



# The Side Draft

Volume 33, Issue 2

February 2026

## **Chairman's Message..... Tom James**

Here we are in the middle of winter with a foot of snow on the ground and not much we can do with our cars outside. However, this is a perfect time to repair the leaking heater core or just polish up the old girl. I am in the beginning stage of restoring my 1968 Z-28 Camaro. I have the car stripped of all components and down to a bare shell. I have had a couple of body parts acid dipped at American Metal Cleaning in Springdale, Ohio. The finished parts will look like they were made yesterday when they finish stripping all the paint, rust, and grease off after 58 years. I am waiting for the fenders and doors to be finished soon, then the entire body gets dipped and off to the body shop to be refinished. I will keep you all in the loop on how the car progresses!

Our last Club meeting was held at Kelsey Chevrolet in Greendale, Indiana. It was just before the snow hit but was well attended. Topics that were discussed included the donation to the Shriners Hospital for Children, which we will vote on at a later meeting, and our membership, which is growing ever so slowly but continues to increase.

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## **February Meeting Information**

**Date:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026  
**Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Location:** **\*\* To Be Determined \*\***  
Email will follow with location

**Please remember to bring a chair and drive your Corvette!**

## **QCNCRS Website Information**

<https://qc.ncrs.org/>

**Webmaster:** George Denman [qc@ncrs.org](mailto:qc@ncrs.org)

## **NOTICE!**

### **Newsletter Deadlines**

**The deadline for getting information, into the newsletter is the 2nd of each month. If it isn't here, we will publish without you.**

### *Chairman's message – continued*

Other topics discussed included the judging schools we will have scattered throughout the year. The last one held was in early January to see Skip Polowy's 1957 Resto-Mod that he is having built. The attendance was strong which tells me that the members are interested in the process of how a car is restored. We need to do more of these throughout the year to help members who may need help with a smaller project to get it to the finish line.

This year the Club is going to have another cruise to the Shriners of Southeastern Oasis in Dillsboro, Indiana. Last year we did the cruise-in late June with about 16 cars in attendance. Details will be forthcoming in the next few months so watch your emails for this fun event. Other activities for 2026 include our annual picnic to be held on Sunday, September 20, 2026, Corvettes At Carlisle held from August 27-29, 2026, and our Chapter Judging Meet on October 10, 2026, at Kelsey Chevrolet. That leaves a lot of open time in between for other outings that we could plan to get together for a group gathering. A trip to the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky or maybe a private collection could be arranged. We have the funds in our treasury to do some activities so let's put out the effort to find something which we all could get behind and enjoy this year with the great weather that is on its way.

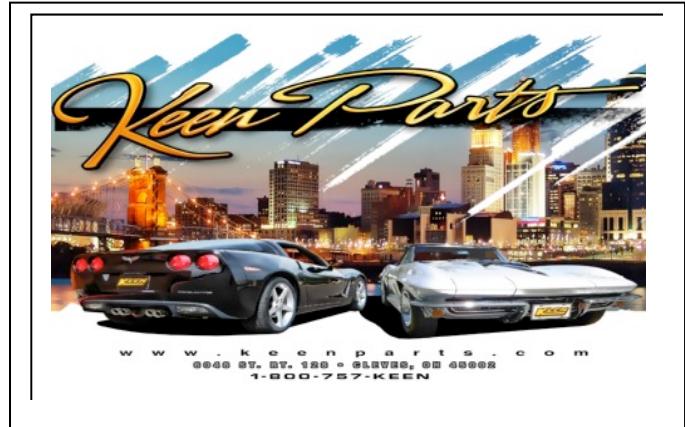
This month we welcome returning member Dale Maris to our Chapter after a several year hiatus, as well as our newest member Brian Clawson. Welcome gentleman! We look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings and events.

Lastly, we need three or four more places to conduct our monthly meetings this year. If you know of a location that would be of interest to the Club or if you would be willing to hold a meeting at your business or home to show the Club your collection, please mention it to me so that it can be set up and we can expand our base of monthly meeting venues; it does not have to be 15 cars, just a place which we could meet for dinner and conversation.

As of this writing the location for our February Chapter meeting is still being "ironed" out. Please watch your emails for further information on the location.

### **2026 QCNCRS OFFICERS**

Chairman:	Tom James (513) 377-8182 7329 Southpointe Drive Cincinnati, OH 45233 <a href="mailto:toyvett1@fuse.net">toyvett1@fuse.net</a>
V. Chairman:	Chris Rockenfield (513) 602-8819 4344 Orchard Lane Cincinnati, OH 45236 <a href="mailto:vettechris1971@gmail.com">vettechris1971@gmail.com</a>
Judging:	Tom Smith (513) 543-2887 7335 Haverhill Lane Maineville, OH 45039 <a href="mailto:tmsinfiniti@yahoo.com">tmsinfiniti@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary:	Kenn Bragg (513) 583-5034 2490 Owlcrest Drive Cincinnati, Ohio 45231 513-225-6973 <a href="mailto:kennethsbragg@gmail.com">kennethsbragg@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	Jamie Schworer (513) 405-5466 826 E. Robertson Road Taylor Mill, Kentucky 41015 <a href="mailto:Jamie68C3@gmail.com">Jamie68C3@gmail.com</a>
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The date will be Tuesday, February 17th at 6:30 PM.

