



## 1964 Red Tanker History

This 64 Corvette Big tank coupe is 1 of 38 built in 1964. It was purchased NEW by John D Lewis in January, 1964 from Clay Motors in Manchester KY and immediately prepped for SCCA competition. It is a "radio delete" car special ordered with the 36 gallon fuel tank. Along with the tank option, is a F40 Heavy duty suspension, 3:55 posi rear axle and heavy duty vented and finned metallic brakes.

Through research aided by the NCRS delivery data report, Racing Sports Cars website, Bill Goulds's Auto Ancestry, Terry Michaelis and the remaining details of several modifications done to this Corvette, we have determined that this is the car that John D Lewis campaigned in the Florida and Alabama Region of SCCA in the 1964 and 1965 seasons. There are several chassis modifications done to the car for suspension rigidity, Roll bar mounting plates and the addition of side lights to illuminate the numbers on the side of the car. These modifications along with the delivery data report information confirms this as John's Corvette.

John D Lewis teamed with several experienced drivers to allow this Corvette to compete with the top cars in SCCA at the time. Noted drivers are 4 time NASCAR champion Cale Yarborough, who nearly won the Daytona Continental in 1964 if not for running out of fuel on the last lap. Also driving on the same team with Cale was G. C Spencer, another NASCAR great. Art Tattinger, who was a well-known racer in the Florida region, was also a driver of this car in several larger Daytona events.

John has many 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes at Daytona, Ocala Park, and an unknown track in Alabama in 1964 and 1965. Photos of these trophies can be seen in our photo collection. Several of these trophies are still on display in John's Florida home. John has moved back to Kentucky, this is where we were able to spend some time interviewing him about his time with the Corvette.

Below are some finishes we can document.

- 8<sup>th</sup> place overall - Daytona American Challenge Cup. Feb 15, 1964 Out of Fuel (Cale Yarborough, G C Spencer drivers)
- 29<sup>th</sup> place overall - Daytona Continental 2000 Kilometers. Feb 16, 1964. Gearbox problem. (Cale Yarborough, G C Spencer drivers)
- 1<sup>st</sup> in AP Ocala June 1964
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in AP "Paul Whiteman Trophy Race" September 1964
- 1<sup>st</sup> in AP Ocala October 1964
- DNF Daytona Continental 2000 Kilometers. Feb 28, 1965
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in AP Daytona, Paul Whiteman Trophy race. May 9, 1965
- Several other 1<sup>st</sup> place trophies that we can't determine the Track or Date.

Although this car spent 2 years running side by side with many other cars at high speed, it surprisingly has an un-hit /undamaged body. Pictures of the car stripped to bare fiberglass confirm this. Finding vintage race cars that are this unmolested is rare.

This car has been restored to as close to original race configuration as we can determine at this time. Other than vintage photos and still slides there was not much info that John kept from his racing days. All suspension components are completely restored, bearing s, bushings, ball joints, springs and shocks have all been restored or replaced. New fuel and brake lines along with the rubber hoses were installed. The frame and suspension hard parts have been sandblasted, primed and sprayed with epoxy paint. The engine, Fuel injection unit, trans and rear end have been rebuilt. This engine is a period correct restoration engine. John had removed the engine in 1966 and used it in a scorpion that he campaigned to a Southeast Region SCCA championship. The body was stripped to bare glass and sprayed in the correct Riverside Red. The Complete interior has also been brought back to its original brilliance.

- Riverside Red Coupe
- White/Red interior
- 36 Gal tank
- Radio delete
- F40 suspension
- Finned front brake drums, vented backing plates and elephant ears
- Vented rear backing plates