

Oldsmobile

ROCKET FUEL

a publication of the
Motor City Rockets

SPRING 2019 ISSUE

SPRING GREETINGS!



(PHOTO courtesy of Steve Apking)

Hey, Rockets! Spring is coming ... sooner or later ... so get your to-do list together, collect your cleaning supplies, and be ready when warmer weather and sunshine comes to the Wolverine state ... about mid-June! 😊 Meanwhile, remind yourselves of great cars, shorts-kind-of-weather, good friends and road trips like the 2018 Fall Tour pictured above!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Pat Macaluso, President)

Welcome to "Spring," fellow MCR members! It has been a long cold and crazy winter—snow one day, warm temperatures the next, and then a polar vortex that gave us 60+ degree temperature swings with as low as -40 wind chills. Since we are now into Spring, I am sure it won't be long before we can start playing with our beloved Oldsmobile's.

When the time is right don't forget to go over them and do the appropriate safety checks, brakes, tires, hoses, belts and all needed maintenance.

You recently received a list of activities scheduled for 2019 please take time to lock them into your calendar. I would like to call out the **Oldsmobile Home Coming** show in Lansing. Our sister club can use all the help they can get so please do your best to get with Judy Badgley and volunteer. They very much need and appreciate our help!

Please keep Suzanne Loewen, Sonee Lapadot, and Diane Shalla in your prayers as they have all been dealing with illness.

Also, here's a **call out for help** to the MCR membership. We are looking for locations to conduct our business meetings at no or very low cost. We would need seating for up to 50 people, the availability of a data-video projector and screen. If possible, we would like to bring in our own food and soft drinks, but this is not a show stopper. If you have any information regarding this, please let me know.

There have been questions about Associate membership and **what qualifies you as an Associate Member**. As per the OCA ByLaws it states the following.

Associate Membership is available to one person living in the same household as the Member and who pays the annual Associate Member dues AEPM. An Associate Member has all the rights of a Member except he will not receive the Official Publication.

If you do not qualify for an Associate membership as noted please update your membership with the OCA or advise Steve Apking that you are no longer an associate member.

As a OCA Zone Director I can't go without throwing in a pitch in for OCA nationals, to be held in Wichita KS during the last week of June 2019. If you didn't notice in your JWO the 2020 OCA Nationals will be held in Murfreesboro TN about 30 miles outside of Nashville. (*EDITORS NOTE: Registration information appears on subsequent pages of this issue.*)

Pat Macaluso, President



MCR MEETING MINUTES

(Alan Wilcox, Secretary)

Motor City Rockets Chapter General Session Meeting February 17, 2019

President, Pat Macaluso called the meeting to order at 12:09 PM.

President's Report: Pat Macaluso

- **Welcome:** Pat welcomed everyone.
- **Pat asked how many members were currently planning to attend the OCA Nationals in Wichita, Kansas.** (*Your Secretary did not get a count. Sorry about that.*)
- **Pat opened the discussion as to the MCR buying an ad in the 2019 OCA Nationals Meet Magazine.** It was determined that we would purchase a ½ page full color ad at a cost of \$100.00. This was motioned by Bruce Powelson. and seconded by Jeff Pregler. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. Phil Woodward was asked to design the ad. Note: The finished ad is due in with payment by May 25, 2019.
- **Pat informed every one of the RE Olds Lecture Series presented at the RE Olds Transportation Museum.** The next one will be March 11, 2019 and will feature a presentation on the creation of GM by William Durant.
- **Pat encouraged everyone to visit the OCA website and explore it.**

- **Pat asked for members to be on the lookout for a potential semi-regular club meeting place.** Preferably a central location. Farmington Hills was indicated to be about the most central location for the club. We would also like to be able to bring in our own food, and it would be best if we could get the venue for free. Members were also encouraged to be on the lookout (or participate as) guest speakers for meetings.

Vice-President's Report: Presented by Pat Macaluso for Erick Drake

- **Update on Suzanne Loewen was provided.**
- **February birthdays and anniversaries were announced.**
- **A sheet was sent around for members to add their birthdays and anniversaries to the club records.**

Treasurer's Report: Dave Engel

- **Budget Status:** Excellent. The amount in the treasury was announced at the meeting. For members who were not at the meeting and would like to know our current cash standing, please contact Dave Engel at treasurer@motorcityrockets.com.

Secretary's Report: Alan Wilcox

- **Nothing to report**

Activities Chair Report: Suzi Macaluso

- March 16: Meeting, Lunch, and Oldsmobile Trivia at the Redwood Steakhouse in Flint.
- April: TBD.
- May 19: MCR Dust-off in Howell.
- June 15: Oldsmobile Homecoming in Lansing.
- July (technically June 25 - 30): OCA Nationals in Wichita, KS. Also, on July 27 is the non-official club event of the Car Capital Car Show in Lansing.
- August 17: Woodward Dream Cruise; MCR at the National Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak.
- September 13 -15: MCR Fall Tour Cruise of Bay City/Thumb area.
- October 12: Great Pumpkin Car Show in Howell.
- November: TBD.
- December 7: MCR Christmas Party in Clinton Township

Membership Chair Report: Presented by Pat Macaluso for Steve Apking

- An explanation was made regarding MCR Associate Members must be OCA Associate Members. Steve must be notified if you are an OCA Associate Member to grant you MCR Associate membership.
- It was proposed to have the Advance Auto discount information printed on the back of our MCR membership cards. This was voted on and approved.

OCA Zone Report: Pat Macaluso

- The 2020 Nationals will be held in Murfreesboro, TN.
- Sue Pashukewich has been at the host hotel and gave positive review for the location.

Old Business – None discussed.

New Business – There is a new law in Michigan regarding emergency vehicles. When approaching one, you must slow down and move over one lane.

How Brakes Work: Presentation by Dave Engel.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the meeting was adjourned

Minutes respectfully submitted: Alan Wilcox, MCR Secretary.



MCR MEMBER EXPERIENCES

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When I first saw the title, I knew this article by our secretary would be more enjoyable than minutes of any meeting of the minds—after all, most of our minds are on our Olds' project anyway!)

Gas Tanking! (or, Yes, I Really Am As Big of a Doofus As You Think I Am!)

By Alan Wilcox

Spring is inching toward us. It has been too cold to work in the garage for these past couple of months, but it's looking like I'll be able to get out there soon. Hopefully you will be able to as well, even if all you need to do is change the oil and put a fresh coat of polish on your beauty(ies). The paint on my '68 Cutlass S convertible is in such rough shape that even a new coat of polish won't help, although I am going to try some of the ceramic coating that I bought over the winter. We'll see how good that stuff really is!

Some of you may remember that in the late fall, I began the task of replacing the gas tank in the '68. The sending unit was bad. The fuel gage needle was all the way past "F", and on the "T" of my "HOT" dummy light. Maybe that stands for "Totally Full" (turns out, it doesn't). Well, since the tank had a small pin hole leak in it, and it was 50 years old, I figured as long as I was pulling it to replace the sending unit, I would replace the tank too.

