

ROCKET RUMBLINGS



VOLUME II, ISSUE II

JUNE 2015



NEOC Member Stephani Turner's '74 Omega S at the GMO Dustoff.

NEOC Officers and Coordinators:

President - Jeff Walsh (jiffy852000@yahoo.com)

Vice President - Frank Tupka (drols88@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 !!

As mentioned in the February newsletter, the NEOC is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The NEOC's first official meeting was in April of 1995. In honor of this landmark event, we will be putting out a special edition newsletter in September to celebrate this occasion. In addition to profiling our active founding members along with noting other historical items over the past 20 years, we are looking for members' favorite memories from certain club events over the past 20 years such as: the time when 5 NEOC members "shared" 1 fire extinguisher at an OCA Nationals to avoid a point deduction, or mishaps when pulling a car trailer into a gas station, or where you were when you heard your first Frank Tupka breakdown story. If you have a memory to share for this special edition newsletter, please contact Jeff Walsh (jiffy852000@yahoo.com) or Frank Tupka (drols88@yahoo.com).

ROCKET RUMBLINGS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well here we are in June and in the middle of the car show season. It is hard to believe that 2015 is about half over. It feels like last week we were still shoveling snow and suffering from "cabin fever". Hopefully you have been able to get your Oldsmobile out to one of the many car shows that have been taking place over the past 2 months. Personally, I have been to 3 shows over the past 6 weeks and have had a great time meeting new people and sharing with them the history of my Olds.

Many of our fellow members have been keeping busy this year with their various projects. Mike Babij's '66 442 coupe is really starting to take shape!! All of the body work has been completed and the car has been given color! The color is called Lucerne Mist and looks beautiful. Mike has posted several photos on the NEOC and Oldsmobile Club of America's Facebook pages. Mike is currently in the exciting stage of reassembly. I for one am anxious to see the car once it is completed!!

Mark Misercola has spent his free time over the past few months chasing electrical gremlins and addressing various mechanical issues with his first generation Toronado that he purchased last year after getting a tip from fellow member Everett Horton on a Toronado that was for sale. Despite all of the trials and tribulations that he has endured, Mark is still pushing forward as any classic car enthusiast would do while refusing to admit to his family that his 2nd Oldsmobile in his fleet was a "bad move". I share your pain Mark, I remember several occasions over the years, when my family tried to convince me that something I wanted to do or something I started doing on my Olds was beyond my ability. It is tough hill to climb, but as any classic car collector will say, you just have to keep moving forward despite the obstacles.

I have been keeping busy by addressing final prep

items on my Olds for the upcoming Oldsmobile Nationals in Wisconsin in the 3rd week of July. I am still working toward my goal of someday winning the Best of Class award for my class. It is a lofty goal, but I always need a far reaching goal to keep myself motivated.

Lastly, our Vice President, Frank Tupka has been extremely busy with his fleet of cars. Unfortunately Frank is a victim of the old saying, "If it wasn't for bad luck, he would have no luck at all." Due to some additional fuel management and tire issues with his '64 Catalina that occurred over the past few months, Frank had to write 2 more books, *The Art of Breaking Down in Front of the Repair Shop* and *The 2015 Buyers Guide for the Best Flatbed Wrecker*, in order to finance the needed repairs. Our Secretary and Membership Coordinator, Glen Morris is suggesting that everyone keeps at least 15 feet away from Frank at car shows, so that his bad luck does not spread to you.

As you can see many of us have been very busy over the past few months with our classic cars in one form or another. Hopefully you are able to take advantage of the warm weather over the next few months with your Olds by taking it to a local show or taking it out for a weekend drive. After this past winter I think we have all earned it.

Jeff Walsh

NEW MEMBER UPDATE

The NEOC has a few new members and I would like to recognize and introduce them:

- Bob Edmunds NEOC#372 owns a 1967 442
- Bob Mirto NEOC#373 owns a 1979 Cutlass Supreme
- Dick Perryman NEOC#374 owns a 1965 F85 Cutlass Conv.
- Amanda Reagle NEOC#375 (will) own a 1965 F85 Cutlass Conv.
- Bill Halpin NEOC#376 owns a 1967 F-85 2 dr. coupe
- Jim Viola NEOC#377 owns a 1967 442, 1986 98 coupe, 1988 touring sedan, 1994 Cutlass conv.
- Christopher Dunning NEOC #378 owns a 1992 Achieva prototype convertible (1 of 1 from GM!)

