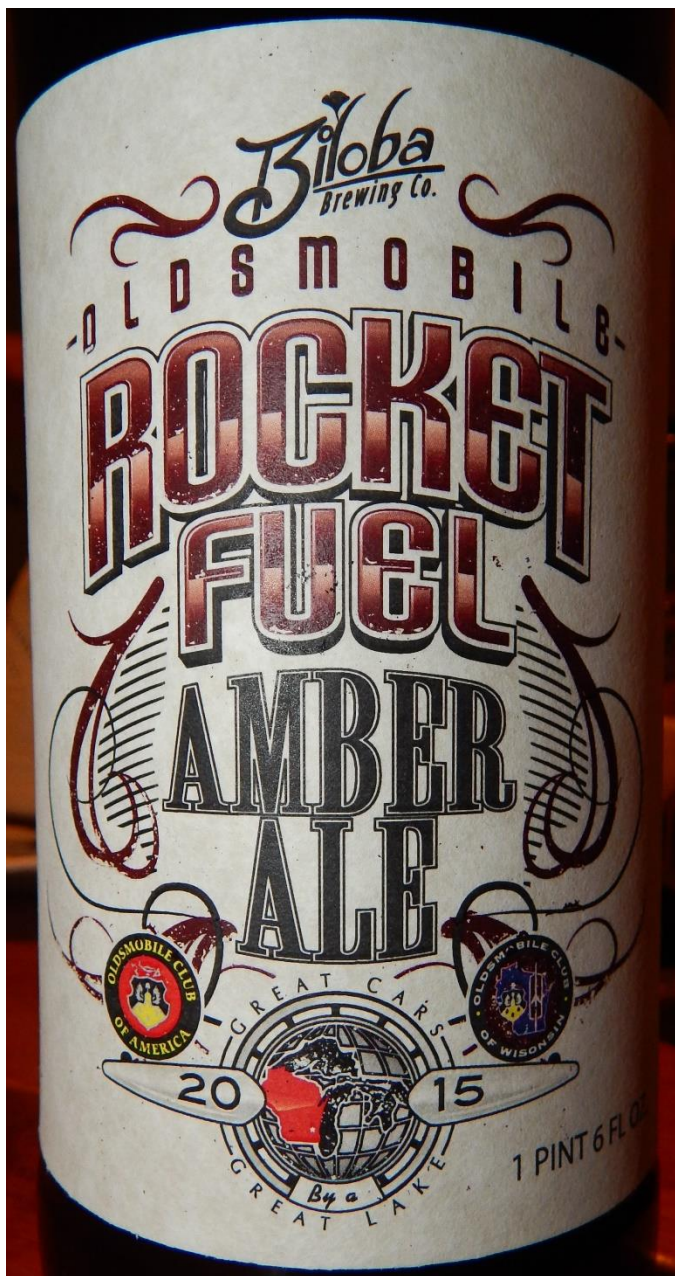




Volume 4 Issue 7

Table of Contents

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>CONTENTS</u>
1	Cover Page
2	Editor's Notes
	a. Upcoming Events
	b. Birthdays/Concerns
3	President's Message
4	Silhouette Chapter
5	Diamondale/ Homecoming
7	Eyes On Design
8	Eagle Eyed Rockets
9	NAOC Meet
10	OCA Nationals
24	MCR Service Team



10 bottles of beer in the box! 10 bottles of beer! I took one out and brought it home, 9 bottles of beer in the box!

Editor's Note

Get comfortable as you sit down to read this month's edition – IT'S LONG! The layout is different and I made use of other people's work for my headings. I would like to thank the RE Olds club as I took a pic of your flyers for the Dimondale and Homecoming headers; Shannon Olsen of JWO as I took a pic of the Nationals program cover for the Nationals header; and the internet for NAOC and Eyes on Design headers – I took pics of their logos. I have left out "Down Memory Lane" as the newsletter was too long but it will be back in the next edition so if you have an old pic you would like to submit, PLEASE send it to me. I would, still, love to put in business cards for advertising and "For Sale" items so please send them my way as well. The Logo on page 1 was taken from a special edition label on a beer bottle that we bought at Nationals. Since it said "Rocket Fuel" – which is the name of our newsletter – I decided to use it😊. If you and your car did something fun this summer, that I haven't already written about, please send me the info so it can be shared with the rest of the club. Thank you for all of the support. Jill

