



Aerial Photo from the 2014 NEOC All Oldsmobile Show

NEOC Officers and Coordinators:

President - Jeff Walsh (jiffy852000@yahoo.com)

Membership Coordinator - Glen Morris (gmorris01@aol.com)

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

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

Treasurer - Bill Black (dragonflyfarm@att.net)

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

Secretary - Open Position

ELECTION TIME!!

It is election time!! Unlike the “mud slinging” and negative ads we had to endure on the TV, radio and internet during the recent elections, the NEOC elections promise to be professional as we all have the same passion for our Oldsmobiles! The following individuals have announced their candidacy in the upcoming elections:

President – Jeff Walsh

Vice President – Frank Tupka

Treasurer – Bill Black

Secretary – Glen Morris

Anyone current member of the NEOC is eligible to run for any of the positions listed above. Anyone that is interested in running for a position, please e-mail Jeff Walsh to be added to the ballot. Voting will occur at the annual NEOC holiday party that is scheduled on Saturday January 10, 2015 For more information on the holiday party, please see Page 3 of this newsletter.

ROCKET RUMBLINGS**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

It is hard to believe that another car show season along with the most important show of all, our All Oldsmobile Show is in the books. As the winter season commences, many of us will struggle to find ways to pass the time on the weekends now that our classics are tucked away for the winter season. Some of us will pass the time by watching various reruns of car shows on TV, others will be surfing the web and various catalogs looking for needed parts for their cars, others like me, plan to spend a lot of time in the garage addressing various "to do list" items on their cars so they are ready for the spring, and our Vice President, Frank Tupka, will be drafting his 2 new books, *The Back Roads of America as Seen from the Front Seat of an International Flatbed* and *The Top 10 Redneck Engine Repairs that Don't Last*. Both books look to be best sellers in my opinion.....

Instead of looking forward to what is predicted to be a cold and snowy winter, I want to take this time to look back on something memorable instead, our Annual All Olds Car show. First off, I wish to thank our Car Show Coordinator, Mike Barillaro, and all of our volunteers for once again helping to set up what I think is one of the best run car shows in the region. I truly believe that our well executed organization of our show helps us draw in a respectable size crowd from all around the New England and Mid Atlantic regions. While the weather did present some issues again this year, we still had a total of 78 cars present by the time our judging started.

I know that some members were not able to make it to the show because of the scattered showers in the region on the day of the show and had wished we utilized our rain date instead. I want to explain why we did not utilize our rain date. The day before our show, a small group of club members arrived at the Days Inn to take care of various set up items along with roping off the show field, so there are no non-

Oldsmobiles taking up spaces. During this year's initial set up on Saturday morning, several of us discussed the weather and looked at various weather web sites and everything we saw indicated the chance of isolated showers during the overnight hours that did not appear to be ominous in nature. However these isolated showers between Saturday night and Sunday morning were a little more stubborn to dissipate than we previously thought. Some areas in western CT and central MA, had rain all morning long, while others had sun while driving to the show. We did have a brief rain shower at the show from 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM and then the sun stayed out for the remainder of the show. For those of you that were not able to attend because of the weather, I apologize. Based on the weather information available and the fact the rain showers were isolated to certain regions and not the entire state, was the main reason we decided to not utilize the rain date.

Despite the questionable weather early in the morning, we still had a respectable turnout (78 cars) and raised \$2,000 for the Shriners Hospital in Springfield, MA. During the October 2014 club meeting, those present decided that along with donating \$2,000 to the Shriners Hospital, it was also decided to make a \$500 donation to the R.E. Olds Museum by using available club funds. While the total car turnout was slightly less than prior years, we were still able to make similar dollar amount donations as had been done in prior years. Overall I was very proud of our accomplishments and am looking forward to next year's show!! Hopefully the weather will be sunny with no threat of rain.....

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HOLIDAY PARTY

Mark your calendars!! The NEOC's annual holiday party is Saturday January 10, 2015 from 12 PM—4 PM at Sans Souci Restaurant, 2003 North Broad Street (Berlin Turnpike), Meriden, CT (about a mile south of our annual car show site). Thank you to NEOC member John Welsh for making the arrangements again this year.

For those of you who were at the holiday party last year at Sans Souci, you know that you will not leave hungry. The meal portions served are plentiful so you will not want to have dinner later on. As in prior years, the club will be off-setting a portion of the total cost, so the cost per person will be \$15.

Here is a summary of the meal to be served:

Course One: Salad and warm Italian bread and olive oil

Course Two: Choice of one of the following meal choices

Denver Steak –Grilled Teres Major (shoulder tenderloin) very tender and big on flavor

Baked Scrod Heritage—New England style with wine, lemon, butter and a cracker crumb topping

Chicken Parmagiana—Breaded and fried and covered with marinara sauce and cheese , served with spaghetti

Vegetarian meal is available upon request

Course Three: Dessert with coffee or tea

Children under 14 are free and a children's menu will be offered.

