

# Rocket Rumbblings

Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

*Home of the 2010 Oldsmobile Club of America National Meet*

Volume 16 Issue 3/4

WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz

Mar/Apr 2011

## NEOC Member Profile Continued on Page 4

This newsletter features the second half of the story of how one member came to find his own special Oldsmobile. Ed and Barb Palmieri picked up a 1970 442 convertible as their ride of choice. Obviously Ed understands that 1970 was the pinnacle of Oldsmobile power and style and with the Sebring yellow example that resides in their garage.



So how would you like to get your ride here? We'd love to hear and share YOUR story. Tell us how you found that elusive barn find. How you inherited your grandfather's Olds and made it yours. What is your earliest memory of an Olds? Why you chose Oldsmobile over some of the other collectibles available.

## Dates to Remember

- Apr ~~X~~ - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM—POSTPONED  
John Lenihan's - Holyoke, MA
- Apr 10 - Ty-Rods Swap Meet - Sunday  
Stafford Speedway, Stafford Springs, CT
- Apr 14 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM  
John Lenihan's - Holyoke, MA
- Apr 27 - May 1 - Spring Carlisle  
Carlisle, PA
- May 1 - CSRA Swap Meet - Sunday  
Lake Compounce—Bristol, CT
- May 5 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM  
Larry Gagain's, Somers, CT
- May 15- Eastern Mass GMO Spring Dust Off  
Natick Elks Club, Natick, MA

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**



# March Meeting Minutes

By Glen Morris

March 5<sup>th</sup> was the NEOC meeting date held at the home of Tom Comer in Clinton Ct. About ten members were in attendance. Attendance was low due to the cancelled boat rides from the south.

Before the meeting, members were given a tour of Tom's incredible workshop and garage area. In addition to Tom's spectacular '69 442, there was a beautiful 1956 Ford Fairlane Convertible that Tom is working on for his Dad.

The meeting started shortly after 1:00 with Old Business first. Jim Schmitz offered copies of our proposed ads for the 2011 Nationals. NEOC sticker samples from John Lenihan will be available at the next meeting. Basil will supply NEOC business card samples to Glen Morris for review. There was discussion about the need for newsletter articles. Jim requested stories from members talking about their first Oldsmobile, why Olds, restoration projects, etc.. Mike Babij mumbled something about writing a future article...or was that his stomach? Ed Palmieri submitted his article after many years of pressure (see the second part in this issue).

The New Business discussion started with NEOC now being on Facebook. Future discussions will be had on this subject. Ed Palmieri volunteered to fill the Membership Coordinator position and will work with Glen on this transition over the next few months. (Glen has to show him how to crack the whip). A request was made by Glen and Dave Richter about 2011 Nationals attendance. Please let them know if you are attending. Preliminary results show a good turnout of NEOC members in Reno. A caravan to the spring GMO show was briefly discussed but this still needs organization. An invitation to a cruise/road show by Cardone and Daughter in Westbrook was discussed. Glen will follow up

with questions but there seems to be some interest here also. The annual Mark's cruise was discussed. Does anyone want to set this up for June-July timeframe? The annual NEOC club picnic was also discussed and we are looking for a host. It was also noted that cook-book sales are ongoing slowly but surely. Bill Black's retirement account depends on this.

Next was car show discussion. It was noted that Mike Barillaro's organization will be something new that we will have to get used to. The Days Inn on Berlin Turnpike in Berlin Ct. has been locked in for 9/11 with a 9/18 rain date. Jim passed around the first draft of a flyer. A few modifications are needed but it looks good. A DJ has been chosen but a food vendor still needs to be identified. Steve Minore is following up on this. (Steve is the MIA that vows to bring one of HIS cars to the show this year!). Judging volunteers still needed as well as parking and registration help. Mike Barillaro will be looking for names for his spreadsheet of volunteers. Awards, clothing, raffle items, goodie bag items and other show needs also discussed.

NEOC members were getting restless when it was noted that Tom had cooked a batch of hot dogs and hamburgers in anticipation of warmer weather. Tom also provided an ample quantity of Rolling Rock for Larry. Since Larry had to work, attending members managed to enjoy the Rolling Rocks for Larry's benefit.

