

ROCKET RUMBLINGS



VOLUME II, ISSUE I
FEBRUARY 2015



OCA 2014 Nationals, Cincinnati, OH—Is that green grass in the background?

NEOC Officers and Coordinators:

President - Jeff Walsh (jiffy852000@yahoo.com)

Vice President - Frank Tupka (drolds88@yahoo.com)

Treasurer - Bill Black (dragonflyfarm@att.net)

Secretary & Membership Coordinator - Glen Morris
(gmmorris01@aol.com)

Events Coordinator - Don Mucci (damucci@sbcglobal.net)

Car Show Coordinator - Mike Barillaro (mikbl@att.net)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY !!

Have you heard the news?? The NEOC is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year!!! Who would have thought that back in April of 1995, when the first official meeting took place, that the NEOC would have grown to over 70 members and remained in existence for 20 years. In honor of this milestone, we are working on putting together some items for future newsletters this year that look back on some of the memories from the past 20 years. To kick things off, see page 9 of this newsletter for a one of my memorable moments from back in May of 2013 during a caravan to the Eastern Massachusetts GMO Dust Off.

To kick off our 20th anniversary, I would like to recognize the founding members who are still active members of the NEOC: Glen Morris, Dave Richter, Glenn Johnson, John Lenihan, James Taylor, and Jean Roy. Thank you for all you have done for the NEOC!!!

ROCKET RUMBLINGS**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I don't know about you, but I am pretty much done with the snow and the cold weather that we have received in the past 8 weeks. Although I am a native New Englander, and don't mind a good snow storm once in a while, this winter is really testing me along with just about everyone else. I keep hoping that I will wake up one morning and find out this has just been a bad dream.

It is kind of depressing as I look outside and see how high the snow is in my yard, along with barely being able to see my car trailer in the back yard. If I walk into my garage, I see my '85 Olds and '73 VW sitting under their respective car covers, and I start to wonder if all of the snow will ever melt and the roads will be free of the salt residue, so I can be able to get them on the road by early May for a few shows that I am hoping to attend.

So that being said what can a car enthusiast do to pass the time during this cold and snowy winter? Some of us pass the time by watching too many marathons on the Velocity Channel, others spend the time to use the internet to look for needed parts for their cars, some of us brave the cold temperatures in their garages (like me), to start working on "to do" list items on their cars, while others are counting down the days until the 2015 NASCAR season starts (like me also).

Some of the NEOC officers are using the time to tackle some unusual projects. Our Vice President, Frank Tupka, is busy harassing, err I mean, contacting people in North Carolina to get more background history on his '64 Pontiac Catalina and hopefully tracking down the "genius" who thought it would be a good idea to weld together broken pieces of the rocker arm valve assembly on the Catalina that he purchased 2 years ago, which resulted in Frank spending a lot of money on repairs and missing most of the 2014 show season. Our Secretary,

Glen Morris, came out of retirement to help fellow NEOC member Larry Gagain, design and install the required gun rack for his '68 442 now that he is a member of the Low Country Muscle Car Club in South Carolina (more on this project in the Meeting Minutes section of this newsletter). I heard the biggest design issue was creating one that did not take away too much back seat space so passengers could still sit in the back seat, while the gun rack remains visible through the rear window. (Low Country Muscle Car Club requirement).

Meanwhile, the NEOC is keeping busy this winter. As noted on the front page of this newsletter, the NEOC is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. We are hoping to gather some interesting club stories over the past 20 years along with getting some background information on our still active founding members in coming newsletters this year. See page 9 of this newsletter for one of my memorable club moments from back in 2013. If anyone has a memorable club moment from the past 20 years and wants to share it in an upcoming newsletter, please feel free to send me an e-mail.

No matter what you do to pass the time this winter, aside from shoveling snow, clearing the roof of your house of significant snow, hammering and chiseling the ice dams off your gutters and roof (also something that I have spent too much time doing in the past few weeks), and taking Advil for the sore muscles due to these activities, hopefully you are anxiously counting down the days until you are able to take your Olds to its first car show of the season. See the next page for several shows and events that are opening up the season in early May (assuming all of this snow melts and we get out of this cold spell). However with all of the snow we have received recently, it may be June or July by the time everything has melted and is dry enough for us to get our cars on the road. I hope not, as I don't think I could last that long.....

