



OLDSMOBILE ROCKET FUEL

A publication of Motor City Rockets



Permission to use this photo was given by the originator: James Laga, of Kustom Konstruktion Zone. What a beautiful concept!

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The year in review:

I don't really know where to start because this has been such a horrific year for our car hobby. We did start off the year like it was going to be normal by getting together in January, February, and March. But, immediately following our activity in March, it was all downhill from there. Most all of our regular activities were cancelled! We did get to attend the (Didn't Happen wink/wink) Woodward Dream Cruise (WDC) at the very last minute. It was fun getting to catch up with those of you who could attend. We also had a GREAT turn out at the Gathering of Oldsmobile's as part of the Bakers of Milford Sunday cruise-in.

It is my hopes and prayers that our 2021 season returns to normal and we are able to have our "Dust Off", Homecoming, OCA Nationals, WDC, Great Pumpkin... and many more.

MCR News:

We have had numerous new members join the club this year. Unfortunately, due to the fact that most activities have been canceled we have not had an opportunity to meet most of them face to face. We welcome each and every one of you and thank you for joining, and hope to see your smiling faces in 2021.

MCR Board & Support Staff:

As you know 2020 was an election year for MCR and the election results for your 2021 and 2022 officers are

President:	Pat Macaluso
Vice President:	Erick Drake
Treasurer:	Dave Engel
Secretary:	Phil Woodward

We also had a change in some of our support staff.

Rocket Fuel News Letter Editor:	Ted Denning
Membership Director:	Jeff Pregler

A big thank you to Alan Wilcox as Secretary, Steve Apking as Membership Director, and Dale Peterson as Rocket Fuel News Editor. Each of you did an excellent job and we very much appreciate your hard work.

Looking forward to getting together in 2021,
Pat

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

2020-21 MCR Activities

Here I am sitting alone at my computer writing about MCR activities past, present, and future! I cannot say it enough "What a year this has been!" I am hoping and praying that 2021 turns our lives back to what they used to be. For me, that is enjoying my family and friends and attending activities that bring us all together. I will say for the job of activities director for our club it has been a quiet time. I would love to relate to everyone all the great times we had together this year, but our year pretty much ended last March! We did have a great gathering in January going to the auto show/swap meet/shopping in Novi! Of course, lunch was first on the agenda of the day, then came the split up and some of the women headed to Twelve Oaks Mall for shopping fun! I do have to admit I'm not sure how some of the guys ended up at the Bridal Show instead of the car show?!?



February was our annual Valentine Bowling/Lunch/Meeting. As always, this event was very well attended and provided lots of laughs! If you have never attended this event please consider coming the next time it rolls around. Most of us are not regular bowlers so don't expect to see any scores of 200! And of course, you never know what crazy idea I may come up for the next event.



March was our last event for quite a while. We had a great time playing Olds Trivia, this year hosted by Anne and Erick Drake. They had some big shoes to fill but managed it amazingly! I am sure that none of us will forget the twist and turn that Olds Trivia took when Mr. Squirrel made his appearance!

Then came the canceled, canceled, canceled event after event. At the very last minute our Woodward Cruise parking area came available to us! Even though the Cruise was "officially" canceled, it was a great time and a great cruise. Those of us who were able to attend thoroughly enjoyed a very safe and friendly day.

Our last official event of the year was the Gathering of Oldsmobile's at Bakers in September. The weather was great and the attendance was as well! MCR as always gained a few new members that day!

So, as we move on to 2021 and a new year of gathering together to enjoy our club members and our Oldsmobile's, please consider hosting an event or suggesting an event that we can host as a club! Of course, all that we had planned for 2020 that were canceled hopefully will take place in 2021. The annual events such as bowling, trivia, dust off, Dream Cruise, Gathering of Oldsmobile's, Great Pumpkin car show, the fall cruise and of course the Christmas party/membership meeting will hopefully be on the calendar. Our annual meeting in December is the time when I ask the club for their activity requests and also if they want the annual events to continue. Please let me know if you have any thoughts regarding our activities. REMEMBER this is your club and we need every member taking an active roll to make it the BEST CLUB!!!!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you very soon in 2021.

