

# 1966 Dodge Charger

Text by Terry Spitzer, Photos by Ray Maxfield





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It was late 1965 and the 1966 Dodge Charger had just been introduced, as the first year of the Charger. I was a young 19 year old who had just gotten married to my wife Peggy in early November. We had both fallen in love with the design of the Charger. Of course, being just married, we couldn't afford the car.

Ten days after getting married I got drafted in the service but enlisted in the Navy with the dream of still owning the Charger in my mind. After three months at basic training in Great Lakes, I was stationed there for a year. Peggy, being an X-Ray tech with a good job in Illinois, came along.

After seven months, of us both saving, we decided in July 1966 to purchase the car of our dreams from a dealer (Mason Motor Sales) in our small town of Timberville, Virginia. It

was late in 1966 year and we weren't sure if we could still get the 1966 Charger but I really wanted the 1966. We ordered it burgundy, white interior, 383 high performance four-barrel with a 4 speed transmission. When the car was delivered it was blue, blue interior, automatic with a 426 hemi. I hated the color but most important I didn't want an automatic. I turned the car down and they found the exact car I had ordered in Stubenville, Ohio and we swapped the car even with that dealer. Needless to say what a mistake. Can you imagine what a 1966 Dodge Charger 426 Hemi, one owner with 52,000 miles car would be worth now?

We had the car in Great Lakes the rest of 1966 and early 1967 and then Peggy moved back to Virginia and I went aboard a ship to Vietnam. Peggy drove the car approximately

four miles round trip to work each day until I came home from the war and she continued this until 1985 when we moved to Atlanta. It was then parked in a garage and wasn't driven again until 1989 when I decided to have the car repainted. Since then it hasn't been driven more than 300 to 500 miles per year, just to shows and cruise-ins. All of the interior, the carpet and the motor are original with no motor work ever having been done.

The 1966 and 1967 Dodge Charger are a very unique design which has never gotten the attention it deserves as far as market value. The trip on the Muscle Car Tour was the most exposure and travel it has experienced in years. It gave me no trouble whatsoever and we had a great time. 🚗

### The car really does have a style that is all it's own





Quite an imposing grill!





1966 Dodge Charger on recent Muscle Car Tour



