

# THE QUEEN CITY GAZETTE



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

**March 2025**



## QCCC Banquet & Business Meeting

**Saturday, March 8, 2025**

### Charlotte Motor Speedway Club

5555 Concord Parkway South

Concord, NC 28027

4:00 Social Time

5:00 Business Meeting

5:30 Dinner

6:45 Dancing

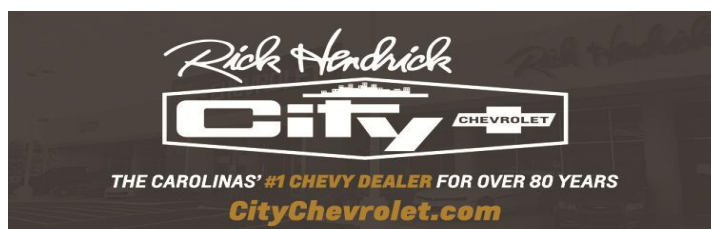


sunflower



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



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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 Stuff



**March 2025**

I will get right to it. February was a very busy month in QCCC land! On the 1st Mark and Laurie Olejarczyk led a trip to the Memory Lane Museum. Thanks, guys! During our monthly business meeting at Streetside Classics, QCCC member, Rick Heinrich gave a very interesting talk on the Goodyear tires that Nascar teams use. So much info! Thanks, Rick! The trip to the Sullenberger Aviation Museum on the 15th was incredible. We enjoyed a second tour of the DXDT Corvette racing team on the 17th. They are so welcoming. After the trip to the Greensboro Auto Auction on the 22nd, we considered ourselves lucky to get out of there without buying something. On the 24th Rick Heinrich led us on a tour of Champion Tire Company where all the Goodyear tires used in Nascar are mounted and dismounted along with transporting all the pit boxes and golf carts. So much to do, so little time. Keep checking the calendar and look for Blasts, more activities are coming!

On a different note, below is an article published in the February issue of Vette Vues Magazine. I had seen articles they had published about other Corvette clubs so I contacted them and sent some information on QCCC including bullet points and pictures. They wrote a fantastic 3-page article about our club you can read on the following page.

Our annual awards banquet will be on March 8 th at the Speedway Club. The social time is 4:00, meeting will start at 5:00, dinner at 5:30 and dancing at 6:45.

That's it for now!

*Ron Berst*

*President*



## Driven by Passion: Queen City Corvette Club

For over five decades, the **Queen City Corvette Club (QCCC)** has been uniting Corvette enthusiasts in the Charlotte, North Carolina area. What began in 1968 as a small gathering of Corvette owners sharing their love for America's sports car has grown into a dynamic organization boasting over 470 members. With a focus on camaraderie, philanthropy, and a shared passion for Corvettes, QCCC has become a cornerstone of the Corvette community in the Southeast.

### A Commitment to Giving Back

QCCC's impact extends far beyond its members. Each year, the club donates over \$40,000 to local charities, underscoring their commitment to making a difference in the Charlotte community. Among their primary beneficiaries are:

- **Wings of Eagles Ranch** in Concord, NC, which provides therapeutic horseback riding to disabled and special-needs children, as well as veterans coping with PTSD.
- **Feed NC**, an organization dedicated to providing meals for those in need and offering a culinary training program to help students build careers in the food service industry.

Each of these charities receives \$10,000 annually from QCCC, reflecting the club's dedication to supporting meaningful causes.

### The Annual Corvette Show

QCCC's philanthropic efforts shine brightest at their annual all-Corvette show. Held at the prestigious Hendrick Motorsports complex in Concord, NC, the event is a highlight of the year for both club members and Corvette enthusiasts.

On October 19th, QCCC hosted their 13th annual show, drawing an impressive 823 Corvettes to the event. The celebration of automotive excellence served as a fundraising powerhouse, enabling the club to donate \$47,250 to local charities.

PAGE 72

Say you saw it in  
**VETTE VUES MAGAZINE**

FEBRUARY

The show's highlights included a stunning display of all eight Corvette generations and an awards presentation that celebrated the passion and dedication of participants. The club's partnership with the Hendrick family foundation was also commemorated during the event with a special check presentation.



### Building Community

QCCC fosters a sense of belonging through its monthly meetings held throughout the Charlotte area. These gatherings bring members together to share their love for Corvettes, plan events, and strengthen the bonds of their vibrant community. One of their cherished traditions is capturing group photos, showcasing the unity and enthusiasm of the club.



FEBRUARY

Say you saw it in  
**VETTE VUES MAGAZINE**

PAGE 73

## A Legacy of Excellence

From its modest beginnings in 1968 to its status as a leading Corvette club, QCCC exemplifies the spirit of the Corvette community. Their commitment to philanthropy, their members, and the greater Charlotte area has earned them a place of honor in the Corvette world.