Upcoming Events

August 2 – Gratiot Cruise, park at Baker College

August 15 – Woodward Dream Cruise



August 6 Suzi Macaluso

August 8 Doug Width

August 18 Denise Tucker

August 19 Jim Dyer

With Heartfelt
Sympathy

To Cindy Klemm at the passing of her father, Leonard Pellegrom



Sue
Apking-
surgery in
September

President's Message

Rockets,

I heard cicadas for the first time on Wednesday. They are always a sign to me that summer is winding down. The good news is that we still have all of August, September, and hopefully at least half of October to enjoy our cars. I have been trying to get one car out every day if the weather permits. I'm lucky that my parking lot at work is set up well for driving my cars to work. If I can't drive one to work, I try to get one out in the evening. The Starfire is particularly fun running north up M-5 through all the mini roundabouts above Pontiac Trail. Those of you who just returned from the Nationals I'm sure have a lot of good stories to tell. Don't forget to submit them to our newsletter editor. The North Gratiot Cruise is this weekend, for those of you who are going, enjoy (hopefully the weather forecast will change for the better). The Woodward Dream Cruise will be here very soon as well (just two weeks away). I'm sure this week Woodward will start filling up with classics every evening. Until next time, keep those Rockets lit!

Alan

Diamondale Memorial Day Parade

For the third Memorial Day in a row, we drove my dad's 1949 98 Deluxe (Arty) in the Diamondale Memorial Day parade. The weather was threatening at first, but the morning stayed dry. It's a parade that the RE Olds chapter turns out in force for, and our '49 fit right in. Staging took place at 10:30 in the parking lot of Carl's Supermarket and at 11:00, led by the locomotive from the 40 et 8 American Legion Post the line of mostly Oldsmobiles (a few Buicks, Fords, and other makes were there as well) headed out onto the main drag of Diamondale. There was a Boy Scout troop carrying the flags, there were also antique tractors in the mix. The parade route was lined with loads of spectators who "ooh'd and ahh'd (how do you spell those words?!?) over the beautiful Oldsmobiles in the parade. We had learned from our first two parades and brought Tootsie Rolls midges to throw to the kids in the crowd. Tootsie Rolls work the best as hard candies break on the pavement. At the end of the parade we were fairly close to where the Homecoming would be this year, so we decided to cruise over there and scope out the area where the MCR would be parking. After the parade we were invited back to Tom and Jan Hummer's house for a picnic, but with the weather looking threatening again we decided to head back home and get Arty in the garage. It was a good decision as quite a large storm did blow in that afternoon. (by: Alan Wilcox)

Silhouette Chapter

After getting “no respect” at Nationals, OCA President, Jerry Wilson got together with Suzi Macaluso and are trying to put together a Silhouette Chapter! The two of them had the ONLY Silhouette’s at Nationals and people kept thinking Jerry’s car was just a personal car and NOT one that should be on the show field. Jerry presented Suzi with a Silhouette banner at the banquet – Pat had secretly purchased it for Suzi at Homecoming.



So, if you are interested, let them know (I’m not kidding folks!



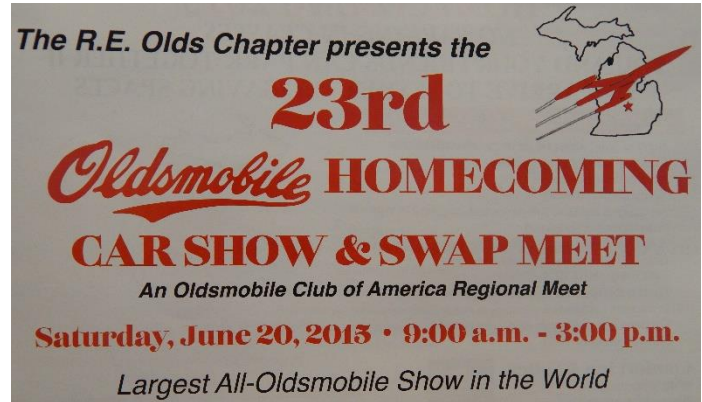
Hey! I have a Silhouette! Can I join?!



