



**ROCKET FUEL**

Volume 4, Issue 9 November-December 2015

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# President's Message

Rockets,

Well, it looks like the cruisin' season is definitely at its end for the year. There may be another couple of days left to get the cars out, but it won't be long until we start hearing all those "S" words (snow, slush, salt) that makes us put those magnificent chariots away. The Great Pumpkin car show out in Howell was very good again. Great weather and a lot of cars. Congratulations to the Rockets who won trophies. Don't forget to mark the next MCR event on your calendar, the Christmas party on December 5<sup>th</sup>. More details will be released soon on that. For next year, we need your ideas on activities. If you have any good thoughts, please let one of the Board members know.

Keep those Rockets lit!

Alan

# Editor's Note

Rockets,

What a busy two months we've had! This newsletter is going to be full of photos of our members and their Oldsmobile's and I want to thank everyone who contributed to this edition of the newsletter. It makes things easy for me when you share what you are doing. So, if you don't see a name attached to an article that means I put it together, otherwise enjoy what your fellow Rockets have contributed.

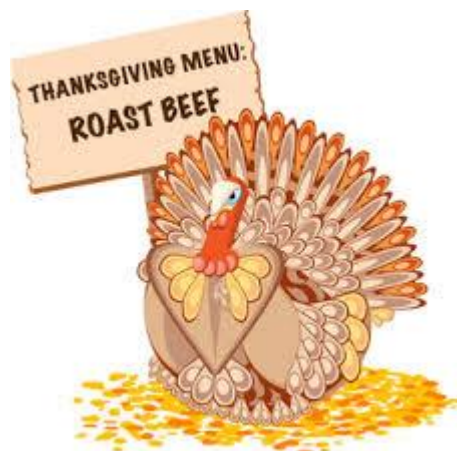
Last newsletter I mentioned that someone in our club had a car that was nicknamed "The Pinch!" Now, she never did get back to me with the reason for the name, so, next time you see Martha Pregler ask her! On top of that, we learned that John Wilcox named his car "Arty." In October, I was told that these Rockets, also, name their cars. So, who had/has a car named: The White Whale; Izzy; the Dino-mobile? I will let you know in the next newsletter.

I am still hoping to add items/cars for sale to the newsletter as well as advertising, so send those items to me.

The next newsletter will come out beginning of January so if you want to put anything in it please have it to me no later than December 15, 2015.

Enjoy,

Jill



## Celebrations

### November Birthdays:

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

### December Birthdays:

- 11 Pat Kress
- 19 Bill Tumidanski
- 23 Jake Hoover

### Anniversaries:

November 25 –  
Karl and Diana Kimball



Our heartfelt sympathies go out to  
Pat Yankee and family at the  
Passing of our fellow Rocket –

## Dates to Remember

### November:

- 1 Daylight Savings Time ends
- 11 Veterans Day
- 26 Thanksgiving



NO scheduled MCR event in November

### December:

- 5 MCR White Elephant Christmas Party



- 6 Hanukkah begins



- 25 Christmas



- 31 New Year's Eve



Happy  
Holidays!

# Milford Car Show –

By: Sue Apking

Photos by: Steve Apking

Rockets were present at the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Milford Car Show.



Not knowing, I thought I'd get there a little before 8 AM – HA!!! Little did I know entrants began lining up around 6-6:30 AM for early entry at 8 AM – OMG!! I lined up a block away. Finally got parked on Main Street around 8:40. Learned this was the largest amount of registered vehicles (312) in their 31 year history. Wow! Good for them. A great variety of vehicles and some real beauties as well. Believe the oldest was a 1931 Buick, similar to Doug Width's '32 Olds, and the youngest were two 2015 Corvettes.

Dennis Dust brought his '66 442, Greg Carriere brought his '72 442 and I drove my '85 442. All voting was by participants only. I saw the '83 Hurst Olds that won Seniors (20-I) Best of Class in the 2014 Olds Nationals. The owners are members of the R.E. Olds Club and are considering joining MCR since we have more going on closer to their home.

The weather began real cool then warmed up to a beautiful day. Awards were given out at 3 PM and Greg got a runner-up award in class D 1969-1972 Stock. A great day for a car show.

(Note from Steve: Dennis had to leave by 11 AM so he didn't get a photo of Dennis' car.)



