



March 2015
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Motor City Rockets

The Rocket Fuel Newsletter

Greetings from the President:

Greetings Rockets,

As I sit here writing this we have made through the coldest February since 1875. That's not a typo, it was 1875 when we had a colder February than this one. The good news is it should be all downhill from here. Hopefully you have used the chilly weather as an excuse to spend hours on eBay and other internet sites tracking down all those parts you need to put the finishing touches on your beautiful Oldsmobile(s). Or maybe you've spent it tracking down a new to you Oldsmobile. Or perhaps you were one of the lucky few who got to escape the frigid temperatures and go somewhere with nicer weather and peruse the junkya.... I mean the automobile recycling centers that seem to exist everywhere except in our fair state. If you did any of the above, please try to sit down and write up a short story about your adventure, whether it was virtual or in person and submit it to our Editor for publication here.

Before I forget, I need to apologize for the error in last month's President's Prattle, or whatever this jumble of words is being called. I was writing about the clubs trip to the Arsenal of Democracy museum and I called it the Arsenal of Defense museum. I really need to think about getting a proff reeder.

Our February event was a fun one again. Not a very heavy meeting agenda, but we did get some good

bowling done. I think everybody had a good time, there was good food, and Suzi Macaluso made sure there was some extra fun at the end with her awards presentation (I swear all those gutter balls I threw were during warm-ups). If you haven't done so yet, don't forget to RSVP for the March event, the tour of the Ford Rouge plant.

I don't like to get this column involved in politics, but I do think this next subject concerns all of us, both on a daily basis and our classic cars. There will be a ballot proposal in May that will be asking if we want to raise our sales tax by 1% (for a total of 7%). This 1% is supposedly to be used to fix the roads. I am not going to tell you how to vote on this, you will have to make up your own mind. But please do investigate the proposal to find out what it will really do for us. I know we all want to have nice roads to drive our cars on. After last winter I was afraid to drive any of my classics (and I wasn't too keen on taking my Acadia) on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. Driving down that road was akin to driving on the surface of the Moon. Apparently the "correct" way to fix a road that is falling apart is to drive a dump truck full of cold patch down it and have workers throw a couple of shovelfuls into the pot holes. Then the cars are supposed to drive over it and "pat" it down. This leaves a bunch of "outies" in the place of the potholes and the road is in no better shape than it was before, not to mention that the cold patch just starts coming out after a week or two and there the hole is, bigger and badder than before (it does provide job security for the cold patch crews). My fear is that

the extra 1% (that's \$300 more for most new cars) will just be used for continuing to throw cold patch at the problem. And who remembers the (what seemed like years) construction of the new interchanges on I-96 at Beck Road and Wixom Road? It wasn't three months after they were done with that multimillion dollar multi-year project and they were back out there with lanes shut down sawing out huge chunks of concrete and pouring new (they did the same thing on Orchard Lake Road between 12 Mile and 14 Mile roads a few years ago). I am all for reconstructing our roads. I am even willing to spend more of my money to have it done. I just do not want to spend it on doing it the same way we have been, which doesn't seem to last. I believe we all know what the definition of "crazy" is. Another thing concerns me about the 1% tax increase. We have seen it in the past. The Lottery. The money from the Lottery was supposed to go to the schools. Seemed like a great idea. We all voted for it. The Lottery was instituted. The schools got the money from the Lottery. But then they took much of the General Fund money that had been going to the schools and started spending it elsewhere. The net result was the schools ended up with about the same amount of funding as they had before the Lottery. There is nothing to stop this from happening again with the roads. Once the extra 1% is coming in, the money that is currently being used to fix roads could easily be re-routed to some legislators' favorite pork pie project. I'm also concerned about what I've been hearing about the 1% being used for "transportation", not "road repair". I'm sure you've heard about the \$10 million that was spent

refurbishing old passenger rail cars. They are now sitting on a siding waiting for the rail part of the project to get finished. The projected time for that to be finished is 2 years. You all work on cars. What's that rule of thumb? Take the projected time to do a project and triple it. So by the time the rail system is ready (I believe it is for a rail system to run between Howell and Ann Arbor? Really? Is that really needed anyway?) The cars will have been sitting there for at least 6 years. At that point they will probably need another refurbishment. There's 10 million dollars down the drain that could have been used for road repair, spent on a project that might never get done, and even if it does get done will probably only serve a handful of people. Have you ever looked at a SEMTA bus as it goes by? It seems that most of the ones that I see have about 3 riders on them. I swear it would probably be more cost effective to scuttle the bus service and use the money spent on it to buy those people cars and insurance.

