

Rocket Rumbblings

Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

Home of the 2010 Oldsmobile Club of America National Meet

Vol 17 - #2, 3 & 4

WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz

Spring 2012

See the USA in your Chevrolet?

By Bill Black

Well that's what Amy Fowler; age 46, did; except she chose an Oldsmobile instead of a Chevrolet for her travels. On June 22, 1930 she and a friend set out on a 6,000 mile journey from Hartford, Connecticut, winding their way across the country to Colorado and Wyoming. And the journey was accomplished in a 1927 Oldsmobile (that's her sitting in the car, loaded with gear for the trip).



Unfortunately there is no surviving written account of the trip but one can just imagine what adventures they encountered. Driving through the west on mostly unpaved roads must have been a challenge for both the car and its occupants. And who knows what they came upon in the way of weather and animals as they camped their way across America. However, we do know the travelers and their 6 cylinder, 185 C.U., 40 horsepower Oldsmobile did return in one piece, which is certainly a tribute to America's finest automobile manufacturer.

And why not. Oldsmobile had always been known for their forward thinking and being visionaries, at least back in the 20's. Their vision apparently suffered from glaucoma when they ceased making Oldsmobiles in 2004. The pictured Oldsmobile is a Series 30, soft top, four doors, Deluxe Touring. In 1927 they sold 99 Standard (cost \$875) and made 204 Deluxe (cost \$980) in the U.S. It was the first year they introduced four wheel brakes and they changed to 30X5.25 balloon tires. In addition, on the Deluxe series they included bumpers front and rear and an option of steel disc wheels or wooden spoke wheels and two tone paint combinations. You can see the disc wheels and two tone paint in the picture.

Amy's grand nephew told me she was an avid and adventurous outdoors person all her life so it was no surprise she would take on such a daunting task as a 6,000 mile trip. After she got married she and her husband would go on extended camping and hiking trips as members of the Appalachia Mountain Club. It looked like she preferred to see the U.S.A. in her Oldsmobile.

I think Dinah Shore would be impressed with her adventures, even if it wasn't in a Chevy.

(For those too young to remember, Dinah Shore was one of America's sweethearts. She was a movie and TV star with several successful television shows including *The Dinah Shore Chevy Show* (1956-1963), where each week, for her sponsor, she sang the commercial, "See the U.S.A. in your Chevrolet" The statistical information above was extracted from *The Cars of Oldsmobile*, by Dennis Castele).

Dates to Remember

Apr 5 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM

Bruce Plourde - New Britain, CT

Apr 15 - Safford Swap Meet

Stafford Motor Speedway 860-649-3697

Stafford Springs, CT

(Continued on page 4)

NEOC Meeting Notes

Meeting Minutes – January- 2012

The January meeting was attended by 10 members and held at the home of El Presidente' Glen Morris in Wallingford CT. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM.

Old Business

Bill Black reviewed the treasurer's report.

New Business

NEOC Car show

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

The location will be the same as last year – The Days Inn Berlin CT. The show field layout worked well overall...the group discussed reaching out to the Hawthorn Inn next door for potential overflow parking.

This year the raffle will consist of a few large ticket items and a 50/50.

The members voted and the decision is not to have goodie bags anymore.

We will use the same DJ this year, but are looking for a new food vendor.

We are all set with tents but were a little light on tables so we will purchase a few of the plastic banquet style tables for one of the wholesale clubs.

As for club merchandise, we have plenty of the smaller sizes left. Based on feedback we need larger size Denim shirts and 2x and 3x tee shirts.

We will use the same judging format again this year... Also discussed was bringing back the senior class now that we have the class winners from last year's show.

We are looking for a head judge.

Bill Black has done the majority of the work on the Ad magazine however all members are encouraged to help find sponsors.

We will post the show on the same internet sites as last year as well as pass out flyers at local shows throughout

the summer.

This year we will use 2011's Best of Show winner Paul White's 1949 modified convertible as the image for the show flyer and dash plaques.

We will use the same supplier for trophies and dash plaques.

The plan is again to meet the day before the show to prep the show field. This year we will work with the town to make sure there are no traffic flow issues.

