and Tim Fridley won trophies for their cars. Great job, guys! It does pay to shine em' up!

Our meeting at Hendrick Motorsports on the 10th was big! 180 total members and prospective members showed up, the largest meeting of the year so far. Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to the very deserving Carolyn Zimmer and Keith Cross for their outstanding service to our club. This is the highest award in our club and was overdue to both. Congratulations, Carolyn and Keith! Bill Cruthis presented awards to Ben and Jamie Hinson and Keith and Kelly Cross for 15-year membership and Golden Gear Awards (50 year car ownership) to Darrell Hinklin, Joe and Deb Troutwine, and Gary and Linda Spencer. Wow, that's a long time to own the same Corvette! Ice cream, supplied by Carolina Cones, cookies and lemonade made it a great day. Thanks to Kim Knight and Dee Dee Winge and all their helpers.

On the 17th John Looney and 7 of us headed to Mooresville Drag Strip for the Southeastern Gassers show. Very nostalgic and a throw back to years gone by! Thanks John! I enjoyed it as well and had the best fried baloney sandwich ever. 😊

On the 23rd Mark and Laurie Olejarczyk led a run to Shelton Vineyards. 21 people attended for lunch and a wonderful ride on country roads. That's the 3rd trip they've led this summer! Thanks, Mark and Laurie!

On the 24th Donna and I put out a Blast for an ice cream cruise in at Cookies N Cream in Denver and guess what? 56 people signed up! I guess we all are craving ice cream these days! 😊

Lastly, the Corvette Caravan to the National Corvette Museum will start with a lunch at the Biltmore in Asheville on the 27th and end with a 4-day celebration at the Museum. Held only every 5 years this is as big as it gets for Corvette lovers. Over 50 QCCers will be there and none will be disappointed.

Our September meeting will be at Euro Prestige Imports in Charlotte. They sell and broker high-end cars as well as have storage available if your garage space is limited. This will be a good location for our monthly meeting. Parking is safe and secure. The social time starts at 4:00; the meeting will begin at 5:00. Come if you can. Well, that's a huge month, and more to come in '24.

That's it for now.

Ron Berst

President



Asheville Weekend Trip



August Anniversary Meeting



NICE!!!!!!



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:

September 14th *Euro Prestige Imports/Car Storage*

8350 Arrowridge Blvd.

Charlotte, NC 28273

Social Time 4:00, Meeting 5:00

October 12th *The Loftin Ranch and Compound*

244 Hicks Creek Road

Troutman, NC 28166

Car Show Training Groups 2:00 PM, Social Time 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM Meeting

November 9th *Feed NC Mooresville*

2456 Charlotte Hwy. Mooresville, NC 28166

All Times TBA

That's all for now, it certainly is *Life in the Fast Lane*.

Thanks!

Gary Cunningham, Vice President



The Social Spotlight

September

September is the month of wonderful weather...the sun seems brighter and the sky seems more blue. QCCC has planned several trips this month to get out and enjoy the early fall weather.

The weekend of September 20-22nd is the annual trip to the quaint Bavarian town of Helen, Georgia. Don your Lederhosen and gather for what promises to be a fun-filled weekend. Steve Bonino has reserved 25 rooms at the Sure Stay Hotel. The cut-off date for hotel reservations is September 10. Please contact Steve or see the Blast for additional information.

Myrtle Beach is on the calendar for the weekend of September 26-29. Dick Gwilt is the host of this trip. Details are still in the making so keep an eye out for a Blast with more information.

The next business meeting is on September 14 at Euro Prestige Imports located at 8350 Arrowridge Boulevard, Unit B in Charlotte. The social hour begins at 4 and we will be serving light snacks. The business meeting begins at 5.

Every month we have several “up yonder” and “down yonder” lunches and dinners hosted by our QCCC members. This is a great opportunity to visit in a more relaxed and casual setting. I do not have all the information at press time for that month’s activities, so please check your emails for Blasts if you are interested in attending.