My point in writing this is to ask you to please look into the details of this proposal before voting on it. Also write to your representatives in Lansing and the governor telling them that you demand full transparency in what is going to happen with the new funds, and what is happening with the current funds. We need to make sure they don't rob Peter to pay Paul like they did with the school funding, and we need to make sure that we start constructing and repairing our roads the correct way, not the cheap, fast way. Also if you are voting "No" on the proposal, let them know why you are voting "No".

End rant.

Make sure you visit the MCR webpage calendar and get all of the MCR events from there and onto your refrigerator/smart phone calendars.

Here's hoping that March comes in like a lamb. I've got some painting (interior parts and a bumper cover) I want to do and need some over 55 degree temperatures!

As always, get ready to light those Rockets!

Alan



Editor's Notes

I am starting to get the hang of this newsletter job, too bad my computer and printer do not always cooperate with me the way I wish they would. I will carry on, though.

Look for who was the first to send me the location under the **Eagle Eye** section of the newsletter. One point I would like to clear up, the Olds logos on the very last page ARE NOT what you are to look for. Those symbols are left over from Sue's newsletters that I liked so much I kept in. Also, any Olds logo that is an actual part of a car photo that I put in, does not qualify. That was my mistake in not being clearer on what you are to look for.

If you would like to submit ANYTHING for use in the newsletter, please have it to me no later than the 28th of each month.

Please continue to send me your photos for **Down Memory Lane**. I received a wonderful photo for this month. If you have a business card you would like advertised, send it to me; if you have car related items you wish to sell OR purchase and would like to get the word out I am willing to put it in the newsletter.

The MCR calendar is still available, just find me at a MCR event. Remember that if you are getting a 2nd or 3rd it will cost you \$5.00. And PLEASE make this correction to the calendar, if you have one, **IN THE MONTH OF JUNE: ALL of the events I put in are one week TOO early. So, move Homecoming from the 13th and put it on the 20th; Eyes on Design goes to the 21st and the Toronado Nationals starts on the 29th.** So sorry for the mistake, my fact checker (ME) must have been asleep at the wheel (pun intended) for that month.

Jill Woodward

Happy St. Patrick's Day -

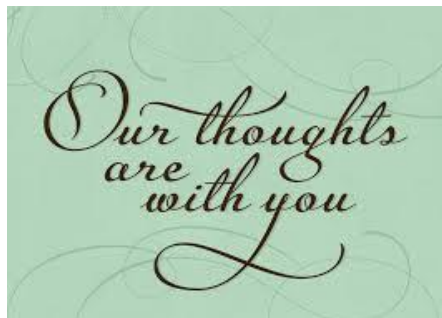
Q: Where were the World's first three-color traffic lights installed?

There are no March birthdays that I am aware of –

Happy Anniversary to: my other half, Phil.

Our Deepest Sympathies go out to:

**Jack Tokie at the passing of his mother and
Jake Hoover at the passing of his father.**



EVENTS:

March MCR Event:

A guided tour of the Ford Rouge Plant – during production.

COST: The group rate per ticket is \$14.50 (to be collected at the event).

We will have our own tour guide and the club will pay the fee for the guide.

You MUST R.S.V.P. to this event by TODAY – March 1. The club must prepay for the tour tickets.

DATE: Saturday March 21

TIME: meet between 9:30 – 9:45 a.m. in the IMAX lobby.

PARK: in the lot near the IMAX entrance to the Henry Ford Museum

LOCATION: 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn 48124

TOUR: tour bus leaves at 10:00 a.m. from the Henry Ford Museum

LUNCH: after tour (about 2 hours long) and reservation is at:

Buddy's Pizzeria

22148 Michigan Ave.

Dearborn, MI 48124

R.S.V.P. to Jeff at: motorcityrocketsevents@gmail.com

March: 6-8 Autorama

April: 25 MCR Mystery Road Trip (dates and time may change)

Note for the April event: you MUST have either an enhanced Michigan driver's license OR a valid passport as we will be crossing into Canada for this event.

June: Homecoming at new location – OPS Center Parking Lot, 7285 Parsons Dr., Diamondale, MI

FEBRUARY MCR BOWLING EVENT:

Neither snow, HIGH winds, nor sub-zero wind chills, could keep 23 Rockets from attending the annual bowling event! Our agenda for the day: Meeting – Eating – Bowling! While eating, many of us enjoyed watching the Westminster Agility Competition on T.V. The funniest part of the show was watching the tiny dogs try to get the teeter-totter to ‘go down’ as they didn’t weigh enough to make it work. (We are easily amused, I know.)

Sue A. brought ALL of her “bling” as the invite requested, too bad the “Queen of Bling” – Pat K. had an audience with “The Bishop” and couldn’t make it! “Bling” this year were large heart shaped rings and hand-made tote bags for the ladies. Sorry guys, but Valentine’s Day is all about us!