It took me a few sessions to pull the old tank. After running the car low on gas and then letting it run out completely in the garage, I unhooked the electrical connections. Later, with a moving blanket on my 4-wheel dolly, I removed the bolts that held the straps on, and slowly lowered the tank onto the blanket/dolly. The easy part was done!



The old tank is out (PHOTO courtesy of Alan Wilcox)

I ordered the new gas tank, straps and bolts, sending unit, external filter body, a few feet of new fuel-injector grade gas line, and I was set to go. A streak of cold weather on weekends hampered re-installing it, but finally we got a

good Saturday and I began the installation process. A test of the sending unit reflected that it worked perfectly as I moved it up and down the gas gage from “F” to “E” and every spot in between, but not above “F.”

I installed the sending unit, put the wiring on and attached the rubber gas lines. Next, I attempted to raise the gas tank and put on the straps—by myself. Man, I got a good lesson: apparently, I’m not as young as I used to be— (and still can’t convince my brain I’m not)! I realized, even empty, the tank was too much for me that late in the day.

The next day was *relatively* not-freezing out, so I enlisted the aid of my daughter Emily. I figured if she could hold up one side, I could get the strap on the other side. Surely, it would be easy then to install the second strap. (Did I mention that the Cutlass S was just on jack stands, not a hoist?)

So, with us both under the car on our backs, there wasn’t enough room to hold the tank in place, maneuver around, and install the strap. It appeared that a third person was needed if I was to do this. So, releasing Emily from the servitude of her crazy dad, I spend the remainder of the day contemplating the problem. The solution came to me later that day, but I had learned that I work better in the early part of the day, so I put it off.

A few weeks of too-cold-to-work-outside temperatures, and finally a day arrived that wasn’t too cold to work. I pull out my nylon ratchet straps, hook one end up under the frame at the bumper, hook the other end in the spring tower area, one on either side. Now I can now easily ratchet the tank into place while moving around underneath it on my creeper with nothing in my way.

I had considered using a floor jack to lift it, but the combination of needing the tank balanced just right and having the jack in the way while working led me to “unconsider” it. The ratchet straps worked perfectly. I could now place the straps and begin bolting in the tank.



Everything was going well, until the fourth bolt. The first two small bolts at the back of the tank went in easily. Next, I installed the driver’s side bolt on the front of the tank. (I didn’t tighten any of them down.) Sadly, there was no way to even get the last bolt started—no angle was correct! Realizing that I had done all I could for the day, I retired, ready to fight another day.

A week later and “fresh as a daisy,” I’m back under the car, but still can’t get the bolt started into the clip nut. I take out the nut—bolt and nut mate just fine. However, with the nut in position, the bolt will not mate. Next, I try the new bolt into the old clip nut and it fits just fine. Once the bolt is in the nut, that assembly isn’t going anywhere, so I slipped the old nut (the *hardware*, not *me*) back on the frame, run the bolt through the strap and it mated on first try!

With the gas tank is in place, and I torque all the bolts until the tank is snug against the bottom of the trunk, and complete with a new insulating pad between the tank and the trunk pan. By now, and having strung this project out to late December, I realize the car will sit in the unheated garage for a few months, and with temps dipping into single digits or lower. Knowing that sitting empty isn’t good for the vehicle, I begin an arduous task of filling the tank.

Since I can't take the car to the gas station, I choose to carry my empty gas can to work each day, purchase two gallons on the way home, dump it into the Cutlass, and repeat daily until the tank is full. It will take two weeks, but what the heck!

(I know, after getting the initial 2 gallons into the tank, I could then drive the car up to the gas station, but the block that I live on is dirt, so if I took the car out, I would want to wash it when I got it back, but it's wayyyy too cold to do that).

After the second trip, and with four gallons in the tank, I realize something—this car takes *premium!* So, here I am—paying for premium, pumping only two gallons of gas, of which a portion is probably regular or mid-grade from the last customer, since today's pumps use one hose for all grades of fuel. In the old days, there were separate hoses for the different grades.

In a large tank, that "left over" gasoline in the hose probably doesn't matter, but in a two-gallon can, a large percentage of that gas is regular. This also means the next patron at that pump gets a little bit of premium (that I paid for!) in their tank and I don't get a whole two gallons of premium. So, with four gallons in the tank, I just put a couple ounces of Sta-bil 360 in it and capped it for the season. I'm sure everything will be fine in the spring!

OK, so if you think you could write a more interesting story with both hands tied behind your back, prove it, and send it in to Dale for the next issue of the "Rocket Fuel". If you thought my story was so riveting and amazing that you could never write one to equal it, let alone surpass it, prove yourself wrong, write one and send it in to Dale for the next issue of the "Rocket Fuel". (EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks for the plug. Alan!)



MCR FINANCIAL REPORT

(Dave Engel, Treasurer)

It's tax season, fellow MCR members. As much as we might wish to claim our Oldsmobiles as dependents, especially with the expenses incurred at the fuel pump or parts counter, no such luck. If there were a way to legally do this, I would have found it by now!

Consider this a friendly reminder from your treasurer to have your state, federal, and local tax returns filed by April 15. Did you know that with our 501(c)(7) certification from the IRS (non-profit social club) that MCR also needs to file an annual tax return? Unlike our individual tax returns, this one is quite simple.

Really! A sample image of the Form 990-N shown below is what I file for MCR annually by May 15 as the non-profits get a little more time than individuals to meet reporting requirements. If you ever have any questions about MCR's finances or tax reporting obligations, feel free to send me an email. I will be happy to answer.

990-N Electronic Notice (e-Postcard)
OMB No. 1545-2085
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service
for Tax-Exempt Organizations not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ
2015
Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2015 calendar year, or tax year beginning 1/1/2016, and ending 12/31/2016

B Check if applicable:
 Terminated, Out of Business
 Gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less

C Name of organization, d/b/a: _____

D Employer identification number: _____

E Website: _____

F Name of Principal Officer: _____

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws.

The organization is not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. The rules governing the confidentiality of the Form 990-N is covered in Code section 6104.

The time needed to complete and file this form and related schedules will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average times is 15 minutes.

Note: This image is provided for your records only. Do NOT mail this page to the IRS. The IRS will not accept this filing via paper. You must file your Form 990-N (e-Postcard) electronically.

This Form 990-N (e-Postcard) was accepted by the IRS on 1/9/2016.

Who knew that IRS forms could be simple?! 😊



UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

(Suzi Macaluso, Activities Director)

Hi to all!

Here goes my first article since becoming the Activities Director for our fabulous club! What I want to stress most is that the activities that our club holds are for the fun and pleasure of our membership. Some are just plain fun, others are educational, and most have something to do with those amazing Oldsmobile's we own and love.

