

ALAN AND BETTY LOWE

RMOC "SPOTLIGHT," JUNE 2021

Alan was born in Denver and moved with his family to St. Joseph, Missouri. The day after he graduated from St. Joseph Central High School in 1965 he came to Denver for the summer of 1965. Alan had an aptitude for math and science and was interested in becoming a civil engineer. He received a scholarship to the Missouri School of Mines at Rolla, Missouri and moved back there for several semesters.

He met Betty, his wife-to-be, at a Dairy Queen in St. Joseph. They were married on April 15, 1967 and moved to Denver the next month. Alan got a job with Samsonite International, then became an apprentice sheet metal worker for the Louis S. Fox Sheet Metal Company and learned the art and science of the sheet metal craft. He worked at Fox for 32 years. He left Fox to join the Western Distributing Company and has been (and still is) working there for 22 years.

Betty graduated from Bishop LeBlond High School in St. Joseph, Missouri. She went to business school, worked for Jefferson County Schools for 13 years, World Savings Bank (Wells Fargo), the (federal) Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, and Western Distributing Company. She retired in 2019. Betty and Alan have two children and three grandchildren. They have lived in Lakewood, Colorado for 48 years.

Alan and Betty have owned seven Oldsmobiles. Betty had a red and white 1958 Super 88 2-door that her brother gave her as a high school graduation gift. It was a J2 but the three-deuces had been replaced with a 4-barrel carburetor.

Alan's first Oldsmobile (and first car) was a 1959 Dynamic 88, Holiday, 2-door hardtop. It was Champaign Beige and Polaris White with Fawn interior. He had seen this '59 every day on his paper route and liked the look, particularly the rockets on the fender. He bought this very car in his junior year of high school in the spring of 1964 for \$500. Sometime later, he had an unfortunate meeting with a '56 Chevy; both cars were totaled.

Many years later (1987), Alan learned about a white '59 Oldsmobile convertible with red interior for sale in Colorado Springs. It had been pulled out of a creek bed. It had water damage and was full of sand and mud. Alan had worked at his father's gas stations and tinkered with cars throughout his early life and became quite knowledgeable about auto mechanics. He performed a frame-off restoration of this car in his own garage over a three-year period. He redid the interior and exterior using the same colors as his first '59 from high school. The engine is a 371 CID/2-barrel. That is the car he drives today as pictured below. This beautiful, unique car has received nine car show awards, including Best of Class at the 1995 Regional show in Thornton. This is his favorite car and favorite Oldsmobile.

(NOTE: Alan wrote a great article about his two 1959s in *The Rocket Report* for July 1997).

Alan learned about RMOC in 1988 and attended a meeting at the Empire Oldsmobile dealership on East Colfax in Denver. He met RMOC icon, Al Russell and joined the club at that time.

Since then, Alan and Betty had several other Oldsmobiles: 1971 (blue) Cutlass SX; 1979 Cutlass Calais; 1960 white Super 88 2-door hardtop (formerly owned by club member, Jack Simshauser); and a 1971 (red and white) Cutlass Supreme SX (formerly owned by club member, Carla Glasgow). The latter has a 455 CID engine and some other special touches that make it competitive. It was a runner-up at the drag races at the Albuquerque nationals in 2017.

Note the custom license plate on the '59 – *16AGIN*. That's how Betty and Alan feel when they cruise with the top down. BTW: Check out Betty's custom plate – *BTYBOOP*.

Back in 2004-05, Alan restored another classic, a 1965 Mustang for Betty for her 40th class reunion. It is the "black beauty" in Alan's garage that we have all seen at the soup suppers they host (see picture).

Alan and Betty have been among the most active and involved members of the RMOC since they joined the club 33 years ago. Alan has served as Vice President, newsletter editor, and activities chair. He was in charge of security at the 2001 Denver national show and earlier regional shows. He was also an OCA national judge for four years. Betty was in charge of hospitality at the 2001 nationals in Denver. She served as RMOC Treasurer and activities chair for several years. Betty and Alan have also hosted those wonderful annual soup suppers at their house for the past 27 years. I would add that Alan has played a big part in helping members solve car problems at the RMOC clinics and Betty helped make the 40th anniversary commemoration, and so many other club activities, successful and enjoyable.

Alan's most memorable club activity – the best – was the cruise to the 100th anniversary celebration of Oldsmobile in Lansing in 1997. Several clubs with their broad array of Oldsmobiles joined the caravan as they moved across the country to Michigan. Ultimately, more than 50 Oldsmobiles joined the procession. It was impressive and unforgettable.

A runner-up memorable activity, Alan says, is racing Tim Hall in his Corvette racer at Bandimere as part of a fundraiser for Craig Hospital (see pictures). Note Alan's wheelstand as the light turned green. (Look closely. Could it be true?).

When asked about why they have stayed with the club and have been such a vital part of everything, both Alan and Betty agree: "The club is blessed with kind-hearted people who have respect for one another. Cars and respect. That's the common denominator."

Thank you Alan and Betty for all you have done to make RMOC such an active, meaningful and fun car and social club.





