

# Rocket Rumbblings



Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

Vol. 18

WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz

Winter 2012/13

## OCA 2012 – My 2¢ an editorial

**W**ell even though 2012 wasn't an election year in the OCA, it has proven to be very political.

Government has been known for it's share of corrupt politicians but lately they seem to be multiplying at an alarming rate. Not only are they multiplying, but now it seems they have infiltrated our beloved hobby.

As we watch the television shows on corruption and greed I often wonder how much of it is true and how much of it is "showmanship" to help gather the biggest audience, thus the better ratings and finally the big advertising dollars. After seeing some of the well, ahem... I guess you could loosely call it "information" that has been circulated amongst members of our National Olds Club (OCA) I'm starting to get really worried. This political baloney has no business in a car club. Are there some radicals among us that feel so desperate that they need to try to undermine the folks that were legitimately voted into office? Isn't that why we have limited terms of office? If you don't like the job someone is doing, vote them out next time. If they are not following the established guidelines, then look into legal measures and have them removed.

## Dates to Remember

**Mar 2** - NEOC Mtg - Saturday 1 PM

John Lenihan - Holyoke, MA

**Apr** - NEOC Mtg - Stay tuned for date and location

**May** - NEOC Mtg - Stay tuned for date and location

One thing that we have the right to in this country is to face our accusers, so who is this "MIN" (Members Information Network) group? Why are they hiding behind anonymous letters and rumors? If there is a real problem, Stand up and say "Hey folks, we have a problem here." Anonymous letters or hate mail don't do

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Member Profile

### A Long Distance Version



**A**s most of you know I have been looking to share some of your car stories with the membership. Along these same lines we received a short article from across the pond in, of all places, Sweden. Henry Gustafson shares the story of his Starfire.

I live in Sweden, and as some of you might know, many of us in Sweden are very fond of the real American cars of the 1930's thru to the 1970's. In Sweden we have a bunch of Chevys, Fords and Mopars from this period. Oldsmobiles in general seem to have been a bit neglected, although the early 1950's has earned a recent interest among Rockabilly fans! As far as I

*(Continued on page 6)*

# NEOC Meeting Notes

## Meeting Minutes – September- 2012

The September meeting was attended by 12 members and held at Berlin Pizza in Berlin CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

### Old Business

The holiday part is booked for 1/12/13 at the Hawthorne Inn. It will be buffet style with a cash bar.

Bill Black read the treasurers report.

Don reported on other events:

Panara Bread Berlin Turnpike, 1st and 3th Saturday of each month 5 to 9pm

Berlin Pizza Berlin Turnpike, every Thursday 5 to 9pm.

### New Business

NEOC elections coming up at the end of the year. Glen Morris would like to step aside as president and assume a new position as club representative.

### NEOC Car show

The date will be Sunday 9/23/12 with the rain date of Sunday 9/30.

There will be an onsite meeting at the Days Inn on Saturday 9/22...anyone helping with parking, registration and show filed layout are requested to attend.

This year trailer parking will be behind the Hawthorne Inn, not on the side of the Days Inn.

For anyone who plans on spending the night before the show a \$60 rate has been secured by the Days Inn for show attendees.

Show t-shirts are in and will be free to signed up volunteers as well as available for sale at the event.

The October meeting will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jean Roy in East Hartford CT.

Reported by Larry Gagain – Club Secretary

## Meeting Minutes – Octobr- 2012

The October meeting was attended by 9 members and held at the home of Jean Roy in East Hartford CT. The

meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

### Old Business

The holiday part is booked for 1/12/13 at the Hawthorne Inn. It will be buffet style with a cash bar.

Bill Black read the treasurers report.

Don Mucci reported on what few events remained this year

### New Business

NEOC elections coming up at the end of the year.

### NEOC Car show

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual car show was greeted with a beautiful day and 97 cars were in attendance. Many thanks to all that helped make the event a total success. A total of \$3000 dollars was raised of which \$2000 was donated to the Shriners and the remaining \$1000 was donated to the REO museum.

The November meeting will be held on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> (starting our winter schedule) 1:00 at the home of Glen Morris in Wallingford CT.

Reported by Larry Gagain – Club Secretary

## Meeting Minutes – February- 2013

The February meeting was attended by 13 members and held at the home of Jeff Walsh in Southington CT.

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 PM.

### Old Business

The holiday party was discussed and the feelings are mixed as to whether to have it again at the Hawthorne Inn. To be continued.

Bill Black read the treasurers report.

John Lenihan will now be handling the club merchandise.

Don Mucci has been very busy researching events for this year...tentative Olds night at Mark's is June 10<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of the 17<sup>th</sup>. More to come.

