

Rocket Rumbblings

Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

Home of the 2010 Oldsmobile Club of America National Meet

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WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz

May/June 2011



It's that time of year!

The weather is clearing and it seems the rain is finally letting up as we see more and more of that giant star in our solar system we call the sun.

Hopefully we have all been able to get out to the garage and get our mechanical marvels all tuned and shined for this upcoming season.

Whether you race your car or work to get everything shined up better than new for shows or even if you just have a cruiser. Get out there and enjoy them. Gas prices are dropping, even though they're not where we would like them to be (and they probably never will be). Automotive "art" consists of photos and memorabilia, your car was designed as a personal mode of transportation. They were designed to be stylish, quick and reflect our personalities. This is obvious in the choices we make when it comes time to purchase and restore one!

Dates to Remember

- June 2 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM
Glen Morris's - Wallingford, CT
- June 5 - Pioneer Valley Show (see details inside)
Feeding Hills, MA
- June 6 - Oldsmobile Night @ Mark's Cruise 5 PM
East Granby, CT
- July 7 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM
Basil Treco's - New Britain, CT
- July 27-31 - OCA 2011 Nationals
Reno, NV
- Aug 4 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM
Your house?
- Aug 7 - Nain Street Show
Manchester, CT
- Aug 9-14 - Hot August Nights Car Show/Cruise
Reno, NV

If you enjoy car shows why not read the editor's piece and send in your thoughts on judging? We'd love to hear what you think.

Keep in mind we are still looking for car stories to feature. Relax with a nice adult beverage and dig through your old photos. We'll help put the story together. If you don't have good photos or don't trust yourself to take them, let me know we can arrange to get some taken that will show you and your baby in the best light. This club has quite a diverse group of collectors and collections, ranging from one car to dozens.

Your car says a lot about you and your personality, why not share that with the rest of the club? If you have several cars don't worry, we'd love to hear about each of them. **RR**

April Meeting Minutes

By Larry Gagain

April's meeting was held in Holyoke MA at the home of John Lanihan. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. The group extended its condolences to both John and Margaret on the loss of Margaret's Dad.

Old business:

Minutes of the March meeting were read by Glen Morris. Jim Schmitz gave a status on the 2011 Nationals advertising. Business cards were discussed...Jim gave the template to Basil for printing. It was announced that Ed Palmieri is the new Membership coordinator with Glen Morris working with him on the transition. Remaining cook book sales are progressing at a slow but steady pace. If you can take a few to sell please contact Bill Black. The Event Coordinator position is still open...please contact any of the club officers if you are interested. As always we are looking for articles for the news letter...please forward to Jim Schmitz.

Bill Black reviewed the treasurer's report.

New business:

The group agreed on a donation amount in the name of Joe Mondello to his favorite foundations/charities. Glen Morris went over the current membership status. John Lanihan gave an overview of the club stickers including the available sizes and pricing.

NEOC and Facebook – there is a New England Olds Club facebook page and discussion around content management and administration of the page was discussed. No decision was made and the group agreed to discuss further.

Reported by Larry Gagain – Secretary

President's Spring Message

By Glen Morris

Spring has sprung! Well, I know I promised that all the snow would melt but I forgot about all the water it would produce. And on top of that, we had all those "April showers" that "bring the flowers that bloom in May". Are lily pads considered to be flowers??

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming GMO Spring dust off car show scheduled for May 15th in Natick Mass. As previously mentioned, OCA President Jerry Wilson will be making a special appearance at this show. I have pre-registered and will be there bright and early to help where needed. Our daughter, son-in-law and grand-son live 2 miles away so a visit to them the night before gives Nancy a good reason to accompany me for this trip. Of course this makes my early arrival so much easier! I hope that NEOC can provide a caravan to this show.

Our new treasurer may be a retired accountant but he continues to be able to monitor, analyze, and suggest ways to save money for the club. Bill Black has discovered that our old system of sending USPS newsletter mailings was costing more than the dues covered.