There was a small MCR representation in Dimondale the night before Homecoming. These are the names of those I was told were there (if you aren't listed, I am sorry, but I wasn't informed of your presence☺): Pat and Suzi Macaluso; Phil Woodward; Brock and Suzanne Loewen; Erick and Anne Drake; and Cindy Klemm. Other MCR members were at the Homecoming site setting up at the swap meet.

Brock and Suzanne were the only ones who actually cruised the town. When they were done, they joined the others who had come; parked; enjoyed all the cars and ate! It was a fun evening and they invite everyone out for the event next year, June 17. Sorry, no pictures!

(Information provided by: Suzi and Pat Macaluso and Dorothy Maseles)



(Story provided by: Pat and Suzi Macaluso, Dorothy Maseles and Paulette Width)

Cindy Klemm and Suzi Macaluso arrived bright and early Saturday morning in order to secure the "BEST" spot for the club. They set up the tent and waited..... and waited..... Meanwhile, further away in Howell, at the McDonald's parking lot, 17 MCR Oldsmobiles and their drivers convoyed to Dimondale for the annual Homecoming event! (502 registered Oldsmobiles!) Most of our members volunteered in some manner throughout the day from registration to clean-up. Way to go Rockets! Shopping in the swap meet provided Father's Day gifts for Anne Drake and Suzi; and Pat Macaluso managed to purchase a Silhouette banner for Suzi without her knowledge that he pulled out in grand fashion at the OCA Nationals banquet on Saturday. Food was great, as always, and the ladies want everyone to know that

you DON'T have to bring a dish to pass in order to eat the food that is there. The food is for everyone who is hungry so bring your appetites next year. The day ended with those able sharing dinner at Tomato Brothers in Howell in what has become an annual closing to Homecoming.



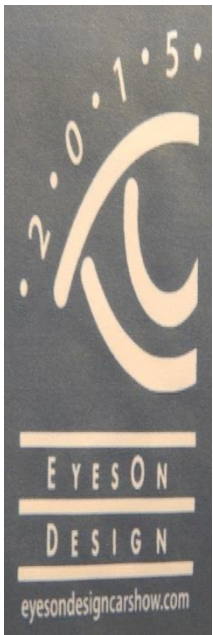
(The above photos are from Steve Apking)

This photo Steve took was just TOO funny NOT to put in:



(These photos are from Suzi Macaluso)

Mark your calendars NOW for next year's Homecoming – it is ALWAYS the day before Father's Day! (June 18, 2016)



Eyes On Design

The Motor City Rockets
had 3 beautiful
Oldsmobiles invited to

Eyes On Design. Karl Kimball showed his 1961 Super 88, and is in the process of writing his own story about how he got there and it will appear in a future newsletter; Lee Elliott had his 1957 and provided a photo of the beautiful car; and Robert Wheeler had his Calais and provided a short write-up and photos. This is Bob's story –

Late last year, I was contacted by Joe Tonietto, from the 2015 Eyes On Design Vehicle Selection Committee about my 1989 ½ Oldsmobile Cutlass Calais International Series. He was in charge of securing vehicles for the “Pure Michigan” category, which was vehicles built in Lansing this year. He told me that originally they had not planned to invite cars built any later than 1980, but after reviewing my car's information and pictures, they

decided to include it. I am certainly glad they did!

Held on Father's Day, the weather was hot and humid with the threat of rain – but that never dampened the spirits of those attending the show. I met a lot of great people and everyone was enjoying the day.

The grounds there at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores were just beautiful and the show was one of the most well run that I have ever participated in. Clearly they had done this before!

There were approximately 300 vehicles there, representing virtually every genre and era imaginable. The “Pure Michigan” category was not a judged category at the EOD Concours, so I was not competing for any awards, but what an honor just to be invited! While my car certainly paled in comparison to some the high dollar cars there, I think it represented Oldsmobile and Lansing very well.

It was a great experience and I hope to be invited back again one day.

