

# ROCKET FUEL

*Motor City Rockets - Southeastern Michigan*

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## I. Notice from the Editor

Well, it has been a few months since the last newsletter. There have been some activities and meetings to catch up on, including our new club officers who were voted in at the 2004 Holiday Party. Let us welcome Steve Apking as our new president, Dan Evans as our vice president, Tom Bejma as our secretary, and Alan Wilcox remains our treasurer.

We lost our First Lady of Oldsmobile, Helen Earley Jones, in January. Her final letter to everyone is included in this newsletter.

As always, please go to the MCR website for the latest merchandise, archives and pictures from MCR events: <http://www.motorcityrockets.com>.

If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let me know - [editor@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:editor@motorcityrockets.com)

Denise Tucker  
MCR Newsletter Editor

## II. MCR Officers

MCR President  
MCR Vice President  
MCR Treasurer  
MCR Secretary

Steve Apking [president@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:president@motorcityrockets.com)  
Dan Evans [vicepresident@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:vicepresident@motorcityrockets.com)  
Alan Wilcox [treasurer@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:treasurer@motorcityrockets.com)  
Tom Bejma [secretary@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:secretary@motorcityrockets.com)

### A. Other Important MCR Positions

MCR Newsletter Editor  
MCR Club Historian  
MCR Merchandise Manager  
MCR Activities Director  
MCR Web Master

Denise Tucker [editor@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:editor@motorcityrockets.com)  
Dorothy Maseles [historian@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:historian@motorcityrockets.com)  
Mary Szelag [merchandise@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:merchandise@motorcityrockets.com)  
Bill Szelag [events@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:events@motorcityrockets.com)  
Brian Lorway [webmaster@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:webmaster@motorcityrockets.com)

## III. MCR CLUB CALENDAR

### A. Future MCR Meetings

Meetings are always on the 3rd Sunday of the month

- ❖ March 20<sup>th</sup> - Cliff Carsen's Garage, Roseville, MI
- ❖ April 30<sup>th</sup> - GM Heritage Center
- ❖ May 15<sup>th</sup> - Spring Dust-Off

## IV. MCR Spotlight

### A. Helen Earley Jones

Earley, Helen Jones East Lansing, MI September 4, 1917 to January 8, 2005.

This will be my last letter to all my friends and acquaintances. I was born September 4, 1917 in Montcalm County, Michigan along with my twin sister, Bernice Bennett who still survives me. I graduated from the Sheridan (Michigan) High School, went on to Acme Business College in Lansing, MI and also attended Purdue University. In 1942, I took a job as a stenographer in machine procurement at Oldsmobile Division of General Motors in Lansing. After the war I moved into the Sales Department and progressed through a variety of assignments in the sales promotion, sales budget, organization and analysis and advertising sections. In 1960 I transferred to the Public Relations Department and eventually became the executive secretary to the director of public relations in 1972. I retired for the first time from Oldsmobile on August 31, 1987 after 45 years of service. I married William Earley in 1966. He passed away in 1984. During those years I became Oldsmobile's resident historian. In that capacity I amassed thousands of documents about Olds and answered questions about Olds from you and others throughout the world. This was a marvelous assignment and I really

enjoyed helping others in their quest for information. I met hundreds of fine people like you. I was a founding member of the task force to create the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, on the board of the Detroit Public National Automotive History Collection, on the board of the Library and Research Center for the Antique Automobile Club of America and the Society of Automotive Historians. I received the prestigious James J. Bradley Award from the Society of Automotive Historians. This award recognized the "Outstanding contributions to the preservation of historical materials related to the automobiles produced by Oldsmobile and for the spirit of helpfulness to writers, researchers, historians and restorers". After retirement from Oldsmobile, I partnered with James Walkinshaw and formed Earley Enterprises and we were responsible for establishing and running the Oldsmobile History Center. We handled historical and restoration queries and maintained the historical library. I co-authored two books, Oldsmobile's Centennial book, Setting the Pace and Oldsmobile-A War Years Pictorial. I retired from the History Center in 2000. I am a member of the Sunrise Rotary Club. I read for WKAR radio, have been active with the Women's Hall of Fame, the Turner Dodge House, the Potter Park Zoo, all in Lansing and many other organizations. I am a member of three national Oldsmobile Car clubs and the local Oldsmobile Car club. For this I have been called "The First Lady of Oldsmobile" for which I am very proud. And so I leave this world and all of you. Although I will be physically missing, I will be present in all your hearts and memories forever. Thanks for the Memories! By the way, R.E. Olds and I will greet you up here when you arrive.  
Helen J. Earley.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Gorsline-Runciman; burial is at the family plot in Evergreen Cemetery. Donations may be made to the Capital Area District Library, Helen Earley Collection, 401 S. Capital Ave., Lansing 48933, Attn. Sue Hill; to the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame Helen Earley Section, 213 W. Main St., Lansing, MI 48933 or to the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum. A memory scrapbook is being compiled by the Women's Hall of Fame. If you would like to share a story, note, picture, etc. about Helen, please send it to [ail@michiganwomenshalloffame.org](mailto:ail@michiganwomenshalloffame.org) or at their address above.