### New Business

Glen Morris will stay on as president on a month to month basis. Frank Tupka will take over the VP chair...all other officers remain as is.

The group then began a conversation regarding the is-



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sues confronting the OCA and how our club is affected. The group agreed that no decisions will be made until said issues within the OCA are resolved. One take away from this, we will look into obtaining our own insurance policy to cover our events.

In addition to the OCA National's, the National Antique Oldsmobile Club (NAOC) will host a National's as well, this year in Elmira NY on June 18-22.

NEOC Car show

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual car show planning is off and running. First the date has been decided...it will be Sunday September 22 with a rain date of September 29<sup>th</sup>. The show will be located at the Day's Inn in Berlin CT. which is the same venue as the past 2 years. We will use the same food vendor, DJ as well as invite the car photographer back.

We are looking for committee heads.

The March meeting will be held on Saturday the 2nd (last of our Saturday @ 1PM winter schedule)...it as well as the April 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday evening @ 7 PM meeting need hosts.

Reported by Larry Gagain – Club Secretary

month by month basis at least until the current OCA issues are resolved (more on this to follow). For Vice President, we welcome Frank Tupka (Doctor Olds) to the position. Frank is enthusiastic and looking forward to supporting NEOC in his new role. Welcome aboard Frank!

The holiday party was well attended this year although a few had to stay home with flu like symptoms. (Get better soon). Comments from many who attended praised the venue, food, price, and most importantly,



Did you win anything at the holiday raffle this year?

the attendees. This is the first year that we had our holiday get

together in January in order to avoid holiday conflicts. Should we continue doing this?

## Presidents Message

So, a lot has happened since I last wrote a Prez message. I think that was way back in October when I was crabbing about falling leaves. No problem now as they are all covered with snow.

I left you all with the news that the NEOC President (me) and Vice President (Dave Richter) were vacating their positions effective 01/2013. The remaining officers and committee heads were remaining in their respective positions. They are:

Secretary – Larry Gagain

Treasurer – Bill Black

Membership Coordinator – Ed Palmieri

Activities Coordinator – Don Mucci

Car Show Coordinator – Mike Barillaro

Newsletter Editor – Jim Schmitz

Web Site support – Glenn Johnson

At the holiday party on 01/12/2013, I made the following announcement: I will stay on as President on a

As you all should know by now, there has been a lot of discord among the ranks of the OCA in recent months. This was preceded by several anonymous “MIN” (Member Information Network) letters distributed to chapter Presidents and OCA board members. These, in my opinion, are feeble attempts to undermine the current OCA administration. I personally denounce these letters and ask the authors to come forward and confront the OCA. There is also a petition to remove OCA Treasurer Gene Crowdis for violating several OCA by-laws. ----I thought this was supposed to be a car club?-----

The NEOC was asked to take a position on this matter and I chose for our club to be neutral and ask our members to speak their minds as individuals. I urge everyone to attend upcoming NEOC meetings for updates on this. In the meantime you may share your opinions or questions with your OCA zone directors, Dave Consoli or Bonnie Fochi. Their contact information is listed in JWO.----It **IS** supposed to be a car club!----  
‘Nuf said on that.

Membership renewals are currently at about 50% of last year's total membership. Have you renewed yet? Ed Palmieri is working on a proposal to change to our membership expiration dates to help with OCA com-

*(Continued on page 5)*



## NEOC Cub Merchandise

We have the following club merchandise available;

NEOC cookbook - SOLD OUT

NEOC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Nationals Magazine - \$5

NEOC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show Plaque - \$5

NEOC club logo window sticker - \$2

NEOC t-shirts - \$15 (have 2XL, XL, L, M, S)

NEOC denim shirts - \$20 (have XL only)

NEOC polo shirts - \$20 (have XL, L)

NEOC hats - \$10

Contact Glen Morris. , 203-269-4365

[Gmorris01@aol.com](mailto:Gmorris01@aol.com)

## Dean's Corner

Hi for those who don't know me, my name is Dean Franco. I am working with some others to add a column to our club's "Rocket Rumbblings" newsletter. This new section of the news letter, "Dean's corner" is going to cover technical aspects of our cars of passion – The Rocket. The intent is to help club members become more hands on and more informative among our cars.

Our initial coverage will be 68-72 'A' body cars, Cutlass, 442, Cutlass Supreme, F-85 and of course the Cutlass and Vista Cruiser Wagons, but our goal is to expand that to other years as well. Steve Minore has volunteered to be interviewed for a variety of subjects ranging from drive train to dash wiring. As you all know Steve's background in the drive train aspect of these years is second to none in our area. Steve has worked on many members cars (including mine) in this area particularly. His passion for these cars has shown thru his history of actions by first starting the club, creating an all "Olds show" and judging positions to name a few accomplishments. Steve has expressed overwhelming enthusiasm to do this and wants to give back to the club and its members.