The February meeting will be held at John Lenihan's home in Holyoke MA. The March meeting will be held at Tom Corner's home in Clinton CT.

Reported by Larry Gagain – Club Secretary

Meeting Minutes – February- 2012

The February meeting was attended by 9 members and held at the home of John Lenihan in Holyoke MA. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM.

Old Business

January minutes were read by Larry Gagain

Bill Black reviewed the treasurer's report.

New Business

Glen shared the Thank You cards from both the Platt family and the RE Olds museum.

Larry Gagain has held the position of club secretary for more than the required 2 year term. If anyone else is interested in the position, please let one of the club officers know.

At this year's nationals in Iowa, our friends in the GMO will put forth their proposal to host the 2015 nationals...good luck guys!

Ed Palmieri needs to take care of some family business so Glen Morris will assume the duties of membership coordinator until Ed's return.

The group discussed the idea of having a show logo t-shirt this year.

We talked about the need to purchase 3 more 6 foot tables for the car show. They will be purchased prior to the show.

NEOC Car show




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The date is confirmed and will be Sunday 9/23/12 with the rain date of Sunday 9/30. Glen and Bill will meet with Sagar at the host hotel on 2/11.

This year the raffle will consist of a few large ticket items and a 50/50.

We will use the same DJ this year and are still looking for a new food vendor.

We still need a head judge.

Bill Black has a signup sheet for advertisers. If you know anyone who would like to take an ad out please contact Bill.

We will welcome swap meet type vendors this year so if you know of anyone who would like to set up a spot, please let Bill Black know.

The local Shriners chapter will be there again this year to help out.

The March meeting will be held at Tom Cormer's home in Clinton CT.

The April meeting still needs a host.

Reported by Larry Gagain – Club Secretary

Meeting Minutes – March- 2012

The March meeting was attended by 10 members and held at the home of Tom Cormer in Clinton CT. The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM.

Old Business

February minutes were read by Larry Gagain

New Business

The NEOC membership is 100% compliant with 55 paid up members for 2012.

The car show flyer is complete and the group agreed it will look good on the show logo t-shirt.

The purchase 3 more 6 foot tables for the car show is pending.

Bill Black met with representatives of the Hawthorne Inn. They are being very supportive in so far as us using their parking lot as overflow, providing meal service (however their location for serving is quite a distance from the show field). They also would be pleased to host our holiday party.

Don Mucci will work with the folks from Mark's Cruise Night again this year to secure an Olds Night. Gene Miller asked about having another Dyno Day... the person who set up the last one is no longer with the club so not sure who would organize it as the club is still in need of an activity coordinator.

NEOC Car show - The date will be Sunday 9/23/12 with the rain date of Sunday 9/30. Glen, Bill and Mike met with Sagar from the Days Inn...he confirmed we cannot use the far entrance so with Bill's positive meeting with the Hawthorne we can use their entrance. Sa-

gar had nothing bad to say about how the show went and is looking forward to this year's event.

This year the raffle will consist of a few large ticket items such as (but not confirmed) a flat screen TV, Fusick certificates, Kindle Fire and a 50/50. Mike Barrillaro found a potential food vendor Crusin Café. Their menu is appropriate and they are self contained with a generator so no need for external power. We will use the same DJ this year. As there is no need to share power with the food vendor, he can go back to the gazebo this year.

We need a new head judge.

Bill Black has a signup sheet for advertisers. If you know anyone who would like to take an ad out please contact Bill.

We will welcome swap meet type vendors this year so if you know of anyone who would like to set up a spot, please let Bill Black know. The fee will be either 10% of sales or \$50 and a show book ad.

The local Shriners chapter will be there again this year to help out with the raffle and judging.

The April meeting will be hosted by Bruce Plourde. The May meeting will be held at Larry Gagain's house in Somers CT.