Jeff Walsh

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

We have acquired a number of Oldsmobile books that we can offer to the membership at a greatly discounted rate. These are both authored by Olds historians Helen Earley and Jim Walkinshaw and are very collectable. **Only a few copies remain!** What better way to pass the time this long and extremely cold winter than learning more about the history of Oldsmobiles.

- *Setting the Pace*, the large book covering all Oldsmobiles up through 1996 is signed by the authors and offered to our membership for \$20. (It normally sells for \$40.)
- *Oldsmobile, a War Years Pictorial*, is a 210 page book explaining how Oldsmobile was involved in the war effort manufacturing aircraft cannons, shells and the Liberty Aircraft Engine. We offer this to the membership for \$10. (It normally sells for \$29.)

Contact Glen Morris gmorris01@aol.com or 203-269-4365 and leave a message.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here is a summary of upcoming events:

- Saturday March 7, 2015, 1 PM, NEOC monthly meeting, Margarita's Restaurant, 350 Roberts Street, East Hartford, CT

Assuming all of the snow melts and the roads are clean of salt, the following events in the region will be taking place:

- Saturday May 2, 2015, Cardone & Daughter Automotive (the "official" repair shop of Vice President Frank Tupka) 2015 Open Shop Premiere, 177 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, CT
- Sunday May 3, 2015, Rhinebeck Car Show, Rhinebeck, NY
- Sunday May 24, 2015, Quinnipiac University Car Show, Hamden, CT
- Sunday May 31, 2015, Eastern Massachusetts GMO Dust-off Car Show, Kimball Farms, Lancaster, MA
- Sunday June 7, 2015, Little Rhody All GM Show, Rhode Island (show location TBD)
- Saturday June 20, 2015, Klingberg Car Show, New Britain, CT (cars must be 1972 and older)
- **Sunday September 20, 2015, NEOC All Oldsmobile Car Show, Days Inn, Berlin, CT**

For a full list of shows throughout Connecticut, see the Connecticut Seaport Car Club website www.ctseaportcarclub.com/carshows.htm

ROCKET RUMBLINGS

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, another great NEOC holiday party is in the books! There are a lot of thanks to go around to all of our NEOC friends who made this possible. Thank you to John Welsh who went above and beyond (again) to secure a location and bring a small army of people to the party. There is also Glen Morris and Bill Black who collected and paid our fees (while Glen also continued to remind our members that January 1st means renewal time is upon us), our youth raffle volunteers who always help with the world famous NEOC raffle, and our fearless leader Jeff Walsh who reminded all of us to save the date. Most importantly thank you to all of the members who came out and took advantage of one of the assets provided by YOUR club. Without your attendance, support, and raffle prizes this event would not be a success. On behalf of the NEOC executive board, thank you for another successful year!

So here we are in the middle of winter. Those of you who know me, know that I don't do so well with cabin fever. With this in mind I have put together a brief summary of some of the great CT area events that we have coming our way this year. I would also like to direct you to a website (and friend of the club who helps promote our show) the Shoreline Antique Auto Connection. This site, run by a great guy named Steve, has the best CT car show calendar anywhere. To see all of the great CT car show events for the 2015 season visit: <http://home.comcast.net/~shorelinesteve/SAACCalendar.html>

Without any further adieu let me present five of my favorite area car shows for the 2015 season (outside of ours!).

- Klingberg Family Centers Father's Day Auto Show: June 20, 2015, New Britain, CT.

This show attracts hundreds of American cars built up to 1972. Held at the beautiful Klingberg Family Center on Linden St in New Britain, this show helps a fantastic organization that cares for youths who have no place else to go. Under the direction of Grand Mar-

shall's Wayne and Bob Carini, the show is split between a usual car show in the lower lots and a concourse de elegance in the upper lots. Admission gets you into both sections of the show where you will find everything from an 1896 horseless carriage to a 1972 442. Some of my personal favorites include a 1957 Olds 98, 1958 DodgeD-500, 1934 Lincoln KB Victoria owned by Wayne Carini, and a 1968 Olds Cutlass Ram Rod 350 owned by our very own Glen Morris! Food and other amenities are on site. I recommend getting there early as the lot fills quickly with some of the best cars CT (and Southern New England) have to offer!

