



Jan / Feb 2013
Volume 2, Issue 1

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	www.motorcityrockets.com

Motor City Rockets

The Rocket Fuel Newsletter

President's Message

As you know, this page is generally reserved for comments from our president. Because of an extreme work schedule, time did not allow for Dan Evans, our new president, to make the newsletter deadline.

Please look for Dan's message in our next issue.

Editor's Notes

Happy New Year and welcome to 2013. Hope you're looking forward to a fun filled year with the Motor City Rockets as our calendar is starting to fill with activities. You can check the calendar in this newsletter or the calendar on our website for meeting details. Also don't forget the OCA Nationals taking place in Illinois from July 23-27. Check the back inside cover of your January JWO for details on that.

I want to officially welcome our new president, **Dan Evans** and new secretary, **Barbara**

Cook. They will serve with **Phil Woodward**, vice-president and **Alan Wilcox**, treasurer as your officers for 2013-2014. We're lucky to have such competent members that are willing to give of their time and talents.

I also want to acknowledge our former president and secretary, Pat Macaluso and Sue Pashukevich for their service to the club. They did an outstanding job. Thanks to all.

Again I'm asking for newsletter articles. Simply write a story about your love

affair with your car as Karl Kimball did this month. It's a great article that you will definitely enjoy. The next newsletter comes out in March with a February 25th deadline, so you have plenty of time to write and send me an article. I look forward to receiving it.

January meeting details are below. Bowling is scheduled for February but details for that are to be determined.

Sue Apking

January 19th Meeting

10:00 to 10:30 am Meeting

10:30 to 12:15pm Tour

12:30pm Lunch@ Moe's on Ten

The Meurer Collection is located on the facilities of Rex Publishing
(the collection entrance is in the rear of the building)

24000 Research Drive

Farmington Hills, MI 48335

South of Ten Mile between I-275 and Halstead Rd.

Lunch @

Moes's on Ten Family Dining (moeson10.com)

39455 West Ten Mile Rd.

Novi, Mi 48375



1/14 Ken Kress

1/18 Glenn Riess

1/19 Deb Wheeler

1/22 Steve Apking

1/24 Gina Carriere

1/28 Jerry Garfield

1/30 Alan Wilcox

2/7 Ron Wittenbach

2/11 Dave Klemm

2/12 Al Ferry

2/14 Dorothy Maseles

2/19 Alan Agauas

2/21 Jacqueline Wheeler

2/22 Cliff Carson

2/28 Terry Garfield



A tip of the Oldsmobile cap goes to new members,

Tony Allen

and

Rod & Renee Krager

Please join us at our next meeting



January 2013

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Happy New Year	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14 Ken Kress	15	16	17	18 Glen Riess
20	21 Martin Luther King, Jr.	22 Steve Apking	23	24 Gina Carriere	25
27	28 Jerry Garfield	29	30 Alan Wilcox	31	

“Be sure to check the MCR web site calendar for additional details.”

An asterisk * denotes a “club” activity.

February 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Ron Wittenbach	8	9
10	11 Dave Klemm	12	13	14 Valentine's Day Dorothy Maseles	15	16
17	18 President's Day	19 Alan Agauas	20	21 Jacqueline Wheeler	22 Cliff Carson	23
24	25	26	27	28 Terry Garfield		



Parting Comments

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year's holiday. I am sure Santa has showered you and your prize Oldsmobile with goodies. WOW!! It's 2013 and we are all still here. Those crazies were wrong again, the end of the world did not happen!

This New Year brings some new leadership to the Motor City Rockets. I want to congratulate Dan Evans, newly elected President for 2013/2014. Phil Woodward will continue as Vice President, and Alan Wilcox will continue as Treasurer. I would like to congratulate Barbara Cook, newly elected as Secretary. Jeff Pregler will continue as our events coordinator.

I want to especially THANK Sue Pashukewich for her outstanding service as Secretary over the last four years. Sue has done an exceptional job in her role as secretary. I also want to thank Steve Apking for his efforts as one of our Board of Directors (Steve, now you can relax). For those of you who are not aware, we utilize our past president's experience and knowledge as an advisor and voting member of our Board of Directors.

Thanks to all of you for supporting me and the club over the past four years as Vice President and President. I have been honored to serve you. This is a wonderful very active car club. I am proud to say we have been able to accomplish a lot over the last four years. Some things to be proud of: our

membership continues growing because the word on the street is that we are a "Great & Fun club"; we have totally rewritten our Bylaws to bring them up to the 21st century (we can use e-mail now); we have formalized our Board of Directors and hold regular Board meetings; we expanded the Board to include the Events coordinator and most recent past President as voting members. We have had so many activities it's hard to list but here are a few: road trips; tours; car shows; private collection visits; picnics; parties; great meetings with guest speakers; how-to demonstrations by our own club members and the list goes on.