As Ron Berst, President of QCCC, notes, "It's not just about the cars; it's about the people and the difference we can make together."



The Queen City Corvette Club's story is a testament to the power of passion and unity. Their dedication to the Corvette legacy and their community sets a high standard for Corvette clubs everywhere. *Vette Vues Magazine* is proud to feature QCCC in this month's edition of "Driven by Passion."





**WELCOME BACK MY FRIENDS...**

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

*Welcome back to Life in The Fast Lane in 2025 with the Queen City Corvette Club*

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

### **March 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet**

#### **Charlotte Motor Speedway Club**

5555 Concord Parkway South, Concord, NC 28027

4 PM Social, 5 PM Biz Mtg. 5:30 PM Dinner and Awards Banquet

Pre-paid sign-up required for dinner

### **April 12<sup>th</sup> – returning to a club-fave location**

#### **American Legion Hall Huntersville Post 321**

107 N. Main Street

Huntersville, NC 28078



3 PM Social 4 PM Meeting

Bring your chairs.



### **May 10<sup>th</sup> - meeting down-south**

#### **Atlantic Pinstriping and Vehicle Wraps**

4108 Matthews Indian Trail Rd.

Matthews, NC 28104

4 PM Social, 5 PM Meeting

Bring your chairs!!!

*...I am looking forward to another event-filled year with the largest and best Corvette Club in the Carolinas and another year of Life in the Fast Lane.*

Thanks, *Gary*



## **The Social Spotlight**

March is the month when the weather can't seem to make up its mind. I for one, am ready for spring! Queen City has exciting activities planned for this month.

Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> is our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bowling Challenge with Victory Lanes Corvette Club. Our teams are set so come help cheer QCCC on to victory. Check in starts at 1:30 at Victory Lanes Bowling Center in Mooresville.

March 8<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Queen City Awards Banquet held at the Speedway Club in Concord. The theme this year is "Chasing the Checkered Flag". Social hour begins at 4 pm with short meeting following at 5 pm. A pre-paid plated dinner is being offered with RSVP's no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please see the Blast if you would like to attend.

March 24<sup>th</sup>, is our Up Yonder Dinner held at the new Michael Waltrip Taproom located in Mooresville. This building is formally the Village Tap House on Perth and 150. Space is limited to 40 people. Laurie Olejarczyk is the coordinator of this event. Please keep an eye out for a Blast.

Thank you to those that volunteered on Valentines Day at Feed NC. We served over 350 pasta meals to those in our community. Our next opportunity to volunteer will be April 11<sup>th</sup>. Please see me if you are interested in helping out that day.

And finally, in honor of St. Patrick's Day, here is an old Irish Blessing:

May your troubles be less  
and your blessings be more  
and nothing but happiness  
come through your door.

*Kimberly Knight*

*Social Director*



## MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

March

### **MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:**

Total Membership	485
Total Families	272
Prospective Members	38
New Members Year to Date	10
Avg. Monthly Attendance 2025	152

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

#### **No new members voted in at the February Meeting**

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](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: [https://queencitycorvette.com/?\\_id=5209](https://queencitycorvette.com/?_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*

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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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#### **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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#### **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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#### **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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#### **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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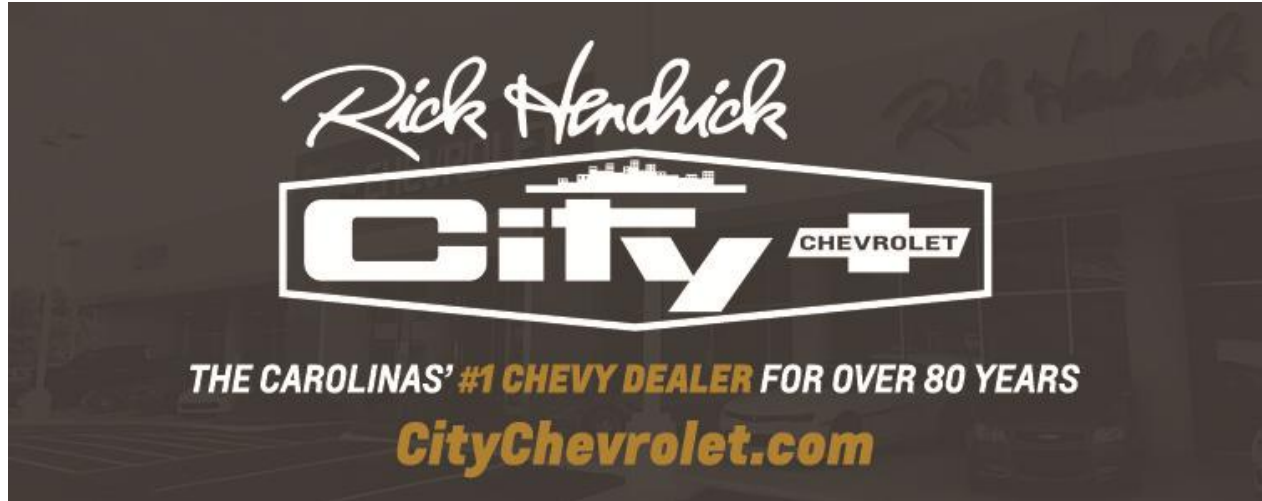
#### **QCCC MEMBER SERVICE CONCIERGE**

