

Member of the Month

Bitten by the Bug

By: Jim McCarnan

My story started in the summer of 2002. For a while I had been looking for a classic or muscle car. I spend countless hours and drove many miles looking for the right car. All this did was cause frustration. Find a nice car and the price was unbelievable. I soon learned that if I found a car to restore that it would take an enormous amount of time and money. Seeing as how I have neither the facilities or the knowledge to tackle such an endeavor, I decided to look for something new. Then in the spring of 2002 I drove by Winner Ford in Newark. My nephew was a salesman there and I decided to stop in. I wanted something that was fast and sporty. A red Mustang GT (sorry) was the answer. I traded my pickup truck and off I went. Fortunately this lapse in judgement only lasted 7 months. The Mustang was traded and I was back in a pickup truck.



Then in August of 2004 my brother, John invited me to go to Englishtown, N.J. for the Corvette Show and Go. We arrived around 10:00 AM, parked in the Corvette Coral and off we went. Show cars, roadcourse racing and drag racing. Nothing but Corvettes. We spent the entire day taking it all in. The bug had bitten. All the way home we talked about Corvettes. I knew right then that the Corvette was the right car. I also knew that a new Corvette was out of the question. John suggested that I look for a later C4.

We returned to Delaware and I told Nancy that I wanted to get a Corvette. Her immediate response was "are you crazy"!!! I told her I probably was but this was really

the car I wanted. She told me that if I was really serious to go ahead and find one. The hunt was on, check the newspapers, surf the internet and check out the local dealers. It didn't take long before I found a dealer in BelAir, Maryland that had several C4's. I made the trip down I 95 to seek out my prize. I arrived to find several C4's. There were also a few C3's and C5's. I decided to stick to my original plan and concentrate on the C4's. After looking over several cars I narrowed my choice to a 1995 Torch Red Coupe. After a test drive and some negotiating it was time to make the trip back up I 95 and tell Nancy that I had found a car.

After a Carfax check it was time to head back to Maryland. When we returned to the dealership the Vette was detailed and ready to go. Nancy and I were off for one more test drive before we signed the



papers. With the papers signed and keys in hand, we were now the proud owners of a Torch Red Corvette. We returned home, moved the truck out of the garage and placed the Corvette in her new home.

The next day had to be one of the longest of my life. All I wanted to do was show my new Corvette to John. Finally that afternoon Nancy and I drove over to see John and Sharen. Sharen was really excited when she saw the car. All she could say was "you got a C4, you got a C4. (She has a strong attachment to a blue 1984) but that is another story.

Two weeks later we would make our first trip to Corvettes at Carlisle. John and Sharen in their 50th Anniversary and Nancy and I in our new toy. Needless to say, Carlisle was overwhelming. By the days end I knew I had made the right decision.

The next week John took me to my first CCND meeting. I filled out an application and paid my membership fee. Since then we have attended several Corvette functions both with the club and own our own. It is really fun playing with people our own age.

Recently we traded in the red 1995 for a 2002 pewter convertible. It was late in the season and we haven't had much opportunity to enjoy riding with the top down. I can't wait for Spring. I guess I've really been bitten by the bug.

