



Jan / Feb 2014
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Motor City Rockets

The Rocket Fuel Newsletter

Greetings from the President:

Happy New Year fellow Rockets! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed time with family and friends.

First, I would like to thank Dan Evens for his contributions as President in 2013. I am happy to have been asked to complete Dan's term and I look forward to helping the club grow in 2014.

2013 has been a great year for many, one of challenge and sacrifice for others, but in the end, our love of Oldsmobiles brings us together; the joy we get from relationships within our club keeps our membership strong. We are more than typical club and club members; we are friends that share a common passion for Oldsmobiles. These are some of the best things I enjoy about this club and I hope you do as well.

2013 Year Club Highlights:

- ❖ MCR members enjoyed the Meurer private collection in January.
- ❖ MCR members enjoyed a club bowling event in February.
- ❖ MCR members enjoyed the Stahls Classic car collection in April.
- ❖ The MCR Annual Spring Dust Off was a hit in May.
- ❖ MCR had a great turn out at the annual Olds Homecoming in June.
- ❖ MCR had a great turnout at the 2013 Oldsmobile Nationals in Springfield IL in

July. All those who had their cars judged received a 1st Place, Special Awards and we had Best of class representatives among us. Let's see if the 2014 National event can be even more heavily attended.

- ❖ MCR had a great turnout at the Woodward Dream Cruise in August. The club donated \$500 to the Woodward Dream Cruise Authority in Charter One Banks name.
- ❖ MCR had a great turn out at the Great Pumpkin classic car show in October. All proceeds were given to the Salvation Army. Many MCR members took home trophies.
- ❖ MCR had a great turn out at the Annual Meeting and Christmas Party in December.
- ❖ Jill Woodward won the 2013 MCR Spirit Award – Congratulations to Jill.

We are now in the planning stages of 2014 events and meetings, so watch this newsletter and club communications for more details. And as always, suggestions and ideas are appreciated. Please keep your newsletter articles coming as well.

I hope to see you at club meetings and events this year.

Happy Oldsmobiling,

Dave Tucker

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the first issue of the 2014 *Rocketfuel*. Trust you all had a wonderful holiday and are looking forward to a year of fun-filled car activities.

As most of you may know, we've had a change at the top. Dave Tucker is now our new president. As editor, I'd like to be the first to welcome Dave to the ranks. Dave stepped up to fulfill the remainder of Dan Evans' term. Dan, because of a heavy work schedule, didn't think he could give the club the time and attention it needed. I personally want to thank Dan for putting the club first and for his year of service to us.

As I see it, 2014 looks to be a busy time for our club. In addition to our regular events, note that this year's OCA Nationals will be just down the road from us in Cincinnati, OH. You should have received your JWO by now and it has all the details listed inside the back cover.

Hope you enjoy this issue. You have your fellow members to thank for the content. Though I don't mean to sound like a broken record, I again plead to you for any contributions.

Next issue: Mar. 1. Deadline for any contributions: Feb. 25.

Sue Apking

Birthdays

January

14 Ken Kress
18 Glenn Reiss
19 Deb Wheeler
22 Steve Apking
28 Jerry Garfield
30 Alan Wilcox

February

7 Ron Wittenbach
12 Al Ferry
14 Dorothy Maseles
19 Alan Agauas
21 Jacqueline Wheeler
22 Cliff Carson
28 Terry Garfield



The 2014 North American International Auto Show

Cobo Center

January 18-26 (public show)

<http://www.naias.com/the-2014-show/public-show.aspx>

Don't forget about our **February** bowling event.

Details forthcoming.

2014 AutoRama coming in March

Dear Rockets -

I am hoping to put together another MCR calendar for 2015 but this time I would like to highlight the cars not the members. (Sorry guys!) If you have a particular place your car looks good next to, either take a photo and get it to me or call me and I will come out and take the photo.

What I am looking for is a background to represent the month and then cars in front of that background. This means, if you are willing to pull your car out of storage onto a dry driveway with snow in the background, that would be great for perhaps the month of January.

So, put your thinking caps on. I would love to get as many cars as possible. I would, also, love to get photos of the cars that members race - HINT! HINT! Either invite me out so I can get some photos or get some yourself, PLEASE! Any event where our cars are out and about AND I am there be prepared for some photo ops from me. Know that I will be out of the country in Jan., June, and Nov. for about a week each month if you try to reach me and I am not around.