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

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**Travis Grimm, Corvette Specialist**  
tgrimm@freemanscarstereo.com  
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# QCCC CHARITY

March 2025



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

QCCC members showed up in force to staff a special Valentine's Day Lunch at FeedNC this month. The event included a make-to-order pasta station and buffet line. Out front in the dining area our members took orders, made pasta dishes, manned the buffet line and served tea & coffee. Backstage in the kitchen, our cooks and runners kept a supply of lasagna, salads and deserts refilling the buffet stations. Meanwhile, our clean-up team cleared and sanitized dining tables, helping maintain order in the flow of guests though the day. Larry Tucker and Jim Campbell finished off the process feeding the jaws of an industrial sized dishwashing steamer in the back. When the work was done, everyone felt both exhausted and richly satisfied to have been able to provide over 350 meals to economically disadvantaged families in the local area. A hearty THANK YOU! to all involved!

Our next major charity event will be on Saturday, April 19, as we help the Wings of Eagles Foundation prepare for the upcoming season of therapeutic horseback riding and other outdoor activities. The activities are designed to provide fun challenges for special needs participants to gain strength and balance, building both self-confidence and self-esteem. This is a wonderful opportunity to get some light outdoor exercise while helping the Foundation improve the lives of those with special needs. Watch for a Blast announcing details of the event and the staging point for a group drive to the ranch.

Remember, if you miss a Blast for an event you're anticipating (charity or otherwise), you can always refer back to the QCCC newsletter for reminders.

*Warren Knight*

*Charity Committee*













A heartfelt Thank You to all the QCCC members who responded to the recent Care and Compassion Blasts with all the cards, emails, texts and phone calls and prayers. Those receiving your kind gestures sincerely appreciate your caring, thoughts and prayers.

Following is a short update:

**Bill Cruthis** – Bill is still receiving knee replacement/surgery rehab in the Mt. Holly facility and asked that I pass along additional information to the Club. “You may inform the group I had a knee replacement in January, was doing well, but then fell three times, finally tearing the muscle longitudinally. Three operations later I will now be in rehab for a long period. See ‘ya’ all as soon as I can.” Bill welcomes phone calls, emails, etc. as he recuperates.

Home address:

4575 Rustling Woods Drive

Denver, NC 28037

[bill\\_cruthis@bellsouth.net](mailto:bill_cruthis@bellsouth.net)

**Tommy Loftin** – Tommy’s shoulder surgery is still healing and he had considerable pain just after the surgery. However, his wife Brenda reports this week that he is “Much better. Still having a little pain but a major improvement.”

244 Hicks Creek Road

Troutman, NC 28166

[tloftin@roadrunner.com](mailto:tloftin@roadrunner.com)

**Don Wiswall** – Don’s wife Michelle reports, “We are so grateful for all our friends at QCCC for the prayers and well wishes regarding Don’s illness. He is doing great and we are so happy to be home. He’s got four weeks of heavy-duty antibiotics and doctor visits weekly. This is such a wonderful community of not only Corvette enthusiasts but of people with giving, loving hearts. We are blessed to call you friends. Thank you.” And when contacted last week she added, “We are on week 2 of the potent antibiotics. He is experiencing headaches and nausea but not all the time. I’m trying to make sure he’s eating enough and drinking a ton of water..... His overall condition is good. He’s in good spirits and we are grateful for all the prayers.”

8220 Bennett Ln

Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

[dwn201pz@yahoo.com](mailto:dwn201pz@yahoo.com)

**Margo Gross** – Margo’s husband “Q” reports, “She is doing quite well. Only used the walker for the first 3 days and then a cane for about 4 days. At her first physical therapy appointment she walked without using either. She has more bruising and swelling since the first knee replacement but it is going away gradually. They took out the staples on Wednesday and the large water proof bandage as that was starting to bug her. Now just has smaller waterproof band aids covering the incision area.... Still has trouble sleeping at night but that is getting better as well. Told her yesterday she could start driving again as this knee replacement was her left one. So, I am sure in a few days she will go off to the mall and walk around some to get exercise and of course find something to buy. She has received many cards, text messages, emails and calls from the QCCC club members so the care and compassion blast worked to let her know a lot of folks wish her well on the recovery process. So glad it is warming up as the cold seemed to bother her more..... It’s nice to know our club has so many people that will think of someone when they are not doing well health wise.”

