Carryover Owners Group: Owner Spotlight

John McNurney – 6S130

Age: 72
City / State: Lakewood, Colorado (since 1978)
Year Purchased: May 2014
Total Years of Ownership: 6 years

6S130 – Ready to roam the Colorado Countryside!

COG: Do you have a nickname? If so, how did you receive that nickname?
MCNURNEY: No known nicknames , but I have been called many colorful combinations of four-letter words, but I don't think any count as a nick name! ☺

COG: Where did you grow up?
MCNURNEY: I grew up in the Chicago suburbs – Des Plaines, IL, specifically.

COG: What do you do for a living, or what did you do before retirement?
MCNURNEY: I'm retired now, but prior to retirement I was an Environmental Engineer. I worked for the same consulting company for 37 years. Eventually, I became part owner of the firm, and we eventually got bought out; which is when I retired.

COG: What do you enjoy doing in retirement?
MCNURNEY: I've now been retired for ten years, and I enjoy our 5 kids and their 13 Grandkids that range in age from 23 years old to 3 months old. I really love restoring cars and I eventually got into vintage racing with my son, Ryan, (side note, my daughter, Sandra, is an auto mechanic!). I started restoring a 66 Mustang convertible 15 years ago; which is when I was bitten by the restoration bug. I love all types of cars, and restoring them is supremely satisfying.

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These slot cars are what ignited John's passion for Shelbys /cars

John with his son, Ryan, at a driving school together

COG: What is your favorite childhood memory, regarding cars?
MCNURNEY: I started with slot car racing at a young age. My 3 brothers and I built a track in our basement, and the rest is history. What's funny is that I still have those slot cars in my possession – all of which have a tie to Shelby American. Eventually, as I got older, I graduated to sports cars. I had an MGB; which my younger brother and I worked on together.

COG: What car was used when you first learned how to drive?
MCNURNEY: A 1957 Dodge, an old family car with 3 on the tree – most likely it was a 6 cylinder. I bought the MGB soon afterwards.

COG: What was your first car?
MCNURNEY: The 1957 Dodge was a family car that was eventually passed onto me.

COG: How did you first become interested in Shelbys?
MCNURNEY: I remember seeing the incredible Shelby American advertisements that talked about how the AC Cobra could do 0-100 and back to 0 in under 13 seconds! I **lusted** after Shelbys due to their performance. However, having a real Shelby was well out of my reach financially for some time.

COG: What was your first Shelby?
MCNURNEY: I commissioned a new AC Cobra (CSX6032) from Shelby American in June 2009, and I received the car in 2010.

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COG: How did you come to purchase your Carryover?
MCNURNEY: I searched ten years for a 1965 to 1966 Shelby GT350 that I could afford and met all my qualifications: restorable with both the original engine and transmission. After failing to close the deal on a different 1966 GT350, I found 6S130 in Abbotsford, Canada, and I eventually bought the car. The owner had passed away and a friend of his, Ken Jansen, was selling the car on behalf of the family. I went to look at the car and, at first glance, I decided to pass. Later, Ken called me and said, "Have you come to your senses, yet? You need to purchase this car!" In the end, I wound up buying the Carryover.

6S130 – ready to be blasted!

COG: Tell us about the restoration of your Carryover?
MCNURNEY: To me, originality and accuracy was of the utmost importance during the restoration process. Almost every part that we used was original and date correct. I have a good friend who owns a Porsche shop, and he assisted with the body work on 6S130. My friend, Ryan, and I followed the same procedures and process as they did at San Jose / LAX. It took us two and a half years to complete the restoration. One thing I've learned over time: I always restore two cars at once, so that when you get frustrated, and you're about ready to start throwing wrenches across the shop, you move to the other car! And, I have to say that the trim pieces on the back interior of the car were EXTREMELY challenging.

COG: What is one of your favorite car related stories / memories?
MCNURNEY: Two memories stick out to me. First, I likely saw 6S130 in Champaign, Illinois (or maybe your car, Ruben: 6S141, since they were both sold out of University Ford in Champaign, IL) when I was a freshman at the University of Illinois in 1966. Supreme serendipity I would say! When I saw that Shelby, I remember thinking that it was an odd car to see roaming through farmland, USA! Second, I have become good friends with one of two brothers, Sonny Friesen, who previously owned 6S130 – in fact, they owned my car for most of its life. I ended up purchasing 6S130 from the estate of the other brother, Dennis, but Sonny brought the car to me in Colorado from British Columbia.

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COG: What is a humorous experience you've had that's car related?
MCNURNEY: There are many funny stories associated with the restoration work my son, Ryan, and I completed on 6S130. Most of those stories involve buying parts that I already had purchased before, or looking for parts that I already had …or looking for tools that were in plain sight somewhere in the shop, in my pocket, or in my hand! Yes, I can be forgetful.

COG: What do you love the most about owning your Carryover / classic car?
MCNURNEY: The relationships that resulted from this shared passion. I am still fast friends with the owner, Dickson Griswold, of the 1966 Shelby GT350 that I did not buy prior to my purchase of 6S130. Also, I was mentored during the restoration process by Brant Halterman - a true friend and gentleman. Further, I now have a great circle of friends in Abbotsford, Canada near Vancouver through the purchase of my Carryover. I've become even closer to my son since we restored 6S130 together, and, I've met lots of other quality folks through showing the car and through this owners group!

John with his Granddaughter – starting them out young!

COG: What is your favorite car related picture?
MCNURNEY: I have a picture of me assisting my Granddaughter who is sitting in my Cobra – one of my all-time favorites!

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COG: What has owning your Carryover (or any other classic car) taught you?
MCNURNEY: There are LOTS of really cool people involved in this hobby, and they are worth a lot more to me than any of these cars.

COG: What are your future plans for your Carryover?
MCNURNEY: Drive and show it more. It has become so valuable that I have recently become reluctant to get it out. That will change!

COG: What is your personal moto / credo – this could or could not be car related?
MCNURNEY: Never grow up until you have to! I still have not found a good reason to grow up, and I'm 72.