So, he has implemented a new system that will put us back in the "black". We do encourage anyone who has e-mail to use the on-line mailings to save even more money. You will receive your newsletter in full color earlier than USPS and help save money for the club by receiving e-mail newsletters. Please let us know if you can switch from USPS to e-mail.

Don Mucci has made arrangements with



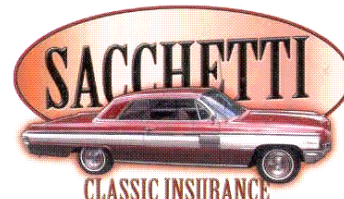
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the people at Mark's Cruise to hold "Oldsmobile Night" at their cruise on June 6th. Gates open at 5:00 and we look forward to a good showing of Oldsmobiles along with the 600+ other cruisers that regularly attend this popular event. At least one Oldsmobile will be awarded a special trophy from the people at Mark's.

Dave Richter has mentioned that the Pioneer Valley GTO Club will be awarding a trophy to an Oldsmobile at their car show on June 5th in Feeding Hills Mass. By the way, the proceeds from this show benefit the Shriners Hospitals for Children just as our own show. Please make an effort to support this.

Your newsletter editor Jim Schmitz is still looking for newsletter material. The newsletter is the heartbeat of any organization and it needs input from the members. PLEASE consider contributing and let Jim or any club officer know of what you may have to offer. Old stories and personal stories are my favorites.

Mike Barillaro continues to quietly work behind the scenes on our upcoming 15th annual car show. Mike has created a spread sheet with the requirements to make the show successful, but we need to fill in the blanks. We still need volunteers to fill judging, parking, raffle support activities during the show and provide raffle prizes, advertising and sponsorship prior to the show. Again, PLEASE consider helping in one of these areas and contact Mike or any club officer. Keep in mind that the more volunteers we get, the easier it will be on other volunteers and it will ultimately support the Shriners.

I think it's time to hop in one of the Olds in my driveway and take a ride...while forgetting about the price of gas! Can you put a price on that feeling of driving your Olds?

See you all on the road real soon...

Glen Morris
NEOC President



John Seuss in his H/O pulls away from a clean LeMans T-37

April Meeting Minutes

By Larry Gagain

The May meeting was held at the home of Larry Gagain in Somers CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

Old Business:

The meeting minutes of the April meeting were read by Larry Gagain. Jim Schmitz is now working on the final Business Card details with Basil.

Bill Black reviewed the treasurer's report.

New Business:

Club stickers – the group agreed that the sticker size will be 2.5 inches and we will take advantage of the price break with the larger quantity.

NEOC on Facebook was brought up for discussion.

Glenn Johnson indicated he would become the administrator but needs Chris Stanco to pass the admin rights. Glen Morris will contact Chris.

Drag Day is 5/6.

Mark's Cruise Oldsmobile night will be Monday 6/6.

The club picnic was discussed...need a host and date.

Reported by Larry Gagain – Club Secretary

My 50¢ (cont'd)

by Jim Schmitz

(Continued from page 4)

restoration.

The fact remains that there are more high quality cars present. This has made it harder on the judges to pick the best car in each class. Quite honestly it really depends on what day it is because sometimes, two cars are so close it becomes almost arbitrary to determine which is best. OCA's judging committee is working on some changes to the judging at national meets. The way I see it, we are going to have to move into some kind of "elite" judging class for some of the more popular (and expensive) restorations, much like the some of the other clubs have.

There's one other factor to consider when you attend a judged show or national meet. The weather. Don't believe me? Sometimes just showing up will allow you to reap the rewards as some high dollar cars aren't allowed to come out and play if it's not sunny and mild! Like I said, just my 50¢. What are **YOUR** thoughts? **RR**

My 50¢ by Jim Schmitz

I was going to title this column my 2¢, but just could not think of ANYTHING you can still get for 2¢ anymore. However you can still get a pack of gum with two quarters. Hopefully you'll all get tired of my rants and raves and send me your take on some of these issues. I would LOVE to print alternative viewpoints!

