



Nov / Dec 2014
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Motor City Rockets

The Rocket Fuel Newsletter

President's Message

2014 Season Ending

Can you believe it is November already? If you are like me, the summer has flown by and you didn't get nearly the amount of things accomplished you wanted. Denise and I spent much of our summer building a new garage for our cars so at least we have something to show for our efforts. But we like many of you I am sure you wish we had more time to enjoy our Oldsmobiles, club events and shows for just a little longer. Sadly, Mother Nature has other plans.

MCR Officer Voting

I want to remind everyone, to please get your votes in for the MCR Officer positions. You should have received a communication a few weeks ago with your voting ballots included. Please review and cast your votes before the closure date. **Email your votes to Barbara our Club Secretary as soon as possible.**

Final MCR Rocket Fuel

You may not be aware, but this issue will be the last issue edited and distributed by Sue Apking, our current **MCR Rocket Fuel Newsletter Editor**. I want to thank Sue for the excellent work she has done over the last many years in providing us with a quality newsletter. Please join me in congratulating Sue for a job well done and thanking her for her dedication and efforts.

Final Thoughts

In December we will host our annual **MCR Membership Meeting and**

Christmas party. The date is December 6th. Please bring a gift for the white elephant exchange and a gift for Toys for Tots. We will also be announcing the new MCR Officers during the meeting.

We are still looking for a **Membership Director** to sit on the MCR BOD. This is a nominated role, but a key role and has a great importance in growing, supporting and developing our membership. Remember, without members, we don't have the MCR. If you are interested, please contact me.

We are looking for a **Newsletter Editor** to take over where Sue Apking has left off. The newsletter serves several important purposes; provides a means of frequent club relevant communication to our members; updates our members on what is going on and upcoming events; communicates recent event news and updates such as members that took awards or got recognition in club events; announced new members; provides recent club meeting minutes, etc. If you are interested, please contact me.

As we close out 2014 and enter 2015, please take a few moments during this holiday season to remember those we have lost, those that fought for and continue to fight for our country, those who are close to us and those that are afar. I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season.

It has been my pleasure to serve as **MCR President** for the last 12 months. I always enjoy this club, our members and the wonderful events we participate in.

Happy Oldsmobiling!

Dave Tucker
MCR President

Editor's Notes

Hope everyone had a happy Halloween and that you weren't too frightened by all the ghosts and goblins that may have come your way. With Halloween over, it's hard to believe only two months remain in this year. The end of a year provides us a time to reflect and look back on all the things that we as MCR members have done. It's been fun and rewarding. Hope you all enjoyed it.

You'll note quite a variety of items in this November/December edition. There's everything from interesting articles and event reminders to sale items and ads.

Please vote your choice for MCR officers and send your ballots to Barbara Cook.

(ccook314@gmail.com) Deadline is **November 20**. Also mark **December 6** on your calendar for the MCR Christmas party.

One last thing, I want to inform the club that this will be my final newsletter. I've decided to step down with this issue being my last. I previously held this position for two years with Kelly Ferry from 2007-2009 and most recently have held it the last two years with Steve from 2012-2014. Both Kelly and Steve helped me tremendously, especially since they possess the computer skills that I still sadly lack. But I've gained much knowledge and I'm still learning.

It's been fun and sometimes challenging but change can be good and a new pair of eyes may offer a different perspective. I was proud to serve the club in this capacity and I'm very proud of what *The Rocket Fuel* has become and encourage the next editor to keep up the fine MCR tradition.

I want to thank those of you who put pen to paper and provided me with articles through the years. Remember it's your contributions that keep this newsletter alive.

Sincerely, Sue Apking



MCR Elections

Don't forget to vote. Ballots due by November 20.



Welcome New Members

Please join me in welcoming the following new members to our club. You're now an official **Motor City Rocket** and we couldn't be happier. Hope to see you at our next event.

