



# CCND MEMBER OF THE MONTH Steve & Lynn Blanchies



Like most of you, I have followed Corvettes with awe since I was a child, but I never thought that I would ever own one. Lynn and I have attended several Corvette Shows at Nucar and Townsend Chevrolet in Dover. Our first look at a C5 Corvette was at the Philadelphia Car Show in January of '96 or '97, before the C5's were released to the dealers. I thought, "Now this is great exotic looking car."

Lynn had said for years to buy a Corvette, but financially we were not in a position to do so. We talked about buying a Corvette with my son and his wife about 4 years ago and I told them that maybe in about 2 years we might be able to get one. That is when my daughter-in-law, Dawn, said, "If you are going to wait that long, you might as well wait for a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Corvette." What a great idea! So in October of 2000 I told my salesperson at Nucar that I wanted the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Corvette; he told me to come back in a year. In October 2001, I put a deposit on a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Corvette before anyone even knew what it would even be. The anticipation was immense.



The first site of an AE was the Indy 500 as the Pace Car in May 2002. In June 2002, Lord and Taylor in New York City had a Corvette display, which included an AE convertible. What an opportunity to see the color of the car in person, so off to NYC for a day trip.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Corvette Registry site on the Internet was an invaluable resource. I found so much information and learned a great deal about the car. Through this site, I found out information before the *dealer* received it. I was able to get my order in the first day that GM was accepting orders: even the dealer had no idea orders were being accepted. I explained to the dealer the Phase 1 and Phase 2 of orders for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition. For Phase 1, every dealer in the country got one AE Corvette and in Phase 2 of ordering, availability was based on their allocation of Corvettes. Our order was Phase 1.



I received a TPW (Target Production Week) of August 14<sup>th</sup> with an added 2 weeks for shipping to the dealer. The dealer would check the order code anytime for me and tell me what code number the order was but had no idea what the codes meant. Off to the 50<sup>th</sup> website for the answer. On July 26<sup>th</sup> the order code went to 3100-Order available to sequence, I called the Bowling Green Plant to get my sequence number. With this number, you can get a better idea what day the car would be built. I found out my # was 2092 and that the car had already been built and had been released to the shipper.

The car arrived weeks ahead of schedule at the dealer. We took delivery of our new prize on Friday August 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was my weekend off and Lynn went into work late. I spent the day driving around with my seven-year-old

Granddaughter, Samantha, showing everyone our beautiful new car. Saturday Lynn had a lunch date with her sister and drove the AE for the first time. Not until Tuesday were Lynn and I able to ride in the Corvette together. Most everywhere we went Lynn was asked, "Does he let you drive it?"

We are living up to the saying that owning a Corvette is a way of life. I am having so much fun with our new car. Just the feeling you get when you drive down the road is like nothing I ever experienced before.

We became official members of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Corvette Registry, joined the National Corvette Museum and the Corvette Club of Northern Delaware. We attended "Corvettes at Carlisle" for the first time. That weekend it rained off and on, our new AE had gotten wet. Lynn and I attended the NCM dinner on Saturday night at Carlisle, met some of the members from the First State Corvette Club and I was asked all kinds of questions about getting the AE. Rick Berry of the First State Corvette Club and Rick Holloway from Salisbury are waiting for AEs.



I drove the car in the Labor Day parade and heard many times as I drove up King Street, "Nice Car." After the parade, we had family members over for a cookout at home. That evening as I was dusting the car before putting the cover on it, I was at the back of the car and looked up to see my 2-year-old Grandson, Hunter, at the front of the car lending a helping hand. He must have seen the terror in my face because he immediately stopped what he was doing. He had grabbed a wire brush and was dusting the hood with it. I was able to remove most of the scratches.

You can only see what remains of the scratches if you look at it at a certain angle, but I know the scratches are there.

One day I received an email from someone in Newark who had seen that I lived in New Castle on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Corvette Registry site. He had just ordered an AE Convertible and wanted to see our car. So, we set a date and time and Frank and his wife stopped by. They loved the color and were happy to be able to see it in person.

Lynn and I have enjoyed attending the club's activities and meetings. We are looking forward to attending the National Corvette Caravan, the Corvette 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Nashville, TN and the related National Corvette Museum's events in Bowling Green, KY in June 2003.

One of the biggest benefits of having the Corvette is having met so many nice people at the Corvette Club, car shows and cruise nights. It continues to be a great experience.

Steve & Lynn Blanchies

First Time Corvette Owners  
2003 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition  
Corvette  
Corvette Club of Northern  
Delaware  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Corvette Registry  
National Corvette Museum

