

## **Second Times a Charm.....**

**By: Jim Ebner**

Having gotten my first Corvette in 2007, I would never have thought I would be getting a second one in less than 2 years. The cars are just simply an amazing work of craftsmanship, and a pure pleasure to drive.

For some strange reason as the spring of 2009 slowly arrived, I started looking at the late model C5's convertibles that were on the market. I had always wanted a convertible and the 2004 LeMans Commemorative Edition seemed to be a unique auto, which would be a great one to own. My Internet search led me to a dealership in Daytona Beach Florida. I have an uncle who lives 12 miles from Daytona and asked him to take a ride over and look at it for me. He called me from the Dealership's Lot going over the car inch by inch. It sounded like it was the one I was going to buy, however on his way back from Daytona Beach to Port Orange he passed by another dealership with the same model car in it's lot. I started the research all over again and this time this car was going to be mine. Oddly enough I had planned a family vacation to Orlando months earlier and it just seemed right to get the car while I was down there. Once again I asked my uncle to visit the second dealership and go over the car again, which he gladly did. I guess some retired guys have nothing to do and all day to do it. Yep the car was in great shape with a few more factory options than the other and for less money.

When I finally got to the price I wanted from the dealership, I first worked it out that I would finalize the deal while on vacation and have it shipped or driven home. However, if I had accepted delivery in Florida I would have to pay the Florida Sales Tax on it. Therefore, sight un-seen by me I bought the car and had it shipped to Delaware

### **Arrival Memorial Day 2009**



The car arrived Memorial Day, 2009, and three days later, I was leaving for vacation for two weeks. I could not help it I just had to drive it a little. Therefore, with no official insurance or tags I went for a short drive.

Well driving it just made it worse knowing the car was going to be home sitting and it would be at least two weeks before I could drive it again. That was the longest vacation I had ever taken. Seems the secret to making the vacation seem longer is get a new car delivered, that you always wanted, right before you leave. Should have just paid the Florida Sales Tax and driven it home.

After a few months now, I could not be more pleased with how it has all worked out. I have added a few extras to personalize it but my license plate still and always will read DADSVET. (See April 2008 Member of the Month as to why)



Having recently participated in Caravan 09 to the National Corvette Museum and taking the car on the trip is something I will never forget. The friendships made, the events attended, the miles driven and the memories of the days make me just want to do it again. It's too bad we all have to wait 5 years to do it again.

One of the best parts of the trip was the tour of the Corvette Factory itself. It really is very impressive and I had my reservations about even going. The three hours we spent in the factory really was not enough. Seeing the process from start to finish was not only very interesting but also impressive as to the attention to detail the workers had shown throughout the manufacturing process. I can only hope that GM will continue the heritage of America's Sports Car and during the next Caravan, and we get to see the new line of Corvettes being manufactured at Bowling Green 5 years from now.



During the time, I have been involved with CCND and the short time I have owned a Corvette I could only wish my father was alive to have shared this all with me. I know he would have just been as ecstatic as I am to be part of something so proud and rich in tradition. The members of CCND are like an extended family. Being part of a club like ours is why Corvette Owners are some of the best people that anyone could ever hope to be a part of.

Thank you Dad for instilling on me the passion of owning and driving a Corvette. You will never be forgotten and will always be my passenger.

Jim Ebner  
2004 Commemorative Edition Convertible