



ROCKET RUMBLINGS

Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

Vol 23 - #1 Winter 2018

WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz

Hmm, ~~February~~ March and finally a newsletter? Well this year is starting out a lot better than last!

Yeah, its been a while and I apologize. The newsletter kind of became one of those stalled restorations in the garage, buried under blankets and that existence we call life. I hope to be much more diligent this year with getting it out I a more timely manner, but with everything I have going on, I'm not making any promises!

If anyone out there reading this is has that little voice going off in the back of their head saying "geez, what's with this guy, I can do much better," please let me know! I am **ALWAYS** looking for information and articles to publish in the newsletter. Have you just finished that latest project and though "wow, that was easier than I thought?" or "geez, I wish I knew that it would take half the time if I just did things in a different order?" Why not share some of that knowledge with your fellow Oldsmobile enthusiasts?

Perhaps you find it relaxing to disassemble and restore tilt steering columns as you watch Street Outlaws race down the 1/8 mile? Why not let everyone know?

Articles in the newsletter can be simple to complex and don't worry about length, I can always split it in half, or simply make the newsletter a page or two longer that month.

Glenn Johnson just finished a steering upgrade to a quicker steering box without going broke and has decided to share some his insights and tips along with a few photos this month. This is what the others like to

read about. If you want to read about \$100,000 restorations, you can pick up a variety of magazines to do just that. The rest of us that like to drive our cars and work on them ourselves, enjoy hearing bout how you accomplished something on yours. You may even inspire someone else to tackle something they were considering farming out.

Anyone got a restoration project going on? Anyone NOT got one going on? Why not share it with us.

For those of you reading this on papyrus, keep in mind that with technology and the electronic age, it is primarily formatted for digital consumption which may explain why the printed photos don't look as good as the electronic versions.

The weather is starting to get a bit warmer, hopefully everyone has a nice heater in the garage (or got one for Christmas) so you can get out there and make those improvements that always seem to be a last minute thing right before the first car show or the Nationals!



Adding stripes to a '71 OAI Hood

Until next time (yeah, don't worry, I didn't say when that was going to be) keep warm and finish those winter projects. Perhaps you might want to upgrade your steering box, or trans, Maybe add a factory accessory like upgrading to gauges from the standard idiot gauge dash or perhaps you are dreaming of the deep throaty sound of a nice dual exhaust system, or add a ram air hood, or?! #

Dates to Remember



April 5 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM

Margarita's - East Hartford, CT

May 3 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM

Margarita's - East Hartford, CT

May 4 - Drag Day - Friday 10 AM

Lebanon Valley - West Lebanon, NY

May 20 - GMO Spring Dustoff (9AM - 3PM)

Kimball Farms, Lancaster, MA

June 7 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM

Margarita's - East Hartford, CT

NEOC Meeting Notes

Well the meetings have been happening at Margarita's on Thursday evening at 7 pm. Feel free to stop by and offer your input to the club happenings.

The checkbook has remained relatively stable. Bill has diligently been producing his treasurer's report. At last count after the holiday party expenses, we are on par with last year and have \$4,914.25 in the club coffers.

Membership renewals are coming in and at the last meeting Glen reported 66 members have renewed and he was sending notices to the others.

We have booked the Southington Drive-In again for the 17th of September with a rain date of the 24th. Jeff was planning on dropping off the deposit check in the next couple of weeks.

Now that we have the venue decided, we are looking into getting the show put up on the marquee sign off of the Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike (Rt322).

We should have the flier for the show in the next month or so. Last year this venue proved to be well liked and we expect too have a few more cars with year with the great weather forecast.

This year the Oldsmobile Club of America National meet in is Gettysburg, PA. As part of the preparations getting ready for the show. Chapters in the region have been holding monthly conference calls to help insure that things run smoothly and that everyone in the region is kept abreast of what is going on. This also gives the chapters involved a bit of additional information into the national club as OCA President Jerry Wilson is often on the call as well.

Our own beloved NEOC President Jeff Walsh is running for Northeast Zone Director. Make sure you vote when you get the ballot in your JWO! #

The Southwest is a great place to find rust free project cars!