Save The Wave!

Tom



**Visit our Facebook page!**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.qc.ncrs.org/>

## **Newsletter Advertising Rates**

Business Card – 2x3.5

\$25.00 / month or \$275.00 / year

Quarter Page

\$40.00 / month or \$350.00 / year

Half Page

\$75.00 / month or \$600.00 / year

Full Page

\$150.00 / month or \$1,200.00 / year

Sponsor

\$500.00 / year with direct website link

**QCNCRS Corvette related classified “wanted and parts for sale” are free; however, they cannot be carried over to the next issue unless requested before the issue deadline.**

### **TERRIE'S CORVETTE TRIVIA** Ans. on Last Page

1. The bodies of 1953 Corvettes were completely made by hand. True or False.
2. What was the first year for impact-absorbing rear and front bumpers: 1974, 1976 or 1978.
3. What color were 1976 wheels? Black, silver or white.
4. What was the first year for side mount exhaust systems? 1965, 1966 or 1967.
5. Side exhausts were available on the 1970 Corvette? True or False.
6. Power driver and passenger seats were available in the 1989 model year? True or False.



## **Fun Facts ..... Tom James**

As described in automotive spy photographer Jim Dunne's excellent tell-all book *Car Spy* (available from CarTech Books), snapping photographs of production Corvette test cars was, and still is, a lucrative business. Magazine editors loved Corvette spy shots because they stimulated reader curiosity and newsstand sales. On the other hand, General Motors hated the intrusive images because they diverted attention from unsold Corvettes on current dealership lots. On occasion, Corvette engineers played games with the annoying, camera-wielding invaders. The June 1981 issue of *Car and Driver* is a well-known example of Corvette engineers getting the last laugh. On the cover, for its 100,000-plus readers to see, appeared Dunne's captured image of a hideously cobbled-together C4 test car. The gold-colored car included ugly Ford EXP-inspired upright headlights, a donut box-shaped hood bulge, and odd angular lines. It had been photographed at the southwest corner of the GM Milford Proving Grounds in Michigan, a historically vulnerable position. However, the car Dunne had captured was actually an intentionally disfigured hoax pieced together by frustrated Corvette team member Jim "Jingles" Ingle to trick the lurking spies! Grab a copy of the June 1981 issue of *Car and Driver* to see for yourself.

## **From the editor..... Bill Hetzer**

Each year our chapter strives to achieve a Chapter Top Flight award. In order to accomplish this, we must meet a list of requirements set for all chapters by the NCRS. One of these key requirements is to publish technical articles in our newsletter. We need a total of at least six articles per year. I know that many of you are working on your cars. Whether doing a minor repair, or a major restoration, we need pictures and the how you did it.

Please work with me and I will help you write the article. How to take something apart is as important as to how to put the replacement or restored part back on. You can take the pictures with your phone and together we can write the article, even if you just give me the key steps that you took to do the work.

## **January QCNCRS Meeting Minutes**

...Kenn Bragg

January 20, 2026

Kelsey Chevrolet

Tom James, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:22 pm. Tom thanked everyone for coming out on such a cold evening. Tom also thanked Kelsey Chevrolet, our sponsor, for hosting the meeting.

Tom then recapped the December meeting. We had 62 members attend the meeting/Christmas party. At the meeting the members voted on not raising the cost next year for the Christmas party and spending some of the club's money to offset the cost. This was passed by the membership.

The bourbon raffle was a big success and raised \$8,500.00 after expenses. We will vote on the split with the Shriner's Hospital for Children at the next meeting in February when we have a larger turnout. We will be able to donate more to the Shriner's in 2026.

Tom then stated we will not be doing a swap meet this year. The declining attendance is the biggest reason for the change. Tom then reiterated that we will hold another bourbon raffle in 2026. Details to come this summer.

Tom then recapped the Most Driven award won by Jamie Schworer and The Member of the year award given to Kenn Bragg. Thanks to both for their hard work in making our Club a success.

Steve Barrett suggested we go to the Shriner's Hospital for Children to see the great work they do there. Steve will investigate this further.

Jamie Schworer, Treasurer, gave a complete line by line accounting of the financial report. A motion to approve the report was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Terrie James, Membership Chairperson, told us that membership was steady at 89 members. There are currently 9 members that owe yearly dues. Everyone at the meeting was paid up and she would contact the overdue members. Terrie explained that some email

## **January QCNCRS Meeting Minutes**

...Kenn Bragg (continued...)

servers are boomeranging emails from the National as well as her emails to members. The National is working on the issue. She suggested that members check their spam files periodically to see if emails were directed there as well. Terrie will check with the Shriner's of Southeastern Indiana about dates for their grill out schedule so we may coordinate a cruise night to attend. Terrie will keep us updated on the time and date.

