

ROCKET RUMBLINGS



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1953 OLDSMOBILE 98—2012 OCA NATIONALS, DES MOINES, IA



NEOC Officers and Coordinators:

President - Jeff Walsh (jiffy852000@yahoo.com)

Secretary - Larry Gagain (lgagain@cox.net)

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

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

Treasurer - Bill Black (dragonflyfarm@att.net)

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

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

CAR SHOW UPDATE

The 18th annual New England Olds Club All-Olds Car Show is scheduled for Sunday, September 21, 2014. The rain date is the following Sunday, September 28th. The show will return to the Days Inn, 2387 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin, CT for the 4th consecutive year. The Food Vendor, DJ and photographer have all confirmed they will return again this year. The car show planning committee is working on raffles, club merchandise sales and other activities. The day of the show we will need assistance with set up, judging, parking/traffic control, raffle and merchandise sales and clean up. Volunteers are welcome and greatly appreciated.

This year we have established a hot line (203-442-6034) which will be updated the weekend of the show to reflect show status in the event that rain is in the forecast. A pre-recorded message

will be left at this number by 3:00 on the day before the scheduled show date.

We have made a revision to the class structure for this year as well. Due to the continued impressive car count in Class 3 (1973-1987, all models except 442, Hurst Olds and Toronado – 15 entrants in this class last year), this class has been split to class 3 and class 3a. Class 3 will be 1973-1987 Full Size (88, 98 and Custom Cruiser Wagons). Class 3a will be for 1973-1987, all models except for Full Size, 442, Hurst and Toronado.

We hope to see you and your favorite Oldsmobile at the show again this year. If you have any questions or recommendations please email us at newenglandolds@gmail.com

- Mike Barillaro

ROCKET RUMBLINGS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Who else is ready for the summer cruising season? I am sure that I speak for many of you when I say that I am thrilled the warmer weather is finally here and can finally take my classic cars out. While this winter has been long and cold, our Club has been very busy in the past few months. As many of you know, I was voted in as President at our February 2014 meeting to succeed Glen Morris. I would like to thank Glen for everything he has done for the Club during his term as President, and his support that he has provided to me as I "take the helm".

Since I am one of the club's "junior" members, I wanted to provide a little background of myself. I have been a member of the OCA since the spring of 2010 and a member of the New England Olds Club since the beginning of 2012. My Oldsmobile is a 1985 Delta 88 Royale Brougham 2 door with 230,000 miles. My father bought the car in March of 1986 off the showroom floor from Alderman Motors in Meriden, CT and has been in the family ever since! My father used the car for the first 5 years, then once I got my driver's license, he gave the car to me as he considered it to be big, slow and safe, the perfect combination for a new driver. I used the car since my high school years, although I now only take it out for weekend drives and going to various shows.

I have been a "car nut" since before I had my driver's license and have always liked to tinker on cars to see how things work. While I have learned a lot by tinkering on my Oldsmobile along with other cars that my family owned over the years, I have also made my fair share of mistakes, like the time I ruined the Rochester computer-controlled carburetor in the Olds in my high school shop class (that is a story for another time). While I have a soft spot for Oldsmobiles, I love to work on and admire all classic cars. In addition to my Olds, I also have a 1973 Volkswagen Superbeetle and have just started restoring a 1948 Willys Overland

4X4 truck.

While I had intentions of taking my Olds to the 2010 Nationals in Sturbridge, MA, I did not have my car ready in time as I had some extensive rust repair work that slowed down the body shop that was working on my car prior to repainting. After its paint job was completed in the fall of 2010, I had decided that I really wanted to display it at an upcoming OCA Nationals. Since the 2011 Nationals were in Reno, NV, I decided that I was going to make the 1,200 mile drive to Des Moines, IA for the 2012 OCA Nationals. Despite the 2 day drive and the 100+ degree extreme heat wave that was going on in the Midwest at that time, I met a lot of great people at the Nationals and had no regrets in attending. After that, I was bitten by the car show bug and have not looked back. I went to the 2013 OCA Nationals in Springfield, IL, caught up with some friends I met in Des Moines the year before and met some new friends as well. I am counting down the days, until the 2014 OCA Nationals in Cincinnati, OH, and when I load my car up on my trailer for the drive to Cincinnati!

