



Volume 5 Issue 6 November-December 2016

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE –**

Rockets,

Our esteemed Newsletter Editor tells me it is time to give my farewell address. It's been almost 2 years since I took the helm of this great club. There were a lot of highs and a lot of lows along the way. We've lost way too many good Rockets in the last 2 years, and each and every one of them are missed. I've had the privilege of working with some mighty fine people over this two years as well. I want to thank them all. Vice-President Dave Tucker, Secretary Cindy Klemm, Treasurer Dave Engel, Membership Chair Steve Apking, Activities Chair Jeff Pregler, Newsletter Editor Jill Woodward, Webmaster Brian Lorway, Pat Macaluso, Phil Woodward. I'm sure I've forgotten somebody, but these people were all awesome to work with. They kept me on track and in some cases just plain kept me going. This is a great club to belong to. The members care so much about Oldsmobiles, so much about the club, and so much about each other. As I get ready to pass the leadership baton on to the next President, I can tell you one thing, this club, and all of its wonderful members, will continue, will be strong, and we will do a lot of fun things in, and out, of our Oldsmobiles.

Light the Rockets!

Alan

## **EDITOR'S NOTE –**

Thank you once again to everyone who contributed to this edition of the newsletter. It helps me out A LOT! There is no "Down Memory Lane" this time as I did not receive any photos. Remember to get in your nomination for this year's Spirit Award to Cindy Klemm. There was an email about that. Look for upcoming emails concerning this year's elections of officers and the Christmas Party. I can't believe it has now been 2 years since I took over for Sue Apking. Please let me know if there is anything you think should be in here and I will try to get it in. It never hurts to try. Thanks for another great year.

Jill



I hope we see very little of this guy and his friends this winter. I really think I need to be somewhere warm ☺ So, I hope your Oldsmobiles are snug and warm and settled down for a long winter's nap. Can't wait to see them all next spring.

## September Outing to the Badgley's Oldsmobile Museum –

Seven Rockets climbed into the Macaluso's Silhouette and headed to Potterville on a dreary, wet September morn. Upon arrival we were greeted, not only with smiles, but with freshly made donuts and apple cider (and a few 'rocket' shaped cookies.) It is still a toss-up, to me at least, what was better – the food or the museum. ☺

I had a feeling the museum would be wonderful and I had a hunch there would be a few memories of my father on display there as well. I was right on both counts. I had to add, my father and the Badgley's had a great friendship that goes back many years and they often bought/sold/traded items with each other. I did not realize that they had my dad's baseball uniform from one of the dealer marketing shows and was excited to get a photo of me holding his uniform. By the way, Doug and Judy, I have the video if you ever want to watch it. It is on VHS!

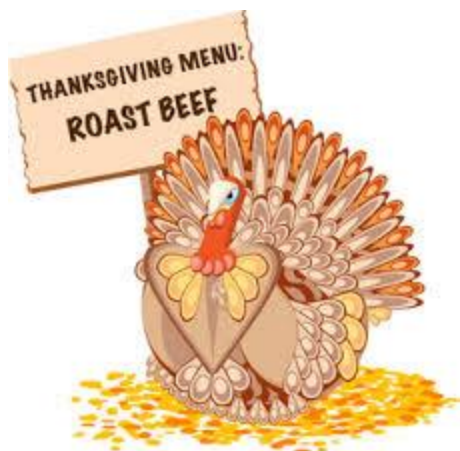
The collection is SO huge it is hard to say just what we saw, but let's just say we saw it all. There was old stationary; key fobs; dealer emblems; glass ware; clothing; models; photos; and on and on and on. It truly is a wonderful walk down Oldsmobile's Memory Lane. Thank you SO much for welcoming us into your home and for the yummy snacks. Here are a few photos of our time there.







By the way, this chocolate Oldsmobile (is kept in the freezer) was gift from my father to Doug and Judy for their help during Oldsmobile's Centennial Celebration in 1997. (It said so on the card ☺) And I thought it only right to add the photo of the turkeys we saw as we drove TO the Macaluso's prior to our trip to the Badgley's. This being November's newsletter after all!