Welcome to NEOC! We hope to see you at future meetings and club events. And, we are always open to suggestions and newsletter articles to improve our club.

Glen Morris
Membership Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here is a summary of upcoming events:

- Thursday July 2, 2015 at 7 PM, NEOC monthly meeting at Margarita's Restaurant (directions are on the last page of this newsletter).
- Monday July 13, 2015, Oldsmobile Night at Mark's, Granby, CT **(let's break last year's record of 50 Oldsmobiles present)**
- Sunday July 26, 2015, Time Machines Show and Flea Market, Guilford, CT
- Annual NEOC Picnic at Jeff Walsh's house, Southington, CT, (date to be finalized at July monthly meeting)
- **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**ROAD SALT DEBATE**

Every car enthusiast fears that chalky white crust which fills every cavity on your beloved automobile. It's the reason our summer cruisers don't come out until the April showers have washed the roads. The State of Connecticut is again looking into the damage salt is causing to our automobiles. The issue is this, the state saves \$200 million a year by not using a rust inhibitor. This rust inhibitor was discontinued after 2006 and has correlated with the rise in rusty frames and blown out brake lines that we have all experienced. Historically the state has taken the position that it is up to car owners to wash their vehicles frequently, but the complaints of taxpayers have become more vocal with each patched brake line. Elected officials are becoming concerned about the safety threat posed by vehicles that are on the road with rust damage. In many cases the owners of these vehicles may not even know they have rusted brake or fuel lines until it is too late. There are also questions as to the corrosion caused to the steel super structures that support our bridges.

According to an article from Fox CT "Controversy Surrounding Elimination of Rust Inhibitor from Road Salt", the rust inhibitor was removed because of environmental groups who complained that the chemical polluted waterways. One of the effects of the chemical is that it reduces the oxygen levels anywhere it comes in contact, including the water, which harmed wildlife. The DOT also stated that the inhibitor did not prevent their equipment from rusting.

Change may be on the way. The Avon Patch reports that last fall the state approved a new measure that requires the DOT to study road salt. The study is tasked with determining what can be done to prevent the corrosion caused to brake lines and under carriage. State Senator Kevin Witkos (R-8) and State Representative Pamala Sawyer (R-Bolton) have been leading the charge to tackle this issue.

Hooniverse.com reports the following road salt facts:

- Salt is a desiccant – it attracts water and keeps itself wet
- Below -5* F, salt will not melt ice
- Salt will enter your car on your shoes and cause rot from the inside-out
- Mildly acidic detergents help to break up salt deposits
- Road salt runoff can threaten rivers and wildlife
- Application rates are around 250 pounds per lane-mile
- In the United States, about 70% of roads (and people) are in areas that get at least 5 inches of snow annually.

Perhaps we will finally see the much needed change that has destroyed so many vehicles in this state. It was after all rusted brake and fuel lines that did in my '88 Delta 88 Royale with 336,997 miles.

Frank Tupka

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held at Margarita's Restaurant 1:00 Saturday 03/07. (9) Members present. No weather issues today! Meeting formally started at 1:25 by President Jeff Walsh.

- Treasurer Bill Black gave a brief summary of the club finances. No formal report was presented due to the new yearly format (February-January).
- Membership Coordinator Glen Morris reported that (72) members have renewed to date with (1) new member and (2) pending. Rosters will be available soon and the database was updated thanks to Ted Loran.
- Events Coordinator Don Mucci reported on the Fusick Olds/Cadillac/Pontiac show date T.B.D. later this year. There was some lively discussion about other popular upcoming shows including the GMO spring dust off in May.
- Car Show Coordinator Mike Barillaro confirmed that the food vendor, photographer and DJ are all set. Mike mentioned the show flyer and late arrival Jim Schmitz immediately presented a copy for review and approval (Thanks Jim). The status of the Hawthorne Inn (adjacent to the Days Inn of our show) will be monitored as we get closer to our show.