Thanks,



Bob
Wheeler



Eagle
Eye –



(These 3 photos are by: Bob Wheeler)

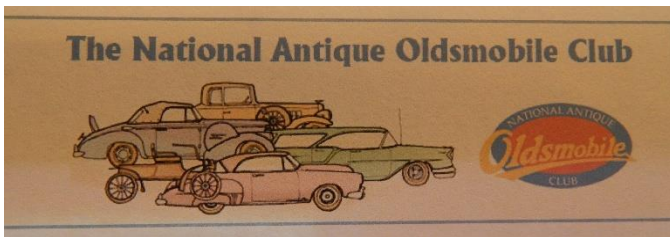
The Oldsmobile Rocket was hidden in the pole holding up the tent at Dust Off. Congratulations to those Rockets who saw it and let me know. They were:

Dave Engle
Cindy Klemm
Karl Kimball
Sue and Steve Apking
Jerry Garfield
Dan Evans
Suzi Macaluso
Dorothy Maseles



(Photo by: Lee Elliott)

Keep up the good work and “Good Hunting” for the Rocket emblem in this issue. I don’t think I made it as easy for you 😊



National Antique Oldsmobile Club - Meet

NAOC was held in East Peoria, IL about a week prior to the OCA National meet. Doug Width took his 1932 and came away with more Preservation awards; Jack Tokie took a 1969 Toronado and came away with a Best in Class; and Karl Kimball took his 1961 Super 88 convertible and took a 2nd place in his class.

There were about 85 cars on the show field, some were judged and some were just for show. Phil Fischer, who had a stroke last fall, did a great job putting the entire show together. It was held in a nice facility with some very nice tours to private collections and the Caterpillar museum. The hotel gave away some free rooms in a 50-50 raffle; the Armed Forces were recognized and the playing of a recording of God Bless America by

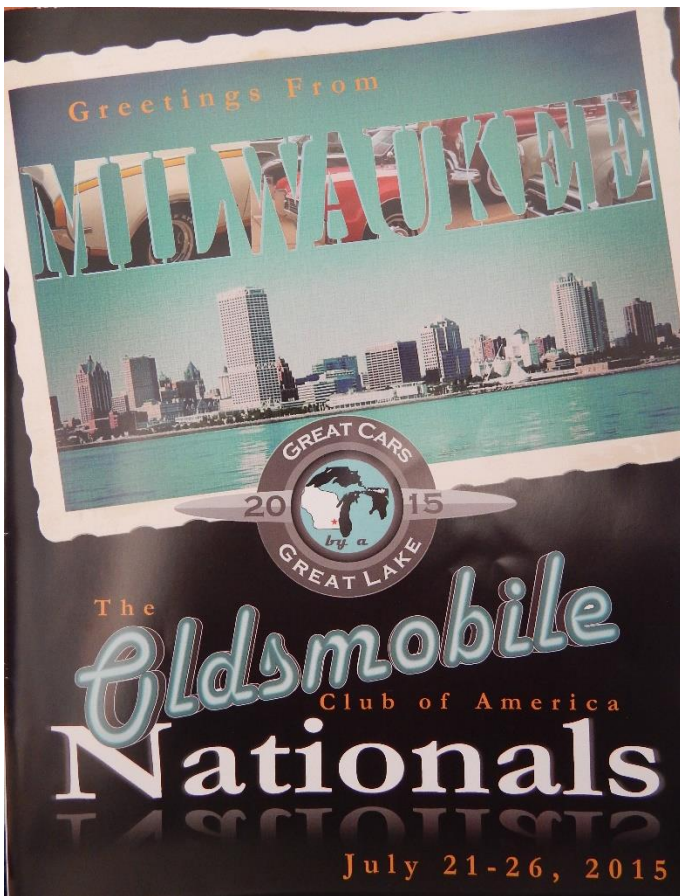
Kate Smith brought tears to many eyes.

The most memorable highlight was a wedding reception that Staci and Rick (Rick is a VP of NAOC) for everyone in attendance. They had a 1949 wreck that they brought in and decorated with crime tape and a tiara!

It was a great time for all who went.

(Information provided by: Dorothy Maseles and Paulette Width; Photo by: Dorothy Maseles)





(Story and photos by Jill Woodward unless credited otherwise)

To start with, there was SO much going on at Nationals this year! I have tried to break things up in separate categories to make it easy, but in a nutshell, IT WAS GREAT!!!! AND THE MOTOR CITY ROCKETS LEFT THE OTHER CLUBS IN THEIR REARVIEW MIRRORS!!! 😊 Yes I am biased and it shows, just a bit! Let me give you some numbers...