This club belongs to the membership and the activities we have are membership-driven. I'm asking ALL members of the Motor City Rockets to contribute to our list of activities. We're not confined to only one activity a month. We have an amazing group of members and we want to offer *something-for-everyone* activities.

If you have an idea that you think would be of interest to the members, please let me know. If you want to host an activity, please let me know! THIS IS YOUR CLUB! As always, we have an exciting year ahead of us with opportunities all around us to get our cars out on the road.

Drive those OLDSMOBILES and show them off! I'm waiting to hear from all of you!

Suzi Macaluso
MCR Activities Director
810-599-5318
suzimacaluso@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF MCR ACTIVITIES 2019

March 16, 2019 – 3rd Annual Old's Trivia, Lunch, & meeting (*Grand Blanc/Flint*)

April 2019 – TBD – Suggestions please 😊

May 19, 2019 – Annual Dust-Off – (*Howell*)

June 15, 2019 – Oldsmobile Homecoming (*Lansing*)

June 23-30, 2019 – OCA National Event (*Wichita, KS*)

August 17, 2019 – Annual Woodward Dream Cruise (*Royal Oak*)

September 13-15, 2019 – (*Bay City / Thumb area Fall Tour*)

September 2019 – The Gathering of Oldsmobile's @ Baker's (*Milford*)

October 12, 2019 – Great Pumpkin Charity Car Show (*Howell*)

November 2019 – Usually no meeting this month, suggestions welcome!

December 7, 2019 – Annual MCR Christmas Party (*Clinton Township*)





2018 Sept Touring Activity Dow House



2018 Woodward Dream Cruise

MOTOR CITY ROCKETS MERCHANDISE

Jerry Garfield has done it again! In addition to the wonderful discount he arranged for our members at Advanced Auto Parts, he has secured a discount for members at Carquest company stores. The discount is listed under R.E. Olds Club. The **discount is only available at the corporate stores**, not the independently owned stores.

Per Jerry, we use the same information below for both **Advanced Auto Parts** and **Carquest**:

- Account name is Motor City Rockets
- Account number is 1872876001
- Phone number (for easy store look up of account using Commercial Search) 586-709-6637

Carquest Corporation is an American automotive parts distribution network that is currently owned and operated by Advance Auto Parts via independent retailers associated with the network. en.wikipedia.org <https://www.carquest.com> **Carquest** and **Advance Auto Parts** have joined forces to bring you an even better shopping experience. Carquest customers can now take advantage of all Advance online promotions, plus enjoy the convenience of ordering online and picking up at their nearest Carquest store, or shipping to home. <https://www.advanceautoparts.com>

Advance Auto Parts, Inc. is a leading automotive aftermarket parts provider that serves both professional installer and do-it-yourself customers. As of December 29, 2018, Advance operated 4,966 stores and 143 Worldpac branches in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Company also serves 1,231 independently owned **Carquest** branded stores across these locations in addition to Mexico, the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, British Virgin Islands and Pacific Islands. Additional information about Advance, including employment opportunities, customer services, and online shopping for parts, accessories and other offerings can be found at www.AdvanceAutoParts.com.



MCR MEMBERSHIP MINDER

(Steve Apking, Membership Director)

Motor City Rockets:

Renewal of club dues is coming soon (June 1st). If your membership needs to be renewed, you will be receiving an e-mail or snail mail as a reminder in early May. The fact that you receive an e-mail or snail mail indicates that you need to renew. If you do not receive an e-mail or snail mail, then you are in good standing.

Two e-mails will come your way (only one for snail mail). The first will ask you to renew. The second, a few weeks later, will serve as a reminder if you still have not paid. After two e-mails and no response, we will assume you no longer want to be a member and you will be dropped from our roster.

- MCR One - year annual dues: \$15
- MCR Two - year annual dues: \$25
- MCR Three - year annual dues: \$35
- MCR Five - year annual dues: \$55
- MCR Associate Free - for OCA Associate Members

Membership in the OCA is strongly encouraged. We can process both (MCR & OCA) renewals if you want to make only one mailing. Or you may handle the OCA yourself. I just ask that you let me know you've done this (OCA), the expiration date and your Membership Number. You can find this on your membership card or front cover of your JWO.

- E-Membership One-Year \$30 *Digital magazine delivery. Must have email access.*
- E-Membership Two Years \$55 *Digital magazine delivery. Must have email access.*
- US OCA One-year annual dues: \$40 (Std mail)
- US OCA One-year annual dues: \$50 (1st class mail)
- US OCA Two-year annual dues: \$70 (Std mail)
- US OCA Two-year annual dues: \$90 (1st class mail)
- Canada OCA One-year annual dues \$60
- Canada OCA Two-year annual dues \$100
- Associate Membership \$5 per year
 - (1 person living in same household, voting privilege, no JWO)

Send renewals to: The Motor City Rockets Chapter
P.O. Box 43
Milford, MI 48381

Including associate members, we currently have 121 total members. I look forward to hearing from you to keep your club strong.

Steve Apking
MCR Membership Coordinator





Motor City Rockets Membership Renewal

Date _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Oldsmobile's Currently Owned:

Year: _____ Model _____ Color _____

Year: _____ Model _____ Color _____

Year: _____ Model _____ Color _____

OCA Membership Number _____ OCA Expiration Date* _____

OCA Associate Membership Number _____

Birth Date: (no year required)** Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Anniversary Date: _____

_____ One-year membership dues, \$15.00

_____ Two-year membership dues, \$25.00

_____ Three-year membership dues, \$35.00

_____ Five-year membership dues, \$55.00

Please make check or money order payable to: **Motor City Rockets**

Send this form and payment to:
The Motor City Rockets Chapter
P.O. Box 43
Milford, MI 48381



REGIONAL CAR EVENTS OF INTEREST

Throughout southeastern Michigan many seasonal cruise nights and other car events take place. If you have a favorite, let us know, and we will do our best to include events that MCR members enjoy. Below are a few examples:

Sundays @ Bakers of Milford

Beginning in May and running through the last Sunday of September, Bakers hosts a weekly cruise-in every Sunday afternoon from noon until 7:00 pm. Perks include: live outside entertainment by Mark Harrington, free raffle prizes, outside grill, and restaurant dining discounts in addition to hundreds of great classic cars. Bakers is located at 2025 S Milford Road, Milford, MI 48381. Phone: (248) 685-0505.

Website: www.bakersofmilford.com.

Tuesdays @ Culvers of Lake Orion

The first Tuesday of May through the last Tuesday of September. This Culvers is located at Brown Road and M-24 in Lake Orion—4963 Interpark Drive N, Lake Orion, MI 48359. Phone: (248) 276-2222.

Website: www.culvers.com/restaurants/lake-orion.

Fridays @ Multi-Lakes Conservation Association of Commerce Township

The organization is located at 3860 Newton Road, Commerce Township, MI 48382. Phone: (248) 363-9209

Website: www.multilakes.com

Do you have a favorite car show hangout? Let us know! Include name of host organization, street address, phone number, website URL, as well as dates and times. Space and time permitting, we'll try to include your special place for enjoyable car activity!

