

# ROCKET FUEL

*Motor City Rockets - Southeastern Michigan*

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## I. Notice from the Editor

Spring is here and I hope everyone who was able went to the Spring Cruise-In at the Rotary Park in Livonia.

Sad news about the last Oldsmobile being rolled off the line in Lansing. I have included some links in this newsletter to articles about the events in Lansing.

[http://www.lsj.com/news/local/040427\\_olds\\_1a-5a.html](http://www.lsj.com/news/local/040427_olds_1a-5a.html)

[http://money.cnn.com/2004/04/28/pf/autos/olds\\_dead/index.htm?cnn=yes](http://money.cnn.com/2004/04/28/pf/autos/olds_dead/index.htm?cnn=yes)

Bill Szelag will be providing a status of any spots left for the Dream Cruise. If you are interested in a spot, please e-mail Bill at [oldscat@comcast.net](mailto:oldscat@comcast.net). Remember, it is first come, first served so get your reservation early and pay your money to Bill. Bill needs your name, make, model, year

and whether you are a current MCR and/or OCA member. Also, let him know if you are requesting a grass spot.

If you would like to order a nameplate, please contact Tom Walker at [hot-rod@twmi.rr.com](mailto:hot-rod@twmi.rr.com).

Attached at the end of the newsletter are the forms for the Oldsmobile Homecoming in Lansing, Dick Miller Nationals in Ohio, and the Mondello Olds Nationals in Illinois.

Please be sure to visit the MCR website for the latest merchandise, archives and pictures from MCR events. We have new pins and keychains available. Pictures are attached on page 5.

As always, please visit our website for updates - <http://www.motorcityrockets.com>

If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let me know - [mcreditor@ameritech.net](mailto:mcreditor@ameritech.net)

Denise Tucker  
MCR Newsletter Editor

## II. MCR Officers 2004

MCR President	Tom Walker <a href="mailto:hot-rod@twmi.rr.com">hot-rod@twmi.rr.com</a>
MCR Vice President	Steve Apking <a href="mailto:s442apking@aol.com">s442apking@aol.com</a>
MCR Treasurer	Alan Wilcox <a href="mailto:starfire@wt.net">starfire@wt.net</a>
MCR Secretary	Matt Roediger <a href="mailto:eleonorroediger@aol.com">eleonorroediger@aol.com</a>

### A. Other Important MCR Positions

MCR Newsletter Editor	Denise Tucker <a href="mailto:mcreditor@ameritech.net">mcreditor@ameritech.net</a>
MCR Club Historian	Dorothy Maseles <a href="mailto:SnoVillNut@aol.com">SnoVillNut@aol.com</a>
MCR Merchandise Manager	Mary Szelag <a href="mailto:oldscat@comcast.net">oldscat@comcast.net</a>
MCR Activities Director	Bill Szelag <a href="mailto:oldscat@comcast.net">oldscat@comcast.net</a>
MCR Web Master	Brian Lorway <a href="mailto:bpl442@yahoo.com">bpl442@yahoo.com</a>

## III. MCR CLUB CALENDAR

### A. Future MCR Meetings

Meetings are always on the 3rd Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

- June 19<sup>th</sup>: at Oldsmobile Homecoming in Lansing
- July 11<sup>th</sup>: at Great Lakes Train and Hobby, Shelby, MI. (12-5)
- August: TBA

#### 1. Food

As always, please bring a dish to pass and share. I think there will be grills there to cook any hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. that you would like to bring.

## IV. Spotlight on MCR visit to RE Olds Museum

Some of the club members went to Lansing for the joint meeting with the R.E. Olds Chapter. The Motor City Rockets met at the Meijer's on 8 Mile Road in Livonia. Taking the scenic route, we traveled on Grand River all the way to Lansing. We had a lot of fun with a Road Rally reading the clues and trying to figure out the answers. First prize for the most correct answers went to the Australian family that is here on work assignment in the States. Second prize went to Dave and Denise Tucker. Third prize was won by Tom and Kristy Walker. It was a nice sunny day for a cruise.