Jill

After we had such a wonderful time at Judy & Doug's last Saturday viewing their museum of Oldsmobile artifacts with the seven MCR members and a few RE Old's folks, we came home and decided we would do run some errands. Before we did that I had remembered that the town of Hell, MI was having its Hearse Fest (actually their 15<sup>th</sup> annual) so I took Suzi there.

I must say she was "SHOCKED". It is the most different car show anyone of us Oldsmobile lovers have probably ever attended. Besides about 40 Hearse on display the decorations around the vehicles were all morbid, scary, dark, and gruesome. On top of the decorations most all the people involved were dressed that way as well as you can see in the pictures included. To take the cake they had a flea market of many tents selling, YES you got it morbid, scary, dark, and gruesome items!!

To say the least we didn't stay very long at all but I did get a few pictures and one of an Oldsmobile Hearse.

Pat (Macaluso)



## The Saga of the Tilt Steering Column Project

Hi, my name is Clay Cook and I have been an MCR member off and on for about 5 years. I joined in the summer of 2011, shortly after I got my car, which is a "72" Cutlass Supreme, two door hardtop 350/350. Well, several of you guys have helped me over the phone when I ran into problems and I'm sure thankful for that. As you fellow classic car owners know" there is always something!".

Well, it was early in June 2016 and my car was running good and the cruise season was just getting into full speed. I'm sure some of you can relate with this "I needed a project!". I am tall and I always had a hard time getting in and out of the car even with the bucket seat all the way back. The steering wheel was just too close to the seat. I bought some "seat extenders" which gave me another 1" back, but the steering wheel was still too close.

So I decided to start looking for a "tilt steering column". I priced new ones for \$800-900.00 and I would lose the locking feature of the steering wheel. I know they usually have a good Swap Meet at the Olds Homecoming in June, so I thought I would look for a used one there.

The day of the Homecoming was a hot sweltering day. I walked around for awhile and found a junk yard steering column, but I wanted something better than that. I went back to the MCR canopy to cool off. I was telling Brock about it and he took me right over to where a guy was selling GM tilt steering columns, reconditioned, painted and in a plastic bag for \$425.00. Brock said he had installed a tilt steering column in his car and it wasn't too bad. Well, anybody that knows Brock, knows that he is a VERY GOOD mechanic. So talking to him encouraged me and I decided to go for it! I didn't buy the column at the show, because it was too hot to carry it back to my car.

So I called the vendor in the next few days and ordered one. He was located in Wisconsin so it took about one week to get the part shipped to my house. I went online and watched several U-Tube vides of "How to Install a Tilt Column" and it didn't look to bad.

I started taking the old one out and it fought me every step of the way. One of the problems I had was I couldn't get the 11/16" bolt at the bottom of the steering column in the engine compartment near the fire wall out. It was under the brake booster and hard to get good access to it? Well, I tried an impact wrench and 3/8" hand impact ratchet. It would not budge, so I finally cut the bolt with a sawzall.

Well, I got the old column out and the new one came in, and I laid them on my ping-pong table next to each other to compare them.

The next problem was I wanted to use the old ignition cyl. (so I would be able to use the same key) in the new column? The old column had the type of ignition where you have to take the top of column apart and punch a casting out deep in the column. You guys that have done it, know what I mean? I tried and tried and I couldn't get it out, so I took it to a Corvette shop in Troy. The nice guy got it out in 5 minutes and wouldn't take any money for it. Well, I took the new column apart, but I didn't have to, because the ignition cyl just snapped into the new column. By taking the new column apart, I screwed something up and the shaft at the top of the column sounded like it had gravel in it when you turned it. So I called "Chuck" up (we were definitely on a first name basis by the time I got the project done). He said, send it back! So, I sent it back and that stopped the project for about two weeks.

I got it back for the second time and said, I won't touch it this time, I will just put it in. Well I put it in and got the "neutral Switch" adjusted so it started only in Park and Neutral-I'm in the home stretch. I'm trying to connect the column to the shaft in the engine compartment near the firewall and it happens again? The shaft at the top is all loose and sounds like gravel. I'm mad now and take it out and send it back AGAIN, which puts me on hold for another two weeks.

Well, I get it back the THIRD time and I'm losing confidence in the new steering column and my ability to complete the job. Surprise, I got it in and everything works and MOST of all, I can get in and out of the car a lot easier.