Email information to Dale Peterson: d_peterson123@comcast.net.



FEATURE ARTICLE

Each issue of **ROCKET FUEL** features an article about one car owned by a member of Motor City Rockets. This allows each member to know the stories behind some of the vehicles represented in the club. The Spring 2019 issue features one of the cars owned by our MCR treasurer, Dave Engel. Enjoy!

The Story of a White '85 Toronado

By: Dave Engel, Motor City Rockets

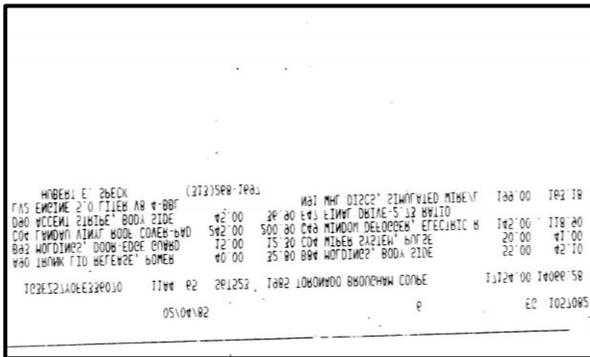


(PHOTO courtesy of Dave Engel)

Most of you at one time or another have seen my white 1985 Oldsmobile Toronado at club events, or out on a nice Sunday afternoon, or even in the employee parking lot at the GM Proving Ground in Milford during the nice weather seasons. But this car was not always mine, and like all cars, has a history and a story to go along with it.

My maternal grandparents were the original owners of this vehicle and used it as a daily (or in their case, weekly) driver from 1985-2006. They purchased this car new in June of 1985 to replace a 1979 Delta 88. The latter was sold to the neighbors after displaying a *For Sale* sign in the driveway for less than half a day.

Grandpa had always wanted a Toronado, after having both a 1970 and the aforementioned 1979 Delta 88's. With grandma's encouragement, he ordered it on 2/4/1985 from Drummy Olds in East Detroit, MI. The only stipulation from my grandma was that the interior be maroon. Navy and maroon interiors were the only color options available with a white exterior, and since the Delta 88 had a blue interior, a change of pace was in order.



(PHOTO courtesy of Dave Engel)



(PHOTO courtesy of Dave Engel)

Grandpa wanted to make sure he purchased one of “the big Toronados,” from Linden, NJ before production shifted to the smaller Detroit-Hamtramck built E-bodies of 1986. As such, his car is reportedly one of the last six shipped to Michigan from New Jersey, built on 6/28/85. Delivery was taken on 7/9/85.

VEHICLE CERTIFICATE OF TITLE					
DATE ISSUED			TITLE NUMBER		
05/20/86			166M1390138		
VEHICLE YR.	MAKE OF VEHICLE	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	WT. OR FEE CATEGORY	BODY STYLE	
1985	OLDSMOBILE	1G3EZ57Y0FE336070	17	TWO DOOR	
1ST SECURED PARTY		FILING DATE		OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS	
GENERAL MOTORS ACCEPTANCE CORP		05-19-86		NORMAN JOSEPH NICKERSON	
6750 CHICAGO ROAD		MICHIGAN 48090		20248 VAN ANTWERP	
WARREN				HARPER WOODS MICHIGAN 48225	
2ND SECURED PARTY		FILING DATE		I, Richard H. Austin, Secretary of State of the State of Michigan, do certify that this certificate of title is prima facie proof of ownership issued in compliance with the laws of the State of Michigan. On the date of issuance, the vehicle described was subject to the security interest as shown.	
				F2439908	
				Richard H. Austin Secretary of State	
1ST: FIRM NAME BY SIGNATURE OF AGENT DATE					
2ND: FIRM NAME BY SIGNATURE OF AGENT DATE					

(PHOTO courtesy of Dave Engel)

I spent a good amount of time in this car growing up, as I usually rode shotgun to pick up the carry out lunch at Big Boy when my grandparents visited us on Tuesdays. The Toronado also served back up duty in our household, as it proved to be more reliable than my mom’s 1987 Chevy Celebrity. She borrowed the Toronado when her car was in the shop or didn’t trust it to make a long drive.

When I started driving, I remember the Toronado coming to rescue me when the exhaust system fell off my 1986 Pontiac Grand Prix. Prior to that time, I became the Toronado’s de facto caretaker. When my brothers and I visited our grandparent’s house, I always volunteered to wash and vacuum the Toronado. This was always quality time with Grandpa as he would usually sit on the deck and chat while I worked.

When I turned sixteen, he made me an offer I could not refuse. If I would take his car for any necessary repairs and for fill ups, so that he didn’t have to, I could have the car when he decided to stop driving. My grandparents paid the bills, Grandpa just didn’t want to be bothered having to deal with such trivial things as auto maintenance when there were U of M football or Red Wings hockey games to watch! Not to mention my grandma never had a driver’s license, so we knew she wasn’t going to Jiffy Lube.

In April of 2006, at the age of 92, Grandpa decided he had enough of driving. Most of the Toronado’s mileage had come during the early years they owned it going to the Eastpointe Farmer Jack or to the doctor’s office. As time went on, the car would go out once a week, then every couple of weeks, then even less frequently.

When he signed the title over to me, the odometer read 39,186. It is currently at 44,900. I left the car stored in my grandparent’s garage for the next year or so, visiting it on weekends and cruising during the summer. After Grandpa passed away that November, I left the car there so that Grandma could “look at it” as she said, keeping good memories alive.

In the summer of 2007, I brought the car to my house so that it could be driven more on weekends and occasionally to work. I put about 400-600 miles a year on the Toronado and each time I drive it, it always brings back pleasant memories of my childhood and teenage years. Grandpa was like a dad to me, and having his car is the ultimate memory.

I used to take the Toronado over for an annual visit with grandma when she was still living. She always comments that it, “still looks new.” As this car was a Michigan daily driver, it does suffer from a little rot and I am planning to have some cosmetic work done in the future at some point.

In the near term, I would like to replace the full set of bumper fillers since the 33+ year old plastic is disintegrating. I also need to install a new right rear park brake cable as the nub that installs into the brake caliper pull mechanism sheared off at some point. Anyone that has a hoist and could help me with this repair would earn my gratitude and dinner!

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks for a great story, Dave! You've reminded us that life is not only about the vehicles we love, but also about people and relationships! By the way, if you have a story to share, send it my way and we'll get at least one in each issue. Be sure to send a couple of photos, too! No doubt, the stories will be as varied as the people and cars, which makes for a great variety and increased interest in the club.]



