



July / Aug 2014  
Volume 3, Issue 4

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# Motor City Rockets

*The Rocket Fuel Newsletter*

## Greetings from the President:

### *Let the fun begin*

Since my last note, our Club has been very mobile and on the move. I hope many of you were able to attend and enjoy the MCR Spring Dust Off. As usual, we had a great turn-out and lots of wonderful cars, friends and fun. That was followed by the Annual Homecoming in Lansing. I heard a record was set this year for registered cars in attendance. It is awesome to see this event continue to grow. In July MCR is heading south to Cincinnati for the Annual Oldsmobile Nationals. I hope everyone is able to attend. Nationals are quickly followed by a cruise down M-1 for the Woodward Dream Cruise. So in a very short time span, we have a lot to do and lots of cars to enjoy. So get busy washing, waxing and most importantly driving.

### *OCA Votes are in*

I want to personally thank all of the Motor City Rockets that voted in the recent OCA elections. This was a critical vote and as you may have heard, the results were good for all OCA Members as Jerry Wilson won and agreed to be OCA President for one more term. We have a new Treasurer and many new faces to help repair the OCA and improve our organization for the good of the club and its members. As usual, MCR members made their voices heard and I know our votes played a critical role leading to these results. Great job MCR.

### *MCR Bylaws*

The MCR Bylaw changes have been prepared, voted on and sent to the membership on file as of 6/22/14. There are many changes being proposed, so please take the time to read and reflect on them. Our Bylaws require that all members be notified of a vote 30 days in advance. As stated in the communication accompanying the Bylaws, we are planning to discuss and take membership votes on the Bylaws at the Woodward Dream Cruise meeting @ 11AM. Please look for a communication from Jeff as the WDC event moves closer.

### *Paypal Accepted*

Not to get your hopes up, but the BOD has decided to move forward with an investigation into accepting Paypal as a method for members to pay dues. Some benefits of this are that members can pay with a bank account or a credit card on-line at the MCR web site. The BOD is working with the MCR web master to work out the details, but we hope to be able to bring this service to our members in the coming months. We are also discussing the potential to order and pay for merchandise on-line, but this is a secondary feature still under investigation. More to come as we uncover the possibilities.

## Happy Oldsmobiling!

***Dave Tucker***  
**MCR President**

## Editor's Notes

### URGENT PLEA

Fellow members, **I need your help** in publishing this newsletter. **Please consider submitting an article.** There is a story behind every car in this club. If you think there isn't, you're simply wrong. There are countless tales to be told and I'd like them to be shared in our newsletter. Some members have contributed wonderful articles for which I'm very grateful. But we have almost 100 members. Hence there are 100 stories just waiting to be told.

If you need thought starters, here are a few.

- ❖ When did you first acquire your Olds?
- ❖ How long have you owned it?
- ❖ What is the mileage?
- ❖ Did you purchase it or was it passed down from a family member?
- ❖ Did you scour eBay or did you find your future beauty sitting in a garage or junk yard?
- ❖ What has been done to your car since you've owned it?
- ❖ Are you a do it yourselfer or did you have help? This would be a great opportunity to share tips with fellow members of any resources you found particularly helpful.
- ❖ Do you like to enter car shows and if so, have you won any awards or any special recognitions? Or perhaps you're the type that simply enjoys cruising and getting those admiring looks from passersby.

I think you get the picture. Please consider sharing your story. Just pretend you're at a car event and someone has stopped to admire your car. That someone starts asking questions and suddenly you're telling them the history of your car. Now put that conversation on paper and send it to me.

**Next newsletter goes out: Sept. 1.**

**Submission deadline: August 29.**

**Sue Apking, Editor**

## Welcome New Members

We are very excited that the following people have decided to join in the fun of the Motor City Rockets. Welcome to all of you!!

*Don & Eva Cooper*  
*Doug & Judy Badgley*  
*Bill & Terry Mozurkewich*  
*Anthony & Annette Mollette*  
*Bob Shalla*

## Birthday Greetings



### July

6 Eric Drake  
11 Dave Tucker  
27 Bob Wheeler  
31 Pat Hibbels

### August

6 Suzi Macaluso  
8 Doug Width  
18 Denise Tucker  
19 Jim Dyer

*Congratulations and Best Wishes to all!*

## Anniversaries



### July

1 Apkings  
17 Wittenbachs  
20 Macaluso

### August

24 Kresses

## Upcoming Events



- **CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE**      **JULY 27**
- **OCA NATIONALS**      **JULY 28 - AUGUST 3**
- **GRATIOT CRUISE**      **AUGUST 3**
- **WOODWARD**      **AUG 16 #**

**#** = MCR Club event

# SPRING DUST OFF

By Jill Woodward

I know it's been a couple of months, but think back to a VERY cold day in May when we finally were able to bring our cars out of winter storage.....too bad that day made me want to go BACK into winter storage, or at least find my electric blanket! Oh yeah, that is a space heater several of us were warming up by! But, back to the day.



