

My 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air Sport Coupe

Jack Anderson

Thanks to Santa Claus (a/k/a my lovely wife), who gave me an all-expense paid trip to the Barrett-Jackson Classic Car Auction in Arizona in January 2007 as a Christmas gift, I was able to successfully bid on and purchase my 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air Sport Coupe.

This original southern California car was built in Chevrolet's Van Nuys assembly plant in early June 1955. The two-tone colors of Harvest Gold (a pastel yellow) and India Ivory, and the green and beige vinyl and cloth interior, match the codes on the cowl tag. It is equipped with a 265 CI 180 HP "Power Pack" V8 engine and a Powerglide transmission. The vehicle was purchased from a California owner in the early 1990s and then underwent a full body-on amateur restoration over a six-year period. The restorer, a mechanic from Michigan, completed the car in 1999 and then sold it in 2001 to a man in Texas, who bought it for his wife. When the wife said she wanted a new kitchen, it was time for the '55 to go and he consigned it for auction at Barrett-Jackson. That's where I found and bought it.

In January 2008, I decided that the car needed to be repainted. However, what started out as fresh paint and some minor bodywork has morphed into a full scale, body-off restoration. Essentially, the car is being completely re-done to concours condition to correct many of the mistakes made by the original restorer in Michigan. The current target for completion is the spring of 2009.