MCR MEMORIES: ANNUAL BOWLING PARTY 2019

(Jill Woodward, Contributing Author)

Thirty-three Rockets gathered at Perfect Game for Fun, Food and Fellowship! The day began with a membership meeting and a wonderful talk on brakes by our own Dave Engel. Dave was informative as well as humorous which kept me focused on what he was saying instead of thinking "I let Phil handle those things!"



Dave Engel discussing brakes *(PHOTO: Courtesy of Jill Woodward)*

The business portion was followed by pizza and salads provided by Perfect Game and some yummy desserts. Pat Kress, aka the "Bling Queen" brought all of her gifts that the ladies have received from this event over the last many years so we could "ooh and aah" over the bling. This year's gift for the ladies was a cute snap bag with MCR embroidered on the tag.

On to bowling! This is always good-natured fun with LOTs of gutter balls, some strikes, a LOT of cheering on! One lane didn't like returning the bowling ball, so we watched the ball roll back and forth behind the pins like ducks in a carnival duck shoot! By the end of the three games, the results were:

High Score: Karl Kimball and Susie O'Connell

Low Score: Dave Engel and Martha Pregler

Most Consistent: Bruce Powelson and Martha Pregler

Started Out Great then Went Downhill: Glen Woodby and Jimmie O'Connell

Started Out Low and Ended High: Tammy Woodby and Terry Mozurkewich



A pending strike? (PHOTO: Courtesy of Jill Woodward)

Congratulations to all the winners! Next year's bowling may be in March to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, rather than Valentine's Day, to accommodate some of our 'snow-birds'. Either way, see you next year! (Jill Woodward)



Fun is contagious & MCR has an incurable case! (PHOTO: Courtesy of Jill Woodward)



MCR MEMBERS' MOTORS

(Dale Peterson, Editor)

Beginning in the next issue of **ROCKET FUEL**, we'd like to feature photos and stories behind the engines that power the vehicles of our MCR membership. So, find that flash drive, old computer, or external hard drive where you have stored the photos of the engine-build of your favorite Oldsmobile, and send me a short story about the motor and of something interesting or unique about that project.

If you're *really* old-school, and your photos are *prints* rather than *digital*, get your children or grandchildren to scan them to your computer for you. 😊 Use the highest resolution possible, since that offers better quality.

For example, pictured below is a 330, small block Olds, high compression engine. It was removed from a numbers-matching 1965 Olds Cutlass and rebuilt in 2005.

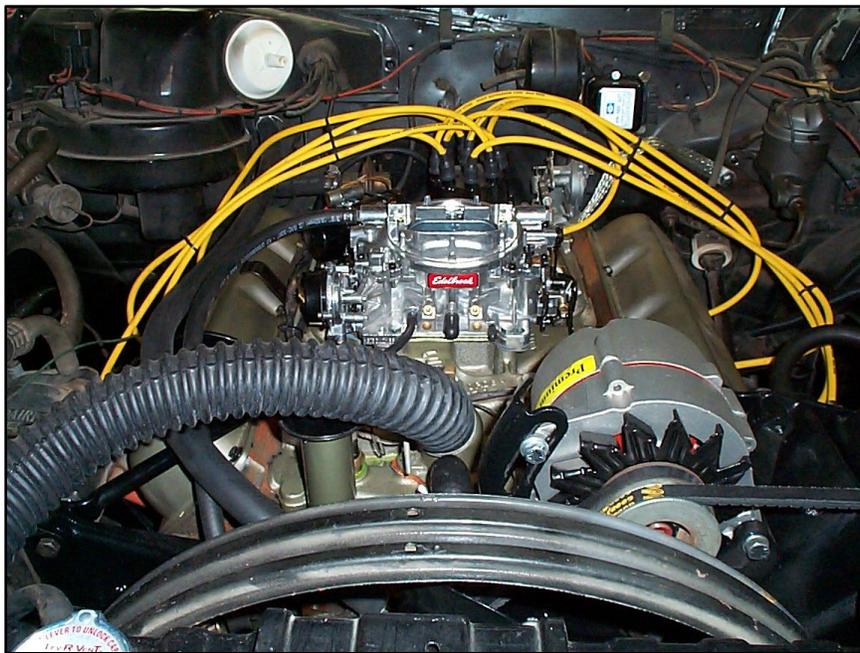


Rebuilt 330 hi-compression Olds (PHOTO Courtesy of JDP1)

A friend from NHRA Pro-Stock racing days in the 1960s—Wally Booth—loaned his expertise to my project by spec'ing all the parts for this rebuild and getting them over to his former partner in Berkley, Michigan for the machine work. Dick Aarons bored the stock engine .030, set the new cam and bearings. Another friend assembled the remainder of the long block.

When the engine "came home," there was no carburetor or oil pan attached. Before installing the oil pan, I proceeded to check the torque on the rod and main caps (smart move for anyone) but failed to double check the torque on the oil pump (not so smart as it would turn out).

Within hours, that motor was being nestled into the engine compartment from which it had been extracted a few weeks earlier. A new Edelbrock 650 sat atop the stock intake manifold, centered between the original valve covers.



Freshly installed, albeit with some temporary components (PHOTO Courtesy of JDP1)

At this stage of the project, some components were temporarily installed, trying to get this Cutlass drivable for Detroit's annual Woodward Dream Cruise, held the third Saturday of August each summer. Yeah, that upper radiator hose was short-lived, though it served its purpose well. And don't make fun of the hastily installed ignition wiring! 😊



Cutlass beat the deadline & experienced its first Dream Cruise (PHOTO Courtesy of JDP1)

And, never mind the missing power steering fluid cap—it was installed after the photo was taken, as was an air filter before it made its maiden voyage down Woodward Avenue in 2005. However, there was trouble brewing down below ... but you'll have to wait to hear about that until the next time I'm up against a deadline when no one else has sent in photos and stories! 😊



MINDING MCR MEMBERS

(Dale Peterson, Editor)

Anyone who's ever traveled the Underground or train systems in the United Kingdom is familiar with the caution, "Please mind the gap!" It's a phrase calling pedestrian's attention to the space between a platform and the train. As MCR members, we want to be mindful of the various needs of our club's constituency. Perhaps it's an accident, a serious illness, or even a death.

As these are brought to our attention, we want to make our membership aware of these circumstances, allowing this caring car community to keep colleagues in our thoughts and prayers during their stressful times.

Sonee Lapadot

Sonee recently fell down the stairs in her home, breaking one leg and a rib. She is currently recovering at the Woodward Hills Rehabilitation Center, 39312 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. Sonee is in room 206.

Suzanne Loewen

Continue keeping Suzanne (and Brock) in your thoughts and prayers as she continues recovery at home. After her mid-March post-operative follow-up the Loewen's will know the path forward regarding further treatment.

Bob & Diane Shalla

Bob sent word that his sweet wife Diane has taken residence at Sunrise of Shelby Township. If you would like to send a card or note of encouragement, the address is: Diane Shalla, 46471 Hayes Road, Shelby Township, MI 48315.



