

KREUZER'S '63 impala

I would like to introduce our 1963 Impala Convertible. We found this "Fine Lady" in Santa Rosa, California. The year was 1965. It featured a white interior and a white exterior, 283 V-8 engine, power-glide transmission, power steering, no air conditioning, and an AM radio. "Remember how great it was to just get in your car and drive?" We do, and have been doing it since 1965! Pat drove the car for 18 years. Mike and Victoria learned to drive in this car. This Impala has many stories to tell. We are unusual owners as most people we meet at car events are more recent owners, or own many classic cars.

In 1990 we completed a ground-up restoration. It was stripped of all moldings, bumpers, scripts, etc. The engine compartment was empty. Our son, Mike, was in charge of the restoration. He and his friends, each with their own expertise, accomplished the major part of restoration. The 283 was sent out to be re-built. The transmission was also re-built, although it had over 100,000 miles on it, it showed no signs of wear.

The restoration took two years to complete, but restoration is a continuous process. Although we completed our Impala in 1990, there were some items that were unavailable at that time. The side chrome trim, the anodized rear panel, and grill took several years to obtain. Our Impala became almost perfect in 2001 when some of these additions were added.

We had no intention of showing our car during restoration. Our goal was to reach completion by August of 1990 and drive to Reno, Nevada for "Hot August Nights." We reached that goal. That same year a Concours d' Elegance was held in Santa Rosa, CA, our home town. We entered our Impala and received a "First" in our class. That sold us on classic car events!

We have enjoyed entering our car shows and Concours events in Northern California since 1990.

We have been awarded first, or placed in almost every event we entered. Some of the highlights include an invitational at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco for the California Mille since 2004. We placed "First" in 2006 AACA National Event in Sunnyvale, CA. The registered plaque proudly adorns the grill of our Impala. We have three "First" place awards at the Hillsborough Concours d' Elegance. The latest was in 2007. In 2008 we were awarded "First" at the Palo Alto Concours d' Elegance

We have so many fond memories of every event we attend. We always meet friendly people who share the same admiration of these classic cars. We look forward to each years event with anticipation. The "Thumbs Up" we receive as we drive our Impala to events gives us the same pride we enjoy when we receive an award. We are always ready to "SEE THE USA IN OUR CHEVROLET."

Rudy, Mike, and Patricia Kreuzer, California, USA