Thank you in advance.

Jill Woodward

mar22pjrc@aol.com

January 2014



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Years Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Ken Kress	15	16	17	18 Glenn Reiss NAIAS
19 Deb Wheeler NAIAS	20 Martin Luther King Day NAIAS	21 NAIAS	22 Steve Apking NAIAS	23 NAIAS	24 NAIAS	25 NAIAS
26 NAIAS	27	28 Jerry Garfield	29	30 Alan Wilcox	31	

“Be sure to check the **MCR Website** calendar for additional details.”



An asterisk * denotes a “club” activity.

February 2014

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

Proof Positive

Judy Badgley of the R.E.Olds chapter recently came across this article about our chapter (1st paragraph below) and thought it would be of interest to us. Thanks, Judy, for sharing with your fellow chapter.



MICHIGAN CHAPTER RECEIVES NUMBER ONE CHAPTER CHARTER
On September 2nd, 1977 Russ Yoder, O.C.A. Pres. presented The South-Eastern Michigan Chapter with their charter. On hand for the presentation were Michigan Director Newell Stuhlfaut (third from L.) Russ Yoder (first L.) Richard Yoder (second L.) and members: Scott Belknap, Dana Page, Jean Northrup, Alice Page, Skip Church, Connie Church, Tom Fisher and Doug Houston (front).

Newell also reports the winners from the "Carnival of Cars" June 12th where Olds was represented with 9 registered (5 for judging); First Place Augie Walker, Pearl Beach, Mi. 1956 88 2 dr.; Second Place - Doug Houston, Detroit, Mi. 1941 Phaeton; Third Place- Merline Melrose, Bay City, Mi. 1952 88 2 dr. Shown were Newell Stuhlfauts 1957 98 Convertible and Jean Northrups 1957 stationwagon.

Michigan members rallied together to enjoy a journey to the Dearborn '77 National Meet (Fords) and managed to pick up some parts for Oldsmobiles. It looks like our #1 Chapter is going to hold it's own for a long time to come-



(Picture by Bob Neubacher)



(Picture by Linda Belknap)

NUMBER TWO HAS TO TRY HARDER and that's what the Ohio Chapter is doing when it comes to activities. Their August 28th Tour was a nice outing and a special event. The picture at left shows Don Spieldenner, Chapter Pres. accepting Chapter Charter #2 to the Ohio Chapter, presented by Russ Yoder, Pres. O.C.A. proud members on hand include: Sarah Spieldenner, Secy. -Treas., June & Jerry Waller & family, Helen & Harley Winans, Mr. & Mrs. Don Jones, Don O' Connor, Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Nielson and daughter, and Bob & Lenore Neubacher & Jill and John and Joanne Ray and Jenny & John Waller & Becky.

The Tour took them through Mentor, Ohio to Lawnfield, Pres. Garfield's home and then to the Fairport Harbour Great Lakes Museum that is in the form of an old lighthouse. Members parked in the park by the lake and some were even seen wading to cool off. A regular meeting was held and their next event will be a Christmas party to be announced.

June Waller (Mrs. Jerry Waller) will be the new Editor of the Ohio Olds' newsletter for the Ohio Chapter.

Star in the Making

When visiting the 2014 North American International Auto Show, be sure to check out the show's program book. Lindsey Simon, Cindy Klemm's niece was selected as the winner of the NAIAS high school poster contest. This contest is open to 10th -12th graders in Michigan.

Lindsey, a senior at Romeo High was one of 989 entrants from among 73 Michigan high schools. As top winner, she received the Chairman's award along with a cash prize of \$1000.00. Her poster will be used in the program and other promotions.

Lindsey should be familiar to those of us who attended the Christmas party. She was there helping Cindy with serving and clean-up.

It's clear that creativity runs in the family. Check out the link below to read more about this talented young lady.