- *475 Oldsmobiles on display
- *40 MCR members in attendance
- *14 MCR vehicles judged
- *2 MCR vehicles in "Show Only"

- *12 Different classes MCR cars covered
- *1 MCR Vehicle continued in Sr. Preservation
- *2 MCR cars rec'd Certification for Un-restored
- *11 -1st Place plaques to MCR cars
- *2 -2nd Place plaques to MCR cars
- *4 Best of Class plaques for MCR cars And...
- *Doug Width won the Hu Vandervort Award for the best car 1940-1960.

Well done all who were there.

Now for some of the stories and photos to prove they are true 😊

HARD LUCK OR GOOD LUCK?!

Jack Tokie and Dorothy Maseles trailered a 1962 wagon to Muskegon where we loaded a ferry to Milwaukee. On the way there (1) the trailer blew a tire and Jack did not have a spare on a wheel. 45 minute detour to fix that problem. Drove the wagon onto the ferry and crossed Lake Michigan. As the last van (Pat and Suzi) were leaving the ferry they hear one of the crew yell "Grab a diaper, someone had a leak!" The 9 vehicles heading to the hotel were

lined up with Cindy Klemm leading the way when Phil Woodward notices a puddle where Jack had been idling and then we see smoke coming from under Jack's hood! (2) The fuel pump had an accident! Called the insurance company, it would take 5-6 hours for someone to get there!!! No way! Luckily, we have some mighty fine mechanics in the club. Jack, along with Phil, Doug Badgley, Pat Macaluso and Erick Drake were able to repair the fuel pump – by HEADLIGHT! Phil and Pat headed to the airport to get a rental; the Badgley's headed to the hotel ahead of Jack, Dorothy, Erick and Anne. Halfway to the hotel, in front of Miller Stadium, just as the baseball game was getting out, (3) Jack ran out of gas! Not a gas station to be found anywhere close. (You can't make this stuff up folks. It really happened.) Jack, Dorothy, Erick and Anne arrived at the hotel around midnight, 4 hours after everyone else did.

At the banquet they gave out a 'Hard Luck Award.' We thought Jack should get it until we heard the recipient's story, but when the wagon took Best of Class, Jack said "it was a GOOD luck story!"



Phil located the problem



Sometimes you REALLY can have TOO many Rockets under the hood!



Repairs by headlight (photo by: Judy Badgley)

So, you tell me, Hard Luck or Good Luck?

Lake Express Ferry

Our little rag-tag band of 4 vehicles pulled out of McDonalds, in Howell, at 12:12 p.m. and headed west to Muskegon to load our vehicles onto the Lake Express Ferry. We were going to FERRY across Lake Michigan to get to Nationals.

Once we arrived at Lake Express we picked up 5 more MCR vehicles. And then we waited! The ferry was late and running on only 3 of the 4 engines! The cars lined up to board and my 'Press Pass' allowed me to be the first person on so I could get to the upper deck in order to photograph our cars as they came on.

Unfortunately, the way they lined up the cars did not allow me to get a photo of a long line of Oldsmobiles. ☹️ The ferry company held Doug Badgley up until the very end due to the size of his camper. Brock managed to get a front row spot and was the only car I could see as we sailed.

Once we set sail, our group was a lively one, visiting, eating, playing cards, and basically having a great time. As the skyline of Milwaukee came into view, the excitement only grew as we knew 'Oldsmobile-heaven' was just a short drive away.



(Our 4-car convoy!)



(Waiting to check in)



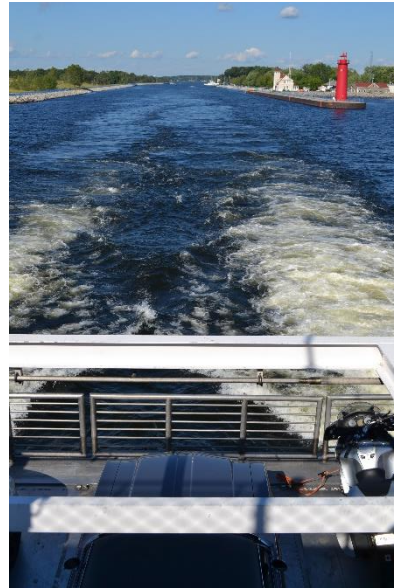
(The Lake Express Ferry)



(Brock Had his car up front)



(Boarding)



(Entering Lake Michigan)



(The ride over...)