And lastly, the QCCC Car Show is October 19th. We ask that members donate an item to our Silent Auction. Car wash, cleaners, car-themed items, tools, gift cards, wine and spirits are all things that attendees love to bid on. No need to assemble baskets. We have a great team ready and willing to put it all together for you. Maryann Wonn is chair for the Silent Auction this year. Last year the Silent Auction raised over \$5,000 for QCCC charities. Please bring your item (s) to the next business meeting, Saturday, September 14.

Kimberly Knight

Social Director



MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

September

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:

Total Membership	458
Total Families	257
Prospective Members	40
New Members Year to Date	49
Avg. Monthly Attendance 2024	161

NEW MEMBERS:

Mark & Jeanne Acerni

Mount Holly, NC

CORVETTE: 2016 Black Convertible

Theodore & Tracy Alford

Mount Holly, NC

CORVETTE: 2010 Crystal Red Grand Sport Convertible

Kendall Bennett

Marvin, NC

CORVETTES: 2020 Arctic White Coupe,
2024 Cacti Green Coupe

Donald Doutt & Barbara Guthrie

Salisbury, NC

CORVETTE: 2024 Amplify Orange Convertible

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

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

If you need the password, please reach out to me or another board member.

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

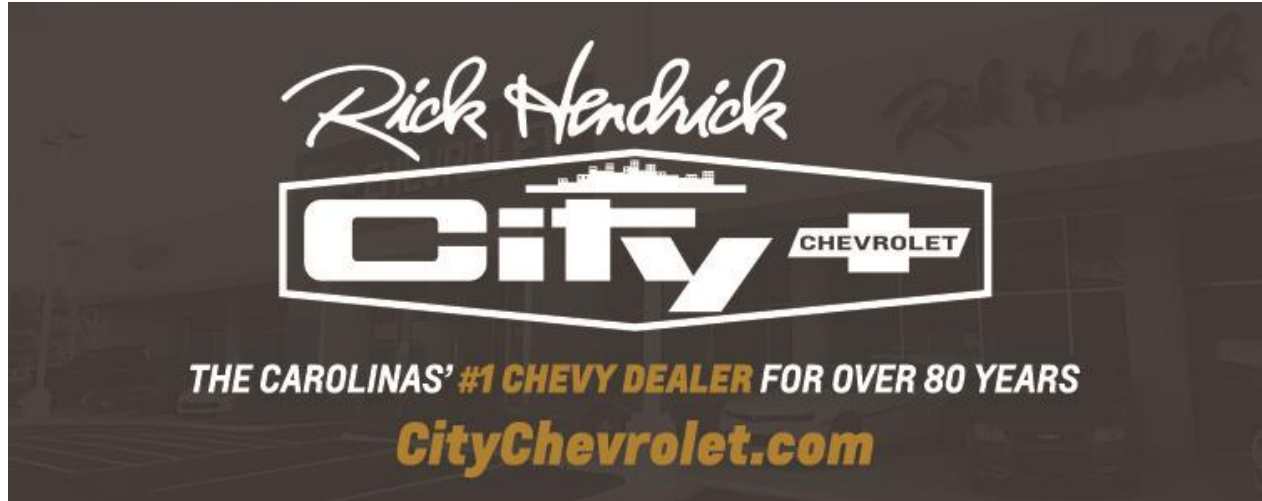
Rick Accurso
Inventory Manager & Corvette Specialist
704-566-7447
Rick.Accurso@hendrickauto.com

QCCC MEMBER SERVICE CONCIERGE

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

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Travis Grimm, Corvette Specialist
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QCCC Car Show Update for September 2024

September is here and the Queen City Corvette Show is just around the corner. It is time for the big push to make all of our planning happen. We still need help in parking and judging Corvettes. We also need help with early morning set-up, so plan on coming early to help. We also need help on Friday for the Hendrick Tours. If you can help with Friday tours, please let Gary Cunningham or myself know.

Along with food trucks and vendors, we are also going to have a Kids Zone, which will be located in the Team Center. Outside the Team Center will be a Race Car for the kids to sign and draw on. This will also be the area for food tables and restrooms. The Food Truck Alley will be located between the Team Store and The Team Center.

