

Ross Gullett - 2015

Ross Gullett has never been married and never been divorced ;-). He was born in Niagara Falls and raised in the Nora area of Indy, moving there in 1963 for his father's job change. He graduated from Ball State, majoring in finance and economics. Ross's career included working for Kmart Management, Edward D Jones and finally Charles Schwab until 2003 when he retired. Ross enjoys his retirement (having more savings would be nice) but he enjoys the flexibility to do things spontaneously. He also likes NOT having to work week-ends or holidays. His interests and activities include golf, bowling, skiing, softball and darts. He is a season ticket holder for both the Indy Fuel hockey team and the Indians baseball team. Other teams he likes to follow include the Colts, Pacers and IU and Purdue basketball. Ross also is into auto racing; NASCAR, Indy car, Sprints, Midgets and Speedrome events. Euchre with friends is also on his list of things he likes to do. Ross has been a member of CI since 2014. Prior to that he was a member of Circle City Corvette Club. Ross first became interested in Corvettes in 1970 when after Little League practice the father of a friend gave him a ride home in his '68. To explain his instant attraction Ross said the following: "For those of you who have never been in an older Vette (like a C2 or C3) (much different feel than today's newer Vettes), the feeling I got that day when I got in it, and the car is literally vibrating and shaking left to right (unlike the very smooth riding Chevy townsman station wagon my mom drove). And that truly awesome sound of power. So, deep in my subconscious, I always knew that I would get one once I could afford one. So at the age of 24 in early spring 1985 after my first year out of college I bought my first Vette, a white 1975 coupe. (My Dad looked at me like I was crazy because I already had a very reliable Olds Cutlass Supreme daily driver). I had that car for one summer, stored over the winter, and then on Saturday April 15, 1986 (tax day, that should have been an omen) I took it out of storage and my girlfriend helped me drive it and my daily driver from Bryan, Ohio to Sterling Heights, Michigan. I get up for work on Monday, April 17th and the Vette is gone! The State Farm Insurance covered my entire original purchase price (less my \$100 deductible). So, 2 months later I changed jobs and was living in Florence, KY (a suburb of Cincinnati). I took that insurance money and traded in my Cutlass and bought a 1984 red Corvette from Joseph Chevrolet. That became my daily driver until 1996.

When it had reached about 90,000 miles on it, and I didn't want to keep putting 10,000 miles a year on it so I bought my Chevy Blazer and the Vette was my week-end car until I sold it in 2000. But after about a year I was getting the bug again to own another Vette. But this time I wanted a good bumper C3 driver which I so dearly loved since I was 9 years old. So, I bought a 1971 Bridgehampton Blue convertible, which I had until 2005. I sold out of necessity because I needed something more practical to transport my dementia ailing mother and father around in. So I sold my 71 Vette to a couple from the Circle City Corvette Club (I believe they still own it today) and I bought a Chevy Venture minivan (something my mom and dad could get in and out of since they were in their 70's and not in the best of health). So in 2010, both my mother and father having passed away, and I no longer needed the minivan, I again had that urge to get another Vette. And yes it had to be a C3 bumper car, so in May of 2010, I put a down payment on the 1969 white convertible car from a gentleman that originally bought it in 1992 and he was just getting ready to do some improvements when he and his wife were both unfortunately laid off from USA Funds. So under the condition of purchase, I would buy the car and all parts if he helped me install the parts (power steering linkage and hydraulic hoses, 2 rear half shafts and u-joints, suspension linkage and bushings, steel rear spring, complete exhaust, new black convertible top) It took an entire year (most of this project was coordinated with his friend who was a mechanic at Hare Chevrolet, thus giving us access to a car lift on certain and unpredictable times over the year and access to virtually any tool, vise, press, etc. that we would need to complete the projects.) Hare Chevrolet liability insurance would not allow the car to remain on the lot overnight, so for about 6 months the car was hauled by trailer to get it worked on while the original rear spring or half shafts were being worked on). So finally after 1 year in May of 2011, all the projects were completed and I finished the conditional purchase and registered the car.

So for the most part, I have been a Corvette owner for 30 years, since I was 24 years old. I would say limited garage space has been my biggest obstacle to owning more than one Vette at a time but maybe that's a good thing. It keeps me humble and grounded."

Currently Ross owns a 1969 White/Red convertible 350/300hp base, th400 auto, ps, pw, ttw. 3.08:1 posi diff. In the past he owned a 1975 white 350, a 1984 red 350, and a 1971 blue convertible 350. What Ross likes best about CI is that there is something for everyone: social events, racing, car shows, projects, charities and nice people. When he was looking at clubs back in 2001, CI was far less diversified in club activities so he did not join at that time. Ross's only problem now is trying to remember everyone's names. While the '69 limits his activities somewhat over some of the newer Vettes, he enjoys the Drive n Dunk on Saturday mornings - in fact any free events that don't tie up 4-5 hours of his Saturday and Sunday. Ross's life passion for Corvettes is his 'interesting Corvette story' and is best summed up by his explanation of his history with Corvettes starting when he was 9 years old.