After taking me all summer, a friend asks: "Why didn't you just get a smaller steering wheel." I never thought of that! HA! The next time I want a project, I will do it in the winter, so I don't have the car out of commission all summer. Well, I learned a lot and other than a few phone calls and the ignition cyl, I did it by myself, but it was a BIG project. WOW!

Clay Cook

## October Great Pumpkin Show – MSU Homecoming Parade

Unfortunately, for me, I was out of the country for two events featuring MCR cars: The Great Pumpkin Show and MSU Homecoming Parade. I did, however, give my good camera to my husband Phil and asked him to take photos for this newsletter. He was very good at the Great Pumpkin Show. In all honesty he DID take the camera to the homecoming parade but it sat in the center glove box so there are no photos ☹.

This is what I received as to info on the two events. Al Ferry is the only Rocket to win an award at the Great Pumpkin; after Ken Kress's funeral they brought his car over to the Show and drove it around the lot for all to see; we don't ever want to do the homecoming parade during an election year! (I guess you will have to talk to Cindy Klemm, Don Boudry, Phil Woodward, Pat Kress, or Pat and Suzi Macaluso to get more on that!) Some had fun, I hear, some not. 'Nough said!

Here are some Photos from the Great Pumpkin Show.





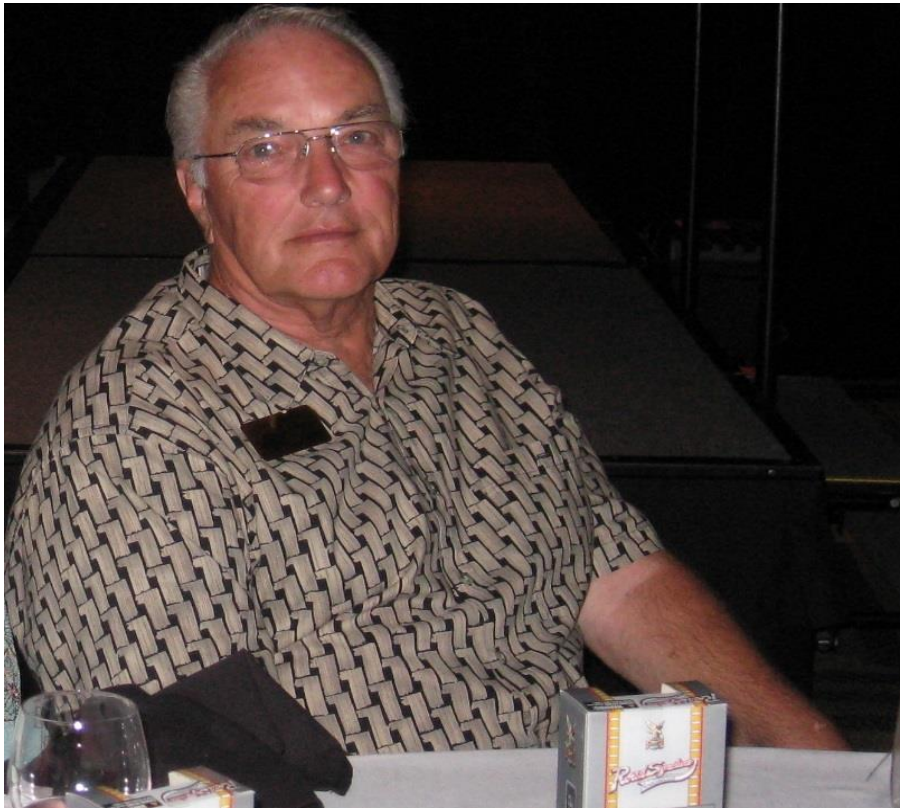


*Merry  
Christmas*



## Ken Kress

The Motor City Rockets recently lost fellow club member, Ken Kress and we mourn his passing. Ken was not only our fellow club member; he was our treasured friend. Our hearts are hurting now but our memories of Ken will help ease that sorrow.



Ken was a man rich in faith, rich in friends and rich in compassion for his fellow man. He was a great story teller and jokester as well. Some of our best memories are the tales he shared with us around the campfire on our Traverse City trips. As a club member, he was active and engaged. He was invaluable to us during our 2008 Nationals. He secured bus contracts, handled tours, made restaurant arrangements and organized the Hines Dr. cruise. He loved his 1959 Oldsmobile, taking it to many meets and always coming away with an award.