It was a sunny, if not warm, day and the cars all sparkled in the sun. There was a good Rocket turn out and we were happy to welcome several new faces that had read about our outing on line. They are now Rockets as well! There was a new guy manning the grills ...



But Ron assures me there was no foam on our burgers! I'm glad the extinguisher was there as Ron had the gift of making the flames shoot HIGH every time he flipped a burger. Thanks to the awesome grill guys – Jake and Ron – the burgers and dogs were WONDERFUL!



The food, everyone brought, was yummy and once again, the dessert table was a favorite of mine. I am sure others were drawn back to that table more than once as well. I know my pants were tighter on the way home than they had been when I arrived. I think we need to put together a cookbook of all these delicious dishes!



Back to the cars...I was able to capture several that may just make it into our calendar next year. Thanks to Pat and Suzi for once again putting on a great Dust Off.



# *May Meeting Minutes*

## **MCR Membership Minutes**

**May 17, 2014**

**Called to order 3:00 PM**

**Dust Off, Howell, Michigan**

The President, Dave Tucker, welcomed everyone to our annual the Dust Off. He thanked Pat and Suzi Macaluso for hosting the event. There were approximately 39 members and guests attending. We had three new couples join: Bill and Terry Mozurkewich, Anthony and Annette Mollette, Bob and \_\_\_\_\_Shalla. There were 22 cars on display.

Vice President, Phil Woodward had nothing to report.

The Treasurer, Alan Wilcox, reported that there had been no expenses or additions for the preceding month.

Activities Director, Jeff Pregler, updated information on Nationals, Homecoming and the Woodward Dream Cruise. He asked for members to be aware of his upcoming e-mails and respond in a timely manner.

Dave Tucker informed everyone of the Traverse City trip scheduled for September 19-21. Information will be coming later. Also, he talked about the updated web site and us having a presence on Face Book now.

Steve and Sue Apking reminded members to submit articles for the newsletter. The newsletter only exists if all contribute. They suggested stories of how you acquired your car, or problems you might have had (and solved). Please submit by e-mail to them by June 28.

Alan Wilcox moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jeff Pregler seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Cook

Secretary, Motor City Rockets



## Homecoming 2014

What a beautiful day for a record number of Oldsmobiles to come together. It was a great day to be driving our convertible with the top down – despite the sunburn I got!

Cindy and Suzi arrived early to get us the primo spot and set up our canopies and then they found all the great buys in the swap meet ☺

Brock and Jack were doing business in the swap area. Also in the swap area were Jeff and Johana and Dennis and Karon selling raffle tickets on a pace car replica with proceeds going to the Great American Muscle Car Giveaway charity. Go guys! The Motor City Rockets were WELL represented, but if you want pics of the



people you will have to check with Steve – I got too carried away taking pictures of the cars. A few of our members were lucky enough to have their number chosen in the raffle but I don't think they considered themselves "winners" when they saw that they won 'gas pumps' the ones we gave away at Nationals in 2008! It did make for a lot of laughter!



But I believe the greatest find of the day goes to Anne and the 'Jackalope'!

Just a perfect day without the stress of competition. A wonderful time to visit with old friends and make new friends. A great time to share the love of Oldsmobile with people who understand your passion.



Next stop – Nationals in Cincinnati. 'Keep your motors running' and safe travels everyone. Submitted by Jill Woodward

## CAPTION:

1. How many Rockets does it take to take apart and reassemble a 442?
2. How fast can these guys strip a car?
3. Would you trust these guys to fix YOUR car!
4. Let's play "Hot or Cold" – the object you are looking for is: Sonee's car keys!
5. How to have fun at the Oldsmobile Homecoming 2014



Which caption would you choose?

We have ALL done it at one time or another, haven't we? Be honest! At some time in your life you have probably locked your keys in your car or trunk. Some have even left them in the ignition with the car still running! But wasn't it wonderful that when it happened at Homecoming, Sonee had a LOT of friends to help her out?

I may get this wrong, but as I saw it: **Pat M.** had a bent coat hanger; someone else had a longer wire; **Al F.** knew how to take the seat and back out (the trick is the back lifts UP); **Brock** deposited said car parts on the ground; **Steve A.** had a flashlight; **Cindy K.** told them to put the top up a ways for easier access; **Phil W.** had the LONG arms to reach back; **Dave T.** was inside at one point; and **MANY** shared their "two cents worth" of helpful (or NOT) advice.

