

## Member of the Month

### My SWEET '77

By: Michael Crank

I'll start this by saying that I knew I had a Corvette problem but I didn't know bad until Mike Rini showed up at my work one day with a '76. It didn't take long and I was a man on a mission. I looked and drove and called and looked and looked. I thought it was one of those things you want really bad but it's just not going to happen, than one night some friends came for dinner. I told Joey I was looking for a '68-'77 Vette. The very next night Joey's brother-in-law, Rob, was at his house and he knew a lady down in Smyrna that had one. He had worked at her house a year ago and she mentioned that she would sell it if he knew anyone that was interested. Since it had been a year since she said that I figured it would be gone by now. He called her and by some stroke of luck she still had the car. We played phone tag a few times but we finally got together. She said it needed some work and she wanted \$6K for it. That was real good compared to some of the other cars I had seen. I talked it over with my wife Marion and we kind of left it for the night. That weekend was Father's day. My wife had given my father-in-law a wallet and had given me one as well, the difference was mine had a note inside that read 'HAPPY FATHER'S DAY CORVETTE, LOVE MARION', and a check for \$6K!!! That was the best damn Father's day gift I EVER got. I'm thinking, "get the Vette this weekend". Wrong – we were supposed to go to the cabin for the weekend. That was, without a doubt, the longest weekend of my life.

Remember, I haven't seen the car yet. I rent a trailer and I'm hauling for Smyrna Monday night. I'm thinking I'm not paying full price for this car, I'll do a little bickering. I back the trailer in the driveway and I am shocked! This car on the outside is awesome to say the least! The car somehow launched itself on the trailer. I pay her, get the title and I'm back on RT. 113 in the blink of an eye. I felt like I stole something. Oh, by the way, as for the bickering, there was none! While on the road I call Marion to say thanks. She doesn't have a clue what I've gone and done so I try to tell her how nice it is. You're not going to believe this but it's true... a red C4 pulls up alongside me and give me a thumbs up. Do you think I'm flying high or what?



Above: me with Sweet '77

Well, the SWEET '77 has been a lot of work and a hell of a lot of fun. I did a new interior, exhaust, front suspension, wheels (because I like Rallys), and a lot of cleaning everywhere. There is something really special about owning and working on a Corvette that only a handful of people will understand. I'm glad I'm one of them. Next year I might pull the motor for a rebuild, but for now it's just way too much fun to drive.



Right:  
cleaned-up  
engine bay



Above: redone interior



Below: our Sweet '77

I'd like to thank a few people while I have the chance. Sometimes I'm not real good at it. To Joey and Rob for HOOKING ME UP, Mike Rini for lighting the fire again, and last but always first, my wife Marion. Thanks for everything you have done for me! A few years back my son battles a brain tumor and cancer, if it wasn't for her I promise you I wouldn't be writing this. To the CCND, thanks for making Marion and I feel welcome.



“ NO Bill, you can't use the Vette tonight”