The museum was very nice. I think the R.E. Olds chapter had us beat as far as number of members who showed up. I believe the final joint tally was 78. The Lansing chapter went all out and cooked steaks for everyone! Unfortunately, many of the displays had been moved out at the last minute in preparation for a General Motors event highlighting the end of the Olds nameplate. We had a good time anyway, and many of the R.E. Olds displays were still intact, as well as some interesting period displays of household items and clothing. And Helen Earley and Jim Walkinshaw gave a wonderful talk about Oldsmobile and the books that they have written about Oldsmobile, as well as what started them collecting what is now valuable memorabilia. They stayed to autograph copies of their books for the club members, too.

## V. Spotlight on the Last Olds to Roll Off the Line in Lansing

From MCR member Bill Szelag:

On Thursday, April 29, three OCA and Motor City Rocket members, Steve Apking, Jerry Garfield and Bill Szelag were present at the Lansing assembly plant when the last Oldsmobile was built. The event was a very sad day for all Oldsmobile enthusiasts and especially for these three as all three started their careers as Oldsmobile Service Department employees. The final Olds Alero came off the line at 10:00 AM with approximately 600 total people attending, mostly GM employees, but also included the press, Oldsmobile dealers and local Lansing officials. Amy Farmer, current plant manager spoke at the press conference as well as Darwin Clark, former General Manager of Oldsmobile and UAW officials. After the press conference at the plant there was a lunch for dignitaries, Olds enthusiasts and former Oldsmobile employees at the Oldsmobile History Museum in downtown Lansing. Many R.E Olds Chapter members were also at the luncheon as the R. E. Olds Chapter president, Judy Badgley, arranged a fabulous display of approximately 25 R.E. Olds member's Oldsmobiles! GM also placed many beautiful Oldsmobiles from the GM collection in the museum and an "Open House" was held for the rest of the afternoon at the museum.

Although it was a very well done event, it ironically paralleled a funeral service, since at the plant we viewed the last Oldsmobile followed by the speakers giving their "eulogy" describing the past accomplishments of Oldsmobile (notice the flowers). The speakers also emotionally described the effects the Oldsmobile nameplate has had on the many people who built, designed, sold, bought, and most importantly, drove the fallen brand. The tearful "eulogy" also described how the Oldsmobile name impacted the city of Lansing, Michigan, its original

birth place and home. The gathering of friends and family at the plant and the museum during the luncheon and open house shared memories, special moments together just as is the custom at a memorial service. As is often the case, the "memorial" event was just as much a celebration of the life of Oldsmobile as it was its passing. The "people, passion and performance of Oldsmobile" as described by Darwin Clark will certainly live on even though the final Oldsmobile will soon be at its final resting place at the Oldsmobile Heritage Center. The friends and family of Oldsmobile, be it employee, Lansing resident, assembly worker, or OCA member will certainly not allow this old friend to ever be forgotten.

**LAST OLDS ROLLS OFF LINE IN LANSING . . .** The final Oldsmobile rolled off the line yesterday at 10 a.m. at the Lansing Car Assembly plant, marking the end of the brand's 107-year history. The vehicle was the 500th of the "Final 500 Special Edition" Alero cars. It is Metallic Cherry Red and bears signatures of the 4,500 workers at the Lansing plant under the hood and trunk. Presenters at the end-of-line ceremony included Amy Farmer, plant manager, UAW Local 602 and UAW 652 officials, and former Oldsmobile General Manager Darwin Clark, who retires June 1 as GM vice president, industry-dealer affairs. Following the ceremony, the Final 500 Alero was driven by Doug Stott, Oldsmobile product manager, to the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum in Lansing where it will join other Final 500 models and significant older Oldsmobile models for a few months before moving to the GM Heritage Museum.

A total of 35,229,218 Oldsmobiles were built since 1897; of those, 14,458,756 were built in Lansing. The Alero was the last car Oldsmobile made. Production of the Bravada and Silhouette ended earlier this year. Aurora production ended last year and Intrigue production ceased in May 2002. GM made the decision to retire the Oldsmobile brand in December of 2000. It was the oldest automotive brand in the U.S.