Send your check made out to the **NEOC** along with your meal choice, to Bill Black, 134 Great Hill Road, Guilford, CT 06437 **by January 2, 2015**. Questions? (203) 457-1459 or dragonflyfarm@att.net.

Also don't forget to bring a raffle prize for our world famous raffle. Prizes do not have to be Oldsmobile related.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here is a summary of upcoming events:

- Saturday December 6th at 1 PM— NEOC monthly meeting, Margarita's Restaurant, 350 Roberts St. East Hartford, CT
- Saturday January 10th 12 PM—4 PM – NEOC Holiday Party, Sans Souci Restaurant, 2003 North Broad St (Berlin Turnpike), Meriden, CT
- Saturday February 7th at 1 PM—NEOC monthly meeting, Margarita's Restaurant, 350 Roberts St. East Hartford, CT
- Sunday May 31, 2015, Eastern Massachusetts GMO Dustoff Car Show, Kimball Farms, Lancaster, MA
- Sunday September 20, 2015, NEOC All Oldsmobile Car Show, Days Inn, Berlin, CT

ROCKET RUMBLINGS**VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As I write this latest update, the leaves are falling here in Connecticut. This weekend the temperatures took their first nosedive of the season as we all march in lockstep towards winter. With the doom and gloom of snow shovels and hours of watching the Velocity channel nearing, I decided to make the most of the weekend and get the cars out.

I started the weekend with a visit to the open shop event at Cardone and Daughter Automotive in Westbrook, CT. Dad and I left the house around 9:45 and took the scenic route along the shore (after crossing the Q-Bridge with white knuckles). We got off of I-95 at exit 54 in Branford and then followed Route 146 though the coastal and downtown areas of Branford and Guilford. Route 146 is protected as a state scenic route and has some of the most beautiful stretches of road in Connecticut. As a side note, if you've never been to downtown Guilford, it is really a beautiful place with plenty of New England charm. We then got onto Route 1 and traveled through downtown Madison and downtown Clinton where the entire community seemed to be out decorating all of the shops for Halloween. Just as we crossed over the town line into Westbrook we arrived at Cardone's shop.

Here I met up with NEOC President Jeff Walsh who had his beautiful '73 VW Super Beetle which sported a fresh re-spray by the guys at NEOC member John Welsh's Connecticut Classic Car Company shop. There were about 20 cars in attendance ranging from British sports cars to an old Mustang and even a '62 Willys truck that seemed to show up just in time to tease Jeff into finishing his '48 Willys truck (nudge nudge). We had a blast talking cars with the guys at the shop and several other car owners who might not drive Oldsmobiles, but do share our love for classic cars and the hobby.

After taking advantage of David Cardone's hospitality (a.k.a free coffee, soda, hot dogs, hamburgers, donuts, and chips), I chatted with several shop employees such

as Don and Bruce who recently rebuilt the top of the engine in my '64 Pontiac Catalina. These guys are a wealth of knowledge and plenty of fun to talk to.

After Jeff and I parted ways, I decided to take the long way home in order to avoid the congestion in New Haven. I went down Route 1 until I picked up Route 77 in Guilford. After traveling north a few miles I picked up Route 80 and then Route 22 which took me north and then west into North Haven. Route 22 was originally supposed to be a beltway around New Haven to relieve congestion, but his plan was scrapped decades ago in favor of upgrading the surface road. Today it remains a great back road around the city. I then got onto Route 15 and headed south towards Route 34 and finally Route 150 which took me back towards West Haven for a total round trip of 82.51 miles.

I followed this with a visit the next day to the Lion's Club show in Seymour, CT with Samantha. There were many beautiful Oldsmobiles present, including both a '56 and '61 Super 88. It was great to see Oldsmobile so well represented, and I hope that even more Olds owners will dust off their cars and come to events such as this next year.

The moral of this story is simple, drive your cars! By the time you read this, your car will probably be tucked away for the winter watching the snow fall through your garage windows. Why not make the most of the late fall cruise season next year and put a few more miles on your car before storage? Let's get out there and spread the good word about the NEOC and Oldsmobiles, or even just the old car hobby in general...it could be your car that ignites the passion for classics in a young kid or that helps another adult relive their youth. Most importantly, isn't it great to share your passion for automobiles with others who feel the same way?

Now I'd better start stocking up on mothballs and dryer sheets for another long winter. Is it April yet?

Frank Tupka

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

NEOC,

This is the first of several reminders that your NEOC dues expire on 12/31. BUT, those who joined at our all Olds car show in September, are in good standing through 2015 and do not need to renew this year. (Please take note). A renewal form is in this newsletter (see Page 7) for your convenience.

We hope to do something special for and including the membership this year as it will be our club's 20th anniversary. You heard right, back in April of 1995 a handful of New England area Oldsmobile lovers had the first formative meeting for this great car club. Where did the time go??? So, please renew soon and be a part of our 20th anniversary celebration.

Any questions or comments, feel free to e-mail me.