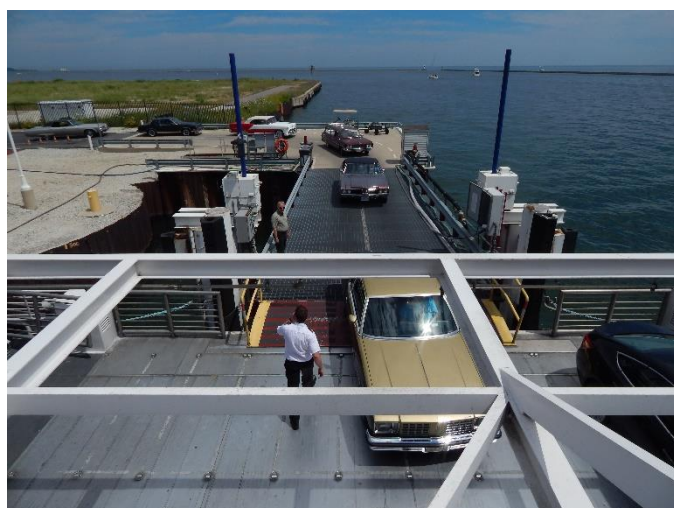
(Sailing)

For the return trip we had a longer convoy – 9 MCR vehicles. Once we arrived at the ferry the guys needed to get under the hood of Jeff Briggs car to tighten something. We were able to get into an “Oldsmobile Line” so I was able to get better pictures. 😊

After a week at Nationals, our crew was NOT as lively, in fact... most fell sound asleep! The trip home had the ferry using ALL 4 engines on a VERY smooth Lake Michigan making for a quick trip. It was a wonderful adventure and as we drove off the ferry in Muskegon it was to an appreciative audience – finger pointing; stares; and several compliments. It is great to know that Oldsmobile is still loved by many people. Long live our Oldsmobiles!



(Waiting in the 'Oldsmobile Line' to board)



(Oldsmobiles – All Aboard!)



(Driving on board)



(Shhh! Rockets sleeping! Too much excitement at Nationals!)



(Thunderbird fly-over)

Once off the ferry, we loaded Jack, Doug and Brock onto their trailers and drove – I'd like to say "into the sunset" but since we were headed east, the best I can say is we all headed home. It was a very enjoyable and new way to arrive at Nationals and much better than driving through Chicago as far as I was concerned. The best part was being able to visit with friends as someone else did the driving.

OOOPS! We All Make Mistakes

Luckily, “To forgive is Divine” or we would all be in trouble, and it was really nice to see that I am not the only one to make mistakes. Here is the “inside scoop” (that I was witness to because I was wearing my ‘MCR



Press Pass’) – NO! I did NOT make a mistake with this photo! It was this way

on a car I saw while walking around the show field. I stopped to talk to the owner, Steve. He was slowly trying to restore the vehicle as the previous owner had deliberately taken the shine off ALL the chrome; put trim on the wrong side of the car; etc. So I asked him what the story was on the Rocket emblem being upside down. He stared at it for a moment and then said: “Oh my gosh! It IS upside down! I have had this car since 2009 and NEVER once noticed that!” I apologized for ruining his day and he said “No, I thank you for letting me know. I now have another thing to fix before the judging.” Unfortunately, he could not easily fix this problem as the guy had GLUED the piece upside

down! Some people just should not be around cars!

