



Sept / Oct 2014
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Motor City Rockets

The Rocket Fuel Newsletter

Editor's Notes

It's hard to believe the car season is almost at an end but with the cooperation of the weather, we should be able to eke out another couple months of cruising. Though fall is fast approaching, many opportunities still exist to take your classic out for a spin. We all know how beautiful a Michigan autumn can be with the gorgeous colors and the cool, crisp temperatures and to drive under those conditions sounds just about perfect.

Two major activities are now in the books: The **2014 OCA Nationals** and the **Woodward Dream Cruise**. Write-ups of these activities will be found later along with other fun and interesting articles. In fact I received so many contributions that I saved some of them for the next issue. Way to go, Rockets!! You're spoiling me. Thanks to Al Ferry and Lanny Yankee for their stories included in this issue. Look for Alan Aquas and Brock Loewen's articles next month.

Phil Woodward shared this web site (www.outrightolds.com) Nice find.

Check this out for an unbelievable sight. This was shared by the Woodwards. (www.designboom.com/technology/wisconsin-man-builds-23-foot-tall-transformer-07-04-2014)

Note the upcoming events and look for e-mails giving specific details for those that are denoted as a club activity.

Remember!!!

Next issue date: **December 1.**

Last date for any submissions: **November 28.**

Sue Apking

Upcoming Events



Frankenmuth Auto Fest: Friday- Sunday, September 5th-7th

Shelby Car Show: Saturday, September 21st-ShelbyTwp. MI

Milford Car Show: Sunday, September 21st-Main Street in downtown Milford, MI

Traverse City Trip: Friday-Sunday, September 26th-28th (**plans pending-no firm commitment at this time**)

***Great Pumpkin Car Show:** Saturday, October 11th-Howell, MI

***MCR Christmas Party:** Saturday, December 6th

*** MCR Club event**

Congratulations to Mike and Donna Franks for receiving this award from the **Car Capitol Auto & Bike Show**. They won Best Oldsmobile overall for the whole show.



Welcome New Members

We are very excited that the following people have decided to join in the fun of the Motor City Rockets. We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

David & Lorinda Bishop

Liz Browning

Dale Suich

Ken Judd

Tim Priest

Rich Butkowski

Tony Smith

John Garza

Birthday Greetings



Sept. 3-Sharon Tumidanski

Sept. 6-Karl Kimball

Sept. 30- Jeff Pregler

Oct. 16-Kelly Ferry

Anniversaries

Oct. 1 -Bob & Deb Wheeler



Lucky, Lucky Man

So here's the scenario. You leave your house one morning with a friend driving your car trailer in route to a fellow member's home. Once there you pick up said member's car, load it in the trailer and off you go to deliver said car to a national meet. You following this? Stay with me now. Having arrived, you remain at the car show a couple of days admiring all the cars, basically just having a good time with your car buddy. Now comes the time to load that car back on the trailer to return it to its natural dwelling.



Having accomplished this, you now arrive safely to your own home with everything in its rightful place.

Being home just one day now you think you might want to relax and refresh. But wait, you hear about another car show near your home. What the heck, you love car shows. You've got the time. It's close. So off you go. Now one thing you can almost always count on at a car show besides the cars is a raffle. You're asked to buy some tickets. You never win you tell yourself but it's for a good cause. So there you go exchanging cash for some ticket stubs you'll be throwing away in a few days. The day starts to wind down. You head home completely forgetting that you ever bought any raffle tickets. You're home now and suddenly the phone rings and someone's telling you that your name was called for a raffle prize and you better get back to the car show to claim it. You arrive and you're told that you've not only won a prize but you've won the **grand prize** of the day. Now here's the good part. This grand prize just happens to be 2 VIP tickets to a Barrett-Jackson Auction of the winner's choice to be taken between now and the end of 2015. Also included is VIP parking and cash for a grand total worth \$3400.00.

