

## Denis & Diane Bianchi



Denis Bianchi was born in Wichita Falls, Texas where his father was stationed briefly during WW II. They moved back to Oakland where his father and mother had their roots. Denis was in the first class to graduate from the newly built Skyline High School and graduated from Saint Mary's College with a degree in Business. Denis has always been a "gear head". He shared a love of anything mechanical with his father, Gene. While in high school he joined a group of teenagers who had formed the car club called Roadmasters. They were a toned down version of the car groups in "Grease"--a bunch of young men channeling their love for cars and a good time.

Denis and his best friend, Carl, built race cars. Carl drove and Denis was the crew chief. But Denis never forgot about his beloved Model A's. Denis's love for Model A's began when his father convinced his mother that working on a car would be a good project for him to have with Denis. The Tasty Pastry panel truck was purchased for \$20, the first of many Model A's to come. Denis acquired a 1929 pickup which he drove to high school and college and a 1928 dump truck. His dad bought a 4-door sedan which was used in both of his sons' weddings.

While attending Laney College Denis met Diane. They were "good friends" for many years and as their paths kept crossing as they dated others and pursued their own interests, their relationship evolved and they realized they were in love with one another--something like the "When Harry Met Sally" story. Denis worked for Dover Elevator, Diablo Vertrans and Dwan Elevator for the better part of his working life. He combined his understanding of all things mechanical with his business acumen and designed and worked on elevators and advanced the sales of those companies. Diane graduated from Cal State Hayward with a Business degree focusing on marketing for non profits and then while working at Saint Mary's graduated with a Master's degree in Counseling. They have two sons, Brian and Marc who live locally. Denis loves fly fishing, hiking anywhere in the outdoors and participates in a 50 mile backpacking trip every year with a group of former Boy Scout parents. Denis and Diane are very connected to their Italian heritage and are fortunate to be close with their families in Italy. They are delighted to be members in the Diablo A's Model A club and look forward to sharing adventures with everyone.