

MEET THE MEMBERS



At the north end of Generals Highway, above Crownsville, you might pass an easily overlooked side street. A quiet road that features modest homes built in the 60's for folks employed at NSA. **Bill and Elaine Phillips** live near the end in a midsized attractive rancher on an acre plus. Presently, the Crepe Myrtles are in bloom and grace the front of the house clearly adding much curb appeal.

My entry to the home disclosed no pets; they say they are on the go too much but, see a dog in their future. I gaze to my left down a hallway and see what appears to be an engagement picture. Further scrutiny tells me this is a fairly recent picture of the couple; and as we talk deeper into the interview, I learn they met just four years ago and were wed in May of 2006. Past the foyer we walk straight in to an updated kitchen with attached sunroom and are seated comfortably. We look out through large glass walls to a low level deck with pergola and a huge backyard. The Phillips have lived here just 3 years, and say, everyday is like starting over. Each of them bringing their own houseful of furniture and possessions, and continuously downsizing.

The rear view through the glass walls showcases a second, relatively large three-bay garage. Bill is glad to show me his small collection: A "'57 Chevy" Belair he's restoring; a '59 Corvette convertible; a 2002 Ltd. Edition Thunderbird, and his 2005 C6, of course. Bill acquired the '59 in 1989 during his career change and spent the next year restoring literally everything. It is a beauty and boasts its own collection of trophies. He has chauffeured several political candidates in city and county parades. For their every day drive, Elaine has a 2006 Acura TL and Bill, a 2003 Nissan Murano. However, to know Bill Phillips is to understand that he drives all his cars as often as opportunity will allow.

Bill was born in Ashville NC and prior to High School, the family relocated to Solomons Island where he graduated and married. In 1962 he moved his new family to Anne Arundel County and took up mastering salesmanship and hospitality management at AACC. He was employed at Stiller's Appliances for 22 years and eventually became part owner in the business. He earned top salesman awards and traveled extensively in Europe. He left in 1985 when Mr. Stiller passed on and moved into the tradeshow and convention services business, starting with Uneek Expo and more recently, Blaine Convention Services. This business has taken him all over the United States and up to Alaska. During his years at Stiller Appliance Co., he served on the AA County Chamber of Commerce; Better business Bureau as a star arbitrator, (an AA County ETAC program creating jobs). Bill has one son, Kevin. He and his wife Sandy live on the same street with their four children, ages 3, 9, 11, and 16.

Elaine was born and raised in Baltimore County and moved to Anne Arundel in '93 to take up employment at Gould Fiber Optics. Nine years later, following the dotcom crash, she acquired a realtors' license and dabbled in sales. Most recently she was the Education Coordinator for Prudential Carruthers Realtors and retired on June 1. She is a member of Bally's Total Fitness, loves bicycling, yoga, reading, and everything nautical. She converted the nursery-sized bedroom to a complete computer center for the two of them. The walls are lined with sailing prints and sailboats, but there are some model corvettes on the shelves. Elaine has two married daughters and is a proud grandmother of three, ages 8, 10, and 10. Both families live in Harford County.

Bill's love for automobiles probably started about the age of 9. His first car was a 1950 Ford at the age of 16. He has restored several cars over some 30 years. He is also a member of Vintage Tin of Maryland, whose members restore old cars; aka, street rods. Bill is an avid car lover and pool player; and Elaine? –strictly corvettes – what else? They joined Corvette Annapolis in 2006 and are greatly enjoying their membership.