Published in the Lansing State Journal - January 10, 2005

## B. Walter P. Chrysler Museum

By Denise Tucker

The Motor City Rockets had a fabulous tour of the Walter P. Chrysler Museum in Auburn Hills on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004. We had a very good tour guide who was knowledgeable about the vehicles in the museum as well as the famous names we all associate with automotive history.

The first floor of the museum is devoted to automobiles from the early years. The second floor is mainly trucks. The basement has many cars from the 1950-60's as well as some Willys and some racing cars.

Some highlights: In 1924, the very first Chrysler vehicle went to the auto show in New York. It was the Chrysler 6 (B70 Phaeton). It was not originally let in to the show because it was a prototype. However, at the hotel where it was displayed, the stir that it caused made history anyway.

There was a 1902 Rambler Model C. There were 1500 of them made with a 1-cylinder chain driven engine. The tires were made of natural white rubber, and the vehicle sold for \$750.00. However, there were still more Oldsmobile Runabouts made.

In 1940, the first Hemi (hemispherical) engine was made for a P47 aircraft. It wasn't until 1951 that a Hemi was made for an automobile.

The Hudson vehicle was actually named after J.L. Hudson.

The Plymouth was named after the historical Plymouth Rock landing, and that is why the Mayflower was used as a logo.

The Desoto was named after the famous explorer.

Our tour guide had stories about the Dodge Brothers, Horace and John, the importance of ZSB Engineering (they helped with the Chrysler 6), as well as the history of the Chrysler logos. If I remember correctly, the origins of the Pentastar and the Chrysler Wings are unknown. However, it is believed that the Pentastar is not a Star of David, but rather an Irish symbol of unity.

There is also a viewing room where you can watch up to 3 movies about the Chrysler Corporation:

- Walter P. Chrysler - The Early Years
- Speed and Power - Mopar Muscle
- Inside Daimler Chrysler

Recommended Reading: The Encyclopedia of the Automobile

## V. MCR MEETING MINUTES

### A. January Club Minutes

Submitted by Tom Bejma - Secretary  
Sunday, January 16, 2005

Steve Apking called meeting to order at 2:50PM

#### 1. New Members

Welcome New Member - Al Ferry

#### 2. Thank You's

Steve Apking would like to thank the following people

Tom Walker for being past President

Alan Wilcox for being Treasurer and for covering the Secretary duties

Bill Szlag for organizing the Christmas Party and all of the other Activities that he has organized or been involved with

Mary Szlag for handling Club merchandise

Denise Tucker for publishing Rocket Fuel Newsletter

Dorothy Maseles for maintaining the Scrap Book and being the Chapter Historian

Brian Lorway for being the Chapter Webmaster

Thanks Jack Tokie for organizing the Traverse City Events

Thanks Jerry Garfield for arranging the Chrysler Museum and other REO joint meetings

### 3. Activities

Meetings are usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

February and March meeting sites needed (determined later in the meeting - see below)

April 17<sup>th</sup> last year was a joint meeting with the REO Chapter

May 15<sup>th</sup> is the scheduled for Spring Dust Off

June 18<sup>th</sup> is the Homecoming in Lansing

Nationals are July 17<sup>th</sup> in Seattle

August 20<sup>th</sup> for the Woodward Cruise

September 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Traverse City Trip with possible Frankfort Car Collection Visit

October 16<sup>th</sup> is the Shelby Lions Car Show

Nothing scheduled for November at this time

December 18<sup>th</sup> will be the Christmas Party

### 4. Open Discussion

Discussed Traverse City Trip

Looking for Activities suggestions

Labor Day weekend Duran Car Show - 800 Cars - Tillman's offered to have BBQ?

Gilmore Museum Trip?

Members can add events (Cruises, Shows, Swap Meets, etc) to website calendar for everyone to view

Freedom Hill Car Show and Swap Meet - May 1<sup>st</sup>

Motor City Rockets were asked by Pat Yancey to consider Hosting the Nationals in 2008

Received information packet from OCA

Need to find site first - possibly form a committee to investigate

Questions reviewed by Bill Szlag will be sent to membership with required date to respond

Need to decide by July (Nationals presentation)

Possibly have a smaller "chapter" show to prepare

Security - Hire crew?