If you have not done so, it is time for you to register your Corvette. Currently, we only have around 100 QCCC Corvettes registered. We need to have 150 QCCC Corvettes to make our goal of 850 Corvettes on site for 2024. Registration is free and you will be eligible for T-shirts, door prizes and the Big Hendrick Give-Away.

Registration and participation are open to all QCCC members and perspective members. If you are new to the club, we expect you to help, so please sign up and help with one of the largest Corvette shows in the country.

Register your Corvette:

- Go to QCCC website
- Click on 13th Annual QCCC Car Show
- Click here for QCCC Members Only Car Show Registration
- Use your QCCC password and fill out the form

Remember to bring your items for the Silent Auction to the next meeting on Saturday, September 14.

Make sure you are signed up for a work detail. If for some reason you can't figure out what to do, just show up the day of the show and I will find a spot for you.

Remember. . .this is a big deal for Queen City Corvette Club, Hendrick Motorsport and City Chevrolet. If you are a member of this club, your participation is much appreciated.

Tommy Loftin

QCCC Corvette Show Director



QCCC CHARITY

September 2024



Please see Blasts for details regarding future volunteer opportunities for our charities.

It is getting close to the time when we choose charities to support in 2025, so if you have a charity you'd like the Charity Committee to consider, please send me an email with the name of the charity and details about it. rgwilt@me.com

UPCOMING EVENTS TO JOIN IN:

feedNC - Mooresville
www.feednc.org

Friday, October 11, 2024 – Kitchen and Dining Room volunteers
10:30 am – 2:30 pm
Contact Kim Knight to volunteer at nite100@aol.com

AUTO REPAIR MINISTRY at Next Level Church – Matthews

This organization helps single women by repairing and servicing their vehicles at low or no cost. If you'd like to volunteer on either the second or fourth Saturday of each month, contact QCCC Member Dave Nowlan at dnowlan@carolina.rr.com

WINGS OF EAGLES - Concord
www.wingsofeaglesranch.org

Saturday October 5, 2024 – Dinner and Dancin' in the Dirt fundraiser
Details will be in a future Blast.

VETERANS AND COMMUNITY ALLIANCE (VCA) – Lincolnton
www.vcalincolnton.org

Saturday November 23, 2024 – Car Show
This organization helps veterans and their families by repairing and servicing their vehicles at low or no cost.
QCCC plans to attend their Car Show. Details will be in a future Blast.



Thank you for supporting our Charities.

Dick Gwilt,

Charity Chairman



Hello QCCC Members!

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

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

Hope to see you at our September 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.



September Birthdays

Sherry Daniluk	9/1
Martin Oehler	9/1
Becky Ross	9/4
Norm Jungmann	9/6
Tim Leazer	9/6
Barbara Guthrie	9/7
Pat Bales	9/9
Gloria McCoy	9/9
Carole Baker	9/10
Vinny Vettorino	9/11
Sharon Meredith	9/12
Lorri Black	9/14
Steve Harshbargar	9/14
Sarah Lyda	9/14
Walt Baker	9/15
Steve Bales	9/16
Steve Kaufmann	9/17
Samantha Poole	9/19
Allen Gould	9/20
Mark Olejarczyk	9/24
Woodie Sweat	9/24
Bert Nagy	9/26
Jeremy Olack	9/26
JC Roberts	9/26
Rick Heinrich	9/27
John Plyler	9/27
Cindy Newsom	9/29



NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM – NEWS AND UPDATES

Paul Mitchell – QCCC Ambassador to the NCM

September 2024

QCCC CAR SHOW & THE NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM

Each year of the QCCC Car Show, the National Corvette Museum attends. They have a tent and sell NCM and Corvette merchandise. It is a very popular stop for all car show attendees.

Last year the goal for the Museum sales at our show was \$4,000. Total sales were \$6,905, obviously well above the goal. So, this year we are making plans to greatly exceed last year's number.