Next, I went looking for Jeff Briggs’ car and could not find his spot in Class 11B. It just wasn’t there Wed. or Thurs. I asked a parking lot attendant to help and we walked to 11B and Jeff’s spot wasn’t there, but it was in Class 11C! A few hours later I walked past the ‘parking guys’ again and they told me they had moved Jeff and I

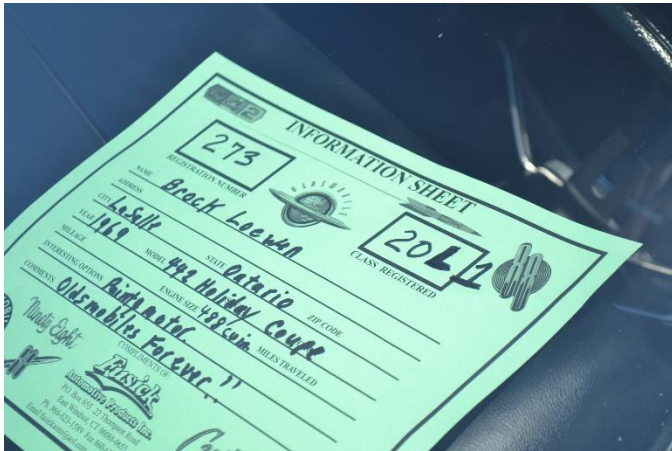


went to look.

Sure enough, they had taken Jeff’s number placard and moved it next to the last car in 11B and then moved the pylon over one place. (The pylon was originally right where the yellow line bends.)

Then there was dear Brock Loewen. A judge at a previous Nationals told Brock he could not move to Senior Class unless he had won a Best of

Class. Since he hadn't won BOC he registered for Junior Class, 16B. But.... A judge in Milwaukee, told him because of the number of points he had received he HAD to be in Senior, so he moved and they put him in class 20G but there was no space there so



they put him in another class' section where there was space. Then I notice someone changing the form on Brock's dash to Class 20L1! So Brock, here is to 'technically' being in 3 different classes over the period of 2 days at Nationals! Hey Brock, aren't you glad I didn't tell everyone you dropped your phone in the toilet? Oops, I guess I just did! Jim Smithbauer arrived at the Lake Express Ferry expecting to depart Michigan only to find out he had reversed the departure locations for that time – the ferry was leaving Milwaukee NOT Muskegon! They managed to get on stand-by and made it to the show field in time to catch

the bus for the tour they had signed up for. ☺ (no pic)

One of the funniest is John Muchmore, an experienced judge, pulled out previous registration forms and just copied the information on it. Then he got to Nationals and realized that he was in the Senior division NOT the Junior and they had to find a place to park his car, so... the parking lot crew asked OCA President, Jerry Wilson to move his van so John could pull in and park!

I am sure there were other 'OOPS' moments but these are the only ones I can remember at the moment. It did make for one very exciting Nationals and I am surprised at the number of people who REALLY believe my 'Press Pass' is legit! (I made it myself!) It certainly got me into places I wouldn't normally have gotten into.

Remember, it even got me on the ferry before everyone else so I could take photos of our cars loading! I wonder where it will get me next?!

FUNNY PHOTOS





Someone must have wanted to get to Nationals SO bad they hitched a ride atop Doug Width's trailer ☺



"I want to be just like them when I grow up!"



I can see why he needs a convertible!



TOURS – PLANNED AND UNPLANNED

Nationals offered us a couple of wonderful tours. There was the Harley-Davidson Museum/Miller Brewing Co. and the Ladies Luncheon River Cruise/Shopping trip. A few of our members, also, took an impromptu trip to Volo, IL to a wonderful museum. I only attended the Ladies Luncheon, so the photos

are courtesy of Phil Woodward and Suzi Macaluso. I was only told how much fun everyone had so I will let the photos speak for themselves.



Brock and Suzanne Loewen; Pat and Suzi Macaluso; Erick and Anne Drake; Cindy Klemm; and Jake Hoover



Pat and Suzi Macaluso – ‘watch out for bugs in your teeth!’



Brock and Suzanne Loewen ‘trading 4 wheels for 2’



Anne Drake a.k.a. Motorcycle Momma!



I think I will let everyone make up their own caption for this one!

Oldsmobile



Cheers, everyone!



Another satisfied customer 😊



Ladies Luncheon Cruise



Erick and Anne – their first date was to the movie: The Love Bug!



Anne Drake and Sonee

Lapadot;

Pat Macaluso

Just a few of our cartoon characters...



Jeff Briggs doing his best 'Buzz Lightyear' impersonation!



Can you find the Rockets amongst the characters?