Margo's contact information:

3717 Longmore Lane  
Kannapolis, NC 28081  
704-756-9738  
[margoegross@gmail.com](mailto:margoegross@gmail.com)

Thank you again for all your responses of caring and compassion and prayers. If you would like a Care and Compassion Blast sent for you or your family, please contact me.

**Carolyn Zimmer**  
**QCCC Care and Compassion Coordinator**  
[carolynz77@yahoo.com](mailto:carolynz77@yahoo.com)  
**704-965-3270**



Hello QCCC Members!

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

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

Hope to see you at our March Meeting and Annual Banquet! ☺

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](mailto:charlottebrubaker@hotmail.com).





## March Birthdays

Frank Columbia	3/1
Joe Troutwine	3/5
Tom McQueen	3/6
John Callahan	3/7
Debbie Rinehart	3/7
Wolfgang Grassler	3/8
Ed Tarantino	3/8
Bob Terry	3/8
Christian Carlsen	3/9
Dan Gwilt	3/9
Linda Ray	3/9
Lynne Giovinazzi	3/10
David Humphrey	3/10
Bonnie Wheeler	3/10
Tracey Comfort	3/12
Andy Anderson	3/14
Leo Daniel	3/15
Ron Strausborger	3/15
Gayle Uhl	3/15
Don Conover	3/16
Edward Atkinson	3/17
Bill Phillips	3/17
Eddie Burt, Jr.	3/19
Kirk Castle	3/19
Clark Belvin	3/20
Donn Koch	3/20
John Meadows	3/21
Laura Nagy	3/22
Philip West- moreland	3/22
Barry Daniluk	3/23
Raymond Noonan	3/24
Jill Whalen	3/24
Reggie Black	3/26
Quentin (Q) Gross	3/26
Ken Watts	3/26
Margaret Bieman	3/27
Steve Pelchat	3/28
Heather Vervoort	3/28
Julia Davidson	3/29
John Nash	3/30

# NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM

## NEWS AND UPDATES

**Dick Gwilt – QCCC Ambassador to the NCM**

**March 2025**



We are fast approaching the NCM Bash event on April 24 – 26, 2026.

A Blast was sent out on January 21 describing details about this event.

Three things to do:

Make your hotel reservation using the QCCC link in the Blast  
Register for the Bash on the NCM website [www.corvettemuseum.org](http://www.corvettemuseum.org)  
Choose the events you want to participate in

Names to remember at the NCM for 2025:

NCM Board Chair – Kaye Wagner  
Director of Membership – Andrea Bateman  
Chevrolet Marketing Director – Amy Masica (succeeded Harlan Charles)

Did you know the following QCCC Members are also on the NCM Board?

Dale Ledbetter, NCM Board Secretary  
Chuck Fast, At-Large Board Member  
Glenn Johnson, At-Large Board Member, Past Board Chair

Congratulations Barbara Mariano for being a member of the NCM for 35 years – a Founding Member of the Museum!

Lastly, we are starting a new Win-A-Family-Membership raffle at our March meeting. To be eligible, you must come see us at the NCM Information table and sign in.

*Dick Gwilt, NCM Ambassador*  
[rgwilt@me.com](mailto:rgwilt@me.com)

# QCCC HISTORY

## QCCC AND “Vette Vues” Magazine

I hope you have seen the excellent article about QCCC in the February issue of “Vette Vues” magazine that our “Supreme Exalted Ruler”, better known as Ron, has described in this newsletter. If you are not familiar with this Corvette-only publication, you are missing a lot. Each month for fifty three years, they have covered Corvette racing, shows and expos, classified ads and “how to” articles. Literally, there is something for everyone in the Corvette community. Going back to the origin of Vette Vues, I have some personal history I'd like to share.

As QCCC's President in 1972, my name and address were included in the list of Corvette clubs throughout the country published in Chevrolet's “Corvette News” magazine. As a result, I received a lot of flyers, solicitations and correspondence from all over the country. A postcard came one day that caught my attention. It was from a guy in Atlanta named Jim Prather asking my opinion about starting a Corvette-only magazine. I responded that I thought it was a great idea and Jim sent me another postcard in appreciation of my support. A couple of months later I received a complementary copy of volume one number one of the first copy of “Vette Vues” magazine. It was very crude, produced on an antique mimeograph machine and the content was several pages of classified ads for Corvettes and Corvette parts. To be honest, even though I thought it was a great idea, I wasn't sure this crude publication was going to succeed. The monthly issues continued to come to the club and you saw refinement and improvements with each one. Later that year, when he moved to using a professional printer, my confidence increased to the point that I subscribed.