All in all, I know it had to have been frustrating for Sonee, but the guys sure seemed to have fun! And the best part was that they managed to get the car back together and there were NO left-over screws or bolts! When has THAT ever happened?! The only thing that we couldn't find in the end was Steve's flashlight. No big deal!!!! Sonee didn't need it to drive home with ☺!

Submitted by Jill Woodward

Editor's Note: Steve's flashlight was found the next day in Sonee's car, under the spare tire, still on.





## ***Important Reminders:***

Please take a careful look at the following notes. If any of these apply to you or you can help in any way, please respond to the appropriate person.

- **Dues:** Check to see if your dues are current. Alan does an excellent job of keeping us on track and sends out e-mails as reminders. If you've already responded and paid then you received a new membership card. If not, then please check with Alan. **Keeping up with your dues helps Alan** as he uses that information to keep us current on the roster and with the OCA.
- Take a look at the following **e-mail** from a **fellow OCA member**. Perhaps you can help in his endeavor.

I am John Lake, member of Oldsmobile Club of America and Olds Club of Florida. As you may have seen in the May 2014 Journey With Olds, Jerry Wilson in his Presidents Message, **has asked all members** to send the **names of repair shops** that our members have used for repair on their Oldsmobile's near home.

We want to **set up a list of repair shops that can repair our older cars when we are away from home**. This came to me when a friend of ours was at a show near us with his 1965 and had a electrical problem and the car would not run. He was over 100 miles from home

and did not know of any repair shops. He had driven his car here and would need to have it towed home if it could not be repaired. We know of a repair shop that has been open for over 50 years and has repair men that know how to work on the older cars. We had it towed to his shop on Friday night and called him Saturday morning, the shop had it repaired by noon and our friend was able to drive home that day.

I would like to make up a list of repair shops in all the states and put it on the OCA web page so that when members are away from home and need help they can get the info on a lap top or they could print off the info for the states they will be driving through before they leave home.

**Please have the info sent to me by e-mail or US mail.**

**e-mail---** johnrl1946@yahoo.com

**Address:** John Lake  
65 Seton Trail # 17  
Ormond Beach, Florida 32176

Thank you for your help,

John Lake - Oldsmobile Club of Florida



➤ By now those of you who are attending the **OCA Nationals** should have received an e-mail noted below from Jeff Pregler. In it he asked for certain information regarding your trip to the show. If you have **not yet responded**, please **do so by July 15**.

Greetings Rockets, *email sent 4-13-14*

The **2014 Oldsmobile Club of America Nationals** are only three and a half months away (July 30 - August 2) and we're sending out this survey to help coordinate MCR club activities. In previous years we have caravanned to the Nationals meet as a club to ensure everyone arrived safely and to assist if there were mechanical issues enroute. Please take a minute or two to complete the survey below and return it to the e-mail address: [motorcityrocketsevents@gmail.com](mailto:motorcityrocketsevents@gmail.com)

Thanks,

Jeff Pregler  
MCR Events Coordinator  
[248-740-9898](tel:248-740-9898)

=====

#### DEPARTURE INFORMATION

- 1) Date of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Do you want to Caravan with the Club? Y/N \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Do you have a CB Radio? Y/N \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMBER NAMES

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

- 1) Hotel Location \_\_\_\_\_

#### VEHICLE & JUDGING

- 1) Vehicle Registered for the Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_
- Show Only \_\_\_\_\_
  - Judged \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) Are you Judging at the Nationals this year Y/N \_\_\_\_\_
- Junior/Senior Class \_\_\_\_\_

#### TOURS & BANQUETS

- 1) Wednesday Night Welcome Party Y/N \_\_\_\_\_
- Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Thursday Tour: Wright Paterson Air Force Base Y/N \_\_\_\_\_
- Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Friday: Ladies Lunch & Shopping Y/N \_\_\_\_\_
- Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Friday: Horseshoe Casino Y/N \_\_\_\_\_
- Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Friday: Newport on the Levee Y/N \_\_\_\_\_
- Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Saturday: Awards Banquet Y/N \_\_\_\_\_
- Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks for completing this survey. **Please return this survey by July 15, 2014**. Once everyone has responded I will compile the results and distribute the details to all the members attending the Nationals this year. If you have any questions please call me at [248-740-9898](tel:248-740-9898).