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

We ate REALLY well all week.

Wednesday night, 23 Rockets gathered at Cooper's Hawk for a delicious meal. Too bad we had to read our menu's by the light of our cell phones!



Thursday night, several of us ventured over to the Fish Market for another great meal. Since I do NOT eat sea food I settled on a 7-layered carrot cake where each layer was at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick and took both Phil and I two days to consume!



Friday night found the group at a wonderful place called: Quaker Steak and Lube. They loved the car theme and the food, sadly they didn't

take any photos for me. ☹ The diet has started!! Again!!

AWARDS

James Kryta and Erick & Anne Drake had their cars in the 'Show Only' category. For their efforts they each received a license plate with the 2015 Nationals logo on it. Erick proudly



wore his –

Cindy Klemm and Jim & Marcia Smithbauer registered their cars as 'Un-restored' and each received a plaque of certification that their car met all the requirements AND a 1st place plaque.



Jim & Bernadine Biske and Glenn & Marilyn Riess each took a 2nd place plaque.

Jeff Briggs, Don & Eva Cooper, Sonee Lapadot, Brock & Suzanne Loewen, Pat & Suzi Macaluso, Joe & Cher Sroka, Jack Tokie & Dorothy Maseles, John & Tracy Muchmore, Phil & Jill Woodward all took a 1st place plaque.

Jack Tokie and Suzi Macaluso each took a Best Of Class in the Junior Division and Brock Loewen and Phil Woodward each took a Best Of Class in the Senior Division. Brock was SO stunned when they called his name, he may STILL think it was all a dream. Brock, it wasn't a dream; you really did beat that 'trailer queen' and I can have Suzanne pinch you if you still think you are asleep 😊

When Suzi when up front to accept her Best Of Class the screen had Pat's name as owner of the van. Suzi assured them it was HER daily driver and before she reached her seat they had switched the name to hers for the room to see. 😊

Here is a photo gallery of the lucky winners...



Jack Tokie



Phil Woodward



Suzi Macaluso



Brock Loewen

And I can't forget Doug Width. He wasn't exactly complaining about being in Senior Preservation Class, he just mumbled about the fact that you don't win anything once you reach Preservation Status. Then they called his name as the winner of the Best Car 1940-1960: the Hu Vandervort Award!



I think Doug was VERY happy to be wrong!

We gathered the winners after dinner for a group photo. Unfortunately, Cindy Klemm had left right after judging to make it home in time to see her father before he passed away.

Not to worry Cindy, Pat held up your plaques for you!

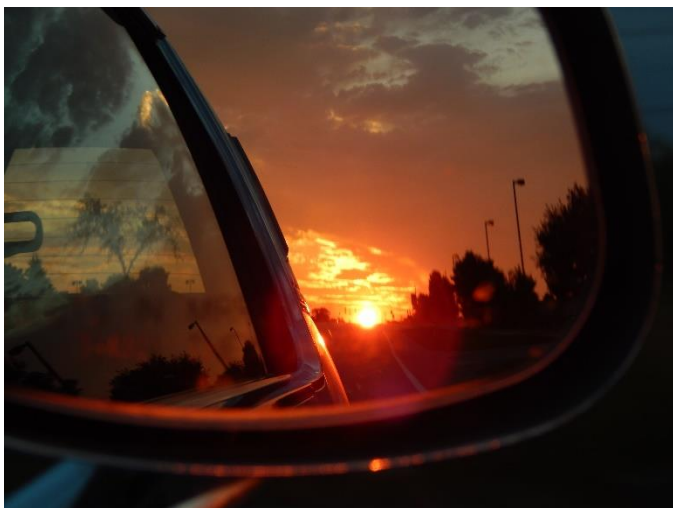


back row L to R: Doug Width, Brock Loewen, Phil Woodward

front row L to R: Cindy Klemm's awards; Suzi Macaluso, Jim Smithbauer, Jack Tokie

It was a great week with great people and great cars. To quote a line I heard while at Nationals, "Every car has a story, every owner a better one!" So next time you see any of the people who were in Wisconsin, ask them to tell you THEIR story! This newsletter has been mine. Hope to see you in Tennessee next year!





It looks like the sun has set on another newsletter, so I will sign off until next month.

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