Greg Carriere's 1972 Olds 442



Steve Apking's 1985 Olds 442



# Frankenmuth Auto Festival –

Photo and information provided by: Greg Carriere



Congratulations to Greg Carriere! He is seen here receiving his Chairman's Pick Award, one of the top 25 awards given out at Frankenmuth Autofest. There were over 2500 classic cars present.

## September MCR Event –

The MCR September event was a gathering of about 24 Rockets at Pasquale's Restaurant in Royal Oak. It was called: Farewell to Summer Cruising. There was plenty of great food, great friends and some very lively conversation. We talked: cars; sports (friendly rivalry between MSU and UofM folks); t.v. shows about car restoration; trips and .... Anything else we could come up with. It was just the perfect way to relax and unwind with good people. Some of us even drove there in our Oldsmobile's.

Ed Pash played in the elevator and I noticed that the restaurant served a whiskey (no I did not taste it) named: Valentine-Woodward. Well, our last name is Woodward and my mother-in-law's maiden name was Valentine! What a great discovery!



Table 1



Table 2



Caught Ed as he was coming out of the elevator ☺



## EAGLE EYE -

The Oldsmobile Rocket emblem was hidden on page 13 in the center pumpkin. Eagle Eyed Rockets were: Erick Drake; Ken Kress; Dave Engel; Dorothy Maseles; and Dan Evans. Thanks for playing folks. I will have to hide it better in this issue ☺



# American Car Heritage – Fowlerville

The American Car Heritage is a local Car Show that is focused on people and their rides. It is open to everyone and is family friendly. The main focus is making sure that participants have a safe venue to show their rides. They are on Grand River in Fowlerville every Thursday evening, May thru September, from 5-8 unless it rains. There are raffles and 5/50 drawings as well as a food vendor so you can share a hot dog and a Coke with friends. The DJ and his family have been hosting this event for nearly 10 years and have yet to get 100 cars on a single night. On the last night of the season they hand out trophies based on the decision of 3 'judges'. There was Best Original; Best Engine; Best Hot Rod; and Best of Show. Phil and I each drove our Oldsmobile's as we wanted to help them reach the 100 car mark. Other Rockets there were Pat Macaluso and Ken and Pat Kress. Ed Shand was there from the R.E. Olds Club, although he was not driving his Olds. The trophies were made by the son of the D.J. and were made from scrap auto parts and VERY HEAVY!!!!

Ken Kress was awarded Best Original and Ed Shand walked away with Best of Show with his T-Bird. By the way, they set a new record that night with 117 cars on the field! Hope to see more of you out there next year.



My '95 Cutlass and Phil's '85 Toro



Ken's 1959 Olds 98 in center





Ken receiving his award.



Ed receiving his award.

Congratulations to two very deserving gentlemen and their beautiful vehicles.

## Fall Color Car Classic-

Happily submitted by Sue Apking

### Fall Color Car Classic

Saturday, September 26 marked the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Fall Color Car Classic. This car show is sponsored by the Alhambra Charities. The Order of the Alhambra is an organization of men and women who aid the developmentally disabled and Ken and Pat Kress are long time members. Since they made us aware of this event, Steve and I decided to join them as it was a beautiful autumn day.

We met Ken and Pat in the Twin Chimneys area of Independence Oaks Park located on Sashabaw Rd. in Clarkston. This park is part of the Oakland County Parks system. I have to say it is a lovely spot and one our club should consider as a possible venue for a future event. It's a picturesque area with plenty of space for cars. It has trails and lakes. It also has nice picnic spots and a huge covered brick building with a couple of fireplaces. Most importantly, it has nice bathrooms.

#### **This show had eleven classes:**

Antique 1900-1949 original

Street Rod 1949/earlier steel body

Street Rod 1949/earlier fiberglass body replica

Classic and modified 50s and 60s



Classic and modified 70s and 80s

Classic and modified 90s and up

Muscle Cars

Corvette 1953-1967

Corvette 1968-present

Sports cars

Trucks and Vans

We received dash plaques and goodie bags. There was also a 50/50 drawing and door prizes. First and second place awards were given in each class. Food was to be provided by Buffalo Wild Wings but some workers apparently didn't show up for work that day and the restaurant didn't have enough staff to cover this event. OOPS!!