<http://www.sourcenewspapers.com/articles/2013/12/24/news/doc52b9c059d6b75893366670.txt>

From Rock Auto Repair Blunders..... submitted by Phil Woodward

In 1972, I purchased a 1966 Triumph Spitfire. The sales price was heavily discounted simply because it needed a clutch. Since I had become proficient at parking lot burnouts - and replacing clutches - in my 1961 Chevrolet BelAir, I figured that I had made a super shrewd deal with the Spitfire. After purchasing a clutch disc, pressure plate, and throwout bearing, off to the garage I went. I put the Spitfire up on jack stands and slid underneath to remove the driveshaft, transmission, and bell housing. Hmm? It seemed like there were a bunch of frame members in the way. I unbolted every bolt I could find and removed everything I could, but there was no way that I could get to all the transmission and driveshaft bolts, much less find enough room to wriggle the transmission and bell housing out.

Now what?

Off I went to purchase a shop manual. Boy, was I surprised when I read the section on clutch replacement that began with, "remove the driver and passenger seat cushions, remove the carpet, and remove the transmission tunnel." Holy smokes! The transmission is removed from **INSIDE** the car. My gearhead buddies all had a good laugh, and from that day forward, I became a firm believer in the value of a shop manual.

Three Strikes: I'm Out of a Gift

So it was Saturday, December 7, the day of the MCR Christmas party and I was very much looking forward to the evening's activities. The day was progressing well but time was passing swiftly. Looking at the clock, I suddenly realized that Steve and I were running late and as a result we were one of the last arrivals. That should have been my first clue as how the evening was going to play out.

As usual when we entered, we found the lake house beautifully decorated; no surprise there as Cindy always does a superb job of decorating and making everything festive. We took a seat quickly because Dave was about to start the meeting. (see meeting minutes below) After the meeting ended, we had a wonderful dinner followed by those delicious desserts.

We then held our white elephant exchange where the real fun was to begin or so I thought. One by one our numbers were called and members stepped up to select a gift. Now my turn came and I examined the remaining gifts hoping to get a "good one". As I ripped through the packaging on the gift I chose, I quickly found my wish came true. I had in my hands a black t shirt with *Oldsmobile* in red sequins across the chest and a crystal "I love my *Oldsmobile*" pin. Perfect! I was a happy camper so I returned to my seat to watch the parade of others select their gifts. As the gift exchange is set up, others can steal your gift if they choose instead of picking from the remaining pile. Well it wasn't long before my beautiful, coveted, perfect gift was stolen. **Strike one.** Not to worry, I had another chance to select the perfect gift and I did. I opened another winner, a burgundy colored throw with *Oldsmobile* embroidered on it. Hurray!

Things were really going my way and I went back to my seat hoping to keep this gift but who was I kidding? **Strike two.** Again my beautiful, coveted, perfect gift was stolen, so back to the gift pile I went. Being the eternal optimist that I am, I was not deterred. I chose another gift and it was again a good one, a Woodward Avenue sign, perfect for hanging in a garage. So I now have in my hands another beautiful, coveted perfect gift. I didn't even return to my seat because I knew whoever was the next **selector** was ready to take my gift right out of my hands and I **was** right. **Strike three.** Enough already, I give. So here I am, out of a gift and having to choose another. I did and this time I got an oil filter and a Jeg's hat. Where were the stealers now? I waited but no one came forth. I sure had fun though choosing all those beautiful, coveted, perfect gifts for others. Perhaps I should become a personal shopper.

That gift exchange produced an array of things. There were Oldsmobile prints, storage bins for tools, clocks, model cars, tote bags and other really nice things including my gifts that I lost. The most unusual gift was one brought by the Hoovers. Last year, Sharon received some oil filters and she vowed to bring them back but in a different way. Well Jake got busy and crafted a one of a kind **work-of-art**. It was the most original gift there.

The gift exchange came to a close and most of us headed back to the dessert table for another



sampling. The night was winding down and members started leaving while we wished each other a Merry Christmas. Another highlight of the evening was the awarding of the spirit award. This year's recipient was Jill Woodward. Congratulations Jill, it was well deserved.

Now before anyone thinks that after reading this tale that I hold any ill feelings about losing my 3 beautiful, coveted, perfect gifts, I don't. But remember you three gift stealers, I know where each of you live and I **will** see you next year. Happy New Year everyone!!!

Sue Apking





Meeting Minutes

Minutes December 7, 2013
Motor City Rockets Meeting
Cindy Klemm's Party Central
New Baltimore, Michigan

The December Members' meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by President Dave Tucker. There were approximately 52 members in attendance.

President: Dave Tucker welcomed everyone to the December meeting and annual Christmas Party. He thanked Cindy Klemm for again hosting the event.