Now the question becomes, who is the "you" in this story? HINT: Fellow MCR member, one of the nicest guys around, knows cars and is willing to share that car knowledge and his time. Who is this lucky person? Answer: Lanny Yankee. He attended the Dog Days of Summer Family Fun Days and Car Show at Deer Acres in Pinconning, MI the Sunday after the OCA Nationals. For a \$15.00 investment, he became the grand winner. He asked his wife, Pat, if she'd like to go with him. She declined, saying he should take someone who would really it enjoy it. So he's taking his friend, his "car wife" Pat Dammer.

Congratulations, Lanny. You know that you'll now owe me an article about this wonderful experience. And by the way, lucky man, have you played the lottery lately?

Submitted by Lanny Yankee & Sue Apking

2014 OCA Nationals Overview

Let me begin by congratulating the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky chapter on this year's meet. They did a terrific job and should be very proud of themselves. The Motor City Rockets sure enjoyed themselves making a great showing with just over 30 members including associates in attendance. During our time there, we took advantage of the various events offered by the host club and found other interesting things to do as well.

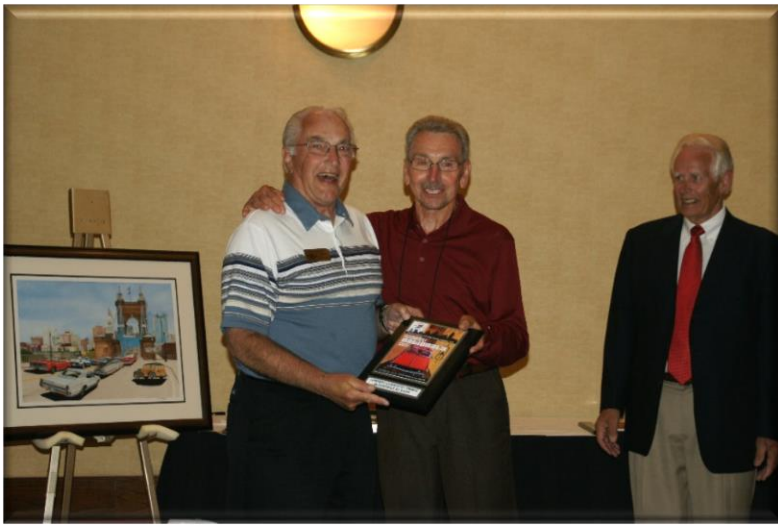
One evening about 40 of us went to dinner at Montgomery Inn. It's a fine Cincinnati restaurant famous for their rib dinners. As dinner was being served, Eric Drake had a little mishap. His waitress literally served his dinner right in his lap when she accidentally dropped the dinner plate. Sauce went flying and ended up everywhere all over Eric and the floor. Needless to say the waitress was thoroughly embarrassed. The restaurant made good on it by not charging for the dinner and Eric also received some other goodies with sincere apologies from the staff.



Of the MCR cars registered for the meet, some were show only. There were various problems that plagued the remaining cars. So not every member who entered a car for judging was able to drive that same car but all did arrive safely. Of the cars eligible for judging on Friday, all received a first place award. The winners were Ken Kress, Joe

Sroka, Jerry Skinner, Sonee Lapadot, Jeff Pregler, Brock Loewen, Steve Apking, Pat Macaluso, Doug Width.

At Saturday's banquet we learned Doug Width maintained his senior preservation and Ken Kress received a special award for having owned his car the longest. Look for a complete recap of the entire meet in a future JWO.



SAVE THE DATE!!



**OLDSMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA
NATIONALS**

July 22nd - 26th, 2015

Events:

- Wednesday/Thursday: Tours at Miller Brewing, Harley-Davidson Museum
- Thursday evening: Social event at registration tent. Food, beverage and music
- Friday: Judging at showfield, Women's shopping/lunch location TBD
- Friday evening: Race/Spectator at Great Lakes Dragaway, Union Grove WI
- Saturday evening: Banquet

Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield

375 South Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005

(262) 364-1100

Mention the Oldsmobile Club of America Room Block to receive the special rate.

