



ROCKET RUMBLINGS

Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

Vol 22 - #1,2 & 3 Spring 2017

WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz



OK, here we go once again! Just a little clarification for those of you who don't know, this is not about war or military action. But it *IS* my third time at trying to put the newsletter together!

Hopefully, this time will be the charm as they say. I'll try to gather photos and information I hope you all find interesting as well as try to keep everyone informed on what's happening in the world of Oldsmobiles.

So as you sit and read this, if you ever sat back reading the newsletter and thought, "Hey, I wish we had more features on (enter your thoughts here) in the newsletter!" Shoot me an email and let me know what your thoughts are and maybe we will have it here.

I will be the first to admit that many times I simply don't have anything interesting that I feel is worth writing



WE WANT YOUR IDEAS!

about. So this time I'd like to take a little different approach to the newsletter. I'd like to **Publish** it, not write the whole thing. That means, like Uncle Sam, I will be soliciting input from YOU!

Although there are those that may disagree, I am actually very open to ideas and suggestions. Anyone have an idea for a column? Let me know, we'd love to have members contribute a column to the newsletter!

I am going to try getting this out quarterly, possibly adding additional ones in the busy seasons.

So, what would YOU like to see in YOUR newsletter? #

Elections for 2017 Officers

I think a few people thought we forgot about elections this year, but we've only just pushed them back a bit. Most of our officers are up for another term but please don't let that stop you from tossing your hat in the ring. New blood and fresh ideas are ALWAYS helpful! Just to give you an idea of the positions and responsibilities, I have put together a short summary of the various officers and their positions and responsibilities below.

President

Charged with providing leadership and direction to the Club, the President is responsible for ensuring that the officers fulfil their responsibilities for the governance and success of the club. He/she also works to optimize the relationship between the our club, the national club and membership to achieve the club's agreed goals. The

(Continued on page 5)

Dates to Remember

- Mar 4** - NEOC Mtg - Saturday 1 PM
Margarita's - East Hartford, CT
- April** - NEOC Mtg - Stay tuned for date and location as we move from Saturdays back to Thursday Evenings again.
- May 4** - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM
Margarita's - East Hartford, CT

- May 21** - GMO Spring Dustoff (9AM - 3PM)
Kimball Farms,
Lancaster, MA
- June 1** - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM
Margarita's - East Hartford, CT
- July 6** - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM
Margarita's - East Hartford, CT



NEOC Meeting Notes

Meeting Minutes – January 2017

Because the holiday season was just NOT long enough, we've held our last few holiday parties in January when the rest of the world is already trying to lose that extra few holiday pounds. Because of this, we forgo the pomp and circumstance of a formal meeting for the camaraderie of good food and drink with fellow gearheads and their families. Thus, no meeting minutes from January.

Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2017

Yep, we actually accomplished something in February! After getting a round of drinks (er, refreshments) on order, we started the meeting.

Meeting held at Margarita's restaurant, at 1:00 on Saturday, 02/11. Seven members attended. Attendance low probably because many were home day dreaming of driving their Olds' again.....someday. Business end of the meeting started at 1:15.

- Treasurer Bill Black gave the financial report noting that he needed to sell something now that the 2010 cookbooks were depleted. With Bill's always comprehensive report, the checkbook balance is \$4,458.52.
- Membership Coordinator Glen Morris reported a membership at #75 after numerous reminders to renew. The roster cut will be forthcoming to reflect paid members for 2017.
- Don Mucci reported that May 5 is the date for the Long Island and NYC Olds dust off, May 20 is the date for the Hudson Hurst Olds and Oldsmobile show, May 21 is the date for the GMO dust off, and June 21 is the date for the NAO national. Oldsmobile night at Mark's is set for July 10 with a July 17 rain date.
- Prez Jeff has been doing some serious leg work concerning our annual car show. He started the discussion about availability of the Southington Drive in for our show. It has a pavilion with rest rooms and electricity for rental use and more importantly, parking for up to 400 cars. The rental fee is \$150. A lot of discussion ensued and the consensus was that this was a great option for us. Jeff has a verbal reservation for 09/17 and rain date of 09/24. There will be more discussion and observations for the new show venue at the next meeting. Jeff will follow up.
- There was additional discussion about streamlining our registration and paperwork process. One suggestion was to hand out registration paperwork when participants arrived and tell them to return it to the registration desk in order to get their dash plaque and any other offerings. More to come...
- Participant judging vs. our current judging format was discussed. Consensus was that our current procedure should continue. BUT, we are looking for a new head judge to help



with this. Jim Schmitz has gracefully stepped aside in order to edit our newsletter once again. Thanks Jim!

