

The Found Caravan Corvette Club, Inc.



Volume 14

August 2007

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Welcome New Member: Doug

That brings us to 95 members!!!

Only 5 to go til we meet the century mark.

Congrats to Lisa and Joanne on their new Vettes.

Thank you and God bless our troops. Please keep our soldiers and their families in your prayers.



June 6-8, 2008

MY NEW VETTE!

When Beef and I decided to add another Corvette to our garage, I began to do the legwork. I checked Auto Trader, *Vette Finder*, *Ebay*, etc. on a daily basis. For about a month, I scoured everywhere online you could find a Vette looking for a LT1, low mileage Convertible ... color not so much an issue, but automatic a must. I ran checks on dealers, ran the VINs and, finally, I found the perfect car on Auto Trader. I called the listing dealer to confirm that the details were correct. During the next couple of days, I spoke with the dealer/owner several times. He confirmed that the condition was "excellent" and that it was one family-owned. During these conversations, Gary of Gary's Wholesaling, offered to have the car shipped to New York. The second or third time he offered, I stated that it was a chance to visit with friends on the way back, so I would pick it up. Again and again (to the point where the dealer was getting annoyed), I confirmed that the details were correct and reiterated what he had told me, the car was mint, it was mechanically sound, and as advertised. Finally, upon his assurance, I booked my one-way flight to Richmond, Virginia. Thankfully John (the Bacon Saver and President of the John Carpenter Corvette Academy) Carpenter agreed to meet me in Virginia and go with me to purchase the car.

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CARLISLE, HERE WE COME!

We have over twenty rooms reserved at Carlisle and can't wait til we see everyone. The first of the Northern contingent (Beef, Joanne, Doug, Sharon, Jim and Bruce) should be arriving at the Radisson on Thursday afternoon. The northern PA Contingent is soon to follow. We expect Massachusetts and Connecticut there as well on Thursday.

Of course, we have some surprises in store for the weekend, so plan on being in the bar at the Radisson on Saturday night at about 6:30 p.m. for our annual Carlisle awards and prizes.

Please let us know if you haven't preregistered for CCA parking and I will send you the info on how to go about doing that. If you are parking with another group, solid axels, anniversaries, etc., it is not necessary to register with CCA to park, just bring your chairs and come on over. Also remember your chairs. We will see you there!



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Upcoming Events

August 2007—Carlisle—Of course! Rooms have been secured at the Radisson

September 2—Lake Placid Car Show

September 8-9, 2007—Adirondack Corvettes—VetteFest Weekend, Lake George, NY

September 23, 2007—Gary Enck's Car Show in Cooperstown, NY

September 28, 29, 2007—Vettes to Vets, Bedford, MA

October 6, 2007—VIP Show at the Cider Mill, Broadalbin.

December 1, 2007—Christmas Party

Of course, we will be attending several local shows. We'll keep you posted. Again, if you are attending any shows in your area, let us know.

I was quite excited when we got to the dealer and went into look at the car, from a distance, and in the dark, it looked great. My excitement soon turned to disappointment, however. Initially, John pointed out that the car was not automatic. The condition was not "like new" but "like really old" and the handling and condition of the car was as far from the description as possibly could be, scratched paint, terrible interior, non-working power seats. When we pointed out to the dealer that the ad on *Auto Trader* stated that the car was automatic ... not manual, six-speed, his response was ... "Oh well, there's nothing I can do about the transmission ... but it's not my fault because I didn't write the ad." When John offered to follow me back to New York if I bought the car, I knew that it wasn't the best idea. I told Gary that I really wanted an automatic, and it just wasn't going to work. John and I left.

After a struggle to find a return flight, I returned home, discouraged, and out the cost of the flight. I was, however, determined to find a Convertible. Once home, I contacted Gary Enck's Car Store, sponsor of the FCCC and Corvette dealer extraordinaire. Gary had had just gotten in a 93 Convertible, automatic ... just what the doctor ordered. Gary described the vehicle

as decent Beef and I drove to Cooperstown to check out the car and were pleasantly surprised at its condition. During the test drive I remarked to Beef that this is what it was supposed to have felt like when I was test driving my first Vette ... not horror but elation. When we told Gary of our recent trip to Richmond, his comment was, it is much better, and his policy, to under promise and over deliver. He would rather have someone be pleasantly surprised when they arrived in Cooperstown, rather than be disappointed.