Respectfully submitted by  
sometimes secretary Glen  
Morris. **RR**



Cutlass  
442  
W-30

New and Reproduction Parts for  
1961-1977 Cutlass 442  
1935-1975 Oldsmobile

**Fusick**  
**Automotive Products, Inc.**

P.O. Box 655 22 Thompson Road  
East Windsor, Connecticut 06088

1-860-623-1589  
Fax 1-860-623-3118



**RICHARD P. SACCHETTI**  
TEL. 401-461-0600  
FAX 401-781-1375  
1-888-526-0900

Licensed in  
RI, MA, CT, FL, NV

PO BOX 8230  
845 POST RD.  
WARWICK, RI 02888

# President's Spring Message

By Glen Morris

Is it Spring yet?

Have you had enough of the snow and ice from one of the worst winters on record? Are you getting just a little anxious to drive that Olds again? I promise that the weather will get better and I predict that all the snow in the Northeast will melt by mid June....July at the latest!

When I packed up my two Olds this past Fall, I had every intention of moving them during the winter and maybe even taking them for a spin on a nicer day. Wrong! I'm sure the Ram-Rod will suffer from flat spots on those bias ply F-70's when I do move it. The 69 on the other hand is cocoon wrapped outside in my driveway and all but disappeared during the snowy period. I think it's still there? Is it Spring yet??

NEOC is poised and ready to take advantage of the upcoming warm driving season. Our membership is just over 50 as of this writing. Low renewals are typical this time of year every year but will improve as we start to suffer from Spring fever. The good news is that we are 100% compliant with the OCA. The better news is that Ed Palmieri has stepped into the Membership Coordinator position for NEOC. I will work with Ed over the next few months to get him up to speed. Ed has already suggested multiple year renewals which will help those who may forget to renew on a regular basis.

We will be hosting our 15<sup>th</sup> annual all Oldsmobile car show in September this year. The location will be at the Days Inn on the Berlin Turnpike in Berlin Ct. on September 11<sup>th</sup>. We feel this is a great location with a lot of traffic activity which should draw more participants and spectators. Mike Barillaro and Steve Minore are working the details for this event. Please volunteer for a committee by contacting Mike.

We are also planning our representation and participation at the 2011 Olds Nationals in Reno. It looks like we will have a strong group of members attending. This is a GREAT statement from us as the host for the 2010 Nationals and being on the opposite side of the country. Dave Richter and I will be working on a list of attendees for this event.

Oh, and don't forget, we still have those great member

cookbooks from the Nationals for sale. Price is a very reasonable \$5 each and all proceeds go to the club. Moms, Grandmothers, sisters, aunts, and a few brave guys will always find a good recipe here.

Yours truly (me) accepted an early retirement/separation package from PWA, my employer for the past 35 years effective 12/31/2010. Nancy took an early retirement in November of 2010 so the timing was right for me. This will also allow me to focus on this great Olds club in the future. I plan to do that with all of your support.

Glen Morris  
NEOC President

## Spring Drag Day

Just received word from DragMaster Carl that the roster for our Spring Drag Day on May 6 at Lebanon Valley Dragway is about half full already! If you plan to run, get in touch with Carl at [cdudash@snet.net](mailto:cdudash@snet.net) as soon as possible. Some basic information is below, but you will need to fill out the proper form and send it in with a check..

The rain date is the following Friday, May 13. The fee remains \$70 for the day. You can start sending in your deposits per the instructions on the form, contact Carl for the form if you don't have one. Fill out the info requested and send that top portion to Carl along with your \$30 deposit check made out to "LVD". Please include a self addressed stamped envelope so that he can send you your Track Rental Receipt by return mail. Once you receive that signed and numbered Receipt, it's yours. If you find that you are unable to run on the day of the rental, it will be up to you to find a replacement and pass the receipt along to that person.

You may have two drivers for one car for a single entry fee. You are responsible for your car to pass tech inspection, no refund if it fails. Gates open at 8AM, Tech starts at 9 and we start racing at 10. Racing fuel will be available at the track. Spectators and crewmembers get in for free, so bring your family and friends. The food stand at the track will be open, or you can bring your grill and have a cookout. **RR**



# My Journey for Olds... *from acquisition to retirement!*

by Ed Palmieri

As we left our hero last episode, Ed had finished lunch with the seller and was test driving the car in Missouri.