Thank You,

Glen Morris

Membership Coordinator NEOC

LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY

I am not a huge fan of the old-fashioned breaker point ignition systems. Maybe it is because I have never been able to get the gap and dwell angle set up exactly right or the fact that you need to continuously check these measurements during the year. After I got my VW Super Beetle back on the road a few years ago, I looked into getting a Petronix electronic ignition distributor system to replace the OE breaker point distributor. Once I got it installed, the car ran flawlessly with a steady idle at all times. However I recently learned a very valuable and expensive lesson about these aftermarket systems.

Over the summer, I was doing some cleaning of the front trunk and replacement of the trunk liner in my VW, when I accidently messed up my ground contacts for my marker lights and my windshield washer. Over the course of a Sunday afternoon I left the key in the "On" position as I tested the wire connections to see which one I knocked loose or broke, so I could repair it. Later in the day, I finally got everything working again and thought everything was all set.

What I didn't know at the time was by leaving the key in the "On" position for all of that time as I was testing

wires, I was sending current to my ignition module in my distributor and was slowly killing the module. My Petronix kit had 2 electrical wires from the distributor: 1) wire going to the negative side of the coil (similar to the condenser wire for points) and 2) wire to the positive side of the coil to power the module.

Just recently, my module finally gave up the battle and stopped working as the car would not start at all. After doing so testing and then swapping in the old distributor, I learned that my ignition module died. I found this strange as this electronic ignition system was only a few years old and had minimal mileage on it. Through some research on various car forum websites, I learned of other people that had this happen also.

The moral of the story is, if doing any work on a car that has an aftermarket electronic ignition added to it, make sure the (+) wire is unplugged before turning the key to the "on" position if you are not planning to start the car. Otherwise it may cost you a \$200 electronic ignition system.

ROCKET RUMBLINGS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—CONTINUED

Although the winter season is usually a slow time for us, we still have plenty going on to help pass the time (or writer's block in Frank's case). Our annual holiday party is going to be held on Saturday January 10th from 12PM – 4PM at Sans Souci Restaurant in Meriden, CT (same location as last year's holiday party). For those of you who were unable to attend last year, please consider attending this year's party. The food portions are generous, so you will not want to think about dinner later in the day. Please see the Holiday Party article in this newsletter for additional information.

In addition, we are hoping to unveil an updated website that will be accessible from i-Phones/Smart Phones, etc., as our current site is not accessible from these mobile devices. If that is still not enough excitement for you, did you know the NEOC will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2015??? Who would have thought that when Glenn Johnson, Dave Richter, John Lenihan, Glen Morris, Jean Roy and Jim Taylor (all of whom are still members of the NEOC) met for that first meeting in April 1995, that the NEOC would still be going strong 20 years later with a current membership roster of close to 80 members. Thank you to our founding members for establishing this club and keeping it going all this time! I am hoping to include some memories from the past 20 years in upcoming newsletters during 2015 along with possibly putting together a special edition newsletter that celebrates what the club has done in the past 20 years from its modest beginnings to where we are at this time. Since I am a "newer" member of the NEOC, I am looking for some input from the longer serving members for stories and photos from over the years that helped make this club what it is today.

Although the car show season may be over, the club is still keeping busy. However you choose to pass the time until next spring, please stay warm and safe. If anyone comes across new websites or suppliers, or is working on a new project car, please feel free to pass any useful information or links along to me, so it can be included in an upcoming newsletter. Happy holidays to all!!!

Jeff Walsh

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone - home _____ Phone - cell _____

E Mail address: _____

Check here only if you want your newsletter mailed USPS. Otherwise the newsletter will be in electronic format and available on line bi-monthly in Adobe Acrobat format, allowing easy viewing, downloading and printing in full color.

Oldsmobile Club of America (OCA) membership is **no longer** mandatory. We do encourage membership in the OCA. If not a member, you can log onto the OCA website and apply on line at **http://www.oldsclub.org/joinOCA_2.htm**

OCA member # _____ (if applicable)

Oldsmobiles owned:

Signature _____ Date: _____

Annual dues are \$20.00. Dues expire on December 31.

Please make personal checks or money orders payable to: New England Oldsmobile Club.

Mail completed form and check to: **New England Oldsmobile Club**
77 West Dayton Hill Road
Wallingford, Ct. 06492

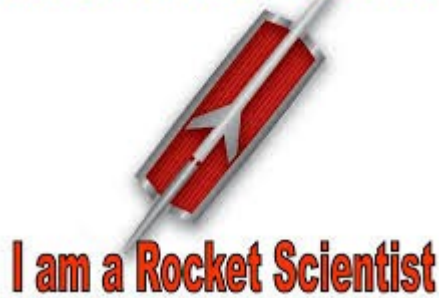
Questions? Contact Glen Morris, Membership Coordinator @ 203-269-4365
or e-mail **GMorris@aol.com** or check our website at **www.NEOLDS.com**

Ownership of an Oldsmobile is NOT required to join our club. Any year or type of Oldsmobile is welcome in our ranks.

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.