Jeff continued the discussions with several topics:

Club merchandise needs to be reviewed with John Lenihan. Sweatshirts will probably be ordered for the 1st time this year.

New NEOC club cards are available for distribution. See Jeff or Frank.

The 20th NEOC anniversary celebration will include members' favorite memories and include founding members' profiles for upcoming newsletters. Jeff and Frank are working on this.

Talks of a regional meet in the past were probably just that....talk.

Talks of a 2018 National event in the Northeast are still possible with the Gettysburg PA area as one option. Everett Horton will keep us updated.

The NEOC annual picnic still needs T.B.D. Hubbard Park and Wharton Brook State park were mentioned as two possible locations. Any suggestions?

General discussion continued. An update was given on the health of George Berejik. George has been in home hospice. A "caring thoughts" card was passed around for everyone to sign.

(Unfortunately, we were informed that George had passed away 03/10/15 just 3 days after our meeting. RIP George, you will be missed).

- The next meeting will be held 04/11 at Margarita's (not our normal schedule) due to a Presidential trip to the Mid East or somewhere like that.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05. Waiter finally collected checks much later than that.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Morris

ROCKET RUMBLINGS

MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Meeting held at Margarita's Restaurant 1:00 Saturday 04/11. (7) Members attending. Meeting formally started at 1:15 by President Jeff Walsh.

- Treasurer Bill Black gave a brief summary of the club finances. Discussion of \$200 for OCA Nationals ad, \$100 Dana-Farber donation in the memory of George Berejik. Balance of \$4,290. NEOC club member and GMO VP Rich Santucci thanked NEOC for the Dana-Farber donation.
- Membership Coordinator Glen Morris reported status quo on membership. Matt Rehbein (friend of Prez Jeff) attended this meeting and expressed an interest in joining.
- Several upcoming events discussed including the 05/31 GMO dust-off, 04/26 show at SCSC, and Mark's cruise on 7/13.
- It was dutifully noted that NEOC member from afar was in attendance today. Peter Card honored us with his presence. In his infamous words, "Cheers"!
- General discussion continued. This included the ongoing Tupka tales and stories of general car woes and mal-adies.
- The next meeting will be held 05/07 at Margarita's at 7:00 resuming our summer meeting schedule.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40. All attendees swarmed in to parking lot to look at Matt's 1970 W-31. Frank was warned to stay away.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Morris

Meeting held at Margarita's Restaurant 7:00 Thursday 05/07. (3) Members attending. Urz Trly was absent due to a back strain suffered working on my car. I'm getting too old for this stuff! Comprehensive minutes below provided by Jeff:

We had a very light turnout for the meeting (myself, Mike and Don). Since Mike and Don were unable to attend the April meeting, I summarized what we covered last month, including Frank's AAA towing stories (he really should write a book about this).

Other items that we discussed:

- I followed up with John Lenihan (again) for a listing of what we have left for merchandise, so we can determine what we need to replenish prior to the show in September. I will follow up again in the next week or so, as I want to get this addressed soon.
- I hope to have the next newsletter completed in the next 2 weeks, just need to get through one last work project that is taking all of my time for the next week.

May Meeting minutes continued on Page 7

MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

May 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes continued from Page 6

- I am still planning to go to the GMO Dustoff on May 31st. I hope to connect with Everett then and find out what is going on regarding the 2018 Nationals and if the OCA is really considering a location in the Gettysburg, PA region. Further discussion/debate on whether Gettysburg is in the Northeast region or not took place. According to Don, the Farmer's Almanac has the country divided into 17 regions. We will research the almanac and provide a final answer on this hotly debated item at the June meeting 😊.
- Mark's is all confirmed for July 13th and Frank put an event invite on the NEOC Facebook page last week. Don said, the first Monday cruise at Mark's had over 500 cars, however portions of the field were closed off as the grounds were not fully dry yet. So I guess it is good that our night is not until mid-July.
- Mike spoke to the guys at Fusick's recently and mentioned our show date to them, so they said they will plan their show/cruise at their location around our date, so there should be no conflict. It definitely sounds like their event will be sometime later this year.
- Mike and I both drove by the former Hawthorne Inn recently and both noted the building is still vacant. If it remains vacant, then we don't see an issue if we need to use a portion of the lot. We will continue to monitor as the summer progresses.
- In honor of his 70th birthday, Don announced he just retired from his school bus driving career. Now instead of getting up at 4:30 AM, he now gets up at 5:30 AM. In addition, he is spending his free time doing mulching and landscaping at his home, under the close supervision of his wife.
- We somehow then transitioned to reminiscing about the old Riverside race track in Agawam, MA and discussion of the season premiere episode of Chasing Classic Cars on the Velocity Channel on Tuesday night. It featured Wayne Carrini in London for the London to Brighton race in turn of the century (1900) era cars. Wayne used a 1904 Ford and unfortunately learned the hard way that Ford stands for "Fixed or Repaired Daily" and/or "Found On the Road Dead". Maybe he should have used a Curved Dash Olds instead..... It was my favorite episode of the show so far.