The subject this month is Judging. This has been a topic of discussion lately, especially at regional and national shows. I think in order to better understand where we are, we need to look at where we have been.

Years ago, the folks with the meticulously restored "100 point" show cars were the enthusiasts that were willing to hunt & peck through the boneyards looking for the nicest parts and carefully removing them and taking them home. We often hear people saying that they had gotten rid of cars in better shape than what they are restoring now.

Think about it, 15 years ago the restoration market really consisted of parts for a select offering of vehicles such as VW's, mid-fifties Thunderbirds, Corvette's and a few others. For the rest of us there weren't catalogs full of seat covers and replacement panels. If the manufacturer didn't have stock of your quarter panels, you either went and got one cut off a car in the boneyard, carefully removed it and placed it on your vehicle or you made the replacement piece that was needed. This alone made restoring many cars a much more expensive proposition.

It is interesting to observe how many in the automotive hobby view their brethren. Once (a long, long time ago in a Galaxy far, far away...) on a 4 wheeling trip to Colorado, I ran into a fellow 4 wheeler while wearing an "Olds" t-shirt. As we chatted I found out his brother was well known for his Oldsmobile restorations. What this individual (who was covered in mud and had just watched his ride for the week barrel roll down a Colorado hillside) could not understand was how his brother could sit in the junkyard with a razor blade and carefully remove the sticker from the door of a wreck to use it on his car. Obviously there were completely different tastes in the automotive hobby here which I am sure made for interesting Thanksgiving dinner conversation.

My point is that the people with the nicest restorations were the ones willing to scour the junkyards and search for the parts needed. Although they may not be new, they often had parts that were impossible to tell from new.

Times have changed dramatically, want a Mustang or Camaro? You don't need to go to Ford or Chevrolet. Today

you can buy everything you need to put one of these cars together from the aftermarket. While our beloved Oldsmobiles may not have quite the selection of restoration parts as a Camaro or Mustang, there are an unbelievable amount of parts available.

What does this mean for the quality and quantity of restored cars today? What it means is that it takes more than a lot of sweat equity to get a top notch restoration today. It takes money. Now, when it comes down to that last part you need to complete a restoration isn't three weekends of searching junkyards away. Now, it can be only a phone call away to order the part from a catalog. Or it ends up seeing who is willing (or able) to dig the deepest into their wallets for that top bid on eBay.

As a result of all of the nice reproduction parts we are seeing the quality of the restorations in general elevated to a point we have not seen before. It's not only the guys willing to hunt and restore each piece meticulously that has a nice car, it is also the person with a thick wallet that can pay someone to do it. This was unheard of before because it wasn't cost effective to pay someone to restore each little part, now you can just open a catalog and order them.

Years ago, I recall going to the Nationals and seeing really, I mean REALLY, nice cars that were restored by their owners showing up with the back seat stuffed full of tires and wheels as well as engine parts and sheet metal. It is highly unlikely that you would see that today. Now we have people show up with what I tend to call "boxcars", cars that sit in a nice enclosed trailer and only come out of this "box" for judging and then are whisked right back before the dust settles on the Armor All'ed treads of the repop Polyglas tires. In years past, those were the guys with the nice cars and all the parts for sale. They got those parts by looking for better ones for their cars and helped the rest of us by finding good ones they didn't need.

Restorations can also be done much quicker with the available parts. What this has done is change the overall picture at car shows. There are many more high quality cars that surface every year. Where each judging class used to only have a couple standout cars, now the standouts are becoming the standard. Take a look at the Nationals last year, there was an unbelievable number of 1000 point cars. Were there *really* that many perfect cars? I have a hard time believing there is a "perfect" car, but the judges found quite a few of them. Is this a due to the quality of the cars or the quality of the judges? Perhaps it is just that the quality of the cars has caught and surpassed the quality of the judges. One reason could be that the owners of more and more of the top notch cars are not the restorers and therefore don't know all the little idiosyncrasies of what to look for in a top notch

(Continued on page 3)

Spring Dust Off

After a one week rain delay, the GMO had their Dust Off on a cool Spring Sunday in Natick, MA. Many cars enjoyed their first outing of the year and I know a few didn't get out in time for this show, but the nice thing about pleasant weather in New England is that there is always someplace nice to go for a leisurely drive. After a day of judging and general car talk, the awards were handed out and an enjoyable day was brought to a close and started the Oldsmobile show season!



