

# Member Spotlight

## Angie Midkiff

By Monica Ledwon

This month's Gazette features one of the club's most devoted car girls, Angie Midkiff. Joining with her husband, John, she's been a steadfast volunteer worker at Shriner's shows and has never ending enthusiasm for Buicks.

Angie grew up in Hazelwood and graduated from Hazelwood West High School. She started working at the age of fourteen and a half at her father's drive-in theatre, the Thunderbird, on Goodfellow and Natural Bridge. Her position entailed lots of fun and free movies every weekend.

Attending Fontbonne College, Angie earned a degree in Environmental Sciences and first worked in Sauget, Illinois for the Amax Zinc Corporation. Moving on to her current position, Angie has been a chemist at MSD for over 26 years. There, she met John. He worked in the Dioxin chamber and Angie had never seen him without his hazmat suit on until departments were restructured. Then, they ended up becoming lunchtime buddies which lead to a date and onward to marriage. Angie and John have one daughter.

Being the oldest kid in her family, she hung out in the garage often with her father helping do routine maintenance on the family vehicles. There, she learned the tool inventory and skills to work on her own cars. Back in the day, Angie changed belts, and did oil changes. She was once shocked to hear a coworker complaining that her steaming car was leaking transmission fluid. When Angie went out to check, she found it was antifreeze!



Angie's first love is Mustangs, especially the '65, '66 model years. And she did own a 2013 retro-styled one for a short time. Poor ride quality and road manners, though, led to this Ford taking leave of her garage in favor of a 2015 Impala as her daily driver.

John's dream had always been to replace a '67 Skylark he once owned that had mysteriously met an untimely end after being put into a family member's care when he left for military service. As car karma happens, while vacationing in the Northeast, a '66 Buick GS convertible in original condition was found in Philly and shipped home. Angie's appreciation for Buicks was now established. The car has been in her and John's care now for thirteen years.



Upon going to the Forest Park Concourse de Elegance Easter Show, John and Angie met Pete and Chet who invited them to join the Gateway Chapter. Since then the Midkiffs have been loyal members in attendance to many meetings and events.

One remarkable aspect about Angie is that she participated twice in the Power Tour Ride challenge. Participants number in the thousands with drivers joining in along the way. The 1200 mile trip through the southeastern states of the country is a car enthusiast's holy grail of driving skill and machinery. Traveling along with Kristina Richards and driving the family 2007 Corvette, Angie was once held hostage by her convoy compatriots to complete the tour. She forged ahead and achieved the status of a Long Hauler.

In approximately 2 years, easy living awaits Angie as she plans her retirement to read, travel and be the main source of entertainment for her two grandchildren. We, too, can look forward to seeing more of this car girl around at our Buick Club gatherings.