Room rate: \$99.00

Host club:



Oldsmobile Club of Wisconsin

<http://clubs.hemmings.com/ocw/index.html>

email: ocwregister@yahoo.com

phone: (920) 231-3131



Woodward Dream Cruise

The WDC celebrated its 20th anniversary this year with close to 40 members and associates joining the festivities. As in past years, we gathered at the Long Lake branch of the Charter One Bank in Bloomfield Hills and again we were blessed with good weather. With help from members, entrance and exit gates were manned and canopies were put up along historic Woodward.



MCR merchandise was displayed along with the OCA roadshow materials. It makes for a very impressive set-up and garners lots of attention. We had people visit us and as a result signed up 4 new members. Shortly before noon, we held a brief meeting to discuss some changes in our by-laws and then voted on those changes. We also discussed regular club business and talked about future events.

One highlight was surprising Jerry Garfield with this year's dash plaque that pictured his 2004 LASTOLDS Alero.



Another highlight was our special WDC 20th anniversary MCR polo and tee shirt which some members wore in colors to match their cars.

After lunch, members either cruised Woodward or spent the afternoon leisurely watching the thousands of other cruisers pass by. Time went quickly and soon it was time to head home. Thanks to all who helped make the day another success, especially the BOD our Activities Director and our Merchandise Manager.

MCR Membership Minutes

August 16, 2014

Woodward Dream Cruise

The meeting was called to order by President, Dave Tucker at 11:00 AM. He welcomed all those who were enjoying the cruise. There were 28 members plus guests present. There were approximately 24 cars representing all eras being shown. Dave also thanked those involved for the design of the dash plaques to commemorate the day.

Jeff Pregler gave a report on the National OCA meeting. There were 22 members/spouses who attended the event in Ohio. We were the largest group to be represented. Ken Kress received recognition as having owned his car the longest--44 Years. It is a 1959 "98" convertible.

Dave Tucker presented a list of the bylaw changes and asked for discussion. The change highlights are as follows:

Section 3: Clarified the Executive Committee and Term Limits.

Section 4: Details Board of Directors' positions and voting requirements. Also, term limits and, if necessary, the steps to replace a director.

Section 5: Clarified the Executive Committee members' duties.

Section 6: Dealt with voting requirements and right.

Sections 9 & 12: Addresses club records and expenditures.

Section 13: Endeavors to clarify the procedure to be taken for bylaw changes/updates.

Sonee Lapadot made a motion to accept the bylaw changes/updates. Alan Wilcox seconded the motion. The motion carried -28 ayes, 0 nays.

New Business: Jill asked for input for the 2015 calendar she was working on. She had examples of two different layouts-one for \$5.00 and one for \$25.00. Also, she asked anyone who would like his or her car featured, to submit a picture to her.

Alan Wilcox, Treasurer, reported that we have 105 members and 18 associate members for a total membership of 123.

Jeff Pregler, Events Director discussed the Traverse City trip. The date has had to be changed and he will send out an e-mail to see how much interest there still is in it. The date has changed from the weekend of September 20 to the weekend of the 27th.

Pat Macaluso is checking on the October Pumpkin Fest in Howell. The venue has changed from the Tanger Outlet Mall to the Howell Airport. More information will follow later.

Phil Woodward recognized those who had August birthdays: Suzi Macaluso, Doug Width, Denise Tucker and Jim Dyer. He also stated that the Pat and Ken Kress had an anniversary on the 24th.

In closing Dave thanked Cindy Klemm for the Woodward T-shirts. There were still a limited number available for sale. Cindy also, noted that she had Ladies Jackets available for order in a variety of colors.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Cook

Secretary

OLDSROLET

By Al Ferry

My Dad bought a truck from its original owner in the early '90s. It was a 1972 Chevrolet C20 ¾ ton long bed pickup. It was an Arizona truck with about 130,000 miles on it. I always told my Dad if he ever wanted to sell the truck I would take it. Dad owned the truck for a few years and only put on another three thousand miles. In December of 1999 he decided to give it to me and all we had to do was get it from Arizona to Michigan. The truck spent the next six months sitting at my sister's house in Tucson, AZ. until Kelly and I flew out there in July, 2000 to drive it to Michigan. We decided to do some sightseeing and visit some relatives in Salt Lake City and Wisconsin on the way back so I had to make sure the truck was ready for the 3,000 mile trip. I gave it a tune up, new belts and hoses, lube oil and filter and changed the rear axle fluid. It ran good and was ready to go.