If I remember correctly, Jim's full-time job was with the U.S. Post Office and he was a “died in the wool” Corvette enthusiast and an active member of Corvette Atlanta. In QCCC's early days as a member of the National Council of Corvette Clubs, our club was included in the huge “Southeast Region” which included the entire southern US except Florida, which had its own region. Anyway, QCCC competed with Corvette Atlanta. They attended some of our larger events and we went to some of theirs. I'm sure Jim and I crossed paths but we never met face to face. Vette Vues continued to grow and improve with the addition of some very knowledgeable Corvette people as contributors. Jim finally quit his job and devoted all of his time to the magazine, which by then was very successful.

Jim finally retired in 1997, when he sold Vette Vues magazine to William Wolf and his family. Jim continued to contribute to the magazine with a monthly article on Corvette scale models and die-cast replicas, which became his hobby. Unfortunately, Jim passed away in August of 2022. The Corvette community lost one of their biggest advocates and his contributions to the Corvette hobby can't be measured.

One of the photos with this article is of a garage wall hanging I made many years ago displaying Volume One Number One along with one of the first professionally printed issues and one of the first shiny all-color issues. Also, there is a postcard from Jim to me when he took the leap to start the magazine. I also have a fourteen-foot long shelf with my collection of Vette Vues magazines and after over sixty years of receiving various car magazines, it's the only monthly subscription I still have. The other photos are of an article I wrote, EXACTLY fifty years ago, that Jim put in the February 1975 issue about QCCC's 1974 “Sandkhana” event at Myrtle Beach.. The last page is of the classified ads in the same issue. Ironically the ad in the top left corner is of a '66 coupe Bill Ingram bought to flip. The reason he bought it was to get the set of five original knock-off wheels off of it to trade to me for the set of five 1967 bolt-on wheels I had that Bill wanted for his '67 coupe. I wouldn't sell but only trade for a set of knock-offs so he bought the '66 just to get the wheels. The knock-offs are still on my '64 today just as we removed them from his '66 fifty years ago, hammer marks and all.

I would encourage you to check out this magazine as it's one of the best publications dedicated to one mark and is a source for a lot of resources and information unique to Corvette owners. They can be contacted at Vette Vues Magazine, PO Box 511874, Punta Gorda, FL, 33951.

*Travis Meredith*

*Historian*

*President 1972 & 1976*



THE 1974 QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB SANDKHANA

OR

A RACE ON THE BEACH PUTS SAND IN YOUR SCHLITZ

Written By: Travis Meredith - Queen City Corvette Club, Charlotte, N.C.

In the entire Southeast there is probably no one area better known for pleasure than the "Grand Strand of South Carolina". These resort beaches are a favorite for a vacation or road trip for "Vette" owners, but a speed event at the beach ?? Well, The Queen City Corvette Club of Charlotte, North Carolina, in cooperation with the North Myrtle Beach Police Department, sponsored the most unique event of the year at Ocean Drive Beach, South Carolina - - A "Sandkhana"!

What is a Sandkhana you might ask? Perhaps a little background on the birth of this event is in order. Ocean Drive Beach is some 180 miles from Charlotte and the Queen City Corvette Club makes a week-end or two a year at this resort on the Atlantic. These are usually your typical Vette Club week-ends at the beach with the standard amount of swimming, sunning, cruising, volleyball and 12 oz. curls, but on occasions these have been very eventful trips; like the time twenty unsuspecting clubbers were stopped for parading without a permit in 1971, and the time a club member cut off the end of his toe on the pool sliding board and the race to the hospital in several vettes made "Vanishing Point" and Bullitt look like "Bambi", and of course, the off-season trip in February 1973 when a club member could not resist a "spin" on the beach. After about four minutes of donuts, figure eights and assorted tail spins, the heavy hand of the law rested on the pilot's shoulder. Without harsh punishment, the understanding police chief explained the laws concerning driving on the beach off season (20 MPH) and within his lecture he casually said, "If you guys want to run on the beach, give us some notice and we'll close off an area for you!" Well, that's all it took to get the cogs meshing in the heads of several QCCC members and voila, a Sandkhana! Club President, Tommy Mitchem, corresponded with Chief Belamy and acquired October 5th and 6th as the date for this event. Then the ball was rolling as Governor Dave Morse got a special two day sanction from the National Council of Corvette Clubs. Social Vice President, Wayne Marlowe, acquired The Internationale Inn as headquarters and set up reservations and pre-registration for the event. All parties cooperated fully, the arrangements were made and everyone anxiously awaited the big week-end.