So ride over, he pulls it into the garage while I videotape and record the rumble of the exhausts. Now, for the final shot at additional discounts, as expected, the seller balked, but I was able to talk him into covering my flight. Then it was a simple matter of payment and I started thumbing out the cash. All done, title signed and in hand, I headed back towards the airport for a \$29 room. Still no sleep, I make the call home and I grab some dinner. Once home, I would need to finalize transport to get the car picked up and on its own journey, to its new home in Connecticut. Sunday came quickly and I flew home early afternoon to get back to work Sunday evening by 5pm, right on time, my trip was not only complete, it was also a great success.



Then came the next wait... it was a long 2 weeks before the 442 would finally arrive. I couldn't wait for my wife to enjoy the rumble of that 455 as it was backed out of the trailer. As luck would have it, after all this, the car wouldn't start. We rolled it out and the driver helped me push it into the driveway. Thankfully, a new battery was all that was needed for the 442 to sing again.

A little cleaning and waxing and its time to hit the car show scene. My first stop with the car, *my car*, was the Hammonasset Country Club in Madison, CT in August 1991. Not having any idea what to expect, I found myself in a mix of various car club members and something I never expected - a 1970 Superbird arrived on a trailer. Guess it never dawned on me just how intense

people were with their muscle and classic car entries. Boy, I had a lot to learn on the passion this hobby generates. Once again, as my first showing I had no idea what a peer judging event was made up of, and no, I didn't receive any recognition for the only Olds on the field. As you would expect, the Corvette, Chevy and Mustang clubs prevailed. Oh well, there will be others. I would attend this event for the next four years; it was a nice private venue on the beach, so why not? It was through this event that I actually met some very nice folks. One couple was thrilled to see an Oldsmobile at the event and couldn't wait to take pictures for their son; they even requested permission to do so. The folks I met were Steve Minore's parents. For those that don't know, Steve was one of the founding members of NEOC. Not long after this meeting, somehow, Steve and I would talk. If I recall he was in the throws of trying to get NEOC started. In a discussion with another Olds person, he would explain the lack of OCA affiliation to me as a reason to wait to join, what did I know, I waited.

In 1993 we decided to attend the OCA Nationals in Somerset NJ. This would be another first added to our experience of our newly found hobby. At the Saturday evening banquet we were seated with all of the people from CT who stared at us while we stared at them, apparently they all knew each other, we were the odd couple out. It didn't take long before we started discussing where we lived and what we were delivered to the show in. If I'm not mistaken all of the people we met





that evening in Somerset are still members of NEOC today. I performed my first judging activity there and have continued to support volunteer judging activities at all of NEOC meets as well as five OCA National events we have been able to attend. In 1996 I became member number 45 with NEOC. Since joining we have gone from just someone assigned to the Connecticut table, to becoming friends with all of them and their families. I have participated in every annual NEOC show with some amazing results from our dedicated judges. My first NEOC trophy was presented at the first annual show in 1997, a 1st place recognition in the open performance class. I went on in the two following years to enjoy runner up status. In 2000 I received another first place in my class which now kicked me up to the Senior's class which the club had modeled along the lines of OCA. Along comes 2001, and I was honored with the Best of Show award and in 2002 a 1<sup>st</sup> place in Senior's. All

him to start driving it instead of waxing it". Well I have tried, but I'm not always as successful at driving the 442 as much as I'd like. After a sunny weekend, friends at work would ask if I had the car out (and I hadn't) I have to say "no, did you have yours out this weekend?", then they just stare at me.



