

DON NEUMANN

CONVERTIBLE GUY AND ONE OF THE RMOC ORIGINALS

Don is a third-generation Denver native. He attended George Washington High School and graduated from Fort Lewis College (Durango) with a degree in Business Administration. After college, Don worked with his father in the materials handling business. He moved on from there to run what became a multi-million dollar leasing and financing business related to semi-trailers and heavy equipment. He married Jennifer, a nurse, in 1984. Later, he worked for GE Capital, the financial services division of General Electric. In the late 1990s, Don and Jenn moved to Winter Park where they owned a snowmobiling dealership and engaged in other related business enterprises.

Don joined the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America (later abbreviated RMOC) through contact with Steve Dowson, owner of Empire Oldsmobile in Denver, in 1984 and held the office of RMOC Vice President in 1985. Don was very active in Oldsmobile and RMOC activities, including the 2001 Nationals in Denver, and ran for OCA President in 2006.

One of the best RMOC activities we ever had was snowmobiling in the Winter Park area, courtesy of Don and his staff. They gave club members a royal welcome and toured us over the trails in grand form. It should be mentioned that Don was also part of a search and rescue team. On one occasion, in the process of rescuing an injured snowmobiler (not a club member), the weather turned bad – whiteout conditions – and Don's snowmobile slipped off the path and tumbled down a cliff. His passenger sustained minor additional injuries but Don's injuries were severe and still cause him trouble. I see Don as a real hero for having put himself in harm's way for others in those days.

In 2010, Don and Jenn moved to Lake Havasu after being introduced to the area by a former RMOC member. Long-time RMOC members, Bob and Diane Petri followed suit and also moved to Lake Havasu in 2017. It's obviously a great place at many levels, one of which, Don says, is a great community appreciation for the vintage car hobby.

Don has four vintage cars, three of which are Oldsmobiles, *all convertibles*: (1) a 1970 Cutlass Supreme (Bamboo exterior/gold interior, 350/4-barrel, TH 350); (2) a 1964 Dynamic 88 (black exterior/red interior, 394/2-barrel, 3-speed automatic.); (3) a 1995 Cutlass Supreme (Dark Teal Metallic exterior/leather interior; 3.4L V-6); and (4) a 1964 Pontiac Bonneville (Gulfstream Aqua Metallic with Alpine White roof, 389/4-barrel, TH 4-speed automatic). Don provided pictures, below.

The 1970 Cutlass and the Bonneville have special significance. The '70 had been purchased new by his aunt and uncle when he was just 10 years old. He wanted the car from the moment he saw it and finally got it 14 years later, the same time he was married (he picked up the car on his honeymoon). The Bonneville belonged to his father and was restored in 1998. The 1970 Cutlass is Don's favorite. He had it restored (complete frame-off), which was completed in 1990. The car was judged *Best of Class* at the Nationals in Columbus, Ohio that same year. The '64 Dynamic 88 was also an award winner – it received a *First Place* at the 2017 Oldsmobile Nationals in Albuquerque.

Don was very positive about several of our former and present members. He commented that RMOC has brought people together from all walks of life, bonded by their enjoyment of Oldsmobiles and old cars. To quote Don, "after a while the cars became secondary and the people, the members, became the primary reason for being in the club."

Thanks to Don and Jenn for being such an integral part of RMOC for so many years and helping to make it the outstanding club that it continues to be.

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