We are proud of our members who have been invited to car shows such as the Concours D'elegance and other special shows, and those who have also won special awards. We have members whose cars have been featured in magazines and in music videos! I am sure this is why the Motor City Rockets have been written up so many times in the monthly Journey with Olds publication.

As I said previously, I have been honored and proud to serve this wonderful club and I will continue to do my part as a member of your Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Pat Macaluso

MCR President 2010 - 2012

OLDSMOBILE IN THE BLOOD by Karl Kimball

At 55, it is interesting to look back and think about why you have a love for Oldsmobiles. I know my story will not compare with that of many others, where Oldsmobile has become infused in their blood, but I hope you find it entertaining anyway.

When I was very young, my father would work on a car and let me “help”. As an example, I remember him changing a belt on an old 1956 Plymouth and letting me crawl under the car to try to tighten a bolt. Whatever the job, I would rub my hands in as much oil and grease as possible to make it look like I really worked. He must have thought that was cute because he never scolded me, and afterwards we would go into the basement and wash our hands with Boraxo.



At 5 years old, my father bought a 1962 Oldsmobile 98 in the Garnet Mist color. It was the only brand new car that I can remember my father ever purchasing. It was such a beautiful car, from its sleek lines, to the stitching and detail of the cloth seats. The dash was also elegant, and my favorite part was the speedometer that changed colors from green, to yellow, to red. I remember my mom driving it on I-96 to visit my grandparents with the red arrow hovering around 80 mph, and the engine purring in the background as

we floated along. Thank goodness I was born after the interstate highway system, and I don't remember the 5 hour drudgery my sister and brother endured taking Grand River Avenue from Grand Rapids to Detroit.



There were other Oldsmobiles in our extended family in those days. After all, who could resist having an Olds with their rocket engines?

My aunt had a dark blue 1964 Oldsmobile 98, and later on got a light yellow 1969 Olds 98 that she affectionately named “Buttercup”. One afternoon my grandfather called and said he had bought a new 1968 Oldsmobile 98. When my mother told him she had just baked shortcakes for her world renowned strawberry shortcake, he said he would be there for some in 2 ½ hours ... and he was.



That Willow Gold 1968 Oldsmobile later became our family car just in time for my high school years. While other guys were driving to school in their late 60s and early 70s muscle cars, I was riding the bus and going on dates in the 68 Oldsbut that was just fine with me.



This summer I just recently met with some high school friends, and they were still talking about reaching 100 mph in the Olds back in our youth. After high school, I continued on to college and took the 68 Olds with me. It got me through 4 years, and countless moves to and from school. Who needs a truck? ... LOL.

In the years that followed I continued to appreciate cars, and always especially Oldsmobiles, but owning a classic car never seemed like a priority with a family and three sons. I remember in my twenties noticing a 1962 Olds in the garage down the street, but it never seemed to move and I don't know whatever happened to it. I would always admire 1973 Cutlasses like the one my friend's father owned back in high school. A friend of my mother's gave my family a ride in her 1964 Olds 98 convertible, and I thought how nice it would be to own and drive something like that. Later, a local dealer in Midland would drive around town in a 1962 Olds Starfire, and I would appreciate it every time I would see it.

When my last son was almost out of college, I started to think more seriously about owning a special car. In April, 2009 I was looking around on the internet and saw a beautiful 1961 Olds Super 88 convertible, in the same Garnet Mist color as the 1962 Olds 98 that my Father had when I was growing up. I was still warming up to the idea that I could get a car, so time continued to pass by. But in August, I noticed that the car was still for sale. Since it was located in Troy, MI, not far from where my middle son lived, I decided to go and look at it. It was beautiful! The broker asked me if I wanted him to start it, then he asked me if I wanted to drive it. Of course you know what happened then. I loved it, and I wanted to have it. I still was slow to pull the trigger, and about two weeks later after a scare of losing it to a German buyer, I purchased it and drove it home on September 2, 2009.

Happy Birthday to me!

I have since enjoyed attending various car shows, and going to club events with the Motor City Rockets and the REO Chapter of the OCA. Of course my greatest joy is just to drive it, and to watch the speedometer change colors while I listen to the engine purr in the background. I can't think of a car I would rather have. I love my Oldsmobile!



Society of Plastics Engineers Gives Highest Honor to GM's Original Work with Airbags. Courtesy of GM Socrates web news.

Back in 1973, GM knew it was making huge strides in the vehicle safety world when we released the first-ever publicly sold car with airbags, the Oldsmobile Toronado. However, what we did not know was that nearly 40 years later, our engineering team would have the honor of receiving the prestigious Hall of Fame Award from the Society of Plastic Engineers (SPE) in recognition of this monumental action.