THE STORY OF BILLY DURANT

Monday, 11 March 2019, at 7:00pm, Dr. Russell Dore' will present "Billy Durant: The Father of General Motors" at the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum. This presentation is a part of the museum's ongoing lecture series and is open to the public at no charge.

Like R.E. Olds, Durant left his unique mark on the automobile industry, not merely in Lansing, but across the globe. Substantially different from early entrepreneurs like Henry Ford, Durant created General Motors, Durant possessed a vision that pierced the tumultuous pioneering days of the auto industry.

Dr. Dore' is expected to explore the life of Durant, discovering how this high school dropout could ascend to millionaire status, only to die a pauper. The lecture will address many of the early automotive pioneers including David Buick, Ransom Olds, Walter Chrysler, Charles Nash, and Louis Chevrolet.

The 11 March 2019 talk, hosted by the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, begins promptly at 7:00pm. The museum is located at 240 Museum Drive, Lansing.



MCR TECH TIPS

Since everyone encounters this situation from time to time, here is an interesting tech tip for removing rusty nuts or bolts— thanks to a recent R.E. Olds newsletter, quoting from *Machinist's Workshop Magazine*. The magazine tested off-the-shelf penetrants for the breakout torque of rusted nuts. The informal study revealed the following:

- Average load using no penetrating oil – 516 pounds
 - Load using WD-40 – 238 pounds
 - Load using PB Blaster – 214 pounds
 - Load using Kano Kroil – 106 pounds
- Load using a 50/50 mixture of ATF & Acetone – 50 pounds

The “home brew” was better than the commercial products in this test by machinists! Who knew?!



SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

For members who are active in social media such as Facebook, there are several groups of Oldsmobile enthusiasts. These groups can be helpful for advice, dialog, information, and reference.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/299592856777855/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/60337651459/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/52756525821/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1599801426904701/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1608106676132724/>



2018 Spring Dust-Off (PHOTO courtesy of Suzi Macaluso)

SPECIAL DAYS TO CELEBRATE

April Birthdays

04th – Suzanne Loewen

06th – John Wilcox

08th – Paulette Width

10th – Dave Engel

14th – Phil Woodward

19th – Sonee Lapadot

21st – Sharon Hoover

24th – Pat Macaluso

May Birthdays

01st – Anne Drake

05th – Cindy Klemm

06th – Sue Apking

22nd – Dale Peterson

June Birthdays

04th – Marilyn Riess

23rd – Sue Pashukewich

25th – Ann Whittenbach

25th – Joshua Fear

27th – Dan Evans

April Anniversaries

01st – Doug & Paulette Width

May Anniversaries

11th – Jake & Sharon Hoover

June Anniversaries

- None

(If your birthday or anniversary was not acknowledged, please accept our apology. It may be that we do not have that information on file. If members will provide that information, it can be included in the future. Thanks!)



WANTED: INTERESTING CAR STORIES

One of the greatest methods for developing good relationships and building friendships is for MCR members to participate in club activities. Another way is by sharing unique stories about your Oldsmobile. Whilst some club members have known each other for years, the newer members would like to interact in ways that offer meaningful and developing friendships, all within the context of the mutual appreciation for each other's vehicles.

On what car project are you working? Are you struggling with some mechanical issue? Does some electrical issue have you stumped?

Whether a club member of many years or member of a few months, we'd like to hear about your love affair with that Oldsmobile! 😊 Seasoned members, why not take the lead and send a short story and a couple of photos. We can edit and share your Oldsmobile project in an upcoming issue of **ROCKET FUEL!** Others will appreciate learning of your hard work, TLC, and finished product (or work-in-progress)!

Email your photos, questions, and stories to d_peterson123@comcast.net. Between an upcoming series of articles and talks, your questions can find answers from experienced Oldsmobile gurus. Let us know which topics you would like to see highlighted going forward!



(PHOTO courtesy of JDP1)



MCR SERVICE TEAM 2019

President – Pat Macaluso (president@motorcityrockets.com)

Vice President – Erick Drake (vicepresident@motorcityrockets.com)

Secretary – Alan Wilcox (secretary@motorcityrockets.com)

Treasurer – Dave Engel (treasurer@motorcityrockets.com)

Activities Director – Suzi Macaluso (events@motorcityrockets.com)

Historian – Dorothy Maseles (historian@motorcityrockets.com)

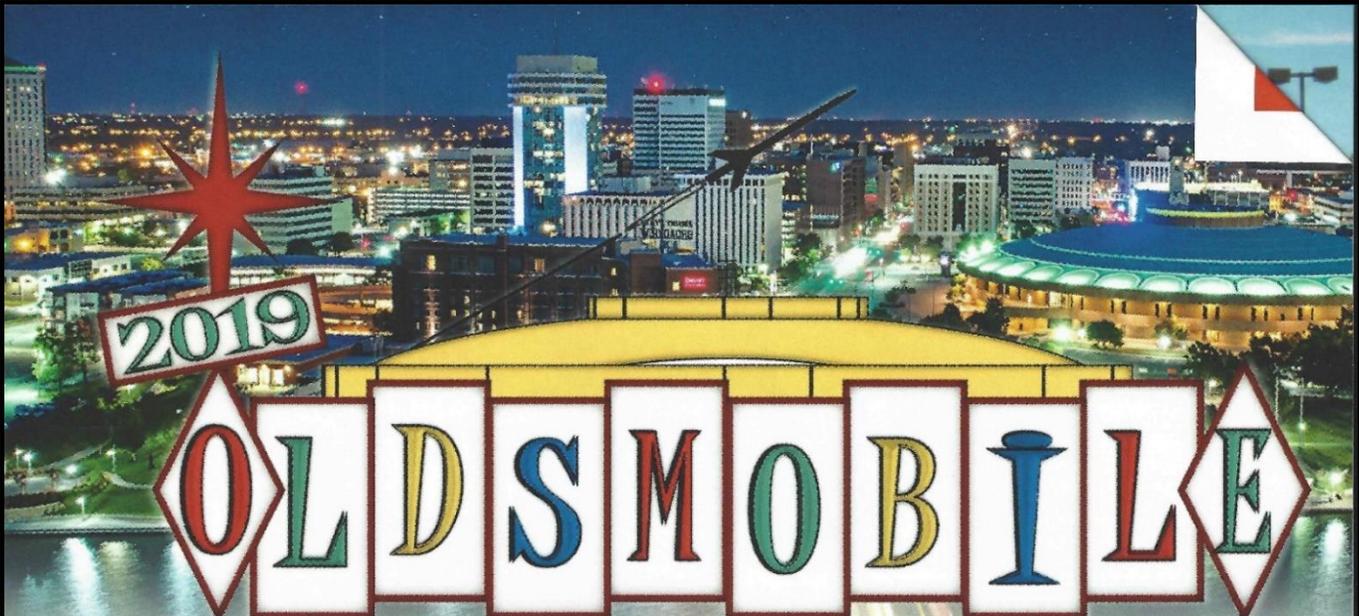
Membership – Steve Apking (membership@motorcityrockets.com)