**DID YOU KNOW? . . .** Ransom E. Olds started the Olds Motor Vehicle Co. in Lansing in 1897, with GM acquiring the company in 1908. Oldsmobile pioneered chrome-plated trim and gave drivers the Eighty-Eight series, the front-wheel-drive Toronado and the Cutlass. It even inspired songs, including "In My Merry Oldsmobile" and "Rocket 88."







## VI. MCR MEETING MINUTES - January 2004

The March meeting was held at Dave and Denise Tucker's house. Thank you to everyone for coming to the meeting.

Alan Wilcox talked about membership renewals. Memberships are due in June. Also, we have new items for sale, including pins and keychains. The pins are \$3.00 each and the keychains are \$5.00 each.



Greg Carriere told the club about the "Rolling Sculpture" event to be held on July 25<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$10.00. There are about 600 class cars on show from 2pm to midnight. There are DJ's and bands. All the stores and restaurants are open. There will be a registration form on our website for the event.

The Frankenmuth car show is on Sept 10-11-12. More info to come.

The Traverse City trip will be Sept 17-18-19. More info to come.

There is a Festival of Cars in Rochester - May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Pre-registration is required. They ask that no race cars be entered. There are 250 cars. Judging is by participants. The event is sponsored by the Lions Club.

The Oldsmobile Homecoming is on June 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting at the Meijers on 8 mile to caravan to the event. More info to come. The flier, application and map are attached at the

end of the newsletter. Also, for more information you can visit  
<http://www.wideopenwest.com/~lorway/mcr/event.htm>

There are still spots left for Dream Cruise. Please see Bill Szlag. Spots are \$40 each.

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Car Capital Celebration in Lansing on East Michigan Avenue will be held on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> - so it does not conflict with the Woodward Dream Cruise as in past years. The event is sponsored by the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum. Alan Wilcox will be attending that show, and hopefully we can make it a club event. Since so many of the displays were not available at the April show, maybe we can see them in August instead.

## VII. MCR Club Events

We need suggestions for Club events for 2004. Please send your suggestions to Bill Szlag.  
[oldscat@comcast.net](mailto:oldscat@comcast.net)

This list is combined of suggestions as well as planned events:

- Spring Dust-off Cruise-In & Picnic (May 16th) at Rotary Park in Livonia
- Homecoming in Lansing (Saturday, June 19th)
- The Gratiot Cruise (June...usually same day as Homecoming)
- Downriver Cruise
- Going to the Gilmore Auto Museum in Kalamazoo
- Great Lakes Train & Hobby on Van Dyke (40 parking spaces) on July 11<sup>th</sup> 12-5 p.m.
- Pig Roast and Car Show in Waterford
- Olds Nationals (Bloomington, MN August 25-28) *FYI - there is a flyer on the Minnesota Chapter's website [www.mnoldsclub.org](http://www.mnoldsclub.org) if you are interested in more information.*
- The Woodward Cruise (August)
- Another fall trip to Traverse City
- The Harper cruise (Sept. I think)
- Frankenmuth Auto Fest - Sept 10-12<sup>th</sup>
- Cruise to a drive-in movie on a Friday or Saturday night during the summer
- Kart 2 Kart - Go-Kart Racing (on Van Dyke in Sterling Heights)
- Cruise to Gilmore Museum in Kalamazoo, Mi.

### A.5<sup>th</sup> Annual Harrison Car Show

From Alan Wilcox and Todd Diederich is information about the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Harrison Car Show.

5th Annual Harrison Car Show  
 Clare County Fairgrounds - Harrison, Michigan  
 Car Cruise Saturday night May 29, 2004  
 Car Show Sunday register before noon May 30, 2004  
 \$15.00 in advance and \$18.00 day of show.  
 Contact Tammy at Harrison Chamber of Commerce 989-539-6011  
 Prizes, food, awards, raffle

## B. Heidebreicht Chevy Olds Display

Additional information from Bill Szelag:

Car Display at Heidebreicht Chevy Olds @ 64280 Van Dyke, Romeo - Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Two years ago we had a meeting and club display at Heidebreicht Chevy Olds Inc., a GM dealer in Romeo, Michigan. We had a great time as they moved out their new cars from directly in front of the dealership for our display, served us pizza and let us use one of their conference rooms for a meeting. They are planning a big sale and promotion on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and have asked us if we could again bring in a display of Oldsmobiles to support this event. I know that this is the weekend just after the MCR Cruise-In, but thought I could gate the interest with the club members before we committed to be there. The event/display would be from about 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. as they close at 3 PM.