Stay Safe and enjoy the holidays,
Suzi, your Activities Director

OCA NEWS

As you know the OCA Board had to make a decision to postpone the 2020 National Meet in Murfreesboro TN. It is currently scheduled for the first week of August 2021. Mark your calendars and plan on attending if you can. Watch future JWO publications for information on this.

2020 was also an election year for the OCA. There were numerous changes for the Board of Directors positions. (see Journey with Olds, or OCA website) Ken Nicholas and I were both re-elected to our positions as your zone directors.

The OCA is also working hard to attract new members. As part of that we have launched an "E" membership campaign which started in November and will run to the end of 2020. The incentive is a one-time 50% off an "E" membership. You may ask why we went this way with a membership drive. We have 40 thousand OCA Facebook followers and it is our hope that this gets the attention of many of these people to join the OCA.

MCR members - if you are not an OCA member here is your chance to sample it for a year.

R.E. TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM NEWS

A Message from the Director: Greetings and Farewell, I cannot believe it, but this may be my final letter. After nine years of serving as Executive Director and a total of 20 years with the R. E. Olds Museum, I am retiring in November. I can't begin to tell you how gratifying this job has been. I have had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Directors for 11 years, with 4 of those serving as President and Chairman.

The museum has evolved in so many ways. Nine years ago, we didn't own the building or any property. Although our car collection was very good at the time. It was not the pristine collection it has grown to be today.

Over the past 9 years we have purchased the museum building, the surrounding property, a second annex building with an additional 8000 square feet of ground floor storage and an additional 2000 square feet of second floor archive storage. Best of all they are free and clear of any mortgage and are tax exempt. Both buildings are in excellent shape. The annex building has a new roof and the heating system has been routinely maintained. The museum building has a new PVC roof and the entire exterior has been tuck pointed and painted. Most if not all the interior has been painted, new lighting was installed 8 years ago, and new displays been erected. Both buildings will be good for the next 25 years with routine maintenance.

Our collection has not only grown, but the quality of vehicles are second to none. With a value of over a \$1,000,000.

None of this was possible without the strength, dedication and hard work from our volunteers. Without question the best thing about this job has been my relationship with all our loyal volunteers. I consider them all my second family, and it has been this camaraderie that has made this job so rewarding. I look forward to coming to work every day because of the positive relationships I have built.

I am very proud of all my accomplishments over the past 20 years in my service with the museum. I feel as if I have made significant improvements in the buildings, the financial status and the public awareness and history of R.E. Olds in the Lansing area. My hope is that the museum will continue to stay strong for many years to come.

My Wife Suzi and I have built a new home in Sarasota, Florida and this will be our new permanent residence. Lansing and the R. E. Olds museum will always have a special place in my heart. I am always a phone call away if you have any questions or concerns.

All the best and be safe.

Bill

On November 9, 2020, the R. E. Olds Transportation Museum announced at its Annual Membership meeting that it had hired a new Executive Director. Mr. Scott Mrdeza will officially start his duties on January 18th but he has already began working on transitioning into the position. He will continue to do so while waiting for finalization of his retirement from General Motors.

If you are not already a member of the museum please consider doing so to help preserve the history of Oldsmobile.

JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT

My name is Eric Shawl, I have recently become a member of the MCR and this is my story of the restoration of my 1965 Oldsmobile 442.

My 442 has been in our family since day one. My Grandfather purchased this car for my Uncle Jerry when he started college at Cal Poly. This 442 was built in Fremont, CA and basically lived in the South Bay Area its entire life. My Uncle Jerry drove the 442 for about 10 to 15 years until he decided that another car was in his future, as well as many more since then. I remember spending every summer and holiday with my Grandparents and I was always enamored by Jerry's 442 every time he came to see us. I guess you can say that this car had gotten into my blood and has always stayed with me. For some unknown reason Jerry never got rid of the 442 as well as he really never drove the car again either. The 442 was permanently parked in his garage for the last 31 years just to collect dust and age gracefully.