He then gave a brief hi-light of the recent board meeting. He asked anyone who had an idea for a meeting activity to please submit it to a board member. Alan led the discussion that since a member of the Rockets, no longer has to be a member of OCA (no longer a requirement by OCA) and can join just our group, how we would proceed. It was decided that we would encourage membership in OCA and in that way, you would still receive the Journey through Olds magazine and stay current with national activities.

He led a moment of silence for those members whom we had lost this past year. He thanked Dan for his service and accepted his resignation.

Treasurer: Alan Wilcox reported that we had 102 regular members and 17 associate members for a total membership of 119 people. Alan also reported that our treasury was financially sound with dues due in June for a large number of the members. Also, the expenses for the Christmas Party were still pending. We had paid \$500 to Charter One Bank for the use of their parking lot for the Woodward Cruise-the money will be donated to charity, the Woodward Dream Cruise Authority to further that activity. We also donated \$442 to the RE Olds museum in memory of Dave Klemm. The money was collected from several members and supplemented from the treasury to make exactly that amount.

Activities: Dave Tucker then reviewed the past year and all the activities the club had participated in.

Old Business: At that time, Dave presented the 2013 Spirit Award to Jill Woodward. The past winners are: Pat and Suzi Macaluso (2012), Dave and Cindy Klemm (2011), Steve and Sue Apking (2010), Dennis and Karon Piskorowski (2009), Jack Tokie (2008), Alan Wilcox (2007).

New Business: Phil Woodward noted the November and December birthdays. Christmas Cards were sent around to sign for Jerry Wilson and Ken Nichols. Dave thanked the newsletter editor, Sue Apking. It was suggested she send a copy of the newsletter to the OCA office when published and she agreed to do it.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pat Macaluso. Seconded by Alan Wilcox. Ayes all. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Cook

All in the Family, Part 3

By: Dave Engel, Motor City Rockets

The story of my third Oldsmobile, a 1972 Cutlass Supreme convertible, starts again with another family member, just like the first two cars. My Uncle Paul's parents (he is my mother's sister's husband) purchased this vehicle new in March of 1972 from Drummy Olds in East Detroit, MI. Options ordered include power steering, power four wheel drum brakes, power convertible top and not much else from what I can tell! It has the 350 cid Rocket V8 with a four barrel Rochester carburetor. In true time capsule sense, the odometer shows a documented 57,167 miles. The car was a summer cruiser for many years, with Paul driving it throughout his high school years, which serves as the explanation for the repairable damage still showing on the right fender. Paul, along with all of his siblings, learned how to drive in this car.

Sometime thereafter, the Cutlass found its way to the family cottage up in Gaylord, where it was used for years to tow a boat to and from the marina at the beginning and end of the summer (as demonstrated by the soon to be removed trailer ball), along with taking trash to the Otsego County dump. This amazes me; a Cutlass convertible being used as the garbage car? In 1999, Paul decided it would be a good idea to purchase the Cutlass from his parents, clean it up a bit, and have something fun to drive on the weekends in the summer. The plan worked well for a few years, as he registered the car through 2003 and put a small number of miles on it. But the cleanup and restoration work never commenced. For years, I bugged Paul at every chance to work on the car, offering my help to do so. After several years of doing this with no action, my comments changed to "Why don't you sell the car to me? I'll actually do something with it!" That time finally arrived this year.

A friend and I hauled the car out of Paul's mom's garage and brought it to my place last spring, where it has sat since while I have been healing from numerous abdominal surgeries. Now that I am feeling better, I have started the restoration process with acquiring parts to install this winter, primarily new brake and fuel lines, fuel tank and straps, fuel pump, alternator, brake shoes, drums, wheel cylinders and hardware, radiator, hoses, belts, thermostat, shock absorbers, radial tires (to replace the very dry rotted bias ply) and some other minor components. Plans also include converting the points ignition to HEI as soon as possible since the vehicle currently turns over with no issue but has no spark. I will also acquire a few missing trim pieces once the mechanicals are solidly running.

With the Cutlass, I now have three Oldsmobiles (Toronado, Aurora, Cutlass Supreme) originally owned by family members. Unless any more come out of the wood work that I am unaware of, that will end this series of articles. I'm sure there is a good chance of another Olds from outside the family making its way home with me at some point though!



MCR SERVICE TEAM

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