Needless to say, Ken's car garnered a lot of attention. Many came around to take pictures of it. He wanted to put the top down but the mechanism wouldn't work. Because he's committed to driving it in the MSU homecoming parade, he knew he'd have to have it fixed. Come to find out, it worked all the time. What happened is that Ken got dyslexic Just kidding it worked all the time. He was pushing the switch the wrong way, Oops.

Another interesting thing was discovered. When people were purchasing their raffle tickets, some came to Ken's car and stretched the roll of tickets the length of Ken's car. Know how many tickets it took to cover the length of his car? 110. By the way, Ken took second place in his class.



Congrats to Ken for taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place!



Ken Kress and Steve Apking's cars.

Sue Apking and Pat Kress enjoying the day.

## Karl Kimball's Story – Some People Have Boats

By Karl Kimball

I purchased my 1961 Super 88 Convertible in 2009. In the four years that followed, I did not have to do much to maintain it and keep it running. I guess you could say I became spoiled, and I began to think it would always be that way. When 2014 came along, I got to see what it was really like to own an antique car. It started with having to re-core the radiator. Then I realized too late that I had an alignment problem, and it wore the inside of my right front tire to the cord. In early 2015, I decided to purchase new Coker Radials that would have the authentic wide white wall look. After replacing the tires and getting the alignment fixed, the mechanic confirmed my fear that I had a wheel bearing growl. Front wheel bearings, rear wheel bearings, and differential bearings later, the car is quiet again. A final expense occurred when Jack Tokie helped get me the turn signal switch I needed. Welcome to the world of maintaining a 55 year old automobile.

If you are an antique car owner for very long, you realize that not everyone understands your love for the old heap. Why you would choose to spend money on it, or take up space in the garage, are concepts they just can't relate to. Although admittedly they have a point, defensive rationalizing thoughts quickly take over. Whenever I start to feel guilty or judged, I am quick to think "well, some people have boats (or cottages, or four wheelers, or snowmobiles)." That usually makes me feel better.



When it comes right down to it, I think it is okay that we enjoy things in this life (Ecc. 5: 18-19, 1 Tim. 6: 17), as long as we don't make them our gods. Not only that, but life is short, and before we know it we will be gone. Our club has mourned many members over the past couple years, and as I outline this article I am waiting for the prayer service in memoriam of Lanny Yankee. Lanny was the first member I ever met from the Motor City Rockets. I drove my car home from Troy, MI for the first time September 2, 2009, and drove it straight to a cruise-in at Sal's Market in Frankenlust Township, Bay County. Lanny was there with his 1966 Olds 442, and he noticed my '61 right away because he had owned one. The following April, he helped me change the oil, and gave me a 1961 Owner's Manual he had kept over the years. It was a shock to hear of Lanny's death, but it served as yet another reminder that we are only here on earth for a short time. As wise old Solomon concluded in Ecclesiastes, it is okay if we find enjoyment in the things we are blessed enough to possess.

2015 was a great summer. My car was honored with an invite to the Eyes On Design car show on Father's Day at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate; Diana and I drove to the NAOC National Meet in East Peoria, IL; and, we enjoyed the Woodward Dream Cruise with all of our MCR friends. So when someone comes up to my car at a show and says, "wow, look at this big boat", I don't take offense. I just smile with satisfaction and think "yeah, but it's my big boat".



Diana and Karl Kimball

Well, that does it for events that happened in September (or there about) so let's move on to October's events our Rockets were involved in ☺

## MSU HOMECOMING PARADE –

(And NO, I will not give equal time to that other college in Michigan as this editor was born and raised with the Green and White! ☺ )

Several months ago Alan forwarded an email from a woman at Michigan State University who was looking for people with convertibles who would be willing to drive dignitaries in their fall Homecoming Parade. I immediately replied that I had a green Cutlass convertible and would be happy to be a part of the parade. Phil wasn't sure which Rockets might have seen the email so he contacted Ken Kress and Cindy Klemm and they, too, volunteered their vehicles. Unknown to us at the time, Doug and Paulette Width had, also, volunteered their car. We were told that they would contact us closer to the October 2 date of the parade for more information.