- **Don't forget** that Jill wants to put together a **calendar of our cars for 2015**. It may even turn out to be a two year calendar depending on the number of pics she gets.
- She's hoping to get some **REALLY** creative photos.
  - She will need all of the pics, either ones you send or ones you want her to take, **by Thanksgiving at the very latest.**

○

If she changes the deadline she will let all of you know.

Let's make this a GREAT calendar – after all, we have GREAT cars!

Jill Woodward  
mar22pjrc@aol.com

## *Eyes on Design*

How We Spent Father's Day  
By Jill Woodward

We went to a car show – what else would we do?! To be specific...we went to Eyes On Design to support fellow Rockets – Cindy Klemm and Dave and Denise Tucker. We got a bonus when we found out Ed and Sue were also there.

It was a beautiful day without a cloud in the sky and probably a couple hundred of the most beautiful cars to be seen. We started to walk around and quickly found Dave and Denise sitting in the shade, their car being judged. We didn't stay around for awards but their car was tops to me! Phil was intrigued with a car not far from Tuckers. It and had just over 1000 original miles on it! I will admit,



the car did look like it had just rolled off the showroom floor. These cars from the 70's were in the Personal Luxury Coupe category – but to me, if the car is over 30 years old with only 1000 miles on it....that does not fall under the heading of “personal” to me. “Personal” to me means you DRIVE the car on a somewhat daily basis! But then, as I said, I was partial to the Tucker's car ☺

day, in the low 80's the sky and hundred of the most seen. We started to quickly found Dave the shade, their car being judged. We for awards but their Phil was intrigued from Tuckers. It and had just over on it! I will admit,





Lucky for us in finding Dave and Denise in that they were able to walk us over to find Cindy and eventually Ed and Sue. Cindy was showing her 1970 Pace car and she, too, was waiting to see if her car won anything. It sparkled in the sun and was being VERY closely photographed by some man as we walked up. Not too far away from Cindy's car was a 'Four-anado'!

Yeah, I had never heard of one. In case you haven't heard of one either, it is apparently a 442 with a Toronado engine.

Near the house of Edsel Ford was the display of military vehicles where again we saw Ed and Sue.

After visiting with our fellow Rockets, we walked around the grounds checking out the cars and motorcycles.

I was particularly drawn to the cars that had been used in TV or movies, as my dad used to call me "Miss TV Guide"!



I loved the "Prof. Fate" car that Jack Lemmon drove in "The Great Race." The owner was giving children "rides" in the car as the car would telescope up and down, giving the kids a thrill.

There was the car from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" that the Whos drove; the A-Team van; cars from: "Starsky and Hutch"; "Green Hornet"; "The Dukes of Hazard"; "Bullit"; and finally...

....the car I have been dreaming to see....(I keep missing it at Woodward Dream Cruise)...the Monkeemobile! This

is like the Holy Grail of car icons to me and I was back in 6<sup>th</sup> grade once again.





All in all, a great day looking at some magnificent vehicles and visiting with a few friends.

Hope your Father's Day was just as wonderful.

Jill Woodward



# *A Mother's Intuition*

By Alan Wilcox

My first car (1976) was a 1968 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme 4-door. The car had had a hard life before I got it, but it ran (after a fashion, warped heads did not hold the compression I might have hoped for) and I loved it. The car left my possession in 1978 and I went on to a succession of other cars, mostly Oldsmobiles, but just like your first love, you never forget your first car.

After high school, I was going to attend Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan. Houghton is a ten hour car trip from Lansing, and my parents decided that I needed a new car to make my journey there as safely as possible. So as an early graduation present, they told me they would buy me a 1979 Oldsmobile Starfire. Needless to say I was as flabbergasted as I was excited about this development. I was able to order my new car, and we kept it as inexpensive as possible, getting the base car, with a 151 cu in Iron Duke engine and a 4-speed manual transmission. The only option I remember getting was the rear window defogger. It was Bright Blue Metallic with a blue cloth interior (I don't remember if the cloth was an option over the vinyl or not. It may have been) and I loved that car. In 1982 I got married, and my wife could not (and would not) drive a stick shift so my parents decided that for a wedding gift they would buy us a 1982 J-body Firenza with an automatic transmission. The Starfire was sold to a local used car dealer and sadly I never saw the car again.