Reported by Larry Gagain – Club Secretary



E & G Automotive

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ANTIQUOLDS@AOL.COM

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Rumford, RI 02916-1215

NEOC Cub Merchandise

We have the following club merchandise available;

NEOC cookbook - \$5

NEOC 40th Anniversary Nationals Magazine - \$5

NEOC 40th 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

Car Shows & Events

(Continued from page 1)

April 25-29 - Spring Carlisle—Show & Swap Meet
Carlisle, PA

April 29th - 21st Annual Summer Knights show shine
swap meet. Berlin Fairgrounds 410 Beckley
Rd. Rain or shine 7am-3pm, all years welcome,
\$10 per car. 860-670-8532, 860-331-1258,
www.summernights.net

April 29th - Wallingford, Back in time classic car/
truck show, Zandri's Stillwood Inn, 1074
South Colony Road, 8:30am-2pm, \$10 fee,
www.doowopcruisers.com.

May 3 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM
John Lenihan'sMA

May 6th - Long Island and NYC Olds club Spring
dust off, Merrick Road, Merrick, Long
Island. 631-226-0289,
oldsjeff65@yahoo.com, 917-509-0528.

May 20th - Eastern Massachusetts GMO Spring Dust
Off, Kimball Farm, 1543 Lunenberg Road (Rte.
70), Lancaster Ma., 8am-3pm, \$15 pre reg
508-864-7529 or 508-561-7613
www.olds-gmo.com.

May 27th - Hemmings Musclepaloosa XV,
Lebanon Valley Dragway, NY. 800-227-4373

June 24th - Elm Bank Estate Antique Classic and
Custom Auto Show
www.elmbankautoshow.com

July 4th-7th - OCA Nationals, Iowa

NEOC Car Show Update

Spring is here, and that means car show season is just around the corner. The NEOC show committee is already hard at work planning for the 16th Annual All-Oldsmobile show. We will be returning to the Days Inn in Berlin, CT on September 23rd, with a rain date of September 30th. We have already scheduled the DJ and a new food vendor. We have some new things up our sleeves this year including event shirts and some new raffle ideas. We can still use your help. Car show planning will be a significant topic of discussion at upcoming monthly club meetings. Over the next few months will need assistance with soliciting advertisements for the show ad booklet. We are looking for someone to take the responsibility of head judge for the event. This person will plan judging activities, run a judges meeting prior to the start of the judging process, and help award trophies to show participants. Additionally, the day of the show we will need volunteers for set up, registration, parking, judging, raffle ticket and merchandise sales and clean up. The more volunteers we have, the smoother the day will go, and the more everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the show. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Mike Barillaro

Mikbl@att.net



Oldsmobile Art



Presidents Message

By Glen Morris

Signs of Spring?



Crocus peeping through leaves in my back yard

The '69 almost ready to come out and play



The '69 last winter (yea, it's in there!)

I think that maybe the winter that never was is almost behind us now. There have been a few spring like days in the past month that even motivated me to move one of the Olds. Fired up the Ram-Rod and took the '69 for a quick spin around the block. Worries about gas prices seem to slip away when you're behind the wheel of your Olds. Kind of.

The March meeting at Tom Comer's house went well and when I left, the sun was starting to break through the clouds which may have been another sign of spring. Of course this was after Tom's tour of his garage and update on the progress of his 1956 Ford Customline convertible. It sure appears that Tom's really nice convertible will be on the streets soon with its top down enjoying a leisurely cruise down Route 1. I'm pretty sure though that Tom's sweet '69 442 will be the

first with its top down this year. Bets anyone?

For those who couldn't make the meeting this month, there are some points of club business that are worth sharing here:

As you may have heard, the NEOC is 100% compliant as far as membership in the OCA. This is great news for our chapter. Thank you everyone for making this happen.

Our 16th annual Olds show plan is off to a great start. The show flyer is in the works and might even be in this newsletter. We are planning to use a modified flyer logo for t-shirts this year to be sold at the car show commemorating this year's show. Bill Black met with the owner of the Hawthorne Inn (immediately adjacent to the Days Inn of our car show) and was promised lots of support. Most if not all of our traffic flow and parking issues will be resolved this year by using the Hawthorne Inn area. We are streamlining the show this year by eliminating goodie bags and small raffle prizes. But, we will have several big ticket items to raffle in their place along with a 50/50 raffle. The Shriners have promised to support us by sending several of their people to help with raffles, judging, and advertisement. We will also allow vendors to participate this year for a nominal charge.