At the end of September we were once again contacted to make sure we STILL would be there and all of us told them we would. Three days before the parade, Phil received a phone call to let him know that we would be driving the Grand Marshall of the Parade – Dr. William Brohn, a Tony winning orchestrator and alumnus of MSU. Phil came right out and asked if we got the Grand Marshall because we had a green car! They said 'Yes!' Sometimes it just pays to have the right color car!

Ken, Cindy and Phil 'caravanned' into East Lansing and navigated the closed roads to get to the line-up site. Luckily, I lived in East Lansing and knew where the back roads would lead us. When we checked in Phil saw a red and white car and said "that looks like Doug's car!" It Was!!! We did last minute clean ups on our cars; had magnetic signs stuck on the doors; schmoozed with all the people there and met the people we would be escorting.

Doug and Paulette drove MSU Alumni Board President Jeff Hicks. Cindy and her friend, Ron, drove Distinguished Alumni Award Winners: William Mayes and Kurtis Dunkel, and Ken and Pat drove State Representative Sam Singh. Although I should note that Rep. Singh walked beside Ken's car for a good portion of the parade passing out candy.

Precisely at 6 PM the parade started out with bands; the MSU President; MSU sports teams all riding in what looked like cages ☺; more bands; cars with dignitaries; groups from the city and many, many, many more people! We were behind a little kids swim club and they were throwing candy to the children lining the streets. The crowds were 4 and 5 people deep along



most of the route. One thing we learned is that you have to drive even slower than the vehicle in front of you if they are throwing out candy as the children do not bother to look out for the oncoming cars they just want to get to the candy before the next kid! The temperature was in the low 50's so we bundled Dr. Brohn up in a couple of MSU blankets while we cranked up the heater in front to keep us warm.

It was like driving a celebrity, (well maybe he is) as everyone kept yelling "Bill! Bill!" Which was quite confusing to me, you see, Dr. Brohn goes by the name: Bill. We, also had his nephew Phil in the car; my husband, Phil was driving and my name is Jill so when the crowd would yell all I heard was the "ILL!" Near the beginning of the route one of the people shouting out WAS actually trying to get my attention! It was such a fun time. Dr. Brohn and his nephew were the nicest people and we have even been asked to come back next year! I guess we did alright. We never did meet up with the rest of our Rockets after the parade but I think they had a good time as well.

One last item – Phil took off our license plate and put on our Motor City Rockets plate so that anyone looking at our car would see our MCR logo! A little free advertising never hurts. Now for some pictures from that day –



Pre-parade snack

Dr. Willim Brohn, Philip Brohn and Phil getting ready to take off –





Doug and Paulette Width's car -



Cindy Klemm's car



Ken and Pat Kress's car -



Free Advertising



Another really nice, green Oldsmobile!



## ***GREAT PUMPKIN CLASSIC CAR SHOW –***

Rockets came out in force, and style, for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Pumpkin Classic Car Show in Howell. There were 39 Rockets present with 22 Beautiful Oldsmobiles (actually 20 Oldsmobiles as Tom Morgan could not get his Oldsmobile to start so he brought his GTO and technically Al Ferry's 'Oldsrolet' is a Chevy truck with an Olds engine!) There were over 300 vehicles present competing in 20 different classes where the voting is done by the participants. Then, they have 'official' judges that vote on things like Best Engine, Best of Show and that sort of thing. We didn't win any of the top 5 awards. ☹️ Rockets did compete in 7 of the 20 classes and since we had so many Rockets there may have been a slight push to get some of our cars recognized (ballot stuffing I think they call it.) Although, when it came to my 1995 Cutlass, I knew it didn't stand out among the beautiful, true classics so I did what every good 'politician' would do – I bribed people for votes! I had a BIG pot of candy and I kept offering it to people as they walked around to do their voting. I would say "Have a piece of candy and vote for #16 (me)!" At least I am honest and admit to the bribes 😊

Several of the ladies went to Tanger Outlet Mall and did some shopping, while most of us stayed back, visited and shared our cars with the people there. I think one or two Rockets must have gone home on a sugar high as I kept seeing them pilfer my candy supply! But that is what is was there for. I, also, decorated my car complete with a witch smashed into the front grill (neither the witch nor I can drive a stick!); pumpkins along the back and a ghost hanging from the center pillar. As I said, there is nothing about my car that makes it stand out in a crowd – until that day that is! For the first time, many people as they would pass by stopped and took a photo of my car and its decorations. It made my day! It was better than winning Best of Show..... Almost.