- Time Machines Show and Flee Market: July 26, 2015, Guilford, CT.

This fantastic show is held at the beautiful Guilford Fair Grounds on Lovers Lane, just past the Guilford green. Hundreds of cars attend this show with classes up to 1989. There is a display only area for cars built between 1990 and the present. While this show does have a reputation for drawing many of the finest vehicles in the region, such as Bill and Ellen Black's 1946 Dodge which took home first place last year, it is also very receptive to cars in all states of restoration. Last year I fell in love with a beautiful 1960 Chrysler 300, a 1983 Oldsmobile Delta 88, and a few old Packards. To the owners of those Packards, I apologize if I got any drool on your paint. Where else can you find a Stanly Steamer and a Hurst Olds parked 100 feet from each other? The show also includes a small flee market that is sure to pull a \$20 out of your pocket before you leave, a few food vendors, and a car corral with 10-15 cars for sale. Travel tip: If coming from the New Haven area, take route 146 through Branford and Guilford. This beautiful scenic route has been protected by the state and offers great roads to give your old car a workout.

- Continued on next page

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—CONTINUED

- Belltown Car Show: August 5, 2015, East Hampton, CT.

Located right on the town line of East Hampton and East Haddam in the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds right off of Route 151, this show welcomes 1971 and older cars for judging (and 1972-82 for display). Last year I went on a rainy day and was shocked to find over 100 cars parked under the trees. The event was attended by Wayne Carini who showed up in a cool 1922 Marmon sports car. Other neat cars in attendance were a 1929 Oldsmobile, 1910 Cadillac, 1966 Lincoln Continental, 1964 Pontiac Catalina (not mine!), and a ton of early 50's cars. This show has got to be one of the best kept secrets as it is usually held the same day as Cruising on Main Street in Manchester, yet attracts a lot of cars in its own right.

- Litchfield Hills Car Show: Mid-August, 2015, Goshen, CT.

Located in the Goshen Fair Grounds on Route 63, this show pulls cars from the Hudson Valley and southern Mass. After attending this show for the first time in 2013, I left in shock at how many early cars there are in our area. The swap meet is a decent size with several buildings and a large ring shaped outdoor area filled with numerous items for your car. This show had a lot of great people and unusual cars. One of the coolest observations was a small assortment of woody wagons. Route 63 is a great ride, I would suggest taking Route 8 to Watertown and then taking 63 the rest of the way. You can also take Route 8 to Route 63 in Naugatuck, but that will add about 25 minutes to the trip.

- Quinnipiac University: Memorial Day Weekend, Hamden, CT.

Held by the local classic Chevrolet club in support of the police department, this show had over 700 cars last year. Located at the base of Sleeping Giant State Park, this show had plenty of food, a DJ, and of course many cars. Considering they let myself, Glen Morris, and Tom Comer all in at the same time, it is safe to say this is a very welcoming group! Be prepared, this huge lot fills up FAST so get there early! Last year, WPLR's AJ of Chaz and AJ in the morning was the MC.

Every one of these shows share common characteristics. They have a wide variety of cars (primarily American), they are in great locations that offer places to escape from the sun, ample parking, and food, and the people who attend them love their cars just as much as we do. These are just five of the many great shows that I plan on attending in 2015. Others such as the Oxford Fire Department, Milford Lions Club, Beacon Falls Lions Club, Little Rhody All-GM, and numerous cruise nights are all worth checking out as well. Have a great show or other car event that you love? Let us know so we can pass the word on. Is it April yet?

Frank Tupka

ROCKET RUMBLINGS

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

We've all heard this saying before, but I can state for a fact the painting at the bottom by Mario Pires, says a lot more than a thousand words.

Mario had a booth at our car show in September, 2014. His work is very good and several attendees took advantage of the opportunity to add to their car collection memorabilia. In my case, I always wanted a painting (or print) of an old diner with Oldsmobiles outside. I never found one—because one with Oldsmobiles doesn't exist.

So I took the matter into my own hands and commissioned Mario to do a painting of an old diner with my '70 Cutlass Supreme and my wife's '46 Dodge ½ ton pick-up out front. We told him what we wanted the diner to look like, and while we were at it we named it Black's. My wife thought it would be cool to have some of our dogs in the painting, so we sent Mario some photos. You can see the result of the total process. We love it!