On Wednesday, Nov. 7, John Calabrese, vice president of Global Vehicle Engineering, accepted the Hall of Fame award from SPE at Laurel Manor in Livonia, Mich. Also in attendance were Gay Kent, general director of Vehicle Safety and Crashworthiness, along with Doug Houlihan, George Helou and Don Floyd, who was a part of the original Toronado airbag team.



“Though airbags have continued to evolve over the last almost 40 years, we couldn’t have imagined the advancements we have today, without taking the monumental step to bring this technology to market first all those years ago,” said Calabrese.

This is the 17th time in the last 30 years that GM has been recognized as a Hall of Fame Awardee for our excellence in plastics safety. In order to be considered for this award, the plastic component must have been in continuous service for at least 15 years and preferably widely adopted by the automotive industry.

SPE also awarded GM’s Bruce Greve, senior materials engineer, for his work on the carbon composite air extractor on the 2012 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1. This single-piece CFRP composite construction with exposed fabric weave provides a lightweight, functional component that increases down force at high speeds while providing an aesthetically pleasing appearance. The air extractor makes extensive use of adhesive bonding to join additional components in alternative materials (a polyamide vent screen and a thermoplastic polyester deflector). Adhesive bonding also isolates the carbon composite panel from the rest of the aluminum hood, preventing galvanic corrosion.

Minutes November 10, 2012

Motor City Rockets Meeting

Serra Chevrolet, Southfield, Michigan

The November Members' meeting was called to order at 2:29 pm by President Pat Macaluso. There were approximately 21 members in attendance.

President: Pat Macaluso welcomed members to Serra Chevrolet and introduced Greg Brown, General Manager and Steven Fahner, Chevrolet's Zone Manager. Greg and Steven discussed the new dealership, its technological and energy efficient features, then gave the group a tour of the facility. When the meeting resumed, Pat reviewed November birthdays. He gave an update on Sonee Lapadot's rehabilitation after a second knee surgery and Ken Kress' recent pacemaker replacement. Both are on track to recovery and we hope to see them at the December meeting. A big thanks was extended to Sue and Steve Apking for taking on the Rocket newsletter. They are looking for articles for the January/February newsletter. Elections for 2013-2014 Officers are ongoing. Members are urged to vote by submitted a ballot electronically or mailing it to Sue Pashukevich. Nominations for the 2012 Spirit Award are now being accepted. Results will be announced at the December meeting during our Holiday party. General Motors was recognized by the Society

of Plastics Engineers for its original work with Airbags dating to the early 1970s. Watch for an article in the newsletter.

Treasurer: Alan Wilcox was absent but sent a report that we have approximately 110 members. A \$400 donation was made to the WDC from the proceeds of our Saturday Woodward Dream Cruise parking.

Merchandise: Cindy will continue to provide Rocket merchandise for members. Going forward she will have a small inventory of men's and women's items. Most items will be ordered to the color and size specifics a member desires. Please contact Cindy for all of your Rocket merchandise needs.

Website: Steve Apking is working with Brian Lorway to update the www.motorcityrockets.com website to include more photos, our new merchandise, etc. Brian is currently overwhelmed with other responsibilities. It would be beneficial to have a second person who could assist by at least posting the newsletter and photos. In the future, the newsletter may be uploaded to the website then members would be receive a link where to read and download it. This could be a method to generate activity on the website.

Activities: The annual Christmas party and December member meeting is scheduled for December 8. Our hosts again, Cindy and Dave Klemm, will forward information shortly. Jeff Pregler will

provide updated guidelines for the White Elephant gift exchange. Sue Pashukevich is planning the location for the January meeting at a Farmington Hills collection of 100+ vehicles and lunch nearby. Suggestions for future meeting locations or events included Inline Tube or Stahl's Collection in Mount Clemens area. We are also looking for guest speakers and presentations at meetings to generate interest and participation. Jim Dyar explained that Plant Tours have for the most part been stopped.

Old Business: None

New Business: Sue Pashukevich has heard that T-12 96" fluorescent bulbs are no longer being manufactured. When the stock is depleted, they will no longer be available. New style bulbs will require ballast upgrade. Sue announced she was contacted by the Woodward Dream Cruise Executive Committee. Some time ago Sue suggested they pursue a Special Interest License Plate through the State of Michigan. The WDC Committee is hoping to make this a reality for the 20th Dream Cruise in 2014. The license plate would be available for registration for all passenger cars as an additional cost, part of which would be a fund raiser for the WDC.

A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Apking, 2nd by Phil Woodward. Ayes all. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Pashukevich

Minutes *December 8, 2012*

Motor City Rockets Meeting

New Baltimore, Michigan

The December Members' meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by President Pat Macaluso. There were approximately 30 members and guests in attendance.