Please response to Bill at [oldscat@comcast.net](mailto:oldscat@comcast.net) to let him know if you are interested in participating. If we get enough members interested (10-15) we will go ahead with the event.

## C. 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Oldsmobile Homecoming

Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM in Lansing Michigan.

On the MCR website are the PDF documents announcing the Oldsmobile Homecoming in Lansing, MI. as well as registration forms, class information and directions. The club still plans to meet at Meijers at 8 mile and I-275. Hope to see all MCR members there.

## D. 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Norwalk Olds Powered Nationals

Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup> @ 8:00 AM in Norwalk Ohio.

On the MCR website are two PDF documents announcing the Olds Nationals at Norwalk, OH. Inline Tube (MCR member James Kryta, owner) is sponsoring the car show and swap meet. Check it out and go if you can!

If you have trouble downloading or opening the PDF files, let Allan Wilcox know and he can send you one through the US mail.

## E. Great Lakes Train Display & MCR July Meeting

Additional information from Bill Szelag:

MCR Car Display Meeting at Great Lakes Hobby and Train @ 46660 Van Dyke in Shelby Township/Utica - Sunday, July 11, 12-5 p.m.

Tom Kavulich, President and Owner of Great Lakes Hobby and Train said that he would be happy to host a display of 25-30 MCR Oldsmobiles at his store on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup> 12-5 PM.

He offered the following for all MCR attendees:

- Free pizza, hot dogs or subs (TBD)

- 25% discount on most items in his store
- A chance to race several of his car set-ups for the afternoon.

## F. Woodward Dream Cruise Update

Motor City Rockets OCA 2004 Woodward Cruise Info - from Bill Szelag:

Hello MCR Members, here is information for the 2004 Woodward Cruise at Wendy's. The warm weather is finally here!!

We all had a great time the last 3 years and this year should even be better. We appreciate Wendy's (Wildwood Beverage Inc.) hosting our club for the fourth year. Support them by buying a meal or two while you are there. We have the same number of spots as last year but I already have 33 confirmed requests. Pat Tuscany, my contact at Wendy's has informed me that his Pepsi rep will again be awarding a best of show award and a runner up award to a deserving MCR member. The price is \$40 same as last years. I apologize but think that I may have said \$35 to some of you but it was \$40 last year. For those already paid - we can square up later. So far 12 people have not paid and we have 10 spots unreserved.

I need everyone's response and check for \$40 no later than Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004. At the "May Cruise In" I will then be able to provide a status of any spots left. First come first served! Send me a quick return e-mail even if you already told me you wanted a spot earlier as I want to confirm my current list. Send an email to Bill at [oldscat@comcast.net](mailto:oldscat@comcast.net) with your name, make, model, year and if you are current MCR and/or OCA member. Also, let me know if you request a grass spot (details below). I will be opening spots to everyone on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Name:**  
**E-mail Address:**  
**Make/Model/Year:**  
**OCA #:**  
**MCR#:**  
**Grass Spot Request:** Y/N (6:30 AM arrival required)  
**Willing to help for at least 1 hour:** Y/N  
**Number of helpers:**  
**Names of helpers:**

### **HELP NEEDED INFO**

We will need some help to operate the entrances and to staff the OCA Road show tent- we would like to get volunteers and plan 1-hour shifts if needed. This worked very well last year. If all who attend can just work one hour we would have enough help to cover the day and no one will miss out on the fun of the day as some manned the tent or entrances for a long time in previous years. Let me know in your response above.