Friday the 4th saw the Queen City Club arriving at the Internationale where final preparations were made and the participants started arriving. Friday night the host club threw a party for the early arrivers at the Internationale's fabulous lounge.. By Saturday afternoon some 140 rooms were occupied by Corvette owners from nearly a dozen clubs. Tech began at 11:30 A.M. and by 2:00 P.M. the tide was out enough to set up the course.

The course was a modified figure eight with a single start/finish line. To keep the speed down, the course was a little on the tight side, as the close times reflected. The sky was clear and the sun was bright. Ideal conditions, except for the timing equipment; however, after about an hour delay, all was ready. There were 64 participants, each making three runs. All of this took place in a little over three hours, which is proof itself the Queen City Corvette Club had it all together, running about one car per minute. Three to four hundred vacationers and residents lined the beach to witness these plastic cars blasting through the course.

With the event over, most proceeded to the nearest car wash to remove the sand and salt water. Later some 35 vettes paraded to Calabash, North Carolina, a favorite eating spot, with the aid of an official police escort. After supper, everyone once again headed for the lounge where a live band performed as the vetters danced and refreshed themselves. President Tommy Mitchem then awarded trophies with Frank Zeigler from Corvette Charleston and Margaret Walker of Classic Corvettes, Rome, Georgia, receiving the Fastest Times of the Day and Plastic Cars Ltd. of Statesville, North Carolina receiving the award for Best Club Participation.



On Sunday, with all of the runs completed on Saturday, everyone had a chance to socialize and prepare for the trip home. The local police and motel owners said that the vette crowd was great and commended Queen City for the way the event was handled..'

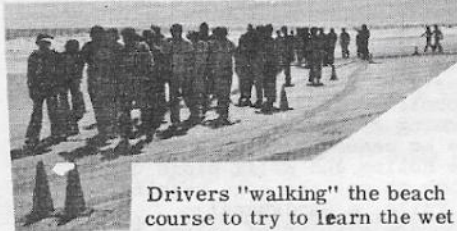
The enthusiasm of all concerned was reward enough for those who worked to make the event such a success. It is the Queen City Corvette Clubs' hope to make this an annual event. We certainly hope so and look forward to seeing "ya'll" next year!



## QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB

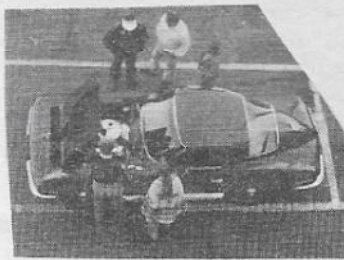
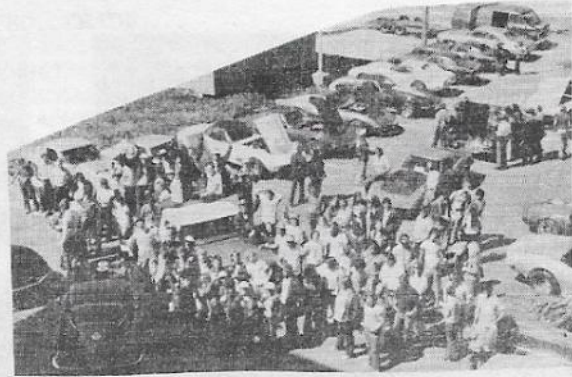
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

\*\*\* SPONSORED BY LAPOINTE CHEVROLET \*\*\*



Drivers "walking" the beach course to try to learn the wet route through.











## MORE LATE ADS.....

For Sale; 1966 Corvette sport coupe, rare luxury and performance equipped car. Performance: 390 HP/427 cid engine, 4 speed close ratio transmission with factory 4.11 rear, F-41 heavy duty suspension, J-56 heavy duty brakes, side mounted exhausts, full factory transistor ignition. Luxury: factory air, power windows, brakes and antenna, tinted glass. Beautiful Milano maroon with excellent black interior. This is a low mileage (46,000) original Corvette. Invest \$3950.00 or offer. BILL INGRAM, PH: 704-536-8949, N.C.

For Sale; Corvette tow bar adaptors, 1953-1962, \$18.50 plus \$1.50 shipping charge. No drilling or cutting. Bolts under stock suspension. 1963-1967 adaptors, \$16.50 plus \$1.50 shipping. Bolts to frame. Satisfaction guaranteed. Fold down tow bars available for \$50.00. Rugs made to original pattern for 1953-1967 Vette's front, red or black, \$45.00. Satisfaction guaranteed. HAROLD FARLEY, 1628 15th St., San Pablo, Calif. 94806. PH: 415-235-0496.