Cindy made a beautiful cake and played D.J. with the bowling alley’s music system (you have to have a smart phone to do so – my ‘idiot’ phone just doesn’t work.)

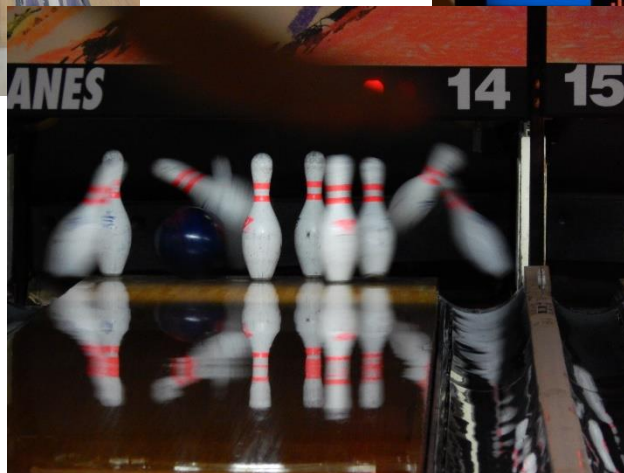
The Rockets have many Turkeys amongst them – no, that isn’t right! We had several Rockets GET ‘turkeys’ – 3 strikes in a row! They were: Karl K.; Steve A.; and Dave T. Kara J. and Diana K. started out slow but came on like gang busters.

Amazing (or really funny shots) shots came from Alan W. and Phil W. They both bowled gutter balls ONLY to have the balls pop out of the gutter at the end. Alan’s pop out resulted in one pin going down and Phil’s knocked down 2 for a spare! Yes, I know it doesn’t technically count but the pin counters at the alley counted them 😊

Sue P., I know you weren’t there, but your husband, Ed (known for getting the “lowest score” prize for the last several years) managed to get a STRIKE in every game! (And I have the pics to prove it!) Ed, you get my vote for most improved bowler over last year! Oh, and by the

Prizes were awarded for: Most Gutter Balls; Closest Single Game to 98; Highest Overall Score; Closest Single Game to 88; Lowest Overall Score. (Names are withheld to protect the winners😊)

Alan had some good news about MCR member, John Wilcox. John's cornea transplant went well and he should be able to drive his own car to Dustoff! Continued healing John and we look forward to seeing you behind the wheel of your car.





Update from Lanny Yankee and an article in the Sept. 2014 Rocket Fuel –

Barrett Jackson Auction – IT WAS AWESOME!!!!!!!!!!

So many cars and ALL Primo cars! No 'fixer-uppers!' The weather was perfect, 70-75 degrees.

His advice to anyone going, "see the show in two days!"

The opening night gala, the day before the auction, was a BIG party. There was entertainment and all the food and drink you could want, all night. And not just one kind of food – there were stations all around the auction hall (the cars would be in

there the next day) and each station was hosted by a different local restaurant. (My favorite line from Lanny -) "There was 'Eye Candy' galore! The guys sure liked it!"

Besides cars, at the auction, there were airplanes – new Piper and Beechcraft makes.

There was one car Lanny wanted to bring home, a 1953 Mercedes Cabriolet. Lanny told me, at least he knows a good car when he sees it as the Mercedes went for \$643,000!

There were a lot of vendors, some original parts and some not; as well as some non-car related items such as: hammocks. A free-standing hammock was selling in the \$1-2,000 range!

There is one vendor the auction did not want to come back because of the competition☺. He must do a good business if they don't want him back.

Lanny did buy an air meter and the Oldsmobile sign in the photo above. It is an after-market sign so was nowhere near the \$15-48,000 original market signs were going for. (I don't think I could afford to go there since I love to shop the vendors!)

Lanny said there was a mistake in his rental car and the poor guy was upgraded to a BMW! He was there 5 days and the show is only 4 days. He heard Jay Leno was at an auction, but didn't see him. Lanny did see Richard Rawlings from 'Fast and Loud, Monkey Garage.' He, also, saw some weird custom cars and he said "You weren't sure WHAT they were." Most cars went for what they were worth, not too many bidding wars. A 1970 W-31 sold for \$20,500, and he saw 2 W-32's as well.

On Wednesday, Lanny said the Scottsdale airport, which handles the private jets, had jets coming in one right after another with buyers for the auction.

Final note: Barrett Jackson is going to start classic car insurance; they do financing; and next year they will go international with the television broadcasting.

All in all, it was a great trip and Lanny had a great time. The excitement and joy resonated over the phone as he told me about his adventure. What a prize! Congratulations Lanny, you deserved it.