We left Tucson one morning and drove to Phoenix. The truck was running great and all was going well except when we got to Phoenix it was already 110 degrees outside. Of course the truck didn't have air conditioning so we didn't spend much time there and headed north the next morning. We got to the Grand Canyon about noon that day and stopped at a few of the sightseeing spots to see the Canyon. Then headed toward Lake Powell where we planned on spending the night.



As we pulled up to the last stop sign leaving the Grand Canyon, the engine quit and would not restart. After a little diagnosis I determined the problem was a bad fuel pump. There was a small garage there in Grand Canyon City but they didn't have a fuel pump for the truck. We were 80 miles from Flagstaff, AZ which was where the closest auto parts store would be. But the guys in the garage knew of a fellow with a tow truck in a place called Antelope Junction which was only about 50 miles away and he might have a fuel pump. I called him and sure enough he had a pump. While he was on his way with the new fuel pump and his tow truck I pulled the old fuel pump out of the truck. He got there in about

an hour and in another 20 minutes we had the new pump installed and the truck was running fine again.

The rest of the trip went great and without incident. We did stop in Salt Lake City to see Kelly's nephew and his family. Then went up through Wyoming and drove across I-90. We stopped at Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse on the way to Wisconsin where we stopped to see my Great Aunt in Adams-Friendship. From there we drove on home to Holt, MI. It was a great trip.

The truck spent the next two years in a couple friends' garages until 2002 when we built our new home in Howell, MI. There the truck found its permanent spot in the garage. The last trip the truck made was to a tool warehouse in Novi to pick up the air compressor that I have used extensively during the truck's restoration.

I started dismantling the truck on July 4th 2005. Being an Arizona truck it had very little rust and I was able to take the truck completely apart with only two fasteners being damaged. All parts were bagged and tagged by Kelly (except the dead desert mouse we found in the left kick panel) as the truck came apart. This would prove to be invaluable over the next nine years the truck was being put back together. I also took about 400 photos as it came apart. I can't tell you how many times I have referred to those photos to figure out where things go and how they fit back together.

My intent was to restore the truck to original condition. But as happens with so many projects like this, modifications happened along the way. First was the engine. The truck originally had a 350 small block with a 350 THM transmission. I decided, since I didn't have an Oldsmobile at the time, it would be great to put an Olds engine in the truck. Of course it should be a 455. So I asked at an MCR meeting if anyone had one and as luck would have it there was one member, Tom Walker, who had one hanging on an engine stand he was willing to part with. So a deal was made and when we went to pick up the engine he threw in a 400 THM transmission.

The engine had already been gone through. It was bored .060" over. It had an Edelbrock cam and lifters, roller timing chain, Crane roller rockers, ARP fasteners throughout and an Edelbrock Performer intake manifold. I added a lifter valley splash shield and timing chain cover from Mondello, an Edelbrock Carburetor, a Summit Racing billet distributor and Hedman Hedders. I also freshened up the 400 transmission with new seals, clutches, B&M shift kit and new torque converter.

The original rear axle in the truck was making a really noticeable howling noise and had a very loud clunk when shifting from Reverse to Drive. It needed to be overhauled but I checked with a few axle repair shops and found there were no new parts available for the Eaton axle. I found a used rear axle from a 1998 GMC ¾ ton pickup with 260,000 miles on it. I had that overhauled by one of the axle shops who put in all new bearings and seals along with an Eaton Positraction differential. They reused the original 3.73 ring and pinion.