- Jeff discussed possibly using Vista Print for future club clothing and supply support. This decision was tabled when we decided to reach out to the membership for suggestions. Anyone have any contacts or thoughts?
- Jim Schmitz questioned the two year election term. Frank Tupka has asked to step aside as V.P. and Jim expressed an interest. Stay tuned.
- Meeting ended around 2:15 when the Mexican heart burn finally set in.
Next meeting date to be announced. #

Respectfully submitted,
Glen

January - What to do?

Alright, Christmas is past and we all wonder if all of the Holiday parties have conspired against our waist to make our favorite jeans just a bit too tight. The weather is kinda chilly and projects put on hold can wait until the garage is just a bit warmer. So, what to do?

How about checking out some of the cars that are heading through the different auctions in Arizona? Rather than set the DVR to record all of the action, I decided that it might be just a bit more fun to experience it first hand. With a job just a state or two away, I figured I could tack this right onto the trip and spend a few days checking out all the cool (albeit expensive) cars heading across the block.

After a quick trip to the bank for a letter of credit and a blank check made out to the auction house I was off. By the way, do NOT tell your friends you are getting the letter of credit if you have not told your wife. Trust me on this.

So, who wouldn't want to head to sunny Scottsdale from Connecticut in January? I packed my shorts and short sleeve shirts, sunscreen, even brought a baseball cap, cause the last time I went to Arizona I ended up buying one to keep the sun off my nose.



"Sunny" Arizona?!

Never did I dream I would need none of that. Jeans, long sleeve shirt, jacket and umbrellas defined the fashions during auction week this year. The weather WAS warmer than Connecticut, by maybe 5 or 6° F. Oh yeah, it rained all but 1 day I was there!

(Continued on page 3)

January Auction fun 2017—Cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

Once there, my Dad and I made plans to check out two of the auctions, Barrett-Jackson and Russo & Steele. If you have all week, you MIGHT be able to hit all the auctions and see all the cars, but I would highly recommend good shoes or renting one of those little scooters! That is a LOT of ground to cover!

Barrett-Jackson in Scottsdale is like a 3 ring circus. There is stuff happening all over the place. You walk into the main tent and think that you're going to see all the cars. Not likely, there were thousands more outside along with manufacturers booths and other vendors outside on the way to more tents with more cars. It is not an auction, it is an event. If you couldn't find something there, well, you just won't find it. If you get an opportunity to go, take it. It really is both interesting as well as fun.



What color and year would you like your 442? Auto or 4 speed? Convertible or hardtop?



(Continued on page 4)

We were also planning on hitting the Russo & Steele auction as a 1970 W31 my Dad bought new was crossing the block and we wanted to see what it went for. The car has had a superb restoration and the price being asked was easily in the upper echelon for these hot small block cars.



We started with Barrett-Jackson on Wednesday and thought we'd walk through and see the cars in the main tent. Well, easier said than done! There is a LOT to see in just the main tent. Then you go out to the other half dozen tents full of cars and the vendors, the driving experience, etc. I do have to admit that it is MUCH easier to see the cars in the outdoor tents. Much of the indoor area is not very well lit. If I was in the market to buy a car, I'd make damn sure I had a good LED light to bring with me. One thing that B-J does a good job with is keeping you informed as you walk around. There are speakers and video monitors all over, including semi-sized ones outside.



Got any Fuzzy Dice to hang in a Convertible from the 1950's?



How about having THIS flatscreen for Super-Bowl? Just requires a semi tractor to move and some electricity to run!



