

Roland and Xiu Smith

I think I told you before what a delight it is writing this column. This issue is no exception. Last evening I spent over two hours and was served a delicious Chinese dinner at the home of Roland and Xiu Smith (pronounced, Shoe).

Roland and Xiu have been married for over five years and have lived in their home in Dublin for all that time. In fact they were married at home. I asked how they met and they told me it was through "Match .com". The match was right and the courtship was brief. They both knew it was a perfect match. Each of them has one grown daughter.

Xiu was born and schooled in Dalian China (near Beijing) and 1994 she moved to the US while at the time only spoke Chinese. She spent some time in Alabama so if it is hard to understand her, you now know the reason for that. Chinese with a southern accent?? Xiu was determined to learn the language and get a job to support her self. There she worked in the restaurant business while learning to speak English. Xiu also went to school to earn her nurses assistant license. She now teaches Mandarin at a school in Pleasanton.

One of Xiu's hobbies is sewing. She loves to take existing (sometimes used) clothes and re-fashions them into very fashionable wearable's, She told me the story of a recent purchase she made from China and when it arrived the ladies tops she purchased were horrible. Instead of sending them back or trashing them she decided to transform them into handbags. She said although she did not make a profit, she also did not take a loss. If you are into sewing you might like to talk to her about her new sewing machine.

Roland is a native Californian who spent most of his earlier years in the Los Angeles area and went to school at Occidental college. Roland retired in 2006 as a CPA but he added that does not mean he has nothing to do. Roland does many things for community service using his accounting background. He also enjoyed photography processing before the digital age. Another hobby for him is trap shooting. Together they both like to travel. They try to make an international trip once a year. Needless to say one of the favorite hobbies for Roland is cars. He owns seven and half of them are sports cars. Ask him about his racecar driving school at Sears Point.

On one of their trips while in Vail Colorado Xiu spotted a Model A and to Roland's surprise she made an offer to buy it on the spot and have it shipped home. Well the negotiation process left Xiu without a Model A but as soon as they got home the eBay search began. Soon they were the proud owners of a 1930 Coupe. The first thing they did was join MAFCA and began searching for a local chapter. Diablo A's was not their first visit but it was their last. I am happy to tell you while visiting Diablo A's they were greeted with enthusiasm and felt very comfortable so decided to join our chapter.

As many of you have discovered, this is a very engaging and delightful couple and a good addition to the Diablo A family. Please take time to talk more with them when you can. That should be easy because they both like the many activities of the club and try to make as many outings as possible.

Time for me to sign off again so thanks for reading. Oh did I mention, Xiu makes a super Chinese supper!!!!



Caught in the Headlights
By Ed James