### **Cruise Details**

**When:** Saturday, August 21, 2004, 6:30 AM till whenever  
**Where:** Wendy's Restaurant  
 30332 Woodward Avenue  
 Royal Oak, MI 48073



(East Side of the street)  
**Cost:** Each parking spot is \$40 - same as last year but still cheap for the location, convenience and hospitality!

Make check out to Bill Szelag. Send or give me the check no later than Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 2004 to reserve your MCR/OCA spot. Check is preferred method of payment. As soon as I get your payment, I will confirm your spot.

### Spot Availability

Because of the additional demand for spots, again this year the MCR officers and some members made the following decisions. We do want to be as fair as possible to all. First priority will be given to MCR/OCA members as again this year we will be covered with insurance by the OCA. We also plan to have an OCA Road show booth/table to promote OCA and the Motor City Rockets. OCA also provides funds to the club for Road Show events/flyers etc. Tom Walker is working out the details.

Second Priority will be for OCA members and third priority will be given to friends or relatives of MCR members. If additional spots are available, each MCR member will be allotted a spot (one at a time) until all spots are taken for friends relatives. We will let you all know how many additional spots are available by the end of June.

### Street Spots

Since there are a limited # of street side grass spots and to assure no squatters are in our spots, any one that wants a prime street grass spot needs to be there no later than 6:30 AM, yes 6:30 AM!! If you are interested in one of these "early bird spots" please respond to me or let me know with your check. If we have more requests than spots we will draw names. Also, be aware that these spots do limit your availability to come and go since they are very tight parking and over the curb.

### Other Logistics

As last year, everyone will be given a placard to identify paying participants. Everyone needs to help and watch out for others member's cars, belongings and seating and overall welfare. We will be sending out more info as we get closer to the biggest car event in the country! If you have any questions or ideas on how to make the day, more enjoyable please let me or any of the MCR officers know.

## VIII. MCR Treasurer's Report

Here is the First Quarter 2004 Treasurer's Report from Alan Wilcox.

As of 3/31/04, end of the first quarter 2004:

Total Income (from dues, clothing sales, misc.):	<u>\$3,438.74</u>
Total Expenditures (for mailings, Spring Dust-off, clothing, misc.):	<u>\$ 770.55</u>
Current Assets (including bank account, stamps, and petty cash):	<u>\$2,668.19</u>
(but not including clothing inventory)	

The largest single expenditure for the first quarter was \$270 for the rental of Rotary Park for the spring dust-off event. We also spent \$389.48 purchasing MCR clothing for resale. Total sales of MCR clothing in the first quarter was \$362.48.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Wilcox, Motor City Rockets Treasurer

## IX. MCR - New Members

Welcome to new MCR members:

Thomas and Katy Bejma - 1969 Cutlass Convertible (white) & 2002 Intrigue (blue)

### Notice to Current members

If your OCA membership is up for renewal, please make sure you get your renewal sent in. By OCA rules, all MCR members have to be OCA members also. For assistance, please contact Alan Wilcox (MCR Treasurer) [starfire@wt.net](mailto:starfire@wt.net).

## X. MCR Wear

MCR shirts, t-shirts, jackets, sweatshirts & hats are available. MCR wear will be available for viewing, purchase and ordering at all monthly meetings and club events.

The new hats are available. There are four colors - tan, red, navy blue and black. Pictures will be on the website as well.



Contact Mary Szlag for details or questions. [oldscat@comcast.net](mailto:oldscat@comcast.net)

## XI. MCR Web Master

Please contact our web master (Brian Lorway [bpl442@yahoo.com](mailto:bpl442@yahoo.com)) if you have any comments or suggestions for the MCR web site.

## XII. MCR Newsletter

Denise Tucker needs any news articles and anything else that would be interesting. In addition, the "spotlight" is open to any member who wants to show off their car(s) each month in the newsletter so if anyone wants to be part of the "MCR Car Spotlight" send the info, a short story and photo's to Denise Tucker. [mcreditor@ameritech.net](mailto:mcreditor@ameritech.net)

### XIII. Miscellaneous Olds Related

MCR member Dave Marcoux thought we would appreciate this picture. This was taken in Leslie, Michigan.