Need to work with a Hotel that is accommodating

Laurel Park Hotel Complex (Holiday Inn, Doubletree, etc)?

Dearborn Hyatt Regency hosted Cadillac show

Possibly adjacent to Woodward Cruise

February 20<sup>th</sup> - Doug and Paulette Width Volunteered to Host

March 20<sup>th</sup> - Cliff Carsens' Garage

Joint Meeting at RE Olds Museum possible due to increase of exhibits at the museum

Heritage Center visit is possibility

Bill Szlag will post pictures of previous Heritage Center visit on website

Helen Early donation to RE Olds

Members plus individual donations

Alan to send an email asking for donations

\$250 plus individual was suggested by **Error! Bookmark not defined.**, presented by **Error! Bookmark not defined.**, second by Tom Bejma - all members in attendance approved

Dust off location (May 15<sup>th</sup>)

Suggestions being accepted

February 3<sup>rd</sup> lottery for Rotary Park

Kensington Park?

Baker's restaurant in Milford

Get part of 50/50 at Baker's to put club treasury - **Error! Bookmark not defined.** to investigate

Ad in the Nationals Event Program - 1/4 Page - with Logo, website and email

Any interest in renting swap meet space at Homecoming and have proceeds go to club  
Send email to group response by next meeting

Email asking for car listings

Contact Bill Szlag if you are in for parking for the Woodward Cruise at Wendy's

23 members were in attendance

Meeting Adjourned at 4:10PM

## VI. Treasurer's Report

As of 12/31/04, end of the fourth quarter 2004:

Total Fourth Quarter Income (from dues, clothing sales, misc.):..... \$1162.00

Total Fourth Quarter Expenditures (for mailings, merchandise, misc.):..... \$ -1514.53

Previous Assets (including bank account and petty cash):.....\$3492.69  
(but not including clothing inventory)

Current Assets (not including merchandise inventory)..... \$3140.16

The largest single expenditure for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter was \$544.43 to Dave & Busters for the Holiday Party. Gross sales of MCR merchandise for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter was \$369.00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Wilcox

Motor City Rockets Treasurer



## VII. MCR Club Events and Items of Interest

Please send your Club event suggestions to Bill Szelag [events@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:events@motorcityrockets.com)

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

- ❖ Going to the Gilmore Auto Museum in Kalamazoo
- ❖ Cruise to a drive-in movie on a Friday or Saturday night during the summer/Fall
- ❖ Kart 2 Kart - Go-Kart Racing (on Van Dyke in Sterling Heights)

### A. Auction Results

From Greg Carriere

#### Auction results (courtesy of Hemmings Muscle Magazine)

International Classic Auctions; Scottsdale, AZ.

1968 442 Convrt. (#2) \$19,700.00

Kruse Mandaly Bay Auction, Las Vegas, NE.

1973 Cutlass 442; Hardtop; 455; \$10,500.00

1967 Toronado; Hardtop; 425; auto; \$5,000.00

Kruse No Reserve Auction, Auburn, IN.

1970 Cutlass Supreme Convrt.;350; 4 speed; \$7,500.00

ICA Thanksgiving Classic Collector Car Auction, Giber, AZ.

1968 442;Convrt.; Restored; \$19,700.00

Mecrum Fall K>C> Dream Classic Auction; Kansas, KS.

1971 442; Convrt.; 455; Auto: \$28,500.00

#### Barrett Jackson Auction 2005; Scottsdale, AZ. (from BJ web site)

Lot#

21 1967 OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS CONVERTIBLE \$17820

53 1970 OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS PACE CAR CONVERTIBLE \$31860

59 1963 OLDSMOBILE STARFIRE CONVERTIBLE \$22680

321 1962 OLDSMOBILE 98 CONVERTIBLE \$22140

326 1970 OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS SPORTS COUPE \$11880

360 1967 OLDSMOBILE 442 2 DOOR HARDTOP \$33480

426 1959 OLDSMOBILE 98 HOLIDAY 2 DOOR HARDTOP \$32400

442 1967 OLDSMOBILE 442 W-30 2 DOOR HOLIDAY COUPE \$108000

460 1969 OLDSMOBILE 442 W-32 CONVERTIBLE \$105840

619 1971 OLDSMOBILE 442 2 DOOR HARDTOP \$32400

621 1967 OLDSMOBILE 442 2 DOOR HARDTOP \$45900

622 1969 OLDSMOBILE 442 CONVERTIBLE \$37260

696 1969 OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS 442 CONVERTIBLE \$82620

779 1969 OLDSMOBILE 442 CONVERTIBLE \$35640

913 1953 OLDSMOBILE SUPER 88 2 DOOR HARDTOP \$23220

925.1 1953 OLDSMOBILE CUSTOM 2 DOOR HARDTOP \$29700

961 1956 OLDSMOBILE 98 STARFIRE CONVERTIBLE \$103680  
992 1954 OLDSMOBILE F-88 GM CONCEPT CAR \$3240000  
1049 1950 OLDSMOBILE 88 CONVERTIBLE \$69120  
1206 1984 OLDSMOBILE HURST 2 DOOR HARDTOP \$18360  
1246 1958 OLDSMOBILE SUPER 88 CONVERTIBLE \$72900

### From April 2005 Hemming Muscle Machines Magazine.....

Barrett Jackson- Jan - 2005 Scottsdale, AZ.

