

It All Started

It all started one romantic weekend in November. Liz and I ran off to the coast for my birthday. We went shopping *AGAIN!* (I know it's hard to imagine; Liz shopping; but; stay with me on this!); She had seen something she was debating on getting and as usual, I had to talk her into going back to get this special something our house couldn't be without. If we didn't, she would regret it later not picking it up then. As we walked around this quaint little town, we happened to come upon a sports memorabilia shop. Being the sports fan and collector I am, I had to drag her in. As we wondered around inside, somewhere between one of her "eye rollings" and another "you don't need that", she spots a yellow and black C-6. With STEELERS logos on it! (As most of you know I am a huge Steelers fan; she by marriage) She asks me; I mean *tells* me, "Go wait in the truck" Well, that's RedNeck fore play. So being the good husband that I am, I obey. A few minutes later, she comes out like Bonnie and Clyde, gets in the truck and says, "Let's go & don't ask what I have!" Again, I obeyed. We came home and I never thought about the package again.

Then comes Christmas. She showers me with yellow C-6 Corvettes in all kinds and sizes. A remote control one. A small custom one. Being the kid that I am, I love toys! A few presents later, I open up this awesome looking one with STEELERS logos and the most outrageous tribal band graphics ever. Black graphics over a yellow C-6 "WOW!" The coolest! While I was playing with all my new toys, we start looking at the remote control car. "Hey. Let's paint those neat rally stripes on our car!" We both agreed. Then she looks at the Steelers car and says, "Why not paint it like that one?" You gotta love a woman who wants to customize a car. And of course, I couldn't have agreed more; or fast enough; before she changes her mind!

A couple of weeks passed and Liz brings up the car. Out of the blue, she asks, "Did you ever check on having the car painted? Did you see how much the graphics would be for the Vette?" HUH? I informed her I had been really busy at work; with the bad weather and all. But I would look into it as soon as I could. *WELL; DUH!* When the wife OK's a project like this; you better hop to it. So I spent all my "In Fresno" spare time going to paint shops, body shops, graphic shops; looking for someone who might be interested in taking on a task of painting our precious little vehicle. I asked some friends in the club and had some really good leads. (Thank you to everyone; and you know who you are; who did give me info on this) Some of the shops got scared at an attempt at something of this caliber.

That's when I met Terry Martinez at **FinishLine Pro Paint & Graphics**. You bet that was a plug, and you'll see why later. He first came out with a "Wow" nice project to do. He liked that we kinda had a plan of what we wanted but knew we weren't close-minded to any other great ideas. He also had some great ideas above and beyond what we had come up with. Right away it was "We'll paint these" and "We'll pearl that" and double pearl this, 'cause that's what should be done. Then he said something I hadn't heard from any other shop. "I've worked on Vettes before" "SOLD!" When can we start? But wait. It took a little "convincing" & "persuading" to Liz about the cost. Nope; No compromise here. After some heavy deliberating, She kinda said OK, let's do it. That was close enough for me! After about 2 ½ weeks, we finally took it down to FinishLine.

Well, me, Liz, Terry and his partner John spent about 3 hours working on graphics. If you remember, we had put some pin striping tape down the side. Sort of a starting point. Well, by the end of that design session, that tape was gone! We all taped, re-taped, combined ideas, re-re-taped. A lot of “Don’t do that”, “Add this to make that longer”, “Shorten that part”, “Make that part wider” (*OK! Get your minds out of the gutter! We’re talking GRAPHICS here!*) About 3 weeks later and 400 digital pictures, printed out and colored with Sharpie Marker to see what it might look like, we all started getting set in where we were headed. By now, *WE* had ordered a rear wing, a twin-turbo hood, some Corvette apparel and a couple dollars worth of brushed and polished stainless steel accessories. Terry and John mounted the rear wing, fitted the hood, and called us for a semi-final look at what they had come up with. Of course we tweaked these lines a bit. Threw out a couple of more ideas about the hood. That was the hardest. Terry tells us “We’ll work out the hood. You’ll freak over it when we’re done with it, Trust us.” We didn’t know him *that* long. He could not have been more righter.

After about a week of me making excuses to go to Fresno, to just “swing by since I was down here”, you know, to check on the progress. We received the call. Like some expecting grandparents, Liz and I rush down to see our reborn baby. “WOW!!!” And I mean “WOW!!!” No it’s more like “That is *SIC!!!*” “Off the hook” “WOW” “Ridiculous” “Really SIC” We could not have been happier with what we were gazing over. We could not believe what Terry and John had done to her! They painted the rims (something that was discussed earlier), also painted the calipers (“just because it had to be done.” GREAT touch guys!) Almost had all the fancies added. They said 2 more days and we could have her. Well, we were leaving for Tahoe in 2 days! All they said was “Don’t worry”. Yeah, what ever. They informed me they still had to cut, polish, wax and clean her up. OK. 1 ½ days later, I show up to pick her up. There was “a couple of things” not quite finished. Well, 8 hours (which was into tomorrow) and a few “No really honey we’re still working on it” phone calls later, I finally got to drive her home. Yeah at 2:00 in the morning!

Liz was “a little upset” for me being so late. But, it had to be done. Since we were driving to Tahoe the next day. Oh, I mean, later *THAT* day! After she awoke, still upset about the tardiness, she comes back in the house. “WOW! It’s beautiful!” I guess it was almost worth staying out so late. And as you can see now, it really was all worth it! And a lot more.

So much special thanks goes to Terry and John for putting up with us. They have become great friends. They really contributed a lot of great ideas, knowledge and experience to this project. A great thanks to Dino for the airbrushing and to Talley for the pin striping.

And a deep, special, heart felt thanks to Liz for actually compromising with this. Oh yeah; it’s also our 1 year anniversary on the 7th. I luv you Liz, very much! And even more than yesterday! ;-*