Club Direction

So, we are starting a new year with new ambitions, new hopes and new dreams. What did you think of the club last year (except for the obvious lack of a newsletter)? Keep in mind that we elect officers to help run the club and implement ideas to fulfill the desires of the membership. This is not a club for the officers, this is a club for you, the members. Although sometimes when the same people show up at the meetings, it may seem like it. Would you like to head to the drag strip to see what your car can run? This was a popular event some years back and believe it or not, most guys drove their cars to and from the track. Sure there was the occasional incident where parts broke, but nothing catastrophic. And you usually have some of the best Oldsmobile minds there to help you. Or, if nothing else, offer your wounded car a safe trip home on a trailer.

Perhaps you go to a little (or not so little) car show near you that you enjoy and you think others might also. Why not mention it and see if you can get another Oldsmobile there to help spread the word? Speaking of spreading the word, how many of you have NEOC business cards in your glove box to slip under the windshield wiper of an Olds that does not loom familiar to you. We are often hearing from people that have had Oldsmobiles for years and have never heard of the NEOC or OCA!

What about a cruise? No, not a boat ride, but exercising that classic on the great scenic roads of New England. Anyone up for a Thursday afternoon/evening ride to the Hemming's facility in Vermont for their weekly cruise-in?

How about having 5 or 6 (or more) classic Oldsmobiles show up at one of the quaint wineries or breweries in CT or MA? Or a popular burger joint?

Anyone into drive-ins? There is one a few miles from our house (not that Judee needs a reason to plan a party), and we even hold our car show in one, and I am sure there are more. It's a blast from the past that most of our classics have been to in their prior daily driver routines.

Oh, and YES, I really DID start this in February!



2017 - A Look Back—Albuquerque Nationals

As we sit in our recliner's in front of the television, how about a brief look back at some Oldsmobile fun in 2017.

Olds Nationals in Albuquerque, NM

Despite being one of the farthest geographically from the host hotel in Albuquerque, NEOC was one of the better represented clubs in attendance. Although the distance exceeded what would normally be considered "driveable", the airlines and rental car agencies made money off of us New Englanders in July. The weather was pretty nice and we tried to



How's this for a sporty little 2 door?



What color and year would you like your Cutlass? Convertible or hardtop? Love seeing the early Cutlass and F85's.

Some people at the Nationals take vehicle security seriously!

This enterprising individual booted his own car. Well we THINK he booted it himself..



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When was the last time you saw a '73 442? How about a 'GMO', oh wait that's a 'California' Cutlass!



Old and newer, side by side. Do you think the designers of the early Olds ever dreamed about designing a minivan?

Not sure who owned this bright red hot rod, but with the open trunk lid I'm thinking his name might just be Earl.



Quite a few cars arrived in luxury for the show this year!



It's always nice when you get to see real unmolested 'survivor' musclecars like this green Cutlass W-31. That's how we can all restore our rides to factory appearance, by looking at the original cars. It's true, they really are only original once.



2017 - A Look Back—Albuquerque Nationals (cont'd)



Pick your favorite from the Fabulous Fifties! These cars look so damn cool with some tasteful modifications and modern conveniences. Have you younger readers ever ridden on the 'living room sofa like' front bench seat? Or laid down across the back seat to take a nap? (Yes, a nap... keep it clean here!)



The seventies are here! Even with those energy absorbing bumpers, a nice 98 or 88 was still a good looking car. Drop the top and get the wind in your hair



How about a personal luxury car from the early 60's? These could be had all the luxury appointments of the day along with power for freeway cruising or to just run with the best of them!



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make the most of it. The tours ranged from shopping to nuclear energy.

Even though this was one of the smaller nationals that I've been to, there was still a lot of interesting cars in the show.

Route 66—A number of club members left the relatively desolate area (as far as restaurants were concerned) where the host hotel was located and headed to downtown Albuquerque for dinner. We ended up at a nice brew pub which is in an art deco style building that was originally home to a car dealer (albeit a Ford dealership), located right on historic Route 66. now think about the last time you were at a car dealer. Can you see THAT building converted to a brew pub?