Rick and Jason Ellis, of Ellis Pontiac, Chevrolet and GMC, another sponsor of the FCCC, also excels in service. When Beef recently needed a battery for his Vette, they special ordered it, had it delivered overnight to them and then drove from Malone to Saranac Lake to deliver the battery to us ... now that's service!

So ... what did I learn ... first of all steer clear of Gary's Wholesaling and CL Hyman Auto in Richmond and Ashland. I should have asked for more digital pictures, both interior, exterior, VIN Tags, body paint, etc. More photos of the interior would have shown whether it was an automatic or standard. If a seller describes a fault, ask for pictures of it. A "pin-head sized hole" to one person is the Grand Canon to another. I should have asked more pointed questions



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regarding the condition of the engine, mechanics, etc. Whenever and wherever possible, have someone check out the car before making a flight to purchase a car ... and never, but never, have a car delivered ... sight unseen. Never give someone a "non-refundable deposit" on the car. Remember ... someone who photographs Corvettes for ads online is an expert at making these cars look good. Be cautious ... if it went from father to son there was a good chance the son had a ball with the car. Call a friend, a club member or contact a Corvette Club in the area and ask one of their members to go and look at the car, check out the better business bureau and run the VIN. Don't feel pressured to buy the car because you made the long trip.

I was fortunate to have attended the John Carpenter Corvette Academy ("JCCA"). I received my undergrad degree while in Richmond as Rick Ellis had last year at Carlisle. Rick and I will be forming the JCCA alumni association (JCCAAA).

I learned a lot during this process ... but the most important lesson was to be cautious and not take what is said at face value when looking for a car.... Beef and I are grateful to John and Sue for their hospitality, kindness and help during our trip to Richmond. We are also grateful to Gary Enck's and his staff for the exceptional service we received. If you are in Cooperstown, NY, make sure to drop in to see him. They are awesome! We picked up my "new" convertible yesterday ... what a ball! Today I attend the Beef Bevilacqua school of Corvette detailing But that's another story!

Service Bulletin—2005-2008 Corvettes

Document ID# 1990151

2008 Chevrolet Corvette

Subject: Clutch Hydraulic System - New Service/Owner Maintenance Information #07-07-31-001 - (06/19/2007)

Models: 2005-2008 Chevrolet Corvette (Including Z06) with Tremec 6-Speed Manual Transmission (RPOs MM6, MZ6)

This bulletin is being issued to provide dealers with additional information on servicing the clutch hydraulic system. Please also advise customers of this new maintenance information.

Some cases have been found where the vehicle's clutch hydraulic system was contaminated with water. Higher than expected levels of water in the clutch fluid greater than 2% may cause the clutch fluid to boil. The presence of water in the fluid lowers the boiling point significantly; when this occurs, the driver may lose customary clutch pedal feel and performance.

To eliminate the opportunity for moisture to enter the clutch hydraulic system:

- The clutch fluid level inspection should be a VISUAL inspection only. Look through the transparent reservoir and observe the fluid level. Avoid removing the cap. DO NOT remove the cap just to top-off clutch fluid. Leave the system closed and sealed. During PDI inspection or routine service, the cap should not be opened for just an inspection.
- Open containers of DOT 4 clutch fluid have a two week shelf life. DO NOT use fluid if the container opening date is unknown or older than two weeks. DO NOT mix or re-use old fluid. Current service information already covers the issue of reuse.
- To provide the best clutch operation, it is recommended that the owner change the clutch fluid every two years. Please flush and replace with P/N 88958860 (P/N 88901244 in Canada) or equivalent DOT 4.



Lisa Bovee's new C2 purchased as a result of meeting Roland and Delores LaLaberty at Cruisin' in June. What a beaut. I understand Lisa has already started to compete with Tom's C3 in the trophy department!



Joanne and Beef's 93 Anniversary LT1.

Don't forget to register for Lake Placid, Lake George, Gary's Show and VIP. The Lake Placid show is coming up. We'll email more as time gets closer. See you in Carlisle!



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The Found Caravan Corvette Club, Inc. sm, a New York State non-profit corporation, was founded by Joanne and Michael Bevilacqua with the sole purpose of having Corvette friends from all over, getting together to share stories, traveling down the road, and sharing their experiences, without the hassles of meetings, rules and regulations. We have only one rule ... show up, have fun and go home!

We're on the web
www.foundcaravan.net

Please support our sponsors!

ELLIS

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