Fortunately for our club, Mario will be back at this year's car show on September 20th. So if you missed an opportunity last year to have a one of a kind piece of art, you'll get a second chance. If you can't wait you can check out his work at his website, www.mariopires.com, or email him at mario@mariopires.com.

Bill Black



MEETING MINUTES

December 2014 Meeting

Meeting held at Margarita's restaurant 1:00 Saturday 12/6.

(5) Members in attendance. Discussion as to why attendance was so low. Then we "talked turkey"...everyone briefly discussed their Thanksgiving holidays.

- President Jeff Walsh started the meeting with the financial report in the absence of Bill Black, treasurer. Club finances remain strong and will grow with member renewals. Jeff didn't have anything to sell in Bill's absence.
- Membership Coordinator Glen Morris reported that (28) members have renewed to date. We need to send out reminders to the membership. Glen will probably be a PITA and do this.
- Events Coordinator Don Mucci discussed the upcoming Big E swap meet. We also talked about a possible future cruise with fellow GMO members. The discussion continued with the possible future open house/cruise/car show at the new Fusick warehouse and how this may benefit both clubs. There will be more discussion on this!
- Car Show Coordinator Mike Barillaro commented that ads for our next car show are starting. We still need confirmation from the host hotel and Mike will follow up.
- Jeff continued the discussions with reminders about the 1/10 holiday party (12-4 p.m.) at Sans Souci Restaurant, 2003 Berlin Turnpike, Meriden Ct. Members need to make their meal choice and send \$15/person to Bill Black. (See last newsletter for additional information). There will not be a regular January meeting in lieu of the Holiday party. Election votes will also take place at the Holiday party. Be there!
- Vice President Frank Tupka mentioned that the new club web-site is ready to go. Frank will follow up with Glenn Johnson about coordinating and changes and also let the members know when needed.
- Jeff and Frank have been talking about a special 20th anniversary portrait to be raffled off to a club member. We are still discussing 20th anniversary events and/or offerings for the membership. Suggestions?

General discussion about the new (and amazing!) Fusick warehouse, a possible 2016 regional meet in the Buffalo NY area, possible regional meet in our area someday(???), Frank Tupka's (2) new books, and how much hot sauce is really needed on our Mexican meal choices today.

Respectfully confused,

Glen Morris

January 2015 — No official meeting due to NEOC Holiday Party on Saturday 1/10

Continued on next page

ROCKET RUMBLINGS

MEETING MINUTES— CONTINUED

February 2015 Meeting

Meeting held at Margarita's Restaurant 1:00 Saturday 02/07. (1st official meeting of 2015.) (8) Members present. A steady snowfall may have affected attendance. Meeting started at 1:10 by President Jeff Walsh.

- Treasurer Bill Black presented the financial report. The new format will show year by year comparisons. Total expenses for 02/2014-01/2015 were \$7,400 and income was \$7,306. The checkbook balance is \$4,788. Jeff commented that we remain self sufficient and stable.
- Membership Coordinator Glen Morris reported that (70) members have renewed to date. The roster will be cut removing (9) non paid members. A vote was taken to keep former Secretary Larry Gagain as an honorary member for this year in appreciation for all his help prior to relocating to South Carolina. Larry reported that he is now a member of the "Low Country Muscle Car Club". Their only membership requirement is that you own an American car that is rear wheel drive and has a gun rack.
- Events Coordinator Don Mucci was not able to attend probably because he had an appointment at Town Fair to install new racing snow tires. The group did mention several upcoming events and these will be listed soon.
- Car Show Coordinator Mike Barillaro confirmed the NEOC show date of 09/20. The food vendor, photographer and DJ have been notified. OCA insurance and advertisement is also set. Raffle items are being procured. Shriners support needs to be followed up. The show flyer will be worked on soon featuring the 1957 98 convertible winner from the 2014 NEOC show.
- Jeff continued the discussions with comments on the success of the holiday party again this year. Everyone agreed to continue with the same time and venue in the future. Jeff and Vice President Frank Tupka also gave updates on the new web site. Updates will be forthcoming during Frank's many stay at home snow days.
- General discussion continued. An update was given on the health of George Berejik. George has been through some tough times in the past month but continues to fight off all obstacles. The status of the new New York OCA chapter was questioned but no one had any new information. New NEOC club business cards were discussed and will be available soon. Business and meals were all consumed shortly after 3:00 and everyone left in order to purchase snow shovels.