Merchandise – Cindy Klemm (merchandise@motorcityrockets.com)

Newsletter – Dale Peterson (d_peterson123@comcast.net)

Photographer – Jill Woodward (editor@motorcityrockets.com)





2019

OLDSMOBILE

NATIONAL MEET
 INSIDE AT THE CENTURY II
 PERFORMING ARTS & CONVENTION CENTER
WICHITA, KS JUNE 25TH - 30TH

HOSTED BY
OKLAHOMA
 Waterwalk Olds Club
 ESTABLISHED 1978
 ST. LOUIS

OKLAHOMA
 OLDSMOBILE
 ASSOCIATION



JOIN US FOR A COOL TIME ON THE HOT PLAINS!
FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED FACILITIES

JUST MINUTES AWAY FROM

- KS SPORTS HALL OF FAME
- WICHITA TOY TRAIN MUSEUM
- OLD COWTOWN MUSEUM
- WICHITA ART MUSEUM
- BOTANICA GARDENS
- TANGANYIKA WILDLIFE PARK
- STARLITE DRIVE-IN THEATER

... AND MUCH MORE!



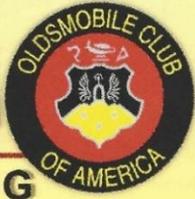
Host Hotel - Hyatt Regency, Wichita
 400 W. Waterman Street
 (316) 293-1234

Overflow Hotels
 Fairfield Inn & Suites \$129.00+
 (316) 201-1400

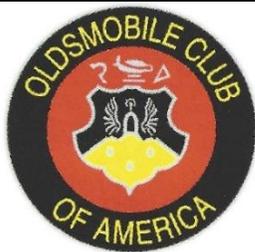
Hotel at Waterwalk 129.00+
 (316) 263-1061

*Mention the OCA National Meet for group rate.

WWW.OLDSMOBILECLUB.ORG



<https://www.oldsmobileclub.org/events/register.aspx?id=1185181&itemid=e1d0d439-b18e-4329-9217-8b6e9e20e3fc>



OLDSMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PO BOX 412 • EATON RAPIDS, MI 48827
(517) 663-1811

NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWING MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER INFORMATION

Please Print Clearly

OCA Member # (found on your magazine mailing label) _____

Member Name _____ Associate Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Postal Zone _____ Consular Code _____ Country _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Email Address _____ Chapter Affiliation _____

OLDSMOBILES CURRENTLY OWNED

Examples are: 1903 Curved Dash, 1955 Holiday 88 2DR Sedan, 1970 442 Convertible etc.

All members receive membership cards and the club's monthly magazine *Journey with Olds*. Members are entitled to FREE classified advertising, access to member-only website features and participation in all OCA events and activities. Oldsmobile ownership is not required. Please remit US funds only. DO NOT SEND CASH. Dues are non-refundable. Please make checks payable to Oldsmobile Club of America.

Yes, list me in the OCA Roster! The OCA maintains a secure membership roster that is a great tool for Olds enthusiasts. We will never supply your information to outside advertisers or solicitors.

Or, you may opt NOT to publish: any personal information any vehicle information.

Note: if you opt out of being listed, you will not be allowed to search the OCA digital roster, nor will you receive a printed directory.

Yes, I would like to donate to the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum. My donation is enclosed.

MEMBERSHIP	1 YEAR	2 YEAR
E-MEMBERSHIP Digital magazine delivery. Must have email access.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55.00
(US) 1ST CLASS MAIL	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90.00
(US) STANDARD MAIL	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70.00
CANADA	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00
MEXICO	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$155.00
EUROPE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$180.00
ASSOCIATE MEMBER <small>An Associate Membership allows ONE person, living in the same household with another OCA member, full membership status. Associate Memberships will not receive the monthly magazine.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00

Card Type: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Expiration Date Month/Year Security Code (three digits on back of card)

Name As Shown On Card _____

DONATION TO MUSEUM \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE OCA

- AWARD WINNING *JOURNEY WITH OLDS* MAGAZINE
 - NATIONAL MEETS
 - ZONE SHOWS
 - MODEL YEAR ADVISORS
 - TECHNICAL ADVICE
 - HISTORICAL INFORMATION
- THE LARGEST OLDSMOBILE MARKETPLACE
 - OCA RACING PROGRAM
 - INTERACTIVE WEBSITE
 - TWITTER & FACEBOOK
- OVER 40 NATIONAL CHAPTERS (& COUNTING!)
 - FANTASTIC CARS & GREAT PEOPLE!

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Join or renew your membership online at:

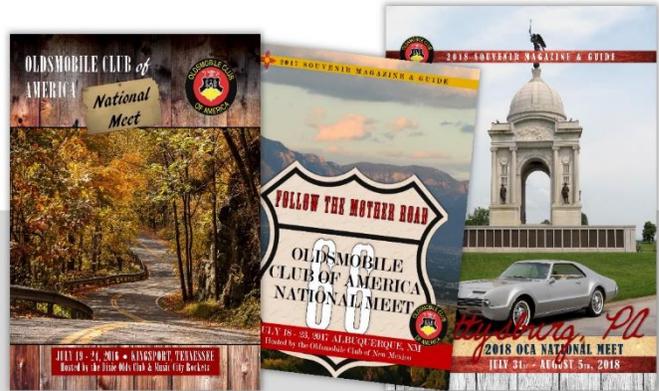
WWW.OLDSMOBILECLUB.ORG

WANT TO HIGHLIGHT YOUR WHEELS?

For anyone interested in highlighting your Oldsmobile at the 2019 Nationals in Wichita, here's a form that you can complete to register your photo to be included in the official program.

THE 2019 NATIONAL MEET PROGRAM PHOTO DISPLAY

The Archway Oldsmobile Club, the Oklahoma Oldsmobile Club and the Oldsmobile Club of America would like to take this opportunity to invite you to display a photo of your car in the 2019 OCA National Meet Program Book, for a special rate of \$25.00 (US funds) per photo. Share your Oldsmobile with National Meet participants from around the country!



Owners Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Year: _____ Model: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Chapter Affiliation: _____



Photo Submission Guidelines

Send high resolution quality digital photos in jpg, png, or pdf files to: olsonrsa@gmail.com.

Photo Display deadline for payment and photos is May 25, 2019

Please make checks payable to: 2019 Oldsmobile National Meet and send to:
2019 Oldsmobile National Photo Display
350 Afshari Drive
Florissant, MO 63034
Questions? Call (314) 825-2980



MCR MEMBER HELPS

From time to time most Olds aficionados need help with something. Perhaps you need an elusive chassis part that you haven't been able to find, or an expert for providing a service performed. If you've had a great experience with an auto mechanic, service center, manufacturer, or vendor, why not send us a shout-out giving us a photo and description. We'd like to turn the spotlight on the companies and people who do great work at keeping our Oldsmobiles on the road.

