

Feature Article

What to do with 400+ horses by Terry Brim

The first thing I noticed about Gary Tolliver when I interviewed him for this article was that he was always smiling. All during the interview smile smile smile. It was only afterward when he so graciously offered to let me drive his new C6 that I understood why. WHAT A CAR! 400+ horses with a 6 speed to transfer all that power to the rear wheels. As an added bonus, his baby has every option available on the C6. No wonder Gary was always smiling!

He does love to drive his car. When I asked Gary what he does with all those horses, he just smiled again, mumbled something about doing 100 before he could get it out of 3rd.....:) He is indeed one lucky guy.

Gary first got interested in cars at a very early age while riding around with his father. Seems as how his father did a lot of driving and Gary would sit on his lap (of course one could get arrested now days for doing that) and they would name the different cars they saw on the road.

Gary's interest in cars was further peaked by the boyfriend of the girl who lived behind him when he was attending junior high in Chillicothe, Ohio. Seems as how the guy had a black over red 58 corvette with silver coves. Gary still keeps a model of this car in office and hopes to own one someday.

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Back in the 60's, the muscle car era as Gary puts it, there were no cruise-ins as we know them

today. Instead, the local hamburger drive through provided the show case venue. So it was in Chillicothe, SumBurger's was the place to be seen.

According to Gary, on Friday and Saturday night, cars from such exotic places as Waverly, Portsmouth, and Lancaster, would

converge on SumBurgers in Chillicothe to see and be seen..... sound familiar?

Gary's first corvette was a 73 red/black L48 4-speed which he ultimately gave to his son to drive to high school (wonder if I'm to old for adoption?). His next vette was a 65 black/silver 396 Big Block w/side pipes which Jeff Bernhardt helped him restore.



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Gary's first new corvette was a 98 silver convertible. He drove this car to his daughters wedding in Las Vegas in 1999. His route took him along the old route 66 all the way to California.



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His next corvette was a new fully loaded 2001 metallic red auto-automatic convertible.....I think he's getting the hang of it now!!

After about a year, Gary sold the 2001 to a local dealer. He then ran across a 2002 black on black Z06 on ebay with only 2500 miles. The only problem was the car was in New York City and Gary didn't want to drive it back to Ohio. Apparently getting the car out of NYC on a flat bed was not an option. As luck would have it however, a friend of Gary's recommended a guy in Cincinnati would bought cars for dealers. For years, this guy would locate cars for dealers, fly to wherever they were and drive them back to dealers. (not a bad way to make a living).

After talking to the guy, Gary bought him a one way air ticket to NYC, ask him to check out the car and call him before he "sealed the deal" As it turned out, the car, according to Gary, was the "real deal" so Gary gave him the green light to drive the car back to Ohio.

After seeing the new C6's, Gary knew he wanted one, but he is a convertible guy at heart and the 2005 convertibles wouldn't be out until next spring....what's a guy to do?

Well he didn't want to but a 2005 model half way through the year so he had all but decided to wait and order a 2006 convertible. That way, he could get it at the beginning of

the model year.

Again, Gary was on the internet and this time he spotted a yellow 2005 with all the options he wanted including a 6 speed, this time somewhere in Wisconsin. The only problem was that it wasn't a convertible.....guess he would have to wait a while longer for his convertible. While Gary was debating about the car in Wisconsin, he decided to check around some local dealers to see what kind of 2005s they had on hand. The one thing Gary found out was that 6 speeds were gone as soon as they got off the truck!



Obviously, that pushed him over the edge.....the car in Wisconsin had all the options plus a 6 speed and he liked the color.

Gary rationalized that if he didn't like the car after driving it for awhile, he could always trade it in on a 2006 convertible!



Judging by the smile on his face when I saw him, I wouldn't bet on seeing Gary in a convertible very soon unless it would be his first real love when he finds her!



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