

'LAST,' BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST
The Last C2 Series Corvette Built Garner's Attention Across the Country

While most car collectors think in terms of "special editions" and "firsts," Terry Michaelis, president of ProTeam Classic Corvette Collection and Sales, has been thinking of nothing but the "Last" since June 2005 when he acquired the last C2 Corvette – and in his mind – the last true Corvette ever produced.

Michealis is so sure of the car's standing in the Corvette world that he trademarked it the "Last"™ Corvette.

"This particular 'Vette is the last one of the most beloved version GM ever made," he said. "This car symbolizes the end of an era in the long history of Corvette body types. It's so significant to automotive design and style. The vehicle was the last mid-year air conditioned coupe, the last mid-year to offer factory side exhaust, the last mid-year Big Block, the last mid-year model...all of these 'lasts' add up and their combined status make it one of the most desired classic Corvettes in the world."

The famed C2 series Corvette, also known as the Sting Ray, was ushered into production in 1962 (1963 model year). Just five short years later the last C2 ever produced (VIN # 22940) rolled off the St. Louis Corvette plant assembly line.

The "Last" is a 1967 Corvette Coupe 4-speed. It has Silver Pearl paint, a black interior, L-36 427-390 engine, factory air conditioning, side dual exhaust, power steering, telescopic steering column, 3.55 positract axle, M-21 close ratio transmission, AM/FM radio, tinted glass and red stripe tires. Not to mention the factory tank sticker detailing its options.

"It's an impeccable car with a remarkable history. It's got everything any collector could want – exclusivity, a finely documented history and the most sought-after combination of horsepower and options."

To showcase its worth, Michaelis explained that in a 10-year span the vehicle exponentially grew in price, appreciating 10 times in value. Purchased in 1995 by collector Bill Mock for \$22,940 (\$1 per sequential VIN number), Michaelis later acquired the car from Mock in 2005 for \$229,400 (\$10 per sequential VIN number).

Since joining the ProTeam collection, the "Last" has undergone an extensive "roisserie body-off" restoration at Naber's Motors in Houston, Texas. In this form of restoration, the car is stripped to its raw form and the body is removed so the frame can be dipped to eliminate all traces of rust and old paint, bringing the frame to its original, factory condition.

"Nabers restored this Corvette not based on a perception of what they thought it should look like, but rather based on their knowledge of the original vehicle," said Michaelis.

The successful restoration has turned into an even more successful marketing campaign. While traversing the country, being displayed at high-profile events, the "Last" has earned several prestigious awards and honors, most notably, NCRS Top Flight Certification, Bloomington GoldCertification® and the Meadow Brook Hall Lion Award.

Furthermore, its extraordinary culmination of "lasts" has garnered attention from automobile aficionados and Corvette enthusiasts alike including the bigwigs at Fox Cable Group's SPEED. The network will showcase a six-part mini-series entitled "The Last Sting Ray," detailing the life, times and restoration of the car. The show, scheduled to air later this year will be part of the popular American Muscle Car programming

lineup.

Equally impressive to its television debut, the “Last” is the subject of another art-form, painting.

Renowned automotive artist Dana Forrester forever immortalized the car in one of his remarkable watercolors. The piece, entitled “The Last Corvette,” illustrates the infamous day when the very last C2 series Corvette was built. The painting shows the “Last” in the foreground of the St. Louis Corvette assembly plant, the car’s VIN number and date of production displayed on the building.

“The recognition the car has received during the past few months has been unparalleled,” Michaelis admitted. “I knew the car was a star, but I didn’t know how bright.”

And as ProTeam is wrapping up the promotional tour, it is gearing up for the next and possibly greatest chapter of the car’s life: Barrett Jackson.

Although Michaelis has grown quite attached to this remarkable vehicle, he is planning to sell the car – and its memorabilia – at no reserve during the famed Barrett Jackson Auction in January 2007 in Scottsdale, Ariz., which will be broadcast live on SPEED. Michaelis said initial estimates have the “Last” selling for as much as seven figures; however, he wants to know what you think the “Last” is worth.

In a newly announced contest, ProTeam is asking the public their thoughts on what the “Last” will bring in at Barrett Jackson. The individual who guesses the final bid price, or comes closest to the final bid price, will win \$5,000. Entry forms are available by emailing ProTeam at proteam@proteamcorvette.com or writing to ProTeam Last Corvette Contest, PO Box 606, Napoleon, OH 43545.

“This is definitely the last real Corvette, but I guarantee, it won’t bring in the least amount of money at Barrett Jackson,” added Michaelis.

For more than information or additional images, visit www.LastCorvette.com.