Paul DiMarco
Robert & Judith Burger
Allen Maytas

Birthday Greetings

November

2- Jill Woodward
6- Guy Faucher
7- Martha Pregler
12- Tom Bejma
16- Jack Tokie

December

11- Pat Kress
19- Bill Tumidanski
23- Jake Hoover
26- Sharon Garfield





Great Car Show

The Great Pumpkin Car Show out at the Livingston County Airport was a great success today. I want to thank Pat and Suzy Macaluso for all of their work on setting up the Rockets for this show. Pat got us the best seats in the house; our cars were on pavement and our chairs were on grass. The runways were directly behind us so we could watch the planes take off, including a Russian fighter jet of Korean War vintage, a bright yellow AT-6 Texan USAF advanced trainer aircraft, the U of M [Survival Flight](#) Helicopter, a hand-built lightweight (ultralight?) craft, and a variety of other small aircraft. There was also what might have been a Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopter (the big green ones with two rotors) sitting off by a hanger near where the U-M chopper took off from, but unfortunately that did not take off.



Ken Kress won a 3rd place trophy with his beautiful white 1959 98 Convertible, in a very large and competitive class (oh, and a tip of the hat to Ken for letting me use his detail spray and window cleaner to remove the bugs off the front of my dad's '49 98 as I had forgotten to pack any). Al Ferry won 3rd place in the truck class for his Oldsrolet gem.

The weather was perfect, we were far enough away from the DJ speakers so we could hear music and announcements, but we could still have conversations.



There were three different food vendors (we had the barbeque, it was very good). The port-a-potty situation was as good as it could be. They had a shuttle that took some of the Lady Rockets over to the Tanger Mall shops (and brought them back) so they could get a head start on their holiday shopping. All in all it was a very fun and interesting car show. Thanks to all the Rockets that showed up, it made for another very successful MCR event.

Submitted by Alan Wilcox

1988 OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS SUPREME INDY PACE CAR



License # R22949

Only 50 were produced and has less than 500 actual miles.

Tickets: \$20 each or 3 for \$50

MAXIMUM OF 2000 / MINIMUM OF 700 TICKETS TO BE SOLD

Drawing Date: November 10, 2014 5:30- 6:30pm * Need not be present to win

Raffle proceeds to benefit the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum

For more information: please visit www.reoldsmuseum.org or call 517.372.0529

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Full Circle

This is the story about a 17 year old, his first Oldsmobile and how at age 57 an old friend reappears. We all remember our first Oldsmobile. Mine was a 1966 F-85, V-8, auto, rubber floor, rust, faded Tropic Turquoise paint. Answering an ad in the paper, I made my way to an office building in Southfield. There in the parking lot was this beauty, at least in my eyes.

I met with a nice woman who was moving out of state and couldn't take the car. We agreed on the small sum of \$275, a fair price. The Olds got me to school and work, cruised Woodward and a few dates. Of course mag wheels, glass pack mufflers and a tach on the steering column completed the look. One day at work the boss sent me to the bank to get some change. I could have walked but the weather was getting bad so I drove the F-85.

While in line, I heard someone yell as they ran thru the doors, "There's a car on fire in the lot." We all ran to the window to see who the unlucky owner was. Of course it was me. I ran for the door, noticing a fire extinguisher. As I grabbed it the manager yelled at me that I can't take that. I yelled back that my car was on fire and he backed down. It turned out to be a carb fire that blistered the hood paint. So much for my nice Olds.

Time to start looking for a replacement. As luck would have it, a stop for gas one night got me my first of four 1967 442's. I have seen many a 442 F-85 and Cutlass since those days, but never a Tropic Turquoise 1966 F-85. Then at Homecoming this year, there it was!

Same dog dish hub caps, rubber floor, V-8 and the two tone green interior. Showing less than 8000 miles! And for sale. My mind was racing, then crashed into the wall of reality with my wife driving the wrecker. \$30,000! Wow and wow again, too much for me.

I walked back to my car, mumbling out loud and getting funny looks. What a shock. Then I thought to myself, you would never have as much fun in that as you did when you were 17.....

