



Mahoning Valley Corvettes

Corvette Corner

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Meet MVC Member Sam Sicilia! Well, now let's be honest, you probably already know him! Members of the club also know him as "Sam and Judy". These two great MVC members have been with the Mahoning Valley Corvettes since Sam joined in 2012!

Sam has a very unique 1978 Pace Car. It was once owned by baseball star Jim Bunning!

Sam is from Salem and he says he always loved to fix things mechanical and knew one day, like all of us, was going to own a Corvette. When Sam retired, he and Judy began looking for a C3 Corvette. Sam has always had an eye for that generation. After looking at several cars for nearly a year, the couple just didn't find one that called out to them. Then one day, Sam's stepson called him and said he found the perfect car for him and he needs to come to Cincinnati with cash and buy it.

Not knowing what year color or any details Sam and Judy headed south from Salem and found the perfect C3. The low mileage 1978 Pace Car began to talk to Sam during the test drive and when Judy fell in love with the car and said "Sam you have to buy this car", the deal was done.

When Sam brought the car home he began to take a perfect car and make it even better. Sam detailed out the motor better than General Motors ever did, fixed the CB radio unit, took apart the column to fix the ignition switch and while fixing the clock, Sam sand blasted and painted under dash bolts that nobody will ever see on this car! Even Judy got involved in the project using her steady hand to repaint the original emblems and the radio face plate. In fact, Judy credits this cars purchase to keeping Sam active during his retirement and also found a new hobby herself working with Sam to maintain a museum quality vehicle! She has also learned how to read wiring schematics, build sheets and more!

Now you may have noticed Judy also has a unique ride too! Her 2003 Anniversary Edition Convertible was purchased from a Corvette loving couple in Massachusetts. The car is stock but is equipped with a six speed manual transmission and is absolutely flawless! Judy says when they went to purchase the car, the previous owner could not watch the car leave and had to look away. No worries though because we all know the car is in good hands! Judy always has cars with a manual transmission and you'll know Judy is right around the corner when she is running through the gears! Both keep their cars meticulously clean and they truly both have very nice vehicles. It is also great to have a car in MVC with such an interesting history!

The couple says that they both get personal satisfaction from driving their awesome rides and talking with members of the Club. The couple even hosts a backyard picnic at their Salem home where members gather for a wonderful afternoon.

Sam and Judy are truly Corvette enthusiasts and are dedicated to keeping their rides in perfect condition for the next generation of owners to do the same. These two great club members have a great sense of humor and are always willing to chat during shows. They couple does travel quite a bit so they have plenty of great stories to tell themselves! - Jason Mauro

* Here are some interesting facts about the man who once owned Sam's Pace Car*

Jim Bunning

- Born Oct. 23, 1931 in Southgate, Kentucky
- Graduated from Xavier University
- Had a 17 year baseball career
 - Detroit Tigers 1955-1963
 - Philadelphia Phillies 1964-1967
 - Pittsburgh Pirates 1968-1969
 - Los Angeles Dodgers 1969
- Elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996
- Threw no-hitters in both leagues
- Elected a US Senator in 1998



July 20, 1958



Jim Bunning first no hitter was against the Boston Red Sox in Fenway Park. He struck out Ted Williams on the final out in the 9th inning.



June 21, 1964



His first year in Philadelphia he pitched the perfect game. This was the first perfect game in the National League since 1880



Speaking of the 1978 Corvette Pace car and 25th Anniversary year for America's Sports car... Here is some interesting facts that Sam provided us!

1978 Corvette 25th Anniversary Limited Edition



Pace Car



Fact Sheet

- **First Corvette to pace the Indianapolis 500.**
- The 25th anniversary emblem appeared exclusively on the 1978 models.
- Only 6,502 (one for each dealer) pace car replicas were made.
 - Original Indy 500 decal set came with each pace car replica.
- Limited edition pace cars had their own V.I.N. number. A "9" in the 8th position indicated a pace car and the last five numbers sequenced 00001 to 06502 for production sequence - a corvette first.
- In 1978 Chevrolet introduced the most extensive redesigned model since 1968.
 - First mirrored T-tops were introduced.
 - Rear end was given a large window in fastback style.
 - Seat redesign slated for 1979 was moved forward for the pace car.
 - Wider "60" series tires available on 1978 Corvettes, standard size remained "70" series. All pace cars replicas had the "60" series.
 - Retracting cover to luggage area added for security and sun protection.
 - A glove box was added.
 - Inner door panels were completely new.
 - Molded armrests were replaced with screwed armrests.
 - Speedometer and tachometer were reshaped into a more square vertical mode.
 - Fuel tank size increased to 24 gallons over the 17 gallon size of previous years.