

# Member Spotlight

## Geoff Lockett

By Monica Ledwon

This month's Gazette features Geoff Lockett as the club's Member Spotlight. Geoff, an avid old car enthusiast, joined the club in 2012 shortly after he found his dream car, a black 1949 Buick Roadmaster sedanette.



Jeff was born and raised within several small towns of the state of Kansas. His father was a doctor and delivered Geoff himself as an intern in 1952. Geoff remembers his dad always drove Buicks on cross country vacation trips. So his interest in this GM model was sparked during the formative years.

Going to high school in Overland Park, KS, Geoff recalls during his teens that, if you couldn't work on cars, you couldn't own one. He was a fast learner in troubleshooting and basic auto maintenance in order to drive the cars of the day like an old MG and '57 Chevy.

Geoff decided to enlist in the Navy after attending two years of college at the University of Kansas at Kansas City. At that time he owned a 1970 Skylark that went to his sister to drive. But that Buick met an untimely end to its rear end.

Home port being San Diego for four years, Geoff became a submarine crew member and sonar technician writing up reports on satellite images. After his military stint, he finished a BS degree in Economics at the University of California and began civilian employment in IT services for engineering companies. But after some time Geoff still missed the Navy. He reached out to the Naval Reserves, enlisted as an Intelligence Officer and spent the next 16 years on reserve duty. Geoff was part of the Naval Patrol Squadron 90. Flying in a P3 Orion from various naval airbases, he went on intelligence assignments such as to the South China Sea to search for Russian submarines. He retired from the Reserves as a Lieutenant Commander and continued his IT work throughout the years for various firms such as Digital Equipment, World Wide Tech and ABM Federal.

Geoff's appreciation for old cars began by running around in his brothers '36 Pontiac. The first classic he owned was a 1953 Cadillac model 60. Later on, while living in Chicago circa 1989, Geoff found his most memorable car in Hemmings Motor News-- a restored 1937 Ford coupe from Edmeston, NY. Meeting his wife, Angela, at about the same time, they used the Ford as their date car and then onward to the car that carried them to their wedding reception.

Transferring to St. Louis and becoming the father of three boys with a baby on the way, Geoff opted to sell the '37 in 2000, taking a brief hiatus from the old car hobby. But, around 2005 he felt the itch for another classic become noticeable. Buick grilles popped in and out of his mind and the 1949 Sedanette piqued his interest. Angela said of his reveries to just go out and seek your dream car for your 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The search for the car followed a winding path to several black '49 Buicks from Missouri, to Texas, Tennessee and finally ended in California February 2012. While on a business trip there, Geoff attempted to contact the seller to no avail. After returning to St. Louis, the seller surprisingly contacted him several months later. The wheels of the sale were set in motion. Geoff's brother acted as a liaison being in close proximity to the car, took pictures and reported on its #3 condition. A deal was sealed over the phone and the Buick made its way cross country. After a long, tormenting two weeks, it was a scene of pure joy for Geoff seeing the '49 being unloaded on the New Melle Community Center parking lot. Passerby were rubbernecking at the sight, one being Chet Palumbo!

Geoff then joined the Gateway Chapter after seeking out local chapter shows from the BCA and meeting members at the Regional and the Laura Buick show. Continuing to drive and maintain his black beauty, Geoff is always at the Spring Oil Spill lubing the chassis, changing oil and joining us in Buick Club camaraderie.