His beginning experience started at his father's gas station and repair shop. Naturally being exposed to this at a young age propelled him into automotive culture. His relatives, cousin and uncle were involved in performance cars that happen to be our favorite – Oldsmobiles. At that point Steve was hooked especially with the early 70 'A' bodies with the most notable feature being that big bold striped ram air hood. From that point a continuous appreciation grew and a desire to become

an Oldsmobile aficionado. This led to frequenting car shows and more importantly the purchasing of cars and parts. Thru all of this he became extremely versed in 68-72 'A' bodies.

Steve strongly advocates that classic car owners become knowledgeable about their hobby and particularly about their own vehicles. He feels members should know self educating resources that will lead to self discovery and in turn more of a potential to be hands on with our rockets. I'd like to share a true and somewhat funny story between me and Steve in regards to this. I had called Steve to ask the difference between 68 and 69 air cleaners. Steve not only answered me but sent me shop manual pictures of the two with the distinguishable differences. The funny part is he concluded his findings and answers to me with a closing statement and I quote "you are a 68/69 guy you should have this information and know it ". His statements bleed through to me as he was completely correct in his commentary. This started my journey towards my self education with my cars as I hope this future technical sharing's from him will do the same for you. Stay tuned in the next newsletter for our first installment and please, if you would like a topic covered please let me know.

Sincerely, Dean

## My 2¢ (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

anyone any good, they just get everyone aggravated. You only need to look back in the history books to look at another group with three initials that operated in secrecy and the dark of knight. No good became of that either.

A past president used to end his monthly column with "You meet the nicest people in an Oldsmobile." There was quite a while that I felt this was true. Lately, I'm not so sure anymore, what changed? . Let's get back to the reason we joined in the first place, it wasn't for power or to control the club's Treasury, it was to help each other learn about, fix, restore and the key here - **enjoy our Oldsmobiles!**

Note - The preceding opinions are not officially those of the NEOC, just little ol' me.

## Presidents Message (cont'd)



She's coming home!

(Continued from page 3)

pliance. We will present that soon.

Finally, I am pleased to report that my '68 Ram-Rod is home awaiting reassembly after receiving a superb new paint job from Schaller Auto Body. Bruce Plourde oversaw the entire process while fully documenting every step for me. My heartfelt thanks go to Bruce and the great people at Schaller. There will be a follow up article and I promise to have the car on the road for the first warm spring day. How many days until spring???

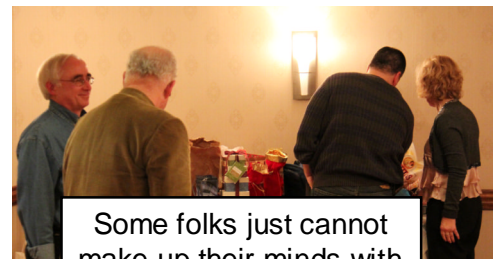
Stay safe and warm until we see you and your Olds back on the road again.

Glen Morris

## More photos from the NEOC Annual Christmas Party



Raffle sales were going great! We need to get these cuties to help at the car show!!



Some folks just cannot make up their minds with so many great items on the raffle table!



Meet your new Vice President - Frank Tupka



## Member Profile (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

know, there are less than ten 1962 Starfire's here.

Hopefully, my restored Starfire will contribute to make the Olds Rocket-technology of the days more famous here in Sweden. I bought mine in 2007 from Michigan through an ad on eBay. It was built in Texas and had lived most of it's life in Colorado, before it was purchased by no-fan-of-mine in Michigan who bought it and sold it to me. "Strong-running 394" the add said, but it didn't start in the harbor of New Jersey! Maybe for the better as I was forced to transport it in a container instead of a RO-RO boat. Ended up learning a bit as well, as I did the import work myself.

I drove it in the summer of 2008, but felt a bit of shame due to the oil smoke from the left pipe and the typical boiling of an old car. As I love everything else about this car, I have done an expensive restoration of the engine, transmission, front end and interior among other things.

The engine and most parts have been restored by profession-



als. They have the skill, equipment, garage and time to do it. Can't compete with that, nor do I like to. My contribution has been searching for parts and of course paying the bills J. I bought a NOS complete set of aluminum panels thru eBay which will be added after the new paintjob I plan for the winter of 2012/2013. To my extreme luck it is the panels without the chrome moldings most of these cars have from the door to the stern.