So keep lighting the Rockets. It's been a great ride (so far) with great people at some interesting places. Thank You, to all of our NEOC family for these great memories.

of the awards, were accepted with a great sense of gratitude for the recognition. Now with this first place in Seniors (in 2002) our meet emcee graciously, announces that by winning the Senior class, the 442 needs to take a break and let others win so it is officially retired from judging in the NEOC event. My 442 becomes the first vehicle within the NEOC ranks to have this retirement classification bestowed upon it. In its own right, it's another honor awarded by the members of our club. Our emcee goes on to tell the crowd that "it's time for



# **Eastern Massachusetts GMO All Oldsmobile Spring Dust-Off Show 2011**



**Sunday May 15, 2011 - 8AM to 3 PM**

(Rain Date May 22, 2011)

**Natick Elks Club**

**95 Speen Street - Natick, MA 01760**

Just South of Rte 135

**Pre-Registration - \$15 (\$20 Day of Show)**

Please send entry forms and make checks payable to:

Eastern Massachusetts GMO Chapter  
114 West St  
Medway, MA 02053-2226

For Show information call:

Bob Gobiell - 508-864-7529 (Cell )  
Ted Loran - 508-561-7613 (Cell )

Or email:

[cschiel@nalco.com](mailto:cschiel@nalco.com)  
[ted@teds-olds.com](mailto:ted@teds-olds.com)

Information via the Internet:

<http://clubs.hemmings.com/olds-gmo>



# Directions To The Next Couple of Meetings

The **April meeting** will be on **Thursday April 7th**, 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 **May meeting** will be on **Thursday May 5th**, hosted by Larry Gagain in Somers, CT.

**Larry Gagain - (860) 763-1394**  
465 Springfield Rd, Somers, CT 06071

## Directions:

From I-91 North or South - take Exit 47E and follow Hazard Ave. (SR-190) East for almost 7 miles.

You will come to a traffic light just beyond the new Fire House (on your right).

At that light take a left onto Sokol Rd.

Follow Sokol for about 1 mile to stop sign.

Go straight through onto Avery Rd.

Follow Avery to it's end (about ¼ mile) stop sign.

Take a left onto RT83 (also know as Springfield Rd.)

My house is # 465 about 1 ¼ miles up on your left. (Grey Cape with Blue Shutters)

There is a large yellow sign with a picture of a stop sign and an arrow pointing straight ahead...my driveway is directly across the street from that sign. If you get to the traffic light you went too far.

## Rocket Classifieds

### **For Sale: Canon Rebel XTi Digital SLR**

Model 400D,

Complete setup includes;

- ♦ 10.1 MP body with 2.5" LCD display
- ♦ 18-55mm, f3.5-5.6 zoom lens (35mm equivalent is 29-88mm)
- ♦ 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](mailto: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](mailto:Jim70442w30@aol.com)

Snail mail: Jim Schmitz 860-379-5221  
24 Pioneer Dr.  
New Hartford, CT 06057

## **E & G Automotive**

**NOS / Used Oldsmobile Parts**  
**ANTIQUOLDS@AOL.COM**

EVERETT HORTON  
Fax (401) 435-5580  
Cell (401) 573-6361

54 Redland Ave.  
Rumford, RI 02916-1215

# New England Oldsmobile Club

## Business Address:

77 West Dayton Hill Rd.  
Wallingford, CT 06492-5324  
Email: gmorris01@aol.com

## Membership Information:

77 West Dayton Hill Rd.  
Wallingford, CT 06492-5324  
Email: gmorris01@aol.com

## Newsletter Publication:

24 Pioneer Dr.  
New Hartford, CT 06057  
860-379-5221  
Jim70442w30@aol.com



## Executive Board:

President - Glen Morris  
Vice President - Dave Richter  
Treasurer - Bill Black  
Secretary - Larry Gagain  
Membership Coordinator - Ed Palmieri  
Activities Coordinator - Open Position

## Oliver

**Autobody Co., Inc.**

1519 Dwight Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040

Phone 413-532-9413

Fax 532 - 7218

## Riley & Scranton Automotive Service Center, Inc.

Earl Bancroft - Manager

Shelly Bancroft - President

**Complete Auto Repairs  
Foreign & Domestic**

138 Welles St.  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Phone 860-633-3669  
Fax 860-659-8459

From:

New England Oldsmobile Club  
24 Pioneer Dr.  
New Hartford, CT 06057



Place  
Stamp  
here

To:

«FirstName» «LastName»

«Address»

«City» «State»

«ZipCode»