

MEMBER PROFILE

DICK and LAURIE'S 1939 Chevrolet

One of the great things about our club is the variety of cars our members have. One of the finest examples is the recently finished '39 Chevy coupe owned by Dick and Laurie from Maplewood. Prior to acquiring the car, their collection consisted of a red '67 Mustang convertible, a black '40 Ford 2dr standard sedan, a black '31 Ford coupe and a grey/black '28 Ford roadster. But wait...there's more! They also have a light green '57 Chevy convertible and a red and white '57 Chevy 4dr hardtop. Not too shabby, eh?

In spite of this, Dick kept thinking about building a street rod and was looking for a '40 Ford coupe. A neighbor three doors down asked him if he would be interested in a '39 Chevy coupe. Dick said "No, not really", but the neighbor insisted he stop by and take a look at it. Dick wound up buying the car and the restoration process began. The car had been sitting outside for many years and was in pretty sad shape, with smashed-in fenders, a caved-in trunk and rotted edges on the bottom of the body. Fortunately, Dick had the skills to fabricate some metal parts he needed and bought a few others to refurbish the body. He decided to chop the top 3" and having never done it before, he



enlisted the aid of a friend who was somewhat familiar with the process. After the usual amount of trial and error, they succeeded and things were really looking up.

The coupe was a 5-window and Dick was thinking of converting it into a 3-window, but after moving the roof forward 5 inches, he decided it looked cool as a 5-window and left it alone. With the body squared away, he scrapped the original engine and transmission, replacing them with a Chevy 327 V8 and a Muncie 4-speed with a floor shifter. Other key additions were a Mustang front suspension and a '58 Ford 9" rear end plus a set of American Racing 5-spoke chrome wheels. Dick hand-fabricated a custom dash insert and added a set of Dolphin gauges to monitor the engine's vital functions. Next came a custom LeCara leather rap steering wheel and an Alpine stereo with CD, plus a Vintage Air system to provide heat and air conditioning.

Dick did receive some much-appreciated help from fellow club member Mike Jaszczak along the

way. Mike assisted with the brakes, pulleys, distributor wiring, front suspension and rear axle bearings. Dick was able to do much of the other work himself, except for the paint, glass and upholstery. The original bench seat was replaced with some buckets from a Jeep Cherokee and he had the interior done in a two-tone tan Ultraleather. The paint selected was a GM light metallic gold, with burnt orange graphics outlined by a pink pinstripe and a blue metallic top. It all turned out beautifully as you can see in the "after" photo. So, after six years of building it, Dick and Laurie are looking forward to cruising it to Back to the Fifties, North St. Paul and many of the Chevy's Best club events.