Frigidly submitted,

Glen Morris

Editor's note—If you believe that every statement listed in the above minutes are true, then you are suffering from a severe case of "cabin fever" or severe fatigue due to excessive snow shoveling, in which case the only known remedy is to sit in your Oldsmobile and relive your favorite "Oldsmobile memories" from the 2014 Car Show/Cruising season.

TIPS AND TRICKS

As I mentioned in one of my President's Messages last year, one of the things that I look to do at any car show that I attend is to learn something new. It can either be a solution to an issue that I am having and have been unsuccessful in resolving or it could be learning of a product that will help me keep my car clean and shiny. During the 2014 OCA Nationals in Cincinnati, OH, I learned of a product that works wonders on keeping your chrome trim and brightwork shiny. This is always one of my least favorite tasks as my '85 Delta 88 has a significant amount of chrome trim and bright work. A big thank you to Gene Bossaller, OCA South Central Zone Director, for giving me the name of the product he uses to keep his brightwork clean and shiny.

It is called Flitz Polish and it is non-abrasive cream that can be used on brass, copper, chrome, stainless steel, aluminum, fiberglass, etc. It is available in a 1.76 oz. tube, a 5.29 oz tube, 1 quart can or a 1 gallon can. I ordered a 5.29 oz tube and tried it out on a used set of chrome rocker trim that I bought last summer from an OCA member in Pennsylvania. The trim pieces had some shine, however had a fair amount of oxidation and staining. Flitz was able to remove a significant amount of the oxidation and removed all of the staining from these pieces. These pieces now shine better than the pieces I currently have on my car!! The best part was I only needed one soft rag to apply the material and another soft rag to remove and polish, no machines or buffing wheels were needed. The cream goes on so smoothly and comes off so easily, I actually enjoyed cleaning these pieces.

You can order this cream from Flitz's website, www.flitz.com and there is free shipping in the U.S. and Canada.

Jeff Walsh

20TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIES

In honor of our 20th anniversary, we are hoping to reminisce a little on some of the highlights and memorable moments over the past 20 years. To kick this off, I will go first with a funny moment from May of 2013:

In May 2013, several NEOC members "caravanned" to the Eastern Massachusetts GMO Club's annual Dust Off car show. Since we were coming from different areas, we decided to meet up at the Charleton Rest Area on the Mass Pike. From this spot, we still had about a 45 minute drive to the show at Kimball Farms in Lancaster, MA. So at 9 AM, Jeff Walsh, Glen Morris, Jim Schmitz, Larry Gagain, and Don Mucci met at the rest stop and then proceeded to head to the show. Since I went to the show in the previous year, I took the lead position, followed by Glen, Jim, Larry and Don bringing up the rear. I quickly learned that getting a caravan of 5 vehicles (2 of the cars were on car trailers to further complicate the situation) to merge back onto the Mass Pike was not easy. Within the 10 miles from the rest stop to the Worcester exit, we lost Larry and Don. Assuming that everyone had the directions, I kept moving on.

So Glen, Jim and I arrive at Kimball Farms about 45 minutes after leaving the rest stop, however Larry and Don didn't arrive for another hour!! Since they didn't have detailed directions, a few wrong turns were made prior to their arrival. So the lesson I learned that day is if you caravan with others, make sure everyone has the directions prior to leaving and you need a contingency plan in case members of your group get separated. Sorry Larry and Don.

Jeff Walsh

From:

New England Olds Club
77 West Dayton Hill Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

As a Matter of Fact



To:

Directions to Margarita's Restaurant

Directions to upcoming NEOC Meetings at Margarita's Restaurant, 350 Roberts St. East Hartford CT

From Manchester CT and points East:

Follow I84 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 I84 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 I91 South toward Hartford. Take exit for I84 East (exit will be on the left). Follow directions from Hartford per above.

From the South:

Take I91 North toward Hartford. Take exit for I84 East. Follow directions from Hartford above.