Ken was an inspiration to us all. I know I am a better person for having known Ken and I think my fellow rockets would surely agree.

Please keep Pat and the rest of Ken's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Submitted by Sue Apking

Ken's funeral was held on the same day as the Great Pumpkin Show. That didn't stop several of our members from leaving the show and attending Ken's service. MCR President, Alan Wilcox presented Pat and her family with a small plaque in honor of Ken. Ken's Oldsmobile was also on display at the funeral home.



Rest In Peace Ken. You will be missed.



## Milford Car Show –

Jill,

Here's some pics from the Milford cars show on Sept 18th. Very overcast and humid in the AM but turned out to be a beautiful day. There always seem to be this guy name Tim Holliday that get an award everywhere he goes with his recently completed resto 69 HO Olds Conv. ☺

Steve (Apking)



Greg Carriere's car



Tim Holliday and car



Happy  
Holidays!



## **EAGLE EYE –**

Last Newsletter Eagle Eyed Rockets were:

Sue Apking

Dave Engel

Ken Kress

Erick Drake



Good luck all of you on this month's hidden rocket!



## **BIRTHDAYS THAT I AM AWARE OF:**

November –

2 Jill Woodward

7 Martha Pregler

16 Jack Tokie

December –

11 Pat Kress

23 Jake Hoover

Happy Birthday Everyone! I am not aware of any anniversaries or other celebrations. If you wish for me to put one in let me know.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS –**

November – elections for MCR officers (look for email)

December 3 – Holiday party (look for email for more information)

Since we don't have a lot of things going on this time of year, I want to throw in a little something that my fellow editor, Bob Brown of the Mile High City (Rocky Mountain Club), puts in their newsletter. It's called: Useless Information You Might Want To Know.

November –

- 1 National cook for you pets and deep fried clams day/All Saints Day
- 2 National traffic directors and deviled egg day/All Soul's Day/Day of the Dead
- 3 National Housewife's Men make dinner (must cook no BBQ) day
- 4 National Candy and stress awareness day



- 5 National doughnut and love your red hat day
- 6 Daylight Savings Time ends roll back 1 hour
- 7 National bittersweet chocolate with almonds day
- 8 National cappuccino and Harvey wallbanger day
- 9 Nothing going on here
- 10 Marine Corps Birthday and National cupcake day
- 11 National Sundae day/Veteran's Day
- 12 National pizza with works except anchovies day
- 13 National Indian pudding day
- 14 National pickle and spicy guacamole day
- 15 National bundt and clean out your fridge day
- 16 National fast food day
- 17 National baklava and take a hike day
- 18 Mickey Mouse birthday
- 19 National carbonated beverage with caffeine day
- 20 Absurdity day
- 21 National stuffing day
- 22 National cranberry relish day
- 23 National cashew and eat a cranberry day
- 24 Thanksgiving
- 25 National parfait/ native American heritage day/Black Friday
- 26 National cake day/Small business Saturday
- 27 National Bavarian cream pie day
- 28 National French toast and cyber Monday
- 29 National Day of Giving
- 30 Nothing going on

#### December

- 1 National pie day
- 2 National fritters day
- 3 Nothing
- 4 National cookie day
- 5 Nothing
- 6 Nothing
- 7 National cotton candy day
- 8 National brownie day
- 9 National pastry day
- 10 Nothing
- 11 Nothing
- 12 National poinsettia day
- 13 National cocoa day
- 14 Nothing
- 15 National cat herders day
- 16 National chocolate covered anything and ugly sweater day
- 17 National maple syrup day
- 18 Nothing
- 19 National hard candy day
- 20 National sangria day
- 21 Winter begins
- 22 National date nut bread and re-gifting day
- 23 Nothing
- 24 National egg nog day/Christmas Eve/Hanukkah begins at sundown
- 25 National pumpkin pie day/Christmas Day
- 26 National candy cane, thank-you note and whiner's day/Boxing Day/Kwanzaa begins

- 27 National fruitcake day
- 28 National chocolate candy and card playing day
- 29 Nothing
- 30 National bicarb of soda day
- 31 National champagne day/New Year's Eve

#### MCR SERVICE TEAM

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