President: Pat Macaluso welcomed everyone to the December meeting and annual Christmas party. He thanked Cindy and Dave Klemm for again hosting the event. December birthdays were reviewed. Ken Kress and Sonee Lapadot were both in attendance and looking great. Al Ferry is recovering from recent surgery. A review of the year 2012 brought us 17 new members, a revamped membership brochure, new and improved merchandise selections, Sue and Steve Apking taking on the Rocket Fuel Newsletter and Pat and Phil taking on the new Spirit Awards. A project still in the works is die-cut MCR window clings. Pat explained about controversial goings on within the OCA. The MCR Board has known of problems for a while but wanted to make the membership aware. Additional information will be forthcoming to the entire membership.

Treasurer: Alan Wilcox reported our balance to be financially sound.

Secretary: The November meeting minutes will be published in the next issue of the Rocket Fuel newsletter.

Activities: Sue Pashukevich is working to set up a meeting on January 19 at the Meurer Collection in Farmington Hills. We will have bowling again for our February meeting.

Old Business: Phil Woodward presented the 2012 Spirit Award to Pat and Suzi Macaluso. In years past, the Spirit Award has been a traveling trophy. Based on a suggestion made last year, each previous winner was presented with their own award to keep: Alan Wilcox (2007); Jack Tokie (2008); Dennis and Karon Piskorowski (2009); Steve and Sue Apking (2010); Dave and Cindy Klemm (2011).

New Business: The 2013-2014 Rockets officers will be: President Dan Evans, Vice President Phil Woodward, Treasurer Alan Wilcox, Secretary Barb Cook. Pat Macaluso will remain on the board as Past-President. Jeff Pregler has agreed to remain as Events Coordinator. Steve Apking was thanked for his many years of service. A plaque was presented to Pat Macaluso and to Sue Pashukevich as outgoing officers. The REO Chapter is selling 2013 Calendars.

A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Apking, 2nd by Dave Tucker. Ayes all. Meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Pashukevich

2012 MCR Christmas Party

By everyone's account, this year's party was a resounding success. Some 30 members met on December 8th at the lake home of Cindy Klemm's sister and brother-in-law, a place so fitting for a get-together like ours. Cindy outdid herself this year by fashioning party central with decorations related to Oldsmobile and the Motor City Rockets. From the tree to the fireplace to the stairway and everywhere in between, there were reminders that we were celebrating the holiday in an Oldsmobile way.

We held our business meeting first with out-going President Pat Macaluso presiding. After welcoming everyone and recognizing December birthdays, we caught up on the recoveries of two members, Sonee Lapadot and Ken Kress. Both had had surgery and thankfully were present to help us celebrate. Pat then recapped the activities of the past year and the other officers gave their reports. Old and new business was discussed and then election results for new officers were announced. Dan Evans will be our new president and Barbara Cook, our new secretary. There were no others running for the remaining posts so Phil Woodward and Alan Wilcox will stay on as vice-president and treasurer, respectively.



The recipients of the Spirit Award were also announced and the 2012 winners were Pat and Suzi Macaluso, well deserved after serving as President and first lady for the past two years. They received a plaque that they can keep instead of the usual trophy that got passed from winner to winner each year. In turn, past spirit award winners were also given plaques to keep.

Next came a fabulous catered dinner with

mouth-watering desserts and the infamous gift exchange.

The exchange went smoothly without much fanfare until Alan Wilcox chose a gift that, shall I say was "girly". Disappointed, he was hoping it would be stolen and so it was. He got to choose again. Well, I believe Alan started a process where he went back to that gift table some three or four times, getting mostly "girly" gifts with the exception of one, a car gift that was soon stolen. In the end, he finally got something decent.



Alas, the fun didn't stop there. Sharon Hoover's time came for a gift selection and she picked what she thought might be a good one. WRONG.

The oil filters reared their ugly little heads again and Sharon, lucky girl that she is, got to take them home. She vows, however that they will return in some other form. We'll have to wait next year to see if she makes good on her promise.

The exchange extended for some time and finally the last gift was selected. The evening came to an end but not



before we all made another run to the dessert table.

As always, a big thank you goes to Cindy & Dave for all their preparation and work that made for such a wonderful event.



Merry  *Christmas* 

Reminder:
North American International Auto Show
January 19 – 27, 2013
Cobo Center
Detroit,MI

MCR SERVICE TEAM

President	Dan Evans	president@motorcityrockets.com
Vice President	Phil Woodward	vicepresident@motorcityrockets.com
Treasurer	Alan Wilcox	treasurer@motorcityrockets.com
Secretary	Barbara Cook	secretary@motorcityrockets.com
Newsletter	Steve/Sue Apking	editor@motorcityrockets.com.
Activities	Jeff Pregler	events@motorcityrockets.com
Merchandise	Cindy Klemm	merchandise@motorcityrockets.com
Historian	Dorothy Maseles	historian@motorcityrockets.com
Webmaster	Brian Lorway	webmaster@motorcityrockets.com