January Auction fun 2017—Cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

down and fingerprint removal. With the rain and resulting mud, those guys earned their pay that week!

As my Dad said after the second day of perusing the auction vehicles, you see more cars in one place that you've never seen before!

Here are a few of the Oldsmobile's

A nice 1972 H/O is sold at B-J. The Tito's purpose is twofold. It can both help you buy a car as well as help you live with the decision after!



Anyone familiar with the Soprano's knows James Gandolfini (Tony Soprano). But did you know he liked Oldsmobiles? Here is his 442 convertible with um, "custom" touches.



Hard to differentiate where the tents end and the clouds begin. What the hell happened to sunny Arizona? Yes, those people are actually wearing jackets!



Stefano Bimbi's 1970 442 W30 was a survivor until it was restored into a top notch example of the breed. While not perfect, it was damn close. This car sold for \$150K (plus fees)



Be wary of cars with limited documentation. This 1970 442 purported to be a W30 with "red plastic front wheel wells" and "Original Numbers Matching"

However, upon inspection, the car was a legit 442 but had black wheel wells painted red, Incorrect "E" heads modified to look like an "F", incorrect fenders, decklid and SSII's amongst a list of other obvious issues. Someone got a driver with nice paint for \$35,000 (\$32K plus buyers fees of about 10%)

and other cars that fit into the "interesting" category!

If you're not prepared to spend money, leave it at home! If you looked, you could spot a few bargains. Cars that were close but not quite there. The big money guys don't want cars with obvious imperfections, but there wear a few there that sold for a reasonable amount and most of the shortcomings were relatively easy fixes.

Barrett-Jackson was virtually all "No Reserve" cars, out of the 1,700 offered for sale only about 20 had a reserve. Russo & Steele on the other hand was only about 30-40% "No Reserve" the rest all had a safety net.

It was interesting to check out the cars and in many cases chat with the owners. It is easy to see who really wants to sell a car just by chatting with them. We are able to watch

January Auction fun 2017 - Cont'd



You never know what you will find! This "car" started life as a Ford Torino.




Headed to the beach? How about a Fiat Jolly? Or an Amphicar? Both were available!



Dad checks out the car he ordered new almost 47 years ago.



Waiting to cross the block at Russo & Steele.

quite a few of the cars cross the block, as well, including the '70 W31 that was my Dad's. The one I learned to drive a stick on (that poor clutch). It was a no sale, but based on the amount bid and the lack of buyers and sellers premiums, I sure it will be sold by the time you read this! Good thing is, Dad is already making plans for next year, Who am I to say no? 

Elections - Cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

President is generally the spokesperson for the club and should work to maintain key relationships within the local, national clubs as well as outside of the club. They normally put together meeting agendas and keep us on track at the meetings. If we were all younger, we wouldn't really need an agenda because our memories would be good enough to remember this stuff. The President takes credit for club successes and when things run smoothly.

Vice President

The Vice President is responsible for assisting the President to fulfill his/her responsibilities for the governance and success of the club. This may mean chairing meetings when the President is unavailable, this includes short notice (a phone call on the way to the meeting) when the President gets a flat tire, has other car or woman trouble or is simply too hung over to diplomatically run the meeting. The Vice President role is commonly regarded as preparation for the next President. At times the Vice President will need to work with the President to help him/her understand concerns and alternative points of view within the club. The Vice President gets credit for all failed ventures in the club and any other flak the President does not want to deal with or be blamed for.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the financial supervision of the club to allow the officers to provide good governance of the club. The Treasurer is the chief financial management officer whose tasks include the preparation of annual budgets, planning for the organizations financial future and monitoring the organizations revenue and expenditure. It is desirable that the treasurer is well organized and possesses a level of financial expertise. Treasurers may not utilize more than 35% of club finances for their own purposes unless extremely skilled at deceptive accounting practices.