Oggie Pesek brought an interesting Supreme. Complete with LS power and six speed manual, the power is put thru a custom chassis and suspension. This car is a true hot rod!



Everett Horton brought out his '72 Supreme with a column shift and yes, that's a 3rd pedal!



Some of our younger members probably haven't seen a back seat this expansive although they may have had their beginning there!!



George Berejik accepts his award for a lifetime of dedication to Oldsmobile and its customers/family.



The show had quite the variety of cars with the usual abundance of cars from the 50's through 70's.



Mike Babij found something to do other than clean his car all day.

Pioneer Valley Association's

13th ANNUAL CHARITY CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Sunday June 5th, 2011 from 9am-4pm



Polish American Club

139 Southwick St. (Rt 57) Feeding Hills, MA.



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 - ▶ Park on the Grass and Enjoy the Food, Drink and Spirit's
 - ▶ Best Trophies in the Valley
- ▶ Ames Performance: Order your parts and pick them up at the show

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Directions To The Next Couple of Meetings

The **June meeting** will be on **Thursday June 2nd**, hosted by Glen Morris at the Olds ranch in Wallingford, CT.

Glen Morris (203) 269-4365
77 West Dayton Hill Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

I-91 North or South to Exit #13

At the end of the ramp, take a left onto Route 5/Washington Ave..

About ½ mile (just past Wharton Brook State Park) take a left onto Scrub Oak Road.

Proceed to the Stop Sign (about ½ mile), take a left and then a quick right onto Pond Hill Road.

Follow Pond Hill Road about 1 ½ miles, over the railroad tracks and past Pond Hill School to the Stop Sign.

Bear right onto West Dayton Hill Road.

Continue for ½ mile through the Stop Sign to #77 on the right side

The **July meeting** will be held at Basil & RoseMary Treco's in New Britain on **Thursday July 7** at 7 pm.

RoseMary & Basil Treco (860) 229-5156
343 Eddy Glover Blvd., New Britain, CT 06053-2411

From Hartford and points North

Head West on I-84 to exit 39A onto Route 9 South. At exit 30 Route 71 [Hartford Rd.] for 1.6 mi, Turn RIGHT (West) onto Eddy Glover Blvd for 0.7 mi. to #343.

From Waterbury and points West

Take I-84 (North-East) After the merge with Route 72, stay on 72 and exit at Columbus Blvd. Follow Columbus for 0.2 mi and make a LEFT (North) onto Washington St. in 0.6 mi. continue (North) onto Farmington for 0.3 mi, bear RIGHT onto Eddy Glover Blvd for 0.5 mi to #343.

From New Haven and points South

Take I-91 (North) to exit 17 [Wilbur Cross Parkway] US5/SR15 for 7.5 mi to SR72 [SR9] (West) for 3 mi, to exit 26 Columbus Blvd, in 0.5 mi turn RIGHT (North) onto Washington St. in 0.6 mi. continue (North) onto Farmington for 0.3 mi, bear RIGHT onto Eddy Glover Blvd for 0.5 mi to #343.

Rocket Classifieds

For Sale: Canon Rebel XTi Digital SLR

Model 400D,

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- ♦ UV protection filter
- ♦ Manual
- ♦ New 2Gb and 4Gb CF cards included.



Camera and lens in excellent condition \$350

Contact: Jim Schmitz 860-485-8788
Jim70442w30@aol.com

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 860-379-5221
24 Pioneer Dr.
New Hartford, CT 06057

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Rumford, RI 02916-1215

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