Submitted by Alan Aquas

A Family Car with a Big Motor

In the spring of 1969 my dad traded in our 1966 Buick La Sabre and bought a brand new 1969 Oldsmobile Delta 88 two door Custom Holiday Coupe. It was a beautiful Oldsmobile Tahitian Turquoise color with a white vinyl roof, cloth interior and a 455 cubic inch, 365 horse power, rocket motor. It also had a factory eight track tape player and of course it came with the Oldsmobile complimentary eight track tape with songs such as Yellow Bird and music to Watch Girls By!

My dad was a trailering man and was tired of the underpowered Buick with the 350 cubic inch motor so the Olds with the big torque monster 455 rocket motor was just the ticket.

Traveling down the highway at 60 mph, on family vacation, with the car fully loaded and the travel trailer in tow, the big block Olds would never break a sweat and would roll along at an effortless trot to say the least.

In those days it was a big event when someone in the neighborhood bought a new car and all of the neighbors would come over for inspection. I was going on thirteen at that time so boy was I proud to tell everybody about my dad's new car and that big 455 Olds.

That summer we went to visit my oldest sister (she had moved away to go to university) and of course I was telling her boyfriend about my dad's new Olds and that big rocket motor. He said "that sounds like a real nice car but I really like the 442s". Well that was the icing on the cake. The Oldsmobile seed was already firmly planted in me when my dad bought the Delta 88 Custom Coupe, but his comment about the 442s brought it into full bloom and from that day on I was bound and determined to have a 442 when I turned 16 and I did!

Sixteen saw me going to high school and continuing to work a steady part time job, that, I had since I was fourteen, at the local grocery store. I had just passed my learner's license and I told one of the guys that I worked with that I wanted to buy an Olds 442 as I would be taking my road test soon.

He said that he knew of a 68 on one of the local car lots and that a friend of his family, who was a body man, had a 69 for sale.

We took the 68 for a test drive and then went to see the 69. The 68 was a beautiful four speed car and the dealer was willing to take a reasonable offer but as soon as I sat in the driver's seat of that 69, I knew it was the one. I offered the guy \$1400 and he said "young fella about \$1750 and we'll start talking papers".

I had some money saved but had to talk my dad in to cosigning for a bank loan for the rest. He said "son, if you miss one payment, you know what is going to happen to that car". Needless to say I never missed a payment and even paid the loan off one payment ahead of its term.

The car was a burgundy mist Holiday Coupe with bucket seats and a black interior.

I have no documentation for the car so I am assuming that it was a Canadian car as it had a rear window defogger and a Chevy (non posi-traction) rear-end in it instead of an Olds rear-end. I know this because my dad and I had to rebuild the entire rear end after I owned the car for a little while as axles, bearings and the gear case had to be replaced due to a mysterious case of premature excessive wear!

In those days we didn't know much about numbers matching neither did we care. We just drove our cars and had fun with them. None of us could really afford to make any major modifications to our cars so for the most part they all were stock. I did manage to put a chrome air cleaner on mine as well as Royal Scott mufflers.

As far as I knew, it had a bone stock factory 400 cubic inch motor (bronze) with a turbo 400 transmission, a factory dual exhaust system (only the rich guys had headers), stock 14" tires and rims and breaker point ignition. But from the first day I drove it I knew there was something different about it, other than the fact that it had a 1970 console. There was a huge difference in power compared to the 68 we test drove when really they should have been quite similar.

Also, a friend of mine had a 69-442 Sport Coupe with a turbo 400 automatic, and again there was no comparison in power. They were different cars all together.

This car would not just beat 396 Chevelles, 383 Roadrunners and Super Bees and 400 Pontiacs but would eat them up all day long. What should have been close was far from it so of course living in a small city word got

around about my Olds.

One of the girls I went to high school with was dating a guy a couple of years older than the rest of us and he drove a 1970 Mach One fastback.

It had the full Mach One package and paint job, sort of a lime green with black racing stripes etc.

He had headers with Laker side pipes, traction bars and 10" wide tires and rims. It was a four speed car with a 351 Cleveland motor and he always used to say that it came out of the factory with 350 HP, one less horse power than cubic inch.

Well it didn't take long for word to get back to me that he was going around saying that my car was just a family car with a big motor!

