

Car of the Month

1969 Oldsmobile 98 Holiday Coupe

By Peter Pandolfi

This massive piece of automotive history is owned by Scott Patton, the current Bull Run Region Vice President. Scott truly enjoys American full size cars from the 1960's and 1970's as evidenced by his 1965 Chrysler New Yorker, his 1974 Cadillac Sedan de Ville and this stunning 1969 Oldsmobile 98 Holiday Coupe.

Scott's Oldsmobile 98 Holiday Coupe is one of 17,294 produced in 1969. Oldsmobile used the 'Holiday' moniker on all pillar less hardtop cars in that era. Scott is only the second owner of this all original, low mileage beauty. The Ninety Eight series was the Oldsmobile top of the line car since its introduction in the 1940's so there are many luxury features on this car. For those of you not familiar with the era of Detroit Iron, Scott's Olds 98 rides on a 127 inch wheelbase and the entire car is nearly 19 feet long (about the length of 2.5 Smart cars). She is powered by the Olds Rocket 455 cubic inch engine making 365 horsepower and 510 foot pounds of torque. It takes a lot of muscle to move 4350 pounds. Transferring all that power to the rear wheels is GM's ultra-smooth, Turbo Hydramatic automatic transmission, and 256:1 axle ratio rear end with optional, limited-slip differential. Among her many features, she has a tilt and telescoping steering wheel, power antenna, vacuum trunk release that makes a pleasing hiss when operated, a rear view mirror with a built-in map light, an AM-FM stereo radio, electric power windows, vacuum operated power door locks, six-way power front seats and a two speed rear window defroster. That may not sound impressive compared to the 'gadget mobiles' we have today, but in 1969 cars did not come any better appointed.

Scott enjoys the smooth, quiet luxury ride equal to any Cadillac of the era. In Fall of 2012, Scott purchased his coupe in nearly perfect condition despite its age. To put it in Scott's own words, "I am the second owner of this car and when I went to go look at it last fall I was floored at what fantastic original condition it was in, no pitting in the chrome, nearly perfect interior. Not even any wear on the driver's side of the seat and no wear on the floor mats. The car has always been garaged as no evidence of ultraviolet damage. I always wanted a nice two door car and the price was right." The Olds is a thirsty lady with a non-functional gas gauge as Scott learned when he ran out of gas on the way home one day. Fortunately, he had a safe place to pull over and was close to home. Scott is a very active member of the Region and has been in the car hobby since the 1990's. As Scott will tell you, "I love all antique cars. I believe they are made to be driven and enjoyed. I have little interest in garage queens. To me there is nothing like "old car therapy" getting out and driving that wonderful machine."



