



The ROCKET FUEL Newsletter

Greetings from the President

Ladies and gentlemen, the big day is almost here. It's hard to believe it was in January of 2005 that we first began discussing the 2008 Nationals. Those discussions turned to meetings: lots and lots of meetings, preparations: lots and lots of preparations, e-mails, phone calls, letters, lots and lots of them. Well, you get the picture.

If this is not one of the best nationals ever, it's not for lack of trying. I have to take this time to thank each and every member who stepped up to help put on this huge event. You know who you are. For the past three years you have given your time. That's a precious commodity, my friends again I'm grateful.

We were thrown some setbacks in this endeavor but we plodded along and came through it as friends. I'm most proud of that. I really can't wait to welcome our visitors to the Nationals. They'll come to see what I know so well: the Motor City Rockets are talented and committed, friendly and fun loving. We're going to host one heck of a party.

Don't forget the July 19 meeting at the Hyatt in Dearborn. I'm requesting **"All hands on deck"**. It will serve as a practice run for the Nationals and is very important.

Steve

Editor's Notes:

Please note: There will be no August issue of the newsletter. Taking a little break after the Nationals. We'll catch you up in September with all the lowdown on the 2008 Nationals, Woodward Dream Cruise and all other club news.

Congratulations go to Jerry Skinner and Carl Vincentini. They attended last month's Motor Muster at Greenfield Village. They were invited to show their cars at the GM 100th Year anniversary to be held at the Automotive Hall of Fame. Other members also took home honors from this event: Ed and Sue Pashukevich and Greg Carriere with second and third place awards respectively.

Two of our members are requesting your participation.

AYES (Automotive Youth Educational Services) will be holding a car show at the Hyatt in Dearborn on Wednesday, July 23 starting at 5:30 p.m. until dusk. No entrance fee. They are interested in classic, antique and muscle cars. If you would like to attend, contact Jerry Garfield at lastolds@att.net.

Charity Fund Raiser: A fellow member, George "Rocky" Sanford has asked for our help. He is involved in a USMA car show to benefit a friend of his who was killed. There are surviving children and all proceeds after expenses will go to them. It will be held at the Dixieland Market Place on Telegraph & Dixie Hwy on Sunday, July 27. Begins at 9AM. For more info, call (313) 72-ROCKY. Sue & Kelly



New Members:

Joe Pohl

Louis Waldock

Phil Woodward

Dan & Christine Popoff

Welcome Aboard!

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JULY 2008						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4 Jeffrey Zaenger	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Dave Tucker	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Hyatt Meeting
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Bob Wheeler	28	29	30 OCA Nationals	31 OCA Nationals	1 OCA Nationals	2 OCA Nationals

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG 3
GRATIOT CRUISE

AUG 3
MEADOW BROOK

AUG 16
WOODWARD DREAM CRUISE

Homecoming 2008

The Lansing Homecoming was held on Saturday, June 14. It turned out to be a gorgeous day even though the previous week was filled with storms and power outages. About half of the thirty MCR members who attended traveled together to Lansing. Upon arrival, we checked in, received our registration packet and were guided to the appropriate parking spaces. Along with a dash plaque, we were all given an umbrella with the logo on it. This was the 16th annual Homecoming and the R.E. Olds chapter has this event down to a science. The show was well run as usual and boasted 488 cars. In addition to the car show, there were other activities including a swap meet, door prize drawings and award presentations. Cindy and Dave Klemm received the Founders Award. I'm proud to say that 17 of our members served as volunteers. They worked in the areas of registration, parking, distribution of shirts, raffle and clean-up. We also had our own tent to promote the 2008 OCA Nationals. Interest was high. We got several registrations and new member sign-ups too. Because the show was celebrating the Hurst Olds 40th anniversary, Linda Vaughn was a special guest. She, along with Doc Watson signed posters and had pictures taken with spectators. **Sue Apking**



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An Angel in Disguise

Well, after all was done at the 2008 Oldsmobile Homecoming in Lansing, and the canopies were all stored; we all said our goodbyes and hit the road for home. I made it to the Fowlerville area when I decided my 68 Cutlass needed a splash of fuel. I ended up topping off the tank with 93 Octane at the Sunoco for \$4.35 per gallon (9.857 gallons for \$42.97) Then I was on the road again. I met up with a very nice 1970 442 hard top on the way back to I-96 East. We checked each others ride out and gave the proper approvals then motored on. I eventually took a right turn onto US23 South and after a while I could see the Milan water tower when my cell phone rang (which was the second call after one missed call and a voice message). It was a Motor City Rocketeer in distress: Sonee Lapadot was on the other end giving me the low down from the Sunoco at School Craft and Farmington road in Livonia.

An Angel in Disguise con't.

She had taken a wrong turn at I-96 East and US23. Instead of going straight towards I-696, she went south; now this actually worked out for the both of us, and here is why. As she is explaining to me how the passenger side floor began filling with engine coolant while on I-96 near the Farmington road exit, all I can think of is "there's the Milan water tower, I should be in Toledo in about ½ hour". So I take the next exit while listening to what happened from Sonee. She made it to the Sunoco and one of the attendants told her that he thought the heater core blew! I was explaining that "if that is what happened I can bypass the heater core and fill the radiator up so you can get home". Sonee told me that's what the attendant told her as well.