1967 Toronado/Modified/#4: \$14,500.00  
1967 442 Hardtop: 400/350HP/ Auto.: \$33,500.00  
1967 442 W-30 Holiday Coupe: 4 speed: \$108,000.00  
1967 Pace Car Conv.: 330/320HP/Auto: \$31,800.00  
1970 Cutlass Coupe: 350/250HP/Auto: \$11,800.00  
1967 Toronado: 425 CI/Auto: \$14,500.00  
1963 Starfire Conv.: (the ultimate in KOOL.....) 394/345HP/4 speed: \$22,700.00

Jan 7-9, 2005 Kruse - Fort Lauderdale, FL.

1979 442 W-30 Coupe; 370 HP/Auto. \$47,500.00  
1965 Cutlass Conv.; 330/320 HP/Auto.; \$17,500.00

## B. Orchard Lake Cruise

There was an article in the Oakland Press recently that said plans are underway for a classic car cruise on Orchard Lake Road in June. The event has been approved by the West Bloomfield Twp Chamber of Commerce and the Orchard Lake Road Car Club. The cruise would take place on the afternoon of June 19<sup>th</sup>, and would take place on Orchard Lake Road between Northwestern Highway and Maple Road.





## C. Detroit News Joyrides - Car of the Week

Courtesy of The Detroit News

Thursday, December 9, 2004

### 1954 Oldsmobile 98 Starfire convertible



Richard A. Wright

**This 1954 Oldsmobile 98 Starfire convertible is owned by Doug Width of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.**

## VIII. MCR Memberships

From Alan Wilcox, MCR Treasurer

The Motor City Rockets would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members and their families. We look forward to seeing all of you at upcoming Oldsmobile events, MCR monthly meetings and MCR club gatherings. Welcome!

Michael and Susan Trussel

1971 Cutlass, 1967 Delmont, 1993 Bravada

Al Ferry

## IX. MCR Wear

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

Contact Mary Szelag for details or to place your order. [merchandise@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:merchandise@motorcityrockets.com)

### MCR Clothing Price List

T-Shirts		\$13.00
	Adult & Children's Sizes - White & Grey	

Tanks		\$12.00
	Men's - White & Grey	
	Women's - Grey Only	
	2X or Larger Add \$2.50 Per Item	

### Embroidered Clothing

#### Items with Small MCR Logo

Men's Golf Shirt		\$31.00
Women's No Collar Shirt		\$24.00
Women's L/S Denim Shirt		\$31.00
Men's L/S Denim Shirt		\$32.00
Men's L/S Twill Shirt		\$36.00
Men's S/S Twill Shirt		\$33.00
Sweatshirt	Wine, Forest, Stone, Navy, White, Black (L/S & S/S)	\$20.00
	White, Grey, Black	
Heavier Weight Sweatshirt		\$32.00
	Grey, Navy, White, Black, Red	
Caps		\$14.00

#### Items with Large MCR Logo

Sweatshirt		\$40.00
	Grey, Navy, White, Black, Red	
Jacket		\$58.00
	Black Satin/Lined	
	Name on Front Additional Cost	
MCR Logo - Your Jacket		\$20.00

## X. MCR Web Master

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

Drop in and checkout the MCR Web Site ([www.motorcityrockets.com](http://www.motorcityrockets.com)). The MCR web site includes:

- An Event Calendar - Where all MCR members can schedule or post club events
- Bulletin Board - Where all MCR members can post messages about Oldsmobile or the MCR club, cars and items for sale
- Chat Application - Rocket Chat - Where MCR members can host chat rooms
- An Archive Area - Where all prior years event photos and documents are stored
- An Event Photo Gallery - A display of current year event photos

With plenty more to come, login and be sure to register.

## XI. 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 and a photo to Denise Tucker [editor@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:editor@motorcityrockets.com)

## XII. MCR Historian

If you have any Oldsmobile or MCR Club items that you would like to provide to Dorothy Maseles our MCR Club Historian, please send her an email and check out the fine work she has been doing this year. Dorothy Maseles [historian@motorcityrockets.com](mailto:historian@motorcityrockets.com)