The recent Myrtle Beach Corvette Club show has also had the Museum attending the past several years. But look here – Museum sales this year at their show was \$10,000! That's an impressive number.

So, what is QCCC going to do? We are setting a goal of \$15,000!! The MBCC show had less than half the number of cars that we will have. We pull cars from several states, while they are more of a regional show. There is no reason we can't pull this off.

I have been working with John and Carol Fort, members of the Cape Fear Corvette Club in Wilmington. They are longtime supporters of the Museum and work several shows with the Museum personnel. John is in full agreement that our goal is completely obtainable. He will work with us closely at our show to help achieve it.

Now what can we do. Here are some suggestions:

- First of all, make plans to purchase some items.
- Look through the Museum website. If you would like something special, let me know and we can have the Museum bring it with them for you to purchase. They will have lots of merchandise, but not everything.
- Consider selecting some Christmas gifts.
- As you see and meet people at the show, talk up the Museum and encourage them to visit their Museum tent.
- Remember, Museum members get a 10% or 15% discount! This discount will be calculated at the show.

Let's all work together to help reach this goal. This is a huge opportunity for QCCC and will show the Corvette community that we do things in a big way and in the right way.

As always, thank you for your support of the NCM.

QCCC HISTORY

In the formative years of the Queen City Corvette Club, 1968 through 1973, the focus was growth in membership and social activities. But it didn't take long after joining the National Council of Corvette Clubs that the competitive juices of the members started to show. NCCC was the national sanctioning body that established rules and provided insurance for all types of Corvette related events. The participants accumulated points, individually and as a club, that were rewarded at the end of the year. In the beginning, QCCC was in the Southeast Region along with many very active clubs from the entire southeast. To get the points, traveling to other club's events was a necessity and there was an event somewhere almost every weekend. There was so much activity throughout the southeast that around 1976 NCCC formed the "Carolinas Region", which kept the competition closer to home. There were strong clubs throughout North and South Carolina that provided a lot of friendly competition and many events. Our friends at Plastic Cars Ltd. in Statesville were very active in NCCC back then and we enjoy seeing them at our shows now.

The most popular sanctioned events were called "speed events" where drivers competed against each other in timed solo runs. Of course when we were able to use the Charlotte Motor Speedway it drew a large number of participants and you could use some top gears. But most of the events were held in parking lots where there wasn't much "speed" involved. Driver skill and being familiar with your car's ability was key to winning. Often a tight course was much better handled with a 300 horsepower small block than a 500 horsepower big block.

One such example was when QCCC was invited to a parking lot event held at UNC-Charlotte sponsored by a sports car club at the university. Ten or twelve of QCCC's seasoned racers accepted the challenge and showed up. The course was tiny and extremely tight. We complained a little, but since their club consisted of MG's, Triumph's, and other little European cars, it fell on deaf ears and we decided to just go with it. However, QCCC's heavy hitter, Mel Pace, had brought his '68 wide body 427 L88 out there which wouldn't fit thru the gates if we pushed it thru. On his run, he revved it up, let 'er go, and did this smokey burn-out straight through the first series of gates, pylons flying everywhere. The crowd cheered and the PA announcer said, "there goes your typical big block Corvette". Mel put his car back on the trailer and went home, enough fun for one day.

Not every event was as thrilling as the Corvette-Porsche Challenge, but each time we spent time together we became closer, forming long lasting friendships that remain strong. Even though we no longer race, event participation was the key then and remains important to the success of QCCC, even today.

Travis Meredith

*Historian
President 1972 & 1976*

Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Darrell Kirkley, Bill Ingram & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



So Now What Do We Do?

We had gotten spoiled. The clubhouse had been such a fun place, but we did not think we could make the new rent. The attic for meetings, the bar room for social, the front yard for car cleaning (a lot of Corvettes back then were daily drivers) and the front room and street (Hwy 74) for dancing, all would be hard to replace. These big hurdles were magnified by the fact that we were all turning 30 and life was changing for all of us. A big chunk of members were beginning to house hunt and raise a family. For them a two-seat car would no longer work, although I have seen 3 small urchins ride in the back of a C-2 coupe with another on mom's lap up front. You have all made sacrifices to keep your Corvette. Others faced career opportunities, often not in Charlotte giving away to old U-Haul runs.

