

Member Spotlight

Adam Martin

By Monica Ledwon

Adam Martin, the club's very own Energizer Bunny of car restoration, is this month's Member spotlight. He can skillfully perform a fulltime job in the irrigation industry, work on various old car projects of his own and for others while also attending meetings and kindly helping out in club activities.

Adam was born in Taylorville, Illinois, but raised during his formative years in St. Peters. His interest in auto mechanics started at the age of five. A neighbor working on VW's enticed this youngster's attention. From there his passion and obsession with cars began. He keenly observed the neighbor who let Adam assemble small engine parts to introduce him to the art of basic maintenance.

By happenstance, upon his family moving to another home in St. Peters, he met a new neighbor who had a fondness for early '70's Cutlass Oldsmobiles. Adam shadowed this fellow and was doing wet sanding when he was seven years old. He learned many a technique in doing body work as he grew up next door to him.

Graduating from Fort Zumwalt South in '99, Adam pursued degrees in Music and Business at SIU Edwardsville. His wind instrument of choice was the trumpet.

Working part time during college at an irrigation company, he was so successful at laying out sprinkler systems, that he stayed on with the same business making it his fulltime career for the last nineteen years.

Adam tells that his first and most favorite car was a 1971 Buick Le Sabre. The car was owned by his buddy's grandma and they all would drive to Six Flags in this luxury liner. Adam was quite impressed with its style and road manners. So began a gestation of love for Buicks. He eventually asked this family if the car was for sale. Surprisingly, it was. He was able to buy it at the age of sixteen and drove it six years as a daily driver.

Adam's lifetime focus on automobiles has been solely on Buicks. And he has a varied histo-



Adam and Atena at the 2018 40th Anniversary Picnic at Love Park

ry owning almost every nameplate that Buick produced from Le Sabre, Electra, Skylark, Wildcat, Centurions and Roadmasters. His current classic ride is a 1957 Roadmaster 75 in #2 condition.

In 2003, Adam and his '71 Centurion convertible were introduced to the Gateway Chapter



Adam and his 57 Buick Roadmaster 75 at the 2019 Nationals in Oklahoma City

Buick Club by Crin Dina. Crin suggested that Adam come and learn what this club is all about. Adam was then indoctrinated into the famous Rock Road Chuck-a-Burger meetings. He remembers meeting

Hank Degelman and says he was the glue that really held the club together. Hank pushed Adam to attend the 2003 Century Anniversary of Buick in Flint, Michigan. Reflecting back, it was a phenomenal experience taking in the sight of 2000 Buicks on the show field. Adam feels that the magnitude of this celebration that included Huey Lewis and the News for musical entertainment, will never be seen again, and was truly a once in a lifetime experience.

As time went on, Adam enjoyed himself with Bob Huff's '58 Limited on which he did a frame off restoration. Then he acquired a pink '58 Roadmaster and worked his mechanical magic on it to get the car tuned and operating. The Gateway Buick Club once took a tour of Adam's standard size garage in a ranch home in St. Charles to observe a Buick he was currently restoring. Though Adam comments that he was just showing the club his "stuff", it was amazing to see his quality of work and methodical steps in the restoration.

Adam's occasional hobby is still playing his trumpet. He enjoys the jazz groove of music and has played with big bands, and party bands around town. And, the trumpet led him to meet another likeminded trumpet playing musician-- his unique wife, Atena in 2011. She once came to one of the club picnics dressed in vintage styled fashion from the era of their car.

Adam's goal is to build an expansive shop on his home's property now in Foristell, Mo. He enjoys doing restoration projects for colleagues as his fulltime side job. Adam simply has boundless energy when it comes to keeping classic cars on the road.