(Written by Lanny Yankee and Jill Woodward)



Meet “The Fish Car!” The photo came from Jack Tokie. He believes it is a 1946 or '47 Custom Cruiser that belonged to his uncle. As the boats indicate, this car was used whenever Jack’s uncle and his father would go fishing. The garage behind the car is where Jack learned the “tools of his trade.” Thank you Jack for the beautiful photo of a beautiful car.



Eagle Eye -

The Oldsmobile Rocket I hid was on page 5, upper right corner in the “page fold” . Our ***Eagle Eye*** was:

Sue Apking followed by Dorothy Maseles

Ken Kress was, actually, the first to respond but the icon he found was an actual icon on the Oldsmobile Dan E. is fixing. Good eyes, ladies and happy hunting this month.

Send Eagle Eye guesses to: mar22pjrc@aol.com

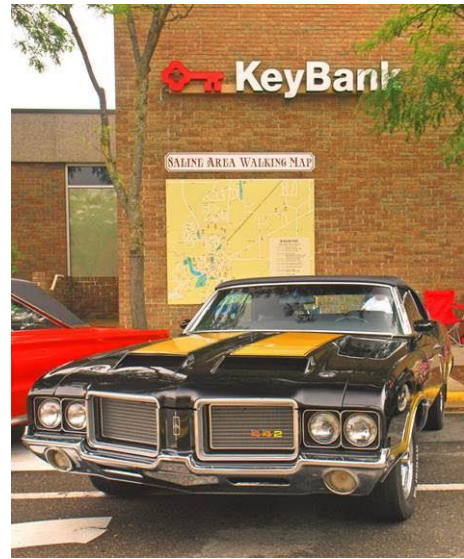
Memo: Eagle Eye

Came across a great article about the Oldsmobile F-88! I could not get through to the Automotive Historical Preservation Society in order to get permission to reprint the article so go to:

wildaboutcarsonline.com/cgi-bin/pub9990327521141.cgi?itemid=9990426361271&action=viewed&categoryid=9960418058810 in order to read it. (I really hope this gets you there as this is a really good article!)

PLAYING TAG!

NO article this month ☹



Next month's **TAG YOU'RE IT!** Is this your car?

Remember – you have several options when playing this game!

1. DO NOT Respond
2. Just give us the bare facts about the car
3. Give a short story
4. Give a medium length story
5. Give a “Pat Macaluso” length story

The choice is yours.

If you choose to play the game, then you owe me you owe me a story by March 28!

FOR SALE:

The holidays are over and "cabin fever" is setting in, and Baby it's just plain cold outside. As we look forward to getting the cars out and on the road, what about your cruising wardrobe? The Motor City Rockets have one of the coolest logos in the Oldsmobile world so just a quick reminder to dig out those t-shirts and hats and see if it's time for a new one. We have plenty on hand and if you require a new size (because you really did follow through on your New Year's resolution) let me know. I will be placing an order before Dust-off so if any of you guys or girls need a tall or any other special size or color(to match your car) let me know soon.

We also have the new Key Fobs on hand and if you attended the Christmas Party you got the NEW MCR ink pen. Both are \$5.00 each.

See you on the road.....Cindy



MCR 2015 Calendars – there are a few left, cost: \$5.00 let me know!



YES! You CAN have TOO many Oldsmobile items! The set on the left, I have 3.75 sets! (One set is missing the 1928 glass and I am keeping one set.) The glasses on the right: I have just the 1 from 1960; 4 from 1961; 4 from 1962; and 2 from 1964. They are from the Quarter Century Club. If interested, just let me know and we'll see if we can make a deal. Jill Woodward.

MEMBERS GARAGE.....

From Dan Evans, part 2:

I began tapping and poking at the sheet metal on the floor. Some areas were weak, while others were still amazingly strong. By the end of the night there were several spots ranging from 2-4 inches that were now holes! I told Dave to remove all of the bad metal and we would put a section, or even a complete floor in it. He sadly agreed, and I could only imagine what was going through his mind. I would have been kicking myself after buying what should have been a top of the line 442.

A few days passed and Dave called me to let me know the rest of the floor was solid and he removed the gas tank as well. Only the section we were working on was damaged. I again stopped by. We played around and started cutting sheet metal away until we hit nice thick solid steel. The damage stopped about an inch from the gas tank brace on the left side. I told Dave, the best way to fix it was to make the repair from the far left where the trunk floor was factory welded to the trunk extension panel, to the center of the gas tank brace. This would conceal any repair and make it strong as well.

So I began cutting and removing what had to go. Dave had already purchased the replacement sheet metal, so had a template to use and a guide to stop by. The cuts had to be precise, and you can always remove more if needed. Putting back an “oops” is always tough. Dave had a good collection of “shop toys” as I do – between the both of us, anything could be fixed!



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