I will go a bit off original when I select the color. It will be white over copper red metallic (or a slight bit brighter than Garnet Mist).

The first time I saw a picture of this Oldsmobile model was in an issue of Popular Mechanics in the mid 60-ties. I was only 6 or 7 years old at the time, but it stuck

in my mind as an impossible dream! So 45 years later I've got one! I will never sell this baby, it will last my days of future driving!



The funny thing is that as a grownup, I first wanted a Mercedes AMG. This because I was at Spa in Belgium 2005, to watch my first live Grand Prix ever. The AMG came roaring up the famous Eau-Rouge corner (which is a very steep hill climb TV can't show proper) with it's V8 sound! After some thinking, and the fact of the pricetag of such an AMG, it boiled down to what was important for me! The sound! If I had the means to buy a new Mercedes AMG at the time, I probably would have gone bankrupt by insurance expenses long time ago! Now I've got the sound, sleek design and no depreciation worth mention of, all in the same package!

Greetings from Sweden!

Henry Gustafson

Member of the Oldsmobile Club of Sweden

## OCA Nat's Update

Rumors are correct, yes the Crown Plaza hotel's 288 rooms are almost sold out. Call and talk to Darlene Mon-Friday 9am-4pm central 217-585-2871 their are a few rooms left at the Crown Plaza but I understand Friday is sold out. However, 60 feet to the south is the Holiday Inn which still has 50 rooms left of it's total of 140 rooms, as of early February. The Holiday Inn can be reached at 217-529-7771. Cancellations come in sometimes daily and there are plans for an overflow but call first to see what's available. When Holiday Inn sell out emails will go out with new overflow hotel info please pass this info on.

There has been a change to the registration classes for race cars. You can visit the OCA web site for a new class form and can also visit [ivocolds.com](http://ivocolds.com) and [archwayoldclub.org](http://archwayoldclub.org) for all up to date forms and info. See you there!

Rich Barnas co-host 2013 OCA nationals

# Directions To The Next Couple of Meetings

The **March meeting** will be on **Saturday March 2nd at 1 PM** hosted by John Lenihan in Holyoke, MA.

**John Lenihan - (413) 533-7367**  
22 Claren Drive, Holyoke, MA 01040

**From Hartford, I-90 and points south:** I-91 North to Exit 17A (Route 141, Holyoke). Follow route 141 East for 0.2 miles. Turn left (North) on Route 5 [US202] for 0.8 mi. Take a left on Benis. Follow Bemis to the right and then turn Right onto Claren and go to #22.

**From the North:** Take I-91 South to Exit 17 (Route 141 Holyoke Ctr). Merge right onto SR141 Easthampton Road (North) for 0.4 mi to Bemis Road. Go right onto Bemis for 0.5 mi to Claren and go left to #22.

The **April meeting** will be on **Thursday April 4th at 7 PM**

Perhaps you'd like to host this meeting? It gives you the perfect opportunity to show off your garage and car to fellow club members (if you are sneaky, it might get you free advice or even free labor)!

## Again, Already?!

**A**lthough it may seem like it just happened---but its dues time (again). That's right renewal time once again is here. We need to be thinking about writing that check (but of course cash is accepted) and could easily be turned in at the annual Holiday party (yea it's that time too). As always, we all need to be in good standing with OCA for our "affiliated" chapter status to continue. OCA provides the needed support and insurance we need to run an event, that's a must as we all know. So its vital for all of us to not only to be up to date with OCA but NEOC as well. Of course the holiday season is upon us and we're all stressed with the upcoming Visa/MC pounding we are about to receive.

With all this aside, it time for NEOC to start the collection process with our members so we can meet our compliance requirements with OCA and continue NEOC membership base. PLEASE, it is important that when we do re-up that we include the renewal form contained in our newsletter (for renewal). All the bloody details can be forgone as long as they haven't changed but we keep these on file as a backup should anything be questioned.

I haven't seen many of you this year due to some technical difficulties on my end. Looking forward to working with the new NEOC board going forward. Hope to see you all at the upcoming Holiday party, if not, have

a SAFE and HAPPY holiday season.

LIGHT'EM UP one last time and lay'em up for their winters nap!!!!

Thanks, Ed Palmieri Membership coordinator

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## 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](mailto:Jim70442w30@aol.com)

Snail mail: Jim Schmitz

24 Pioneer Dr.

New Hartford, CT 06057

860-379-5221

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Vice President - Frank Tupka  
Treasurer - Bill Black  
Secretary - Larry Gagain  
Membership Coordinator - Ed Palmieri  
Activities Coordinator - Open Position



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