So the next time I saw him I said "let's find out" to which he of course eagerly agreed.

We arranged to meet at lunch time at what we all called "The Straight Stretch" which was about 10 minutes from our high school.

This was a straight section of road about 1/2 - 3/4 of a mile long with an alfalfa field on one side and a mountain side on the other. Needless to say many scores were settled on this section of road and I am sure it also served to help keep the tire manufacturers in business at the time.

So off we went, his girlfriend riding with him and my girlfriend riding with me. We never really said anything to anyone but there was a crowd there waiting for us when we arrived.

We lined up, someone said go and poof I went up in smoke! I never stood a chance off of the line with a non posi-traction rear-end and stock F70-14 tires on the back that provided about as much traction as hockey pucks on ice against the torque of that big block Olds.

He on the other hand was long gone with his posi-traction rear-end, 10" wide tires and traction bar set up.

Once I did finally get moving I ran it wide open down the strip anyway just to blow the carbon out of the motor (like it ever had a chance to carbon up).

When we turned around and got back to the starting line I told him it was evident that there was no way I was ever going to get out of the hole against him with my skinny tires to which he agreed. I then suggested we do a 30 mph side by side rolling start and that his girlfriend could even say when to go.

Because he had just blown me away off of the starting line he was grinning from ear to ear and said "sure, anything you want".

We rolled along side by side at 30 mph, his girlfriend said go, I punched it and again I lost traction and I started to slide sideways towards him, so I had to back out of it and then peddle the car a little until I finally gained traction. Once I hooked up I blew by him like he was standing still. I will never forget the scene when I looked over at him as I was flying by. His head was bobbing up and down as he was frantically shifting gears and he had a look on his face that was a combination of fear, panic and disbelief.

After it was over, nothing was said, there was no need. We all just headed back to school so we wouldn't be late for class.

Whenever we saw each other after that we just gave each other a nod.

I will never know what tricks were played as that car rolled down the assembly line and was put together, but one thing is for sure, no one referred to my car as "a family car with a big motor" ever again!

Nothing Rolls Like An Olds!!

Brock Loewen
LaSalle Ontario

Veterans' Day Event

**Please take note: This would be a great way to honor our veterans.
Thanks to Sue Pashukewich for bringing it to our attention.**

2014 Veterans Day Open House

Join us in honoring those who have served our country at the Stahls' Auto Foundation, a place that is dedicated to preserving American automotive history and educating the youth. The museum features more than 100 vintage vehicles from General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, Tucker, Duesenberg, Pierce Arrow, and more.

Bring your family, travel along Route 66, discover American automotive history, and more!

- **When:** November 11, 2014
- **Time:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Where:** 56516 North Bay Drive, Chesterfield, MI 48051

In addition to seeing vintage cars, you can also

- Browse through vehicles from your favorite movies like *The Great Race*.
- Stop by the Music Room to see some of the most interesting music players ever designed.
- Watch historic military service footage on a drive-in movie screen. Features will include a selection of Bob Hope's USO tour.
- Listen to vignettes of American historic facts that will play throughout the museum.

Donations will be accepted to support the [Wounded Warrior Project](#). The Stahl Family will match all donations received that day.

Stahls Automotive Foundation Hosts Veterans Day Open House

CHESTERFIELD — Stahls Automotive Foundation is hosting an open house at Stahls Auto Museum from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Nov. 11, Veterans Day.

Located at 56516 North Bay Dr. in Chesterfield, the museum is home to over 100 historically significant cars from the Brass, Vintage, Pre War, Post War, and Modern Eras. In addition to the vintage cars, and other memorabilia on display, guests also will have an opportunity to view special presentations and enjoy interactive exhibits intended to commemorate this day of recognition and remembrance.

"One of the purposes of this event is to encourage open discussion about history between the generations, to allow veterans to share their stories," says Ted Stahl, creator of Stahls Automotive Foundation. "We are humbled to be able to recognize veterans in this way. My father served in the Pacific and my brother is also a veteran. We have many family members who have served or are still serving."

