

# Member Car of the Month

## Jeff Philbrook, Spring Hill, Tennessee

### 1953 Ford Crestline Sunliner Convertible

When I turned 16, in July of 1954, my Granddad took me to Sacramento, CA to buy me my first car. At that time, it was a 2 1/2 hour drive from Red Bluff, CA. There were numerous car dealers along Fulton St. with many, many used cars for sale.

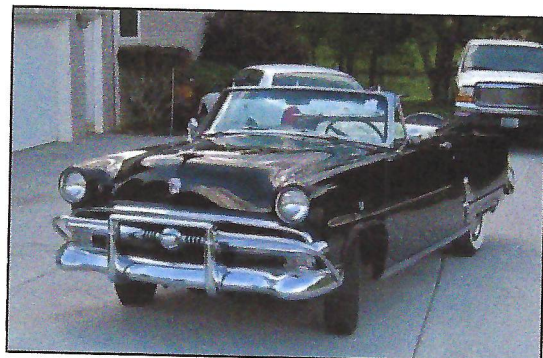
We looked over many and I fell in love with a beautiful black 1953 Ford Crestline Sunliner convertible. I drove it home! A four-year-old top of the line Ford for \$575.00

Sixteen years old. Sole owner of a beautiful Ford convertible! I was a BMOC! Loved that car. Spent uncountable hours "cruising" Main St. Good times were had...no details! I don't remember how I got rid of that car. I know it wasn't wrecked...so I must have sold it or traded it in as my next car was a '58 Chevy Biscayne V8 three speed.

Through the years, reminiscing about the Ford and all the good times I had with the Ford, I regretted not keeping the car. Of course, we all lament the cars we "should have kept". I pursued a couple of '53 Fords but it either was not the "right" car or not the right time. When we were finally able to move to Tennessee a couple years ago, I spotted what appeared to be a near duplicate to my long-lost convertible. It was advertised in Hemmings for an auction in Wake Forest, NC.

Fran and I drove over for the sale, looked at (and admired) several of the very nice cars being sold for a collector. When the car came up I feigned disinterest. Did not bid...and then...when the auctioneer was ready to hammer it sold I jumped in with my only bid AND I BOUGHT THE CAR.

The Ford is very original. It is as similar as one could expect after 67 years. The original car did not have the "fake" continental kit and did not have the dealer installed bumper guards. It is three speed on the column with overdrive and is still six volt! Very original! I got an award for the car at the Franklin 2022 Eastern National Meet 1949-1953 Touring Open class. Someone other than me will be responsible for moving this car on as I won't ever make the mistake I made with the first 1953 Ford Convertible!!



Jeff and Fran Philbrook in their  
1953 Ford Crestline Sunliner Ford  
At the 2022 Eastern National Meet  
In Franklin, Tennessee





**The Philbrooks' 1953 Ford Crestline Sunliner Convertible  
at the September 2023 visit to the Jim Bratcher collection  
In Shelbyville, TN, in September, 2023**