Secretary/Membership

The club Secretary/Membership Coordinator is responsible for the documentation and communication between the club and its members. The Membership/Secretary is the primary administration officer of the Committee and provides the links between the officers, members and prospective members. This person should be a good communicator, maintain confidentiality on relevant matters and have the ability to delegate tasks and supervise others. Amongst the Secretary's tasks are to respond to membership requests, extract dues from members (willingly or not), disseminate correspondence to and from the club etc. Sometimes clubs find it better to split

(Continued on page 6)

Elections Cont'd

(Continued from page 5)

the administrative roles so the Secretary/Membership coordinator is fully empowered to hire Cousin "I know a guy" Guido, to assist in recovery of past dues.

Head Judge


In addition, we are also looking for a Head Judge for this year's annual car show. The Head Judge will preside over the judges meeting at the car show and assist in breaking ties among the judged cars. If he is a good delegator, the Head Judge should not have to actually judge ant cars but can walk around and chat with the show car owners and mooch free beer. While not an official officer of the club, this can be a very rewarding position. You can award your friends all of the big trophies at the show. The biggest trophy obviously to the

friend that greases your palms best. The last head judge had to step down as he had too many friends and not enough trophies.

Now that you have a better idea of the positions and responsibilities, feel free to email any of the current officers or drop in at the meeting on Thursday to put your name in the hat for a position on the board. Or, you can also enter the name of a good friend that has recently wronged you.

Current Officers;

President & Chief Bottle Washer – Jeff Walsh
Vice President – Frank Tupka (stepping down)
Treasurer – Bill "Another new car" Black
Membership – Glen "Got your Dues?" Morris

Others brave enough to toss their hat in the ring;
Jim Schmitz for VP
and maybe *you??* 

Directions To The Next Meeting

The **March meeting** will be on **SATURDAY March 4th**, at 1 PM
At Margarita's Restaurant, 350 Roberts St. East Hartford CT

From Manchester CT and points East:

Follow I-84 West to Exit 58 Roberts St. At the end of the ramp turn right. The restaurant will be on your left.

From Hartford and points West:

Follow I-84 East to exit 58. At the end of the ramp, turn left and go over the overpass. Restaurant will be on your left.

From the north:


Take I-91 South toward Hartford. Take exit for I-84 East (exit will be on the left). Follow I-84 East to exit 58. At the end of the ramp, turn left and go over the overpass. Restaurant will be on your left.

From the South:

Take I-91 North toward Hartford. Take exit for I-84 East. Follow I-84 East to exit 58. At the end of the ramp, turn left and go over the overpass. Restaurant will be on your left.

Again, Already?!

A short note from Cousin Guido

Although it may seem like you just paid them (and many of you did), this could be your first and last newsletter of 2017 if you haven't sent in your dues yet. If you somehow missed the emails and notices, you need to be thinking about writing that \$20 check (but of course cash is accepted). 

Rocket Advertising

If any members have or work for a business that would like to advertise in the newsletter, please feel free to give me a call or an email. Many member here WANT to take their pride and joy to someone who understands the investment and pride that we have in these vehicles. Jim 860-485-8788

Rocket Classifieds

Club members are entitled to one free ad per issue. There is no charge for members. Insert a photograph for better results. Please submit ads by the 15th of the month. Email submissions are preferred, but snail mail is fine. If you need photos scanned and returned, please include a SASE.

To submit a classified ad:

Email: Jim70442w30@aol.com

Snail mail: Jim Schmitz 860-485-8788
24 Pioneer Dr.
New Hartford, CT 06057

New England Oldsmobile Club

Business Address:

77 West Dayton Hill Rd.
Wallingford, CT 06492-5324
Email: gmorris01@aol.com

Membership Information:

77 West Dayton Hill Rd.
Wallingford, CT 06492-5324
Email: gmorris01@aol.com

Newsletter Publication:

24 Pioneer Dr.
New Hartford, CT 06057
860-379-5221
Jim70442w30@aol.com

Executive Board:

President - Jeff Walsh
Vice President - Open
Treasurer - Bill Black
Secretary—Glen Morris
Membership Coordinator - Glen Morris
Activities Coordinator - Don Mucci



To:

Place
Stamp
here



From:
New England Oldsmobile Club
24 Pioneer Dr.
New Hartford, CT 06057