For Sale; 1954 Corvette, no motor or transmission, complete chrome and extras. All gauges except clock. Has convertible top and side curtains. Needs lots of TLC. 1957 Corvette, complete car, has both tops, not running, has all chrome but rough. Will part out both cars or sell "as is". No pen pals, come and see 'em. Make offer. Would consider trades. WILLIAM BRYANT, 1075 Holton Rd., Muskegon, Mich. 49445. PH: 616-744-1163.

Wanted; 1957 to 1965 F.I. rebuild kits. PASHA or JOHN, c/o BOB MYERS AUTO SALES, 7337 Lomas, NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87110. PH: 505-299-7960 or 505-298-3320.

For Sale; 1961 Corvette, perfect body, needs paint, 99% original, P/W, P/Glide, P/Top, visors and washers, runs great! \$2700.00. REID MEREDITH, The Vette Shop, Altoona, Pa. PH: 814-695-7539 or 814-944-0617.

Wanted; for 1958 Corvette; interior door panels and arm rests. HARRY R. STRONG, P.O. Box 97, Southampton, Ontario, Canada.

Wanted; 1965-1967 Corvette convertible, prefer P/S, P/B, air conditioning, MUST BE EXCELLENT ORIGINAL CONDITION! Will travel. MORTON BRADMAN, 12541 Petersburg, Chester, Va. 23831. PH: 804-748-0867.

PLEASE!! HAVE ALL ADS IN THE MAIL BY THE 17TH OF THE MONTH.. THANKS!!

For Sale; fuel injection, 1964 unit, #701-73801, with distributor and complete air cleaner. Never used since recently rebuilt with all new gaskets. \$650.00. ROBERT MADERIS, 1901 Campbell Ave., San Jose, Calif. 95125. PH: 408-377-2461.

For Sale; 1963 Corvette, just stripped and repainted original saddle tan, tan soft top and hardtop, saddle interior and factory woodgrain dash and steering wheel, factory air #102, power windows, 327, stock 4 speed, seats and carpet not original. \$3200.00. JIM HORVATH, 2112 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota, Fla. 33580. PH: 813-959-4586.

For Sale; black soft top for 1958, cloth and glass good, bows good, needs rear w/s, \$150.00 with brackets; 1962 step plates, good, \$25.00; 1 complete license plate assembly (front) for 1958-1962, NOS, \$75.00; 1 extra set supports, plate and bar, \$30.00; 1 complete Trico w/s washer assembly for 1962, \$30.00; 1 dual point distributor #110891, \$35.00; 1 complete ignition shielding for 1965, \$30.00; 1 1965 top only, \$15.00; lower rear filler panel with exhaust bezels for 1964-1967, \$30.00; 1 good Venetian red wheel, no cracks, can be sanded and polished to new, \$25.00; 3 good 1959-1962 wheel covers, \$60.00; 6 good grill teeth, 1958-1960, \$45.00. I need good top bows to fit 1957; will trade. JERRY HIGHTOWER, 8900 Brookwood, North Little Rock, Ark. 72116. PH: 501-835-6418. SASE Please!

For Sale; 1954 and 1956 Corvettes for \$3400.00. 1954 missing engine, trans, hubcaps and 4 pieces of side chrome. 1956 is missing grill, soft top, has the hardtop, missing one exhaust bezel and has 1961 Vette seats and rebuilt 265 engine from 1956 Chevrolet. 1956 not running and both cars need fiberglass work. Trade for original Corvette, running. PECK, 1925 Manhattan Dr., Waukesha, Wisc. 53186. PH: 414-547-1686.

For Sale; Corvettes, 1969, 350, 4 speed, new soft top, body in primer, \$2500.00. 1969, no motor or trans., body good, new top, \$1500.00; 1969, needs top and paint, 4 speed, \$2000.00; 1968, two tops, new soft top, 4 speed, factory side pipes, P/S, rally wheels, very nice, \$3200.00; 1968, two tops, 4 speed, side pipes, \$3000.00; 1957, needs paint, has F.I., hardtop, \$3500.00; 1957 F.I., needs tinkering with, \$3000.00; 1956, no motor or trans., \$1000.00; 1955, MINT! \$8000.00. Will deliver any car, anywhere in U.S. \$100.00 plus gas. JAY, P.O. Box 1732, Roanoke, Va. 24008.

# *Vintage QCCC*

With the Vintage Gang:

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

*More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past*



## **We Have All Been There or Someplace Very Similar**

First, the setting. I have known Darrell Kirkley for over 50 years. We have enjoyed many great times with all the Corvettes, trailers, and parties. So it was with great honor that I accepted his request to help him tell his story. I am surely no writer but the characters involved did not use Ivy League talk anyway, so we gave it a try.