Steve Henson, Flight Program Administrator, talked about the most recent Tech Session. Skip Polowy's 1957 was used to teach about the open class cars. Twenty-five people were in attendance, and a good time was had by all. Steve also stated that we are in good shape for Topflight compliance for the year.

Skip Polowy talked about the NCRS judging event in Florida this week and the January virtual tech session by the Heart of Ohio Chapter. Electrical issues will be the focal point of the session. Skip will update us on the time to register and when to log in.

Tom James then stated we are looking for new places to have meetings in the upcoming year. Several suggestions have been made and will be explored. Steve Henson will hold a meeting and Tech session before the meeting in the near future.

Tom then gave a detailed account of the last Mecum auction. There were over three hours of the auction devoted to a Ferrari collection on Saturday, which all sold for well over the listed price. He said there were a lot of good prices on cars this year and that prices were holding steady, not falling like in previous auctions.

Tom relayed to members that our Chapter Meet will be held on October 10, 2026, at Kelsey Chevrolet. Please watch your emails for further information and to sign up to volunteer or register your car for judging.

Split-the-Pot was drawn, and Tom closed the meeting at 8:29 pm.

### QCNCRS January Tech Session Photos



### QCNCRS January Tech Session Photos



### **QCNCRS January Meeting Photos**



### **QCNCRS January Meeting Photos**



## Upcoming Events

### QUEEN CITY NCRS CHAPTER EVENTS:

- *September 26, 2026 – Annual Club Picnic, Horsepower Farm, Middletown, OH*
- *October 10, 2026 QCNCRS Chapter Judging Meet, Kelsey Chevrolet, Greendale, IN*

### NCRS NATIONAL EVENTS:

- *April 16-18, 2026 - Show Me Regional, Springfield, MO*
- *May 15-16 – Oklahoma Chapter, Tulsa, OK*
- *June 4-6, 2026 – Pittsburgh Tri-State Regional, Altoona, PA*
- *July 26-30, 2026 - NCRS National Convention, Charleston, SC*
- *September 17-19 – Intermountain Regional, Spokane, WA*
- *October 21-23, 2026 – Texas Regional, Frisco, TX*

### CAR SHOWS AND SWAP MEETS:

#### February 21, 2026

Springfield Swap Meet & Car Show, Clark County Fairgrounds, 1-70 Exit 59. Saturday only, 8:00 am-4:00 p.m.

#### August 27-29

Corvettes at Carlisle, Carlisle, PA

More Ohio local events: <https://www.oldride.com/events/state/ohio>

## TECHNICAL ARTICLE

### QUICK FIX: C3 CORVETTE TAIL LIGHT REPLACEMENT

*Corvettemagazine.com, March 13, 2025, by Andy Young*

*Submitted by: Terrie James*

Tired of the back of your C3 Corvette looking dingy and tired? A simple way to freshen up the rearview is to install new tail lights and back up lights from Zip Corvette. Tail light lenses changed every few years during the C3 generation and Zip Corvette has every option to refresh your car.



We really did not realize how bad our old lights looked on our 1976 C3 Corvette until we compared them side by side to Zip's new ones. What a difference it made! The new tail lights instantly breathed new life into our classic Corvette. Not only does it improve the appearance of the car, it



improves the visibility in day time and night time driving. [LED Tail Lights](#) are also available if you're looking for an even brighter solution.



Zip's [1975-1979 Corvette Tail Light & Back-Up Light Set](#) (part number L-524) gives you the 2 tail lights, 2 back up lights and the mounting screws for your 1975-1979 Corvette.



Installation was easy. The only tool needed is a Phillips head screwdriver. Simply remove the 2 screws and pull the existing light out. Twist the light socket and remove the old tail light. Twist the new socket into the new tail light. Make sure you use the gasket provided and that the alignment pin goes in the right location and then tighten the mounting screws provided. That's all there is to it!



While you have it apart, this is a good time to inspect your wiring, sockets and bulbs. Zip offers many [Tail Light replacement parts](#) if your project needs additional components. Our car checked out, and the entire process took less than 30 minutes. The results changed the entire appearance of the rear of the Corvette.



## QCNCRS Club Shirt Ordering



Pricing and shirt options are changing.

For information on Club Shirt pricing, colors and sizing as well as to place an order please contact Terrie James at [tmjames7329@gmail.com](mailto:tmjames7329@gmail.com) or 513-300-6411



## QUEEN CITY CHAPTER 2026 CHAPTER REGISTRATION FORM

**Annual Chapter Dues \$20.00**

**First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

*You must be an active member of NCRS to join a chapter.*

**National NCRS Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Options for membership renewal:

1. Renew Queen City Chapter Membership online at:  
<https://www.ncrs.org/forums/register/chapter-membership.php>

2. Complete the above form and send payment of \$20.00 (payable to QCNCRS) to: Terrie James, 7329 Southpointe Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45233.

**Questions, please call Terrie James at 513-300-6411 or email at  
[tmjames7329@gmail.com](mailto:tmjames7329@gmail.com).**

**Trivia Answers: 1. True. 2. 1974. 3. Silver. 4. 1965. 5. False. 6. True.**