I was now heading north on US23 to M-14 east, and on to I-96 east (this is why it was a good thing; it only took about 30 minutes of back-tracking to get there). When I was approaching the Farmington road exit, there it was, the scene of the disaster: a huge wet and green spot on the berm of the expressway. As I drove up the off-ramp to Farmington road I could see the Sunoco station. I drove across the bridge way and there it was: Sonee's pristine 1971 red 442 convertible with the hood open. While pulling in I could see more of the green life fluid on the parking lot. She was beside herself, especially since I just took care of another recent disaster when the power steering pressure hose blew apart in Rochester Hills on Memorial Day Sunday. I'm starting to get some bad feelings about the restoration work that was done to this vehicle; it looks good, but someone cut a lot of corners!

I started the emergency surgery by covering the passenger side fender with a heavy towel from my trunk. I was able to save both "GM" printed heater hoses while removing them from the heater core. I completely removed the ¾" hose, then cut about 1" off the 5/8" hose coming from the Intake Heater Valve (this 455 Rocket has Air Conditioning) and rerouted it to the water pump. It was a tight persuasion, but I was able to get it on the port and tighten the clamp. Now I was ready to fill up the 4 core radiator. I ended up putting in 2 ½ gallons of coolant and 2 large bottles of purified drinking water (good thing this was a convenient mart as well as a gas station). The whole repair took about 40 minutes with leak testing. It was definitely a good thing the boys doing the restoration cut corners since they forgot to seal the floor plugs! This is why there was coolant all over the side of the road, and the parking lot of the gas station.

I did not hear back from Sonee, so she must have made it home OK! As for her car; the new carpet is probably ruined (I know the padding is). The heater core is junk and will have to be replaced as well. I am going to put together a list of parts and make arrangements to get this done before the 2008 Olds Nationals! **Dan Evans**, MCR VP (I think that stands for Variable Practices!)

MCR Picnic:

The second annual MCR picnic was once again a resounding success. Dennis & Karon Piskorowski, welcomed us graciously to their home and it provided a perfect setting for us and our cars. 32 were in attendance. Although it rained in the early morning, the weather cleared and the day turned out great. The picnic gave us a welcome release from all the work we've been doing for the Nationals. As usual there was plenty of good food and laughter. One main event occurred which has never happened at one of our picnics: a sewing bee. MCR ladies were working on a special project and decided to combine their work with fun. It was a terrific idea and their mission was accomplished. Thanks to the ladies and a couple of the guys who helped. A short meeting was held giving details of some upcoming events. A huge thank you and pat on the back was also part of the meeting to all those who have stepped up to work on our Nationals. Our president acknowledged all the talent and commitment this club possesses. It was yet another good time with the MCR bunch. **Sue Apking**





Woodward Cruise Details:

The Woodward Dream Cruise is always an exciting day for MCR club members and again for 2008 Charter One Bank has agreed to allow the Motor City Rockets Club to park at their Branch location on Woodward Ave. and Long Lake Road. The location is 39510 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan (the south-east corner of the intersection). Parking is available on grass and pavement. The number of parking spots is approximately the same as last year. Until we have a complete tally of club members that will be participating we are limiting the reservations to ONE spot per MCR member until June 30th.

Please provide the information requested below:

Name:

E-mail Address:

Make/Model/Year:

OCA #

MCR#

Grass Spot Request: Yes/No (7:00 AM Arrival Required.)

Willing to help for at least 1 hour: Yes/No

Number of helpers:

Names of helpers:

HELP NEEDED INFO:

We will need some help to monitor the entrances and also to staff the OCA Roadshow tent. We would like to get volunteers and plan 1 hour shifts if needed. This process has worked very well in past years. 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 cruise. Let me know in your response above.

Cruise Details:

When: Saturday, August 16, 2008, 6:30 AM till whenever...

Where: Charter One Bank
39510 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Cost: Parking Fees are based on MCR and OCA Club Membership – Details are below.

- > MOTOR CITY ROCKETS Club Member: \$40.00
- > OCA NATIONAL CLUB MEMBER: \$50.00
- > NON-Club Member/NON-Olds Vehicle \$60.00

These parking fees are very inexpensive for the location, convenience and access to Woodward!

Make your check out to the “ Motor City Rockets.” Please send me the check no later than Friday, July 11th 2008 to reserve your MCR/OCA spot. **A check is the preferred method of payment.** As soon as I get your payment I will confirm your spot. Please complete this form, print and mail to me at the address below.

Jeff Pregler
4922 Somerton Drive
Troy, MI 48085
Ph: 248-740-9898
e-mail: mcr_events@yahoo.com

Other Important Details:



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 will be working out the details to again to have an OCA Roadshow booth/table to promote OCA and the Motor City Rockets. OCA also provides funds to the club for Road Show events/flyers etc.

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 7:00 AM, yes 7:00 AM! If you are interested in one of these "early bird spots" please respond to this message 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:

Like 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.

Happy Woodwarding!

Jeff Pregler

Motor City Rockets Events Coordinator

MCR SERVICE TEAM

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