We deferred topics like world hunger and world peace until future meetings....

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Walsh (aka the "Youngster")

See Page 8 for the June meeting minutes from the Secretary, who had recovered from his "old age injuries".

ROCKET RUMBLINGS

MEETING MINUTES (CONCLUDED)

Meeting held at Margarita's Restaurant 7:00 Thursday 06/04. (8) Members attending.

- Treasurer Bill Black gave a full financial report. Balance stands at \$4,290.07.
- Membership Coordinator Glen Morris reported status quo on membership at #78.
- Don Mucci discussed several upcoming events including the GMO dust-off raindate of 06/07.
- Mike Barillaro reported on the car show status. Some new items were that 40+ show flyers had been mailed out to last year's non NEOC member attendees. We will also be honored to have AJ Alessandrini (daughter of NEOC member Dan Alessandrini) sing our National Anthem this year.
- Jeff continued discussions with the status of our show merchandise replenishment which is being handled by John Lenihan.
- Still planning our annual NEOC picnic. Jeff will host this year with a date to be announced.
- A special 20th anniversary newsletter is being planned for September. Does anyone have any old stories for Jeff?
- General discussion continued. This included mastering the art of having a car break down in front of the repair shop (Frank's new book!)

The next meeting will be held 07/02 at Margarita's at 7:00 assuming recent member back sprains and car breakdowns subside long enough.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Morris

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

Congratulations to the following NEOC members on their recent accomplishments:

- Events Coordinator, Don Mucci retired back in April. When asked how he is planning to celebrate his retirement, Don says that his "sleeping in" and now gets up at 5:30 AM instead of 4:30 AM. In addition, Don is spending his free time doing mulching and landscaping projects in his yard under the close supervision of his wife, Cheryl.
- Peter Card will be retiring at the end of June. To celebrate his "freedom", Peter will be preparing his '70 Cutlass SX (non A/C car) for the 1,000 mile drive out to the OCA Nationals in Brookfield, WI that starts on July 22nd. Peter is hoping for cool driving weather, so that neither he nor his big block 455 motor don't boil over.
- Tom Comer's Oldsmobile was awarded Best of Show at the Middletown Annual Cruise Night on Main Street. Congrats Tom!!!!

GMO DUSTOFF PHOTOS



NEOC Member Mark Misercola talking to a spectator about his '60 Super 88 Convertible at the GMO Dustoff.



Oldsmobile Starfire row at the GMO Dustoff.

ROCKET RUMBLINGS**TRAVEL SUPPORT NETWORK**

Now that the summer cruising and car show season is upon us, the inevitable concern of having a breakdown while going to or from a car show is always on every classic car owner's mind. While we all address the risk of breakdowns in different ways: some people like Frank Tupka, have their own private network of repair shops in the tri-state region to address his frequent breakdowns, while others don't like to drive their cars beyond their AAA towing mileage limit (Glen Morris), and some of us are willing to enjoy the drive with our classics and take that chance if our cars were to break down, despite our best preparations. OCA member John Lake has started to compile a listing of "honest" repair shops by state. All shops in this listing were supplied by your fellow OCA members. Here is the listing of shops listed in the Connecticut, New York, and Rhode Island region:

Connecticut

Master Tech Auto
15A Field Rd
Somers, CT. 06072
860-749-8989

Riley & Scranton Service Center
138 Welles Street
Glastonbury, CT. 06033
Business Phone 860-633-3669
Cell Phone 860-416-7944 *Earl – OCA+NEOC*
E-mail ebrileyscranton@sbcglobal.net

Economy Transmission and Auto Repair
201 Terryville Rd.
Bristol, CT 06010
Owner – Mike 860-589-1255

Mayfair Garage
142 Main St.
Terryville, CT 06786
Owner – Frank 860-583-7534

Tom's Auto Service
528 N. Main St.