There was quite a lot of things to do in the Albuquerque area including some local wineries with a lot of charm. Perfect for a nice afternoon glass of wine or a more formal event. We also made it to the

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Lookin' Back at 2017 - Cont'd

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Scania Tram where we were treated to spectacular views of the landscape (as well as a closeup of a thunderstorm). A slight detour while we were at the top would have been easier to handle had they not been in the process of rebuilding the restaurant/lounge at the top. Guess they don't want you riding in a cable car with lightening in the area (no guts, no glory)!

We were also able to visit the Al Unser



Mike and Mary with Al in front of his 1970 442 Pace Car

Museum. It was a blast to chat with Al himself and take some photos in front of his 1970 442 Indy Pace car (his is the real deal). One of the two that were prepped for actual pace car duty. It was nice to see one that wasn't restored, it had a few battle scars from street duty but was still in remarkable condition. In the trophy room there were quite a few trophies from the Unser legacy. Seems the Unsers like to keep the trophies they won, whether they were in the form of a traditional trophy or the 4 wheeled variety. The race cars, motorcycles and trucks on display along with their stories, made for an informative visit. Even the remnants of the old garage were interesting. If you get to Albuquerque check out the museum, you won't be sorry.

Oldsmobile Club Picnic – Once again Jeff hosted the club in his backyard and I think is the second time ever we went without an Oldsmobile. The other time was when Jim was playing football and we couldn't fit the coolers of after game beverages in the W30. Just to clarify that, the beverages were for the football team, not the adults, there was not an alcoholic one amongst them (what a waste of cooler space)!

This year my planning simply failed. As I got tired of driving the blue convertible with the standard hood, so I figured I'd slap a ram air one on, rub some sandpaper over it, spray some blue paint and we'd be good. No such luck, in my haste I produced a small run that required me to wait and re-sand the sealer before I sprayed the color. As a result, the paint was still soft enough to leave finger prints if we tried to put it on the car. Oh well, at least the Avalanche has A/C!

Even without mine, there were quite a few Oldsmobile present. From the more common Cutlass and 442 variants to the less common full size and even an Omega! Without Richter, Jeff's lawn was spared a posi haircut and we even picked up before we left!

Jeff manned the grill and there was a selection of side dishes and desserts to choose from. This year, why not try to make the picnic, it is a lot of fun, even the wives enjoy it (at least I THINK so, lol). A dish to pass is all you need! Well, if you prefer to drink something other than soda, a cooler with your favorite beverage is highly recommended!

NEOC's Annual All Olds Show - We had a new venue for our show this year. It worked out quite nicely with plenty of parking and a nice pavilion with bathrooms and best of all, shade from the weather!

How many of us still remember riding in the back of one of these?



Interesting collection of full size sitting in front of the pavilion.



Oldsmobile Front Drivers



There were plenty of '69's in attendance.



Everyone was a winner at this show!

Although it started out a bit dreary, the sun did shine and it brought the temperature up to convertible standards quite quickly! #



The modified class had a nice range of cars from some nicely subtle and classy to a bit more, well... I guess I'd say a bit more outrageous!



Even had magazine feature cars showing up this year! It's always nice to meet the owners and hear their stories!



Hmmmm...

What's this?
Moe, Curly and Larry
running the show?

Drag Day 2018

Once again Carl "DragMaster" Dudash has secured Lebanon Valley Dragway in West Lebanon, NY on Friday May 5th from 10-3 for those among us looking to exercise out cars, or hold a grudge race against your buddy with the GTO!

Cost is only \$70 pre-registered. Get all the graphic details here: <http://www.dragway.com/online-store/Track-Rental-Friday-May-4-spons-by-Dudash-p81626031>

Directions To The Next Meeting

The **April meeting** will be on **THURSDAY April 5th**, at 7 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 members 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
24 Pioneer Dr.
New Hartford, CT 06057

860-485-8788

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To:

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here



From:
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24 Pioneer Dr.
New Hartford, CT 06057