

Blue Satellite is out-of-this-world

By Jim Byas

My favorite car is a 1967 Plymouth Satellite two-door and it pretty much speaks for itself; it's a really nice car

When I saw it, I liked it and I had to have it. I like driving it because it is such a pretty car.

I bought the car three years ago at Vicksburg Classic Car Sales, which only sells old muscle cars and vintage automobiles. They had just opened and mine was the fourth car off the lot.

I've had many cars over the years, but the Satellite is the first car I bought pretty much the way it is today, aside from general maintenance.

I rebuilt the transmission last year, but as far as any work, it hasn't needed any and has been a very good car.

The inside is in excellent condition. It's all original and I like it just the way it is. In fact, I still have the original 1967 Plymouth AM radio in it, which is the one I use. After all, you get all the sports on AM.

When the radio is off, I have a nice quiet ride down the road. If I have the window rolled up, I can't hear any whistles or air noise; it doesn't have any air leaks and the rubber molding is in excellent condition.

As far as the exterior, the paint job is immaculate. The second owner painted it and he owns a body shop in Mattawan; I'm the third owner.

A dark midnight blue was the original color, but it's Pacific or sky blue now.

He also replaced the original small-block engine with a 383 motor. The original was a 318 with air conditioning.

It doesn't have air conditioning now because it's just another problem. I'm a mechanic, but there's one thing about mechanics—their cars are the last ones to get worked on.

I need to take out the engine and degrease it though. It doesn't look too pretty underneath the hood right now.

I want to take out the engine block and spend a couple of weeks rebuilding it before I take it car shows this year.

My dad coordinates the GM Car Club Show, but all the participants vote on the cars, which eliminates any bias. I think it's better that way; I won't win an award unless I deserve it.

My dad's always building street rods and I've been interested in cars since I was old enough to walk. I like Chrysler products because that's what my dad likes; I've followed in his footsteps.

—As told to Tara Marion

Jim Byas is a technician for Hiemstra Automotive and drives a '92 Cutlass Supreme.