The years and many Oldsmobiles came and went but in 1999 I bought my first Oldsmobile that was not a daily driver for me, My 1968 Cutlass S Convertible. Three years later, I bought an Oldsmobile to use as a daily driver, but my new (to me, only 12,000 miles on it) 1987 442 was just too nice to use as a daily driver and I ended up getting a Cutlass Ciera to do the dirty work. I really enjoyed my two Oldsmobile beauties and when I found a pair of 1968 license plates I registered the Cutlass with them and have driven it ever since on those plates. In 2012 the 442 became eligible to wear authentic plates and (thanks to Tom Walker) I found a plate that even had the numbers "442" on it and I was able to acquire a 1987 sticker for it. By 1987 the Michigan Blue plate special had been used for quite a few years and every year you just put a new sticker in the upper right hand corner (or somewhere else on the plate if you weren't too good at figuring that sort of thing out, a topic for a totally different rant). So both of my classics had authentic plates on them. The rules for authentic plates stated that the car could only be driven in parades and to and from car shows, but here in southeastern Michigan, there is a local car show every night of the week somewhere close, so I felt I could drive one of them to work if I felt like it and if I got pulled over for driving with authentic plates I could always claim that after work I was going straight to a car show.

I love driving my Cutlass and my 442, but always in the back of my mind was my 1979 Starfire. I decided it was time to go looking for one. I had been sort of looking since about 2004, but nothing had fallen into my lap, so nothing had come of it. By 2011 I had saved up enough money to buy one, if only I could find one.

I had some requirements that made one hard to find. First, it had to be a manual transmission, second it had to be a V-6 or V-8, third it had to have A/C (as I get older I find I want comfort). I was originally looking for a 1979 model, but over time became conflicted. I really liked the looks of the rear of the '79 - '80 models with the vertical tail lights, but realized that I liked the front end of the '77 - '78 models with the slanted grill and quad headlights. So in the end I decided that the looks of the front end outweighed the looks of the rear end and I decided that what I wanted was a 1978 Starfire Firenza or GT. I began my hunt in earnest, finding cars of all different conditions at all different price points. I knew that I did not want a basket case or a car that needed a complete restoration. I wanted a car that was in very good condition, but still needed a little work. I was able to find manual transmission cars with no A/C,

and automatic transmission cars with A/C, but I could not find my white whale of a manual trans with A/C.

In September of 2013, I was lucky enough to be able to purchase a very good condition 1978 Oldsmobile Starfire Firenza. It was an original car with very little done to it. It still had the original silver paint and dark carmine interior. It did not have A/C, but by that time I had given up on finding one with manual trans and A/C. As I found out later, it was a good thing I had given up on it as it appears that Olds did not offer A/C on a manual transmission Starfire with a V-8. Perhaps there just was not enough room under the hood.



Even though I had never been pulled over or even looked at askance by law enforcement when I drove either of my authentic plated cars (usually if an officer noticed my car they would just grin and give me a thumbs up) it still made me a little nervous to drive either of them a lot. I decided that I would be driving the Starfire a lot and I should probably just put regular plates on it.

So at first it had just a regular license plate on it. Then when my plates were due up in January I got a vanity plate that read "7D8 OLDS" (I tried for 78 OLDS, but the SOS said that the combination of two numbers and four letters were reserved for disabled veteran plates or some such group, but I thought my alternate selection fairly clever). I had bought an authentic plate somewhere since I had bought the car, this would be a Michigan US Bicentennial plate with a 1978 registration sticker on it, and thought "well, maybe someday I'll want to change the plate to an authentic plate", but I really didn't think I would ever do it.

My mom had died in 2010 and our whole family missed her a lot, but nobody missed her more than my dad. In March of 2013 he had purchased his first classic Oldsmobile, a 1949 98 Deluxe 4-door. The car helped fill part of the void that my mom's passing had created in his life (and it has a great story of its very own).

In late March of 2014, I was in my father's basement making sure the charge on the battery for his 98 was good as we were planning on putting it back in the car soon. I was getting ready to head back upstairs when something on a shelf at my eye level by the stairs caught my eye. It was a Michigan US Bicentennial plate, so out of curiosity I pulled it down and looked at it through all the dust collected on it and noticed it was all numbers. "Oh", I thought, "a trailer plate". Not much good unless I was going to register an old trailer and I'm not even sure that you can do that. Then I noticed that I had picked up not one, but two plates. I looked at the one beneath and it was a car plate with a 1978 sticker on it. I turned it over and on the back, in my mom's handwriting on a piece of masking tape were the words "Alan's 1978 First Plate". The plate I had on my first 1968 Cutlass. For reasons unknown to me, my mother, who to my knowledge did not save license plates, had thought to save a license plate that could actually be used on one of my classic Oldsmobiles. A car that she would never have known that I was even interested in. So last month I made a copy of the plate and sent it in with my proof of insurance and a check for \$35, and I now have my car registered with my authentic plate, all thanks to Mom.

Alan Wilcox

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014





### *MCR SERVICE TEAM*

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