In March of 2019 My Uncle suddenly passed away of a heart attack. Later that year in October I contacted my Aunt and asked her when and if she ever decides to get rid of Jerry's 442 I would be interested in buying it. She got back with me shortly thereafter asking me when I could come pick it up. I immediately said I would be there right after Christmas. She ended up just giving me the car out of her graciousness and I can't thank her enough to this day.

When we arrived at my Aunt's house to get the car you can imagine nothing worked, tires were almost flat and the drive way and street were as steep as a ski slope. The only things that worked were the steering and emergency brake. On a good note the 442 was nearly in perfect physical shape and not one bit of rust. In fact, the exhaust is still original from the exhaust manifold to the mufflers. After contemplating with my son how we were going to get the 442 out of the garage and onto the flat bed trailer we decided to give the 442 a good push (while I was sitting in the driver's seat) and role down the driveway and up the hill so that it was pointing down the street using just the emergency brake. Then we aligned the trailer right in front of the 442 and let her role down and up onto the trailer again using just the emergency brake to stop. I have never been so stressed out trying to load this car up using just momentum and hoping that we wouldn't over shoot the end of the trailer and end up in the back seat of my Dads Escalade or end up down the street in the middle of the golf course. Funny now, but a much different feeling then.

Finally we were on the road again driving to my other Uncles house in the Central San Joaquin Valley about 3 1/2 hours south where the 442 started its transformation. My Uncle has been restoring cars his entire life and with the help of one of his employees they began working immediately on it. I finally received the car on September 24 and have been enjoying it as much as possible before the weather turns for the worst. There are still many small items that need to be addressed and with winter coming this will be a good time to continue on with the restoration.

To see pictures of the restoration, copy and paste this link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/byb16zcoh69qu4z/65%20oldsmobile%20442.pdf?dl=0>

Clay's Hunt

Hi, Its Clay Cook again. This time it is about the hunt for a classic car, not one of my car problems. It started in 2010, I had budgeted, 10,000 for which, I thought I could get a pretty good car! Well I found out fast, that that was a little harder than I thought. I had a 64 Chevelle SS, when I was young, so I thought I would start there. Well, I found out quick, that most Chevilles, were over my budget. I had a good buddy at the time that has had several classic cars. I asked his advice, and he said make sure you get a car that u can find parts for. Which was very good advice. Well, I had several guys, keeping an eye open for me, but nothing was happening. I went to I think, it was Sunrise Classic Cars, in Troy, Mi. I was looking around and so a 71 Cutlass that was a little over my budget. I had never considered owning an Oldsmobile, but I liked the style. I brought my buddy over to take a look at it, and said it wasn't worth what they were asking. So I made an offer, and the owner would not come down on the price, even though the car had been sitting there several months. Well, I didn't realize how lucky I was, that he didn't accept my offer. I was subscribing to, Cruise News, and watching the cars for sale every month. I think it was about March 2011, and there was an 72 Olds Cutlass Supreme, that was new to the magazine, and it looked like a car I would like, and it was in my budget. I made a call, and the guy was going to meet me, at a school parking lot, where he was a teacher. Well, he called back, and the car had been sitting all winter, and said he couldn't bring it, because the battery was dead, and if I was still interested, I could come by his house and look at it. Well, he said he had owned the car for 22 yrs. It was his everyday car for many years, and then he had it restored in 2005. I was really interested then. I went out to look at the car, and as soon as he opened the garage door, I knew I had found my car. Not only was the battery dead but it needed an alternator also. Well I could tell the car was well taken care of. The reason, he was selling it, was parked right next to the Olds. He had decided to go turnkey and bought a new dodge challenger, and his wife was tired of having to park her car outside in the winter. Well, I made him an offer, and told him I would take it, if he replace the battery and alternator. The Olds was in my budget, and the next few days were the longest days of my life, waiting to hear it run and drive it. That was 9 ½ yrs ago, and I've had my share of trouble with it, but looking back, I would do it all over again! See You, Clay Cook