Here's an example: Ron Roth of Lake Orion, Michigan, has been rebuilding dashes for 1966-67 Oldsmobiles for years, and does some of the best work of anyone in the country! He ships several units to foreign countries each year. He has a big heart and loves to help car guys!

Maybe you need to replace an existing exhaust system. Let's say you want it as close to original as possible but have no idea where to turn or who to trust with your prized Olds. I've had a wonderful experience with Gardner Exhaust in Red Hook, New York—great guys, great materials, great work, and reasonable price!

Other MCR members would like to glean from *your* positive experiences! Send us your stories—with photos, if you can do so. Who knows? —it might just make the next issue of **ROCKET FUEL!**



OLDSMOBILE IDENTITY

From the beginning and through the years, the Oldsmobile badges have changed from model to model and time to time. Can you identify the two models and years below? Were these used in any other years or on other models?

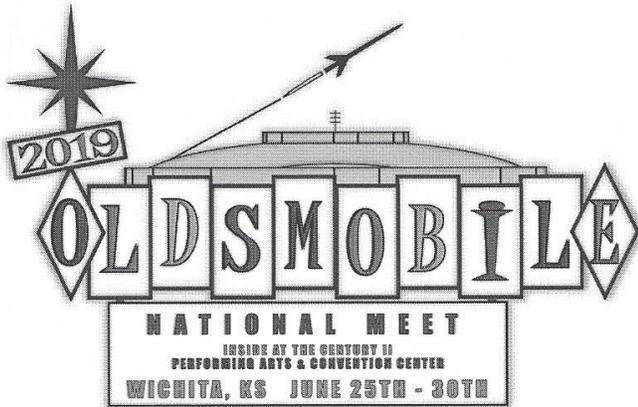


Year: _____ Model: _____



Year: _____ Model: _____





HOSTED BY THE ARCHWAY OLDS CLUB, THE OKLAHOMA OLDS CLUB
& THE OLDSMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

JUDGED & SHOW CARS

Only cars registered by May 18, 2019 will be judged. OCA membership is required to have your car judged. The car/s that are registered are the car/s that will be judged.

Event spaces are limited. First registrants will have priority as venues and events reach capacity.

Move-in for cars at the Century II Center will begin Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 9:00am. Thereafter, cars will be allowed to move in or out for short periods of time on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Cars will be allowed to move out on Saturday, June 29, 2019 at 4:00pm.

We encourage participants not to move their show cars once they are in place inside Century II. We suggest members use Uber, Lyft, Taxi or Trolley services instead.

Fire code requires that all cars have less than a 1/4 tank of gas, their battery cables disconnected while inside the building and a locking/taped fuel cap.

Cars arriving with more fuel than allowed will be turned away and asked to return with appropriate fuel levels. The OCA, Century II and/or any of their employees or volunteers will not assist with fuel removal.

Fire aisles in building should remain clear at all times.

Grease pans and/or tire tiles will be provided.

Rubber band and plastic bag to cover gas cap will be provided.

NO ALCOHOL
NO OUTSIDE FOOD AND/OR DRINKS (There will be food vendors onsite)
NO POP UPS, TENTS, HOLES IN PAVEMENT OR FLOORING
NO BURNOUTS

Judged cars must have the following displayed with their cars:

1. Fire extinguisher
2. Three items of documentation (sales invoice, sales brochure, build sheets etc.)
3. Three OCA spirit items (member cap, member jacket, membership card, shirt, OCA decal, OCA dash plaque, JWO magazines etc.)

Judging will begin at 10:00am on Friday, June 28th. Awards can be picked up for cars that win 1st, 2nd or 3rd place on Saturday, June 29th from Noon to 3:00pm. All other awards will be presented at the Saturday night awards banquet.

For further judging rules and a list of classes, visit www.oldsmobileclub.org and click on the "Judging" tab.

NON-MEMBERS

Non-members signing up for the National Meet must also select one of the membership options provided on the registration form. **To sign up for**

Mailed registrations must be postmarked by **May 18, 2019**.
Online registrations must be made by **May 25, 2019**.
NO EXCEPTIONS.

All registrations will be confirmed by email or US postal mail. Please allow two weeks for registration processing.

the e-membership, you must have internet access and email as your monthly magazine will be delivered to you digitally. If you sign up for the print membership, your monthly magazines will be mailed to you.

ARRIVAL & CHECK - IN

Participants are required to first check-in at the OCA registration desk and pick up their packets, show ID, window cards for their cars, entry maps etc. Vehicle entry will not be allowed prior to check-in.

The OCA registration desk will be located inside the Hyatt Regency. Just follow the signs.

The OCA registration desk will be open at the following times:

Tuesday	Noon to 6:00pm
Wednesday	8:00am to 6:00pm
Thursday	8:00am to 6:00pm
Friday	8:00am to Noon

JUDGING SHEETS

Judging sheets will be returned to all members who request them. To obtain a copy of your judging sheet, visit the OCA registration desk area. When there, fill out an envelope with your name and address, place \$1.00 into the envelope and drop it, unsealed, into the box provided. After the National Meet is over, the OCA Chief Judge will return judging sheets as promptly as possible.

TOURS

Departure and arrival times for all tours will be posted at the OCA registration desk area (inside of the Hyatt Regency) and in the 2019 National Meet Program Book.

AWARD BANQUET SEATING

The Awards Banquet provides open seating. However, if you would like to reserve your seat/s, please visit the OCA registration desk area. There you will find a large seating layout for the meal.

PUBLIC ENTRY

Members of the public will be allowed entry into our show for a fee of \$5.00 per adult. Children 10 and under are free. We ask that all children be accompanied by an adult. The Oldsmobile Club of America encourages you to engage with the public. This is a fantastic opportunity to educate others about our hobby and the Oldsmobile brand. Vehicles will not be roped off or partitioned. Participants are responsible for looking after their own cars.

SWAP MEET

Vendors will begin to arrive on Tuesday, June 25th and will be selling parts and other items until Saturday, June 29th at 3:00pm.

Volunteers are needed to judge, staff the OCA registration desk and area, distribute event merchandise, assist with parking show cars, collecting public entry fees and more. If you would like to volunteer email oldsnats@yahoo.com for more information.

Judging Questions

Event Head Judge
Butch Kassing
(618) 980-2995
bk35olds@madisontelco.com

OCA Chief Judge
Brian McArthur
(414) 708-0497
chiefjudge@oldsmobileclub.org

General Show Questions

Gene Bossaller
(Archway Olds Club President)
(314) 346-2109
grbossaller@sbcglobal.net

Rick Duden
(Oklahoma Olds Club President)
(405) 214-8510
mcofok@juno.com

Registration Questions

(517) 663-1811
oldsnats@yahoo.com

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.OLDSMOBILECLUB.ORG