So, when exactly did we lose the clubhouse? From old newsletters we can find discussions about it as early as late 1976. Sam McGee, aka "Father Time" was a transplant from Michigan, who moved in and was very active. He became QCCC President for 1977. He makes several mentions about forming the committee to look for a new club house in early '77 as we had been informed that the rent was going up. Sam was busy trying to heal some old wounds about our ladies and voting rights that Travis had fixed in '76. The rest of the old newsletters in '77 mention many cleanup committees at the club house. As there was no replacement found, it was in the August '77 newsletter that stated Sam would notify Nixon Realty that we would vacate by the end of August and he put in the newsletter that August 27 was to be house cleanout day and all furniture and club items could be picked up by members who donated them. A small group showed up and got the job done filling Melvin Pace's van and Travis Meredith's El Camino with the leftovers most of which were donated or trashed. Hard to say how much of our history we lost that day. We are very fortunate that we saved as much as we did. Of note, Joni Ingram was thanked that day for her effort in helping out. Jenny Hunter Stevens bought the juke box.

We ended an era without realizing what we were losing. Looking back we would learn our lesson, but it now became harder to find and keep members. Travis had close to 30 members in 1976 and reviewing the 1985 newsletters we were still only averaging 28. Currently, we only have newsletters from '85 thru '90 and most of the Vintage Gang were occupied with the other side of our lives. Racin' and waxin' kept QCCC going. First, with no clubhouse where do you meet? Several members offered their homes and here is a familiar name from our current membership, John and Jane Freeman offered their Freeman Car Stereo store for meetings. Of note J & J finished first in points in 1984 for the Carolinas Region, and that is no small feat. Also, I find a mention of John's old blue being sold, a 1969 convertible. This is the same car that he decided a few years ago to set out to find and buy back after some 35 years. He found it in a barn in New Mexico not driven for decades. It is now a restored restomod. a great story! Also, we find reference that current members, Carolyn and Don Zimmer, took first place in a fun rally. Also someone ask him about his nickname, "Tarzan Don". Something to do with swinging on a vine. You can't hide from your past. Treasury averaged \$3,000 and the monthly raffle ran between \$10.00 and \$25.00 and was split with half going to the spina bifida charity.

Racing was what saved us. Led by Melvin Pace (president 85' and 89'), Larry Gunter, Jenny Hunter, Dick Craig, Earl Ferrell, the Freeman's and a few others, we set out to be NCCC national champs which we won in 1989. Melvin was the point man with his '68 427/435. I believe he had a big hand in keeping us going. He was a member since the early 70's and when he spoke you listened. The newsletter listed events in the region for the month and there always were events every Saturday and Sunday. From Greer Dragway in South Carolina, Roebing Road in Georgia, a track in New Orleans, to NASCAR tracks and parking lots all over the area, they really showed up and raced. Members opened their homes to gather and we often used the club house at some member's apartment complex. It was just hard to keep members with no central command center. Our numbers became stagnant until the C-4 arrived. They really took off when the C-5 debuted. The next struggle would start to fester in the nineties when the cost of having and racing a new Corvette pushed most of us off the track. More about that later.

We all missed the clubhouse, but that was going to happen anyway through outgrowing it. Like having a fraternity house in college, you are there for your 4 years then you move on, but you take the memories with you.

Submitted by 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



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.

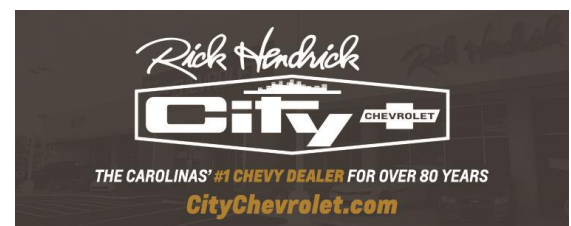
Queen City Corvette Club is an 'open' page for anyone on Facebook

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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