

Members Profile
Joe and Carol Craig
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Joe and Carol Craig have been members of the Cruisers since 2003. Joe was born in Oklahoma City in St Anthony Hospital his parents living downtown OKC in and around NW 6th and Western. He has 2 brothers and 4 sisters. His father was in the Oil Field Business and they lived in the Texas towns of Midland and Odessa and Cyril Oklahoma before settling in Lawton. Joe graduated from Lawton High School and was a Wolverine. Out of high school Joe joined the Marines and returned to Lawton to attend Cameron University and received his degree in Accounting, completed work for a CPA certificate and is a certified Fraud Examiner.

Carol was born in Wichita Falls Texas. Her father was a business owner who ran a Motorola 2-way radio service center. Her mother was a housewife. Her dad was offered a position in Lawton or Colorado, and he chose Lawton. He built the house that she grew up in while she, her mother and her one brother and one sister lived in a rented home across the street. Carol knows a lot about building a house. The house is still in the family.

Joe's first job was with the LaSill Milk Company where he made and served Ice Cream. Yes he does own several Ice Cream Makers. He still uses them whenever he can. His second job was that of usher at the Movie Theater in Lawton. He rose to the rank of Manager, running the operation, ordering the popcorn, signing for the movies and all. During his college days he worked for TG&Y stores and after college moved to Moore to continue work for TG&Y as an auditor. TG&Y was owned by Household Finance Corp who sold the business. Joe was offered a transfer to Pennsylvania but rejected the offer opting to go to work for the US Government as an IRS auditor.

Carol graduated from Lawton Ike as an Eagle. Her first job was working for Der Weinerschnitzel for 2 years. Yes she still loves Hot Dogs. She then went to work for a fabric store and rose from sales clerk to assistant manager. She still likes to mess with fabric, check out the spare bedroom at their home. Carol attended and Graduated from Cameron University with a BA in Psychology and Sociology, a degree that would be helpful in her working future. After graduation she interviewed for a job with the State of Oklahoma but Joe and she moved to Moore and she had to turn down the job as it was in Lawton. She then went to work for a computer company that scanned in bar code information transferred the info to a tape and provided reports. She then went to work for the State of Oklahoma and worked as a Social Worker for 14 wonderful sometimes scary months. She then transferred to the Social Security Benefits Disability claims (Disability Determination Division) processor and remained in that field of work until retiring last Thursday. She started as a worker bee and rose to the position of Program Manager.

Joe worked for the IRS for 24 years and was one of only 5 managers in the country that conducted audits of Fuel related businesses. Major oil companies with tax credits, etc. where a simple accounting tweak could mean 100's of millions of bucks. He traveled a lot during his last years and got to see a lot of our grand country as well as the inside of a

lot of airplanes. He retired in 2011, and at this time does not plan on looking for a job, enjoying his retirement to the fullest.

Carol's first car was a 1969 Chevrolet Caprice but it lacked the personality she was looking for and she sold it to her brother and bought a 1973 Triumph Spitfire. When she bought it and went to pick it up she realized that she didn't know how to drive a stick shift. She learned quickly driving around in a residential area where houses were being built. Even after that some hills on the way to work proved to be a challenge.

Joe first owned an AMC Ambassador but bought a 1971 Triumph Spitfire and drove it back to California while still in the Marines. Without shame Joe was known to rob parts off Carol's car to keep his running. One funny story has Joe and Carol giving a ride back to Lawton from Six-Flags in Texas to a friend of her brother in the spitfire. The friend was 6'4" tall.

Carol's dad had a job back in the 50's rebuilding car motors and subsequently bought Joe a 1970 Ford truck with the big six. The truck needed a rebuild on the motor. After rebuilding it they assembled it tranny and all, stuck it in the truck and then noticed that they had left out the rear main seal. Back out it came.

They currently drive a 1956 Thunderbird they bought in 2002. Carol had imagined that her dream car would be turquoise but this bird turned out to be one of the last 56's built and it came from the factory in sage green. She couldn't bear to change the color during its restoration. The restoration was started by a man in Chickasha who had health problem, called them stating he had to stop working on the project and returned the Bird to them in 7 boxes. Henry and Wallace stepped in and finished the project. Thank goodness for the Cruisers. Joe and Carol both love fishing, and plan to do some. Carol wants to take a golf class, learn to play the guitar better and do a garden. Joe has a 1997 Harley Heritage Classic that he has ridden to Sturgis twice. He will get to ride more now. Thanks for being members of the Tri-City Cruisers.