There were several people who stopped and talked to Ken Kress about his car. People thought they were seeing things when they looked at Brock Loewen's car and had to be told that they weren't seeing things, it really DOES change color depending on how you look at it! People had to stop and inquire as to what an 'Oldsrolet' was; we had the 1985 reverse-Oreo Toronado Triplets (as I like to call them) there – Phil Woodward and Dave Engel have white Toros and Ron Davis had is dark gray Toro there. I love the Olds Rocket on the trunk of Tony and Annette Mollette's Olds! It was a beautiful, warm, sunny day and every car just looked beautiful.

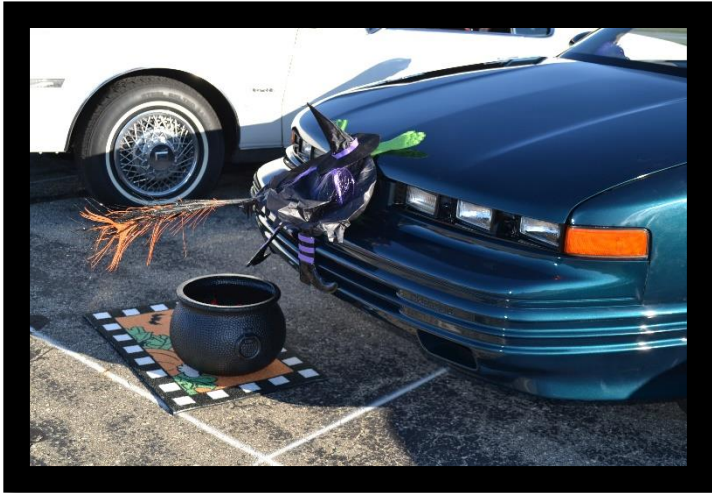
When it came time for the awards Rockets took home trophies in 5 of the 20 classes.

Brock Loewen 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1961-1980 Modified

Ken Kress 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1941-1960 Original/Restored

Jake Hoover 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1961-1980 Original/Restored  
Jill Woodward(me) 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1981 and up Original/Restored  
(buying votes worked!)  
Al Ferry 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1970-1979 Trucks

Congratulations to all of the winners and every one there was a winner to me!



My Cutlass, witch and candy pot.



Mollette's polishing up their car.







Brock – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 1961-80 Modified



Ken – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place 1941-60 Original/Restored



Jake – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 1961-80 Original/Restored



Jill – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 1981 up Original/Restored

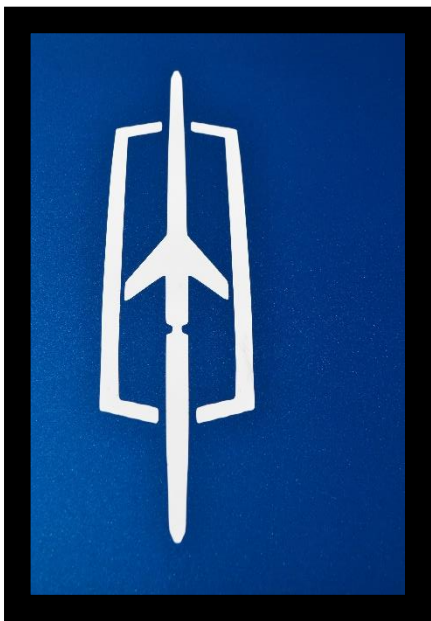


Al – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place 1970-79 Truck



Rockets Chillin'





Rocket on  
Mollette's  
Trunk



Alan  
Wilcox  
and Ken  
Kress  
enjoying  
the day.

***A ROCKET SALUTE TO HALLOWEEN -***



Anne  
"Spider  
Woman"  
Drake and her Olds



'Olds-  
Rocket Man'  
Donna Franks  
Grandchild



Olds lovers NEVER die!





## Down Memory Lane –



Jack Tokie and his sister. This is a 1950 Oldsmobile 88 – the first car Jack restored with his original design. He did this in 1954 or 1955. It had an Olds 1952 hopped up engine; Buick headlight rings and rims; 2 4-barrel carbs. He kept this car until 1959 when he sold it to get a new 1959 Olds.