Once I got the truck all apart, I had the bare frame sand blasted and I painted it by hand with a polymer rust encapsulater and frame paint. I installed all new front end parts and coil springs lowered 1" in the front and 2" in the rear. I installed all new stainless steel brake lines, fuel lines and transmission cooler lines. With the frame together and up on four wheels again I test fit the engine, transmission and cab. It required a small amount of fabricating to get the Olds engine to fit the Chevy mounts but it fit really well.

Then it was time to get started on the paint. A neighbor of ours, Ford Nicholson, about 2 miles down the road does paint and body work in a small shop in his backyard. He had given me an estimate before I tore the truck down and agreed to paint the truck in pieces between his other jobs. I took him the bare cab and doors in January of 2009. As he completed each part I would take him more body parts. Over a period of 5 years he was able to get all the body parts painted and returned. During that five years I restored and/or replaced everything else on the truck.

As I put the truck together I started adding a few shiny parts under the hood. It ended up with a combination of chrome, stainless steel and polished aluminum that pretty much covers the engine compartment. One of those shiny parts is the intake manifold that was rough cast aluminum. I spent about three months polishing that. I also added a complete stainless steel dual exhaust system.

As I mentioned, the truck did not originally have air conditioning. I found an aftermarket A/C supplier who had a complete air conditioning/heater system that fits under the instrument panel and uses the original "Heater Only" controls in the truck to run the heater, A/C and defroster. They also were able to provide a compressor mounting bracket for the Olds engine that worked great. However, that did require the generator be moved to the driver side of the engine which required different brackets and pulleys. I ended up using the brackets, pulleys and water pump from an Olds 307 engine that came out of a 1985 Buick Regal. Putting in A/C also required that I cut holes in the instrument panel for the A/C vents which I did after it was painted. That was a little scary but it turned out OK.

In the interior I installed a new instrument cluster with added tachometer and vacuum gage that were not in the original. I also installed new carpet, door trim, seat cushions and covers, tilt steering column, steering wheel, and floor shifter. I added a radio with speakers in the kick panels and under the seat.

I did keep the exterior almost original except for a cowl induction hood and the tail gate without letters stamped in it. New lettering replaced the "CHEVROLET" with the new name for the truck "OLDSROLET". In the bed I put a rubber bed mat down between the wheel wells and a diamond plate aluminum toolbox on the floor behind the cab. Finally new wheels and tires were the last to go on. These are chrome plated steel wheels using original stainless hub caps that Pat Macaluso found at the Carlisle swap meet.

Nine years may seem like a long time to restore a truck, but I never wanted it to become a job. I took my time and worked on it when I had the time and parts. Like a good wine, the Oldsrolet would not be ready before it's time.



OCTOBER MCR EVENT



7th Annual
GREAT PUMPKIN
Classic Car Show

NEW LOCATION AT LIVINGSTON COUNTY AIRPORT
3480 W. Grand River Ave, Howell

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 11
10AM - 3:30PM

50/50 Raffle
Door Prizes
DJ & more
family fun!

FREE ROUND TRIP SHUTTLE RIDES TO TANGER OUTLET CENTER

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT LIVINGSTON COUNTY SALVATION ARMY



Registration closes at noon. Judging by class with awards at 3pm.
For sponsor, vendor or additional registration information contact
Paulson's Construction (517) 545-8651 or go to www.paulsonsconstruction.com

\$2 per spectator suggested donation

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ T-Shirt Size _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Car Make _____ Model _____ Year _____

\$20 Registration Donation.

Goodie Bags to the first 250 Registrants. Free event t-shirt for early registration received by September 22, 2014. Shirts available for purchase the day of the event for \$12. \$5 additional charge for 2XL shirts and above. Space for your 10 x 10 pop up tents \$20 extra charge. Limited Space Available. Pre-Registration required. You will receive notification if accepted for a pop up space. Mail registrations to: Paulson's Construction, 115 University, Howell, MI 48843. Make checks payable to Livingston County Salvation Army.



MCR SERVICE TEAM

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