



MEMBER PROFILE: RAY AND LINDA THURM

Even as a toddler Ray was enamored with automobiles. If he had a toy car to play with, he was happy. If he did not have a toy car, he made one from whatever was around. The family tells of a holiday dinner where he was the only child. Bored with adult conversation, he took a baked potato, found the toothpicks, and put green olive wheels on his baked potato. When his father asked what he was doing, he said he had “the Fastest Potato on the table” as he drove his potato in circles around his dinner plate.

In high school he first had a Cushman Eagle scooter then moved up to various hot rods that he would build from junked cars. He started college in 1956 and enjoyed the era of the hottest 1950’s Chevys. He still owns a 1955 Bel Air, 1956 Del Ray, and 1957 pickup. Linda owns a 1933 Packard 7 passenger sedan.

After graduating from Fresno State and teaching in Porterville, he was called by the Army for active duty during the building of the Berlin Wall. When he returned to Ridgecrest after completing his service, he immediately took his savings and bought his first Corvette - a 1962 Fawn Beige - injected 4-speed with both tops and- power windows.

In 1965 he traded up to a 1966 Mosport big block coupe with air conditioning - he competed in time/distance rallies around the western states.

In the 1980’s Ray raced Pro Rally but not in a Corvette.

Since then, he has owned a 1958, 1962,1973,1993 40th anniversary, 2006, 2014 and several 1966's.

He currently is retired with a white 1966 convertible – a mosport 1966 coupe with a Duntov award, - a 2014 limerock coupe. An interesting garage for a guy in his 80's.

Ray bought the 2006 in Naples Florida - they spent a month driving it home. He bought the 2014 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, toured New England, Michigan and a bit of Canada in their 6 week drive home.

He is now looking at C-8's - when they decide to paint one green, he will probably add another to his stable. (Ray definitely appreciates his indulgent wife.)

I hope everyone enjoys learning a little something about Ray and Linda. A big thanks to Linda for providing the information.

Donnie Hansen, Newsletter Editor