There will also be military vehicles on loan from The Detroit Arsenal for Democracy available for viewing. Representatives from Certified Senior Solutions will have advisors at the event to provide assessment, and link families and veterans with the services and professionals they need.

This is a free family event for all ages, and open to the public. The Stahl Family will match any donations made on this day, with proceeds going to the Wounded Warrior Project.

For more information visit stahlsauto.com, or call 586-749-1078.

The Last Trip of 2014

At the end of September, Phil and Jill decided to drive me north for a weekend away from “the world.” The weather could not have been more perfect for me to put my top down and let the wind blow through. Temps were near 80 and there was not a cloud in the sky. The fall colors, while not yet at peak, were beautiful and I had to stop, OFTEN, for Jill to get photos – I even managed to get in to a few of the shots. The trees were really pretty but I think it was really all about me!



We stayed in Boyne but drove up to Mackinac and along the way I saw a beautiful Bay and this BIG bridge..... all in all it was a wonderful weekend, perhaps The Tigers could have won! The music on the cassette tape could have been from this century! But I got to hit the road with my top down and Jill didn't ask for the heater to be turned on, so it was a good time.

Now, I am all settled in for the ‘long winter’s nap,’ I even have my ‘blanket’ on to keep me warm. It’s time to



hibernate, so I will see all of you in May for Dust Off! Sweet dreams of smooth roads and may the pot holes be few!

Submitted by Jill Woodward



FOURTH GENERATION OF OLDSMOBILE LOVERS

A few newsletters ago, I mentioned that after 11 ½ years of owning “My Father’s Oldsmobile” Silhouette, we had passed it on to our son and daughter-in-law as they were in need of a vehicle that would hold 3 child seats. Well, I just wanted to give everyone a visual update – here is our youngest grandchild, 9 month old, Jonah, behind the wheel of the Silhouette! Perhaps in 15 years, with special care, he will actually be able to drive the van. So, from my father, to me, to my son to be enjoyed by his children, Oldsmobile lives on in this family.

Love, Jill

Editor’s Note: The newsletter Jill refers to is the May/June 2014. The article is titled: “*End of an Era*”



Cars for Sale

1972 Cutlass Supreme

350/350
Power Steering
Power Disc Brakes
Dual Exhaust
A/C restored '05
Cruise Control
Buckets with Console
Dark green with black vinyl top
\$11,500.00 O.B.O.

Contact Clay Cook 586 979-0039

1978 Chevy Custom "Shorty" Van

Photos on Craig's List
<http://detroit.craigslist.org/wyn/cto/4720089464.html>
Asking \$17,000.00.
Would like to get a Chevy SSR but need to sell the van first.

Contact Greg Carriere 734-747-8441

1985 Toro

22,200 original miles
Original owner
All paper work included
Good tires
White with white vinyl top
Dark red velour
Floor mats
Always garaged, no bad weather driving
Wife passed away and now wants to sell
No price given
Located in Lansing

Contact Donald Knisely 517 321-5843

1968 Cutlass S

350 engine
Auto trans
Red with black vinyl top, black vinyl interior bucket seats with console
Does not have air conditioning
54,000 miles
Decent condition
The car was originally her mother-in-law's car and she has the original bill of sale.
Asking \$10,000 or best offer.

Contact Helen Kotwicki 248-245-0692.

Car Storage

Here's a great tip from Dave Tucker for anyone needing winter storage.

- Richard Bouchard
- Sun Valley Car Storage
- 45108 Woodward
- (248) 866-0528

Located across the street from the new M1 Concourse.

- All indoor storage/some is heated.
- Room for about 90 cars.
- Mention that you are a **Motor City Rocket**.

Advertisements

Need help this holiday season?

Let **OCD** help you out.

MCR member Lee Elliott's wife wants you to know that she has a cleaning business.

Check it out.





MCR SERVICE TEAM

President	Dave Tucker	president@motorcityrockets.com
Vice President	Phil Woodward	vicepresident@motorcityrockets.com
Treasurer	Alan Wilcox	treasurer@motorcityrockets.com
Secretary	Barbara Cook	secretary@motorcityrockets.com
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