TECHNICAL ARTICLE

Fuel Stabilizers

There have been discussions on fuel stabilizers for a long time and everyone has their own opinion on the subject. Hagerty Insurance recently published an article on this and if you haven't already read it, I would highly suggest to do so, it is very enlightening. Here is the link to the article, just copy and paste it.

https://www.hagerty.com/media/maintenance-and-tech/is-your-fuel-stabilizer-actually-hurting-your-car/?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20_November_4_Newsletter_NewDD

RESOURCES

Mirror Restoration Resource

Member Steve Apking has shared the following information with us. Steve has used Joyce Borrell, Mirror restorations and sales (see attached copy of business card)

Steve has sent her two of his inside rear-view mirrors. They definitely needed glass mirror replacement. They also will clean up / polish the housing if you like, your option. The service is Not Inexpensive. \$90 for a glass/mirror and minor clean up. \$115.00 for glass, new rivets, dent removal and polish/buffing, plus \$12.00 for shipping. She can also clean up the tilt lever.

BUT - if you have a map light, like his does, they DO NOT refurbish these. Steve had to remove the map light before sending it in because it so delicate after 49 years of heat and UV exposure.

They do all kinds of automotive mirrors. Check out their web site. (www.mirrorladypa.com)

She does really nice work, see attached pictures.



Trim Shop Resource

Member Doug Width has recently used Paul's Auto Interiors & Tops in Pontiac to do the interior on a Packard he has just restored and is VERY please with their work. So, if you are looking for interior trim work or top work check them out. (www.paulsautointeriors.com) see business card picture as well.



Staying Organized in Your Shop

With the winter season here, you may be looking for things to do in your shop I bet. Hagerty Insurance recently published an article on this and if you haven't already read it, take the time to open the link below. Who knows you may get some tips that you haven't thought of.

Here is the link to the article, just copy and paste it.

https://www.hagerty.com/media/maintenance-and-tech/5-tips-to-stay-organized-in-the-garage/?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20_October_17_Newsletter_Weekend

Chroming

From: Pat

If you are looking for high quality chrome service, consider using B&L Plating Inc. I recently sold my 1950 Chevrolet Deluxe Convertible to a friend in CO, but the restoration is being done here locally. The chrome on the car was in horrible condition as you can see in the picture below. I did some research and found out that MCR member Doug Width, who, as you all know, does only concours quality restorations on his cars, uses B&L. As we looked into it more, we learned that Jack Tokie also uses them, and you know how his cars look as well. We picked up the chrome this Thursday and all I can say is WOW! What outstanding work (see second picture).

Before picture of the front bumper and after picture of part of the bumper.



FOR SALE

(car related items only-let Ted know if you sell an item,
otherwise it will only be removed after 2 newsletters)

- (1). 2 used front bucket seat “bottom springs;. Will need 1 minor side spring link repair. Decent if yours are really bad. New bottom springs go for around \$100 each. Selling this pair for \$30.00.
 - (2) Used rear seat upper and lower for a 70-72 Cutlass “non-convertible”. Currently covered. Springs need some clean up before refurbishing? Selling set for \$30.00.
 - (3) Twp “G” body Cutlass coupe (1981-1988) gas tanks, minus sending units and gas caps. \$25.00 each. Not show pieces but good sound tanks. Definitely clean inside.
- Contact: Steve Apking 248-684-6124

- (1). Headers by hooker?

Never fired through, on car 2 times, but they hang to far below the frame of my car. They come with collectors and are already heat wrapped. \$100.00.

Contact: Ted Denning, 775-745-1953

- (1) . 65 Olds 442 frame with front suspension & firewall. \$650.00
 - (2). 65 Olds rolling chassis parts car (no title/vin#). All sheet metal. All 6 pieces of glass.
 - (3). 68 Olds 442 rolling chassis, all glass. Solid frame and floor pans, dash, steering(roof was cut at some point, needs interior repair. Posi rear end, rally wheels. \$2000.00 .
- Contact: Bill Wagner 313-515-4029

MCR SERVICE TEAM

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