We are still in need of an activities coordinator for the club. There are many shows, cruises, and other events that we could participate in if someone could help coordinate. Are you interested in helping us here? We will still do our regular yearly events and with your help, come up with other ideas. Included in this newsletter is an early show and event calendar. Please let me know if you have anything to add to it and we will update this list on a regular basis.

We will return to our normal meeting schedule in April. That is the 1st Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at various members' homes or garages. We are also looking for a more central meeting location that is not necessarily at a members' place. I hope to see more of you now that the weather is getting better. Why not cruise to an upcoming meeting in your favorite Olds? We just might have to move the meeting outdoors under the hoods of our cars, or is that under the stars? All of our Olds are stars!

Glen Morris
NEOC President

A Tribute to Dr. Olds

As we are all well aware, one of Drag Racing's hero's and Oldsmobile legend, Joe Mondello passed away last year. Powerblock TV's Horsepower recently aired a tribute to Joe with a retrospective that includes Mondello sharing tech information with the show's hosts, Joe and Mike.

Watch as the chat with Joe and build a 455 using his knowledge and make a strong runner out of a junkyard engine.

For those of you more in tuned to sit at your PC and watch the show sans commercials, here is a link to it on the PowerBlock website.

http://www.powerblocktv.com/player/show_player.php?ep_show=HP&ep_num=HP2011-05

Anyone who ever spoke with Joe will understand and enjoy his direct and informative way of speaking one last time.

As you can see in the interview, Joe got his retirement party when HE wanted it. **RR**

Calendar Car Call

As you can see by the attached "Wanted" Poster, the R. E. Olds Transportation Museum is making a 2013 calendar to sell for a fundraiser this year. This calendar will have photos of Oldsmobile's on every page and we need your help in collecting photos to use. We are looking for people willing to submit pictures of their Oldsmobiles and REOs to us that we can put in the calendar.

Any questions can be addressed to:
Leslie Little
Manager
autos@reoldsmuseum.org
517.372.0529



WANTED YOUR HELP

THE R. E. OLDS TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM IS INITIATING A FUNDRAISER OF A 2013 CALENDAR. THIS CALENDAR WILL HAVE PHOTOS OF OLDSMOBILES ON EVERY PAGE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR OLDS FEATURED ON THIS CALANDAR PLEASE SUBMIT ANY OLDS RELATED PHOTOS FOR CONSIDERATION BEFORE MAY 1, 2012

SEND A DIGITAL COPY OF THE PHOTO TO:
AUTOS@REOLDSMUSEUM.ORG

OR HARD COPIES TO:
R. E. OLDS MUSEUM CALENDAR
240 MUSEUM DR.
LANSING, MI 48933

PHOTOS CANNOT BE RETURNED

REOLDS
TRANSPORTATION
MUSEUM

Directions To The Next Couple of Meetings

The **May meeting** will be on **Thursday May 3rd**, 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)

The **Junr meeting** will be held...



...have you considered hosting at your place?!

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

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

FOR SALE: 1965 Oldsmobile F-85

1965 F85 that my grandfather bought new and has been in the family ever since. Was last driven to my parents house two years ago. It is all original and we have all the paperwork for it. It could easily be re-stored by an Olds enthusiast or, heaven forbid, (!) parts. I am hoping to find right person or group for this job.

Contact: Tamara Hall
15 Eden St.
Putnam, CT 06260
1-860-617-7158

FOR SALE: 1931 Oldsmobile

1931 Olds 5 window rumble seat with 47,350 miles. Rebuilt motor 500 miles ago and is all original.

Contact: Bob Theriault
PO Box 326
Lebanon, ME 04027
201-978-6310



WANTED: Body/Frame Rotisserie

Looking to buy or borrow a rotisserie , keep in mind, borrowing would be long term, LOL!

Contact: Jim Schmitz
(860) 485-8788
jim70442w30@aol.com

New England Oldsmobile Club

Business Address:

77 West Dayton Hill Rd.
Wallingford, CT 06492-5324
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Executive Board:

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

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