Southington, CT 06489
Owner Tom --- 860-628-4277

Bosco's Autobody
Towing & Mechanical Repair
2 Simon Rd.
Enfield, CT 06082
1-860-745-8082

New York

Tom's Brake and Auto Repair
367 Duffy Ave.
Hicksville, NY 11801
516-433-4424

Scappy Auto Body
359 Duffy Ave.
Hicksville, NY 11801
516-333-4000

Sabre Towing
400 Duffy Ave
Hicksville, NY 11801
516-935-6100
Flat bed service & NYS Authorized Highway Towing

Rhode Island

Park Place Holdings
75 High Point Place
Portsmouth, RI 02871
ALL types of service -- Wayne Lee
401-683-0660 -- cell 401-952-6985

If anyone has any other shops in the region they would like to add to this listing, please e-mail John Lake at: johnrl1946@yahoo.com.

GMO DUST OFF SHOW

Spring time in New England is known for certain things to represent that the winter season is over: the snow melts (finally!!), grass turns green and is ready for mowing, the leaves come out on the trees, and most importantly, the first Oldsmobile show of the season is here. That's right, just like clockwork, the Eastern Massachusetts GMO Club's annual dust off takes place and demonstrates that the car show season is here for the next few months.

Due to rain on the original show date, the GMO Club had to utilize their rain date, but that did not deter the NEOC from making the trek up to Kimball Farms in Lancaster, MA. Glen Morris and I met up at 9 AM at the Charlton rest stop on the Mass Pike and pushed ahead for the final 45 minutes of the drive together. This time Glen brought his GPS with him to prevent a repeat of the NEOC's caravan to the Dust Off from 2 years ago (see the February newsletter for a detailed account of that mishap). It should be noted that Frank Tupka was supposed to join us, however his book publisher called at the last minute with news of a book signing tour for his latest book, *The 2015 Buyers Guide for the Best Flatbed Wrecker*. It appears the Towing and Recovery Association of America (TRAA) wanted Frank's input on which flatbed wreckers are the best for towing classic cars.

Anyway back to the GMO show, the weather for the drive up to Kimball Farms could not have been any better!!! Clear blue sky, minimal clouds, no humidity and temperatures in the 70's were the exact ingredients needed for an enjoyable Sunday highway drive. Glen and I arrived around 10 AM and noticed that fellow NEOC member Stephani Turner had already arrived with her '74 Omega with the camper tent option on display. Fellow NEOC members Mark Misercola with his '60 Super 88 Convertible, and John Anderson with his '71 442 W-30, arrived shortly afterwards.

Although the weather for the show was perfect, this was

the first GMO show since the passing of George Berejik. George was one of the original members of the GMO Club and had the personality to "light up any room" he entered. Although I never met George formally, I could tell that from few times I had seen him at prior Dust Offs that he was a genuine person and no one ever had a negative thing to say about George. This year, George's wife, Betty Ann, his son and many other family members were there as this year's show was dedicated in George's memory.

After everyone filled up on their share of Kimball Farms' ice cream, it was time for the awards. This year the NEOC had a "clean sweep". All five of the NEOC members who had cars on display, won their respective class. Congratulations to the following members on their first place wins:

Class 3	Mark Misercola	1960 Super 88 Conv.
Class 4	Jeff Walsh	1985 Delta 88
Class 9	Stephani Turner	1974 Omega S
Class 12	Glen Morris	1968 Cutlass Ram Rod
Class 14	John Anderson	1971 442 W-30

If there was an award for the car that had the most photos taken of it, it would be Stephani's Omega. Everytime I looked over toward her car, another spectator was taking a picture of her car.

Now let's hope we can have the same weather for our show in September. I think we are deserving of some excellent weather after our last 2 years of shows with weather that has caused many of us to get some additional gray hair.

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.