

Ron Siegrist Details Restoration Of 1966 Oldsmobile 'Ninety Eight' Convertible For Three Generations Of Family Drivers

By Ron Siegrist

I've been a member of Chesapeake Region A.A.C.A for over thirty years. Many members know me as that 'quirky' (my neighbors use the word 'nutty') guy that bought an Arctic Blue 1952 Oldsmobile '98' convertible new and still drives the car. At any rate, after driving 'Betsy' for fourteen years and 193,000 miles, in 1966 it was time for a new car. Wife Julie and I ordered a highly optioned, 'target red' 1966 Oldsmobile '98' convertible from Stu Berger Oldsmobile in Baltimore, Maryland.

We took delivery on Big Red in the spring of 1966, put the top down and were ecstatic. Our daughters Susan and Carol were seven and three respectively. During the negotiations on the '66, very little was offered for trade-in for our fourteen year old Betsy; so we took her home, put her in the garage where she resided for the next fourteen years.

Fun & Utility...

Since I drove a company car to work the new car was used by Julie for school car pools, after school activities, shopping and all women's world activities. Of course it was used for all of Ron and Julie's social activities and vacations. Nine years later another driver would enter the scene. Susan was now sixteen. After obtaining her driver's license she asked me, "What car am I going to drive?" When I told her she could use 'Big Red' any time her mother did not need it, she proclaimed: "I can't be seen driving a nine year old car!" A few days later she acquiesced and drove the car to school. When I came home that night she said, "Dad, it's a great car, all the boys waived and whistled at me." "They all loved my car!"

A few years later, she was the main driver of Big Red and took it to Denison University in Ohio. It came home from a rough year at college with a large split in the padded dash. I found an 'new old stock' dash pad and replaced it. That was one heck of a job. When Susan graduated from college, she remembered a promise that I had made four years before. About fifteen seconds after she got her diploma she said, "where's my new car, Dad?"

By now, daughter Carol was 16, so Carol, Big Red and I went off to the Department of Motor Vehicles for her driver's test. When

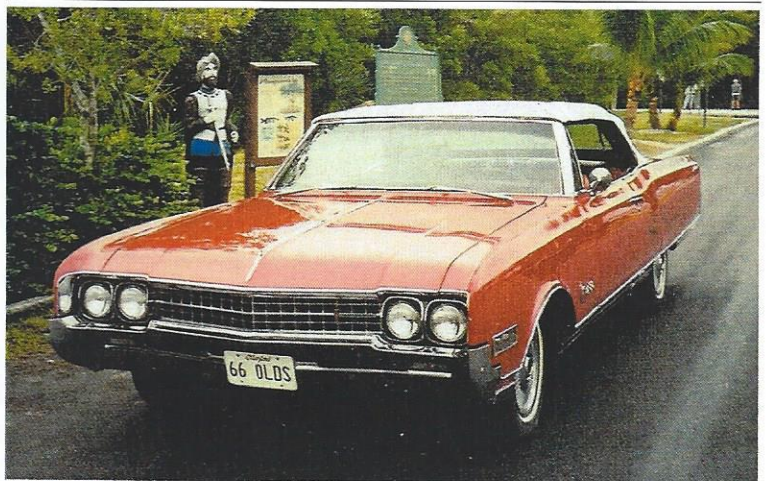


Just as its predecessors, 'Big Red' is no slouch in the 'trophy' department

Ed Allen Presented 'Award Of Gratitude' For 17-Years Service As Member Of The Board



During the 17 years Ed Allen has been a member of the board, he probably attended 400 or so meetings. At the January 12th membership meeting former president and now director at large, Gary Wilmer presented Ed with an award acknowledging Ed for his dedicated service to Chesapeake Region. Always available for anything regarding technical advice, 'easy going' Ed has vivid memories of many CR officers and members that passed on.



Being a snow bird, Big Red splits time between Maryland and Florida

it was time for the parallel parking test, the officer realized the car would not fit in the allotted space, so he moved the barrier out a bit. I was very proud when Carol successfully put that big automobile in that space. The next day we gave big red to Carol. Julie was now relieved of her twice a day trip to school.

(Continued in March Bulletin)