Darrell has an enormous talent when detailing, whether it be on cards, house, or yard, just a jack of all trades. He will admit that his OCD is what drives him. If so, it is doing a great job. Travis says, "If he would add a stripper pole in the garage it could be a nightclub!" But back to the book. Darrell's career reminds me of the old black and white movies where you see folks in a high rise who can't sleep because the alley cats are fighting rather loudly. They throw an old boot at him with no luck. The cat has already planned his escape. You could not hit that cat with a shotgun. I say this with all respect as if the tables were turned, I would not survive a month. In the book, I think the alley cat has about 40 lives. Just when you think he has hit it just right, he moves to a new alley. He accomplishes one skill, then he gets bored and moves on. He now not only has the knowledge of the new skill, but he has added it to his reference list when he needs to barter. It has been amazing to watch.

Example: For a while he put vinyl tops on cars. Working out of the back of 1 ¾ ton Chevy, he could put the new top on in your driveway better than GM could do it at the factory. OCD = fine-tuned! I would end up with it looking like wallpaper which I no longer try. Then the vinyl top fad goes away and so onto the next alley. You can see what a wild ride he has been on. So now you know his history, so here is the next chapter.

## **A Flash of Red and the Corvette Culture Strikes Again**

Corvette, the American Sports Car, has a following equal to any cult. Some won't admit it, but almost every red-blooded American male has desired to own and drive the Corvette. The stories are endless. Visit a Corvette car show and all you hear is, "I had one just like this except. . .", or "I am going to have one of these one day." The car just has that sexy look, and the sound we all grew up with, a keeper, top shelf.

For Darrell, he had never paid them much attention, having focused on Impala and Chevelle marques. All of that was about to change. During November, 1973, always looking for more income or a chance to barter, he was, as we all put it, between fortunes at the time. Job #1 that day was to get recaps on the family grocery-getter, a station wagon. With the wife expecting in December and no current manner of large income, it was time to barter. Stopping at Kelly Tire on Central Avenue, he traded a one-day job for the recaps. The owner had a box truck and piles of old tires that were an eyesore, a hazard, and a great nesting spot for mosquitos. He agreed to load the box truck and transport the mess to the dump on York Road. This was not a job you seek, but one of necessity. You may relate that to the alley cat's desire for dinner, not always being of choice. Now piles of old tires stored outside, did what old tires do, splashing him with nasty, smelly water and mud, such that he looked the part he was hired for. With the truck loaded and bulging the sideboards outward, Darrell heads down Trade Street to Tryon and out to York Road.

The route chosen happened to pass by Lapointe Chevrolet, a block past the courthouse. Traffic was heavy which gave him time to glance at the showroom. Now all of us have had those life-changing moments and Darrell was about to have one. A brand new bright red Corvette roadster, red interior, white convertible top, a genuine hot rod captured his eyes! One look, up close and it was game over. He entered and inquired of the salesman, what would it take to purchase the car. This would be the second salesman as the first looked at Darrell, a 25 year old with nasty water and mud stains on his shirt and blew him off. Offer made, Darrell put down a small, very small deposit and arranged to pick the car up by the end of the day. Arriving home, he called the bank asking for a loan, possibly putting his soon-to-be-born son down as collateral. Other than borrowing on his cars in high school, we have no idea how the bank bit on this one. Such is the way of the alley cat. They just manage somehow.

Late in the day he would ask his wife (that would be plaintiff number one) to drive him to Lapointe Chevrolet. She agreed to the purchase, not that she had much choice. Darrell drove the car hard, as he does most of them. He soon joined Queen City Corvette Club, a group that raced almost every weekend. Autocross was his favorite and before moving on to SCCA racing, he acquired 103 autocross wins. After 10,000 miles, a new front end, and several repairs, he sold the car. So, now we know where his next sensation of speed was to come from, and yes, he did sell that red Corvette to the owner of Kelly Tire on Central Avenue and Darrell believes he still owns it. Now you know the rest of the story.

*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](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.

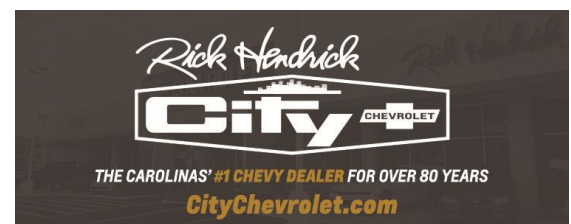
**Queen City Corvette Club** is an 'open' page for anyone on Facebook

[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].



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