# Attention Veterans -

Veterans, Let us know who you are. Please! The following message is from Shannon Olson OCA Editor of Journey With Olds (JWO). She has ask me to collect the names of Veterans and their Oldsmobiles and submit a list back to her. When you read below she will be very accommodating with your wishes and just wants to honor your service to our country. She would also like your rank and branch of the military and Oldsmobile/s that you own. Please contact me by e-mail or snail mail soon. Pres. Larry Ewing

Hello OCA Chapters, The reason that I am emailing the OCA Chapters is for a special issue of the Journey with Olds that I am planning for May of 2016. While that is quite a bit in the future, I am hoping that with ample time, you can assist me.

The May issue will focus on Oldsmobiles and the Veterans who own them. The title for the issue will be; "A Salute to Heroes: Veterans & Their Oldsmobiles."

You may be wondering how the OCA Chapters can help...

I am asking that all of our OCA Chapters send me a list of those in their clubs that are Veterans or active duty service men and women. Along with their names, I would also like their rank and branch of the military and Oldsmobile/s that they own. It is my goal to capture as many of our heroes as possible. Your lists will be published in the May issue, by Chapter, for a very special thank you to the men and women who have served our country.

Please note: if you have a Veteran that does not wish to be listed that is absolutely OK, or if you have a Veteran that would like to be listed, but in name only... that is just fine too!

The OCA honors our member's privacy and is simply wanting to acknowledge and thank those who have, or are serving, in the Journey with Olds. Also, if you have a Veteran that is a Chapter member but not a member of the OCA, please include them!

You may be wondering why this issue... why such a big thank you.... My grandfather, uncle and father-in-law all served this country. I know the importance of their time and sacrifice. I feel that Veterans should be thanked and acknowledged and I hope you can all help me to do so in our club's magazine.

I will need the Chapter lists no later than March 2016. A simple word document is just fine, but please make sure to specify your chapter at the top of the list.

If you, or one of your Chapter members have any questions about the May "Salute to Heroes" issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Thank you for your help, and thank you for all that your Chapters do for our great hobby!

Shannon Olson Editor, Oldsmobile Club of America: [olsonrsa98@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olsonrsa98@sbcglobal.net)

**This is what she is looking for and PLEASE get it to me by DECEMBER 1 so I can get it all together for Shannon –**

**Name; Active Duty(Currently?); Branch of Military Served In; Conflict (WWII, Korea, etc); Rank; Oldsmobiles Owned.**





Check out these cute legs!!! But seriously, Jack Tokie we are so glad to see you up and walking around after your knee surgery. Take care and thanks for letting me use this photo 😊

One last tidbit of news: The SEMA Action Network (SAN) announced that the next Collector Car Appreciation Day will be celebrated on July 8, 2016. This is a special day that people with license plates that by law only allow them to go to car shows and cruises can drive their car anywhere without concerns!

Coming next newsletter: How Ken Kress's 1959 became a model and "Do you know what kind of car this is?" Send me your guesses!



## MCR SERVICE TEAM

President	Alan Wilcox	<a href="mailto:president@motorcityrockets.com">president@motorcityrockets.com</a>
Vice Pres.	Dave Tucker	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@motocityrockets.com">vicepresident@motocityrockets.com</a>
Treasurer	Dave Engle	<a href="mailto:treasurer@motorcityrockets.com">treasurer@motorcityrockets.com</a>
Secretary	Cindy Klemm	<a href="mailto:secretary@motorcityrockets.com">secretary@motorcityrockets.com</a>
Activities	Jeff Pregler	<a href="mailto:events@motorcityrockets.com">events@motorcityrockets.com</a>
Merchandise	Cindy Klemm	<a href="mailto:merchandise@motorcityrockets.com">merchandise@motorcityrockets.com</a>
Historian	Dorothy Maseles	<a href="mailto:historian@motorcityrockets.com">historian@motorcityrockets.com</a>
Webmaster	Brian Lorway	<a href="mailto:webmaster@motorcityrockets.com">webmaster@motorcityrockets.com</a>
Membership	Steve Apking	<a href="mailto:membership@motorcityrockets.com">membership@motorcityrockets.com</a>
Newsletter/	Jill Woodward	
Photographer		<a href="mailto:editor@motorcityrockets.com">editor@motorcityrockets.com</a>