Anyway back to what we are doing with our Club. As stated in Mike Barillaro's article, the preparation for our 2014 All Oldsmobile show is well underway at this time and we are hoping for another sunny day for our show on September 21st. Aside from our show, a lot of discussion has taken place during our monthly club meetings during the winter months, about having future monthly meetings at a central meeting location. Through the hard work of Mike Barillaro and Bill Black, several options were presented and discussed. I am happy to report that at the March meeting, it was voted and approved to have our future meetings at Margarita's in East Hartford, CT. Having a central meeting location in the greater Hartford region, should provide a better opportunity for members to attend. So

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—CONTINUED

far the April and May meetings have had turnouts between 12– 15 people!! Directions to Margarita's are included on the back page of this newsletter.

In addition to our new meeting location, we also prepared an anonymous online survey through Survey Monkey to gauge our members' thoughts on what is good and what we can do better. The survey link was e-mailed back in March to all members. For those that don't have an e-mail address, a copy of the survey was mailed along with a return envelope. A big thank you to our Vice President, Frank Tupka, for putting this together. See Frank's article on page 4 for a summary of the survey results.

I am very excited about everything that we have going on and welcome



Picture of my '85 Delta 88 Royale Brougham

any feedback from Club members on what is working and what can be done better. In the meantime, let's enjoy the long hours of daylight right now by taking our Oldsmobile's out and showing them off in the region.

Jeff Walsh

NEOC President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here is a summary of upcoming events:

- Sunday June 22nd - Little Rhody Pontiac Chapter 22nd Annual All GM Car Show, Hurd Automall, 1705 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI, 9 AM - 2 PM
- Monday June 30th - Mark's Cruise Night-Oldsmobile Night, East Granby, CT, 5 PM - 8 PM
- Saturday August 9th (rain date August 10th) - NEOC Picnic, Hubbard Park, Meriden, CT
- Wednesday July 30th - August 2nd, Oldsmobile Club of America 2014 Nationals, Cincinnati, OH
- Sunday September 21st - NEOC 18th Annual All Oldsmobile Show, Days Inn, 2387 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin, CT

For a full list of shows throughout Connecticut, see the Connecticut Seaport Car Club website www.ctseaportcarclub.com/carshows.htm

Please contact Don Mucci, Events Coordinator, with any questions.

ROCKET RUMBLINGS

CLUB SURVEY RESULTS

A few months ago the NEOC sent out a survey to find out how our members feel about the club and what we can do to better serve the local Oldsmobile hobby. On behalf of the executive board I would like to thank each of you who took the time to give us your responses! We had 38 members (as of May 5) who responded with valuable feedback. Some of the highlights are:

88% enjoy the annual All-Olds show (Scheduled for September 21st this year)

84% don't want any additional raffles (including me!)

56% wanted the club to try out a central meeting location (we are now entering our 4th month at Margarita's in East Hartford).

77% would like to see more personal interest articles in Rocket Rumbings (so please send us your story!)

95% will definitely or most likely renew their membership I the NEOC next year .

Nearly half of the membership wants more Olds themed items or vendors at the annual show (which we are working on!)

66% want to attend more local OCA chapter shows as a club.

It was great to hear the many positive comments our membership had about the club such as the benefits of getting tech advice, meeting new people, or even having an excuse to drive your Olds. We want to continue building on everything that has made the NEOC work over the years and hope you'll be at the next meeting to get to know your fellow Oldsmobililers! In addition the great feedback tells us what you want to see in the club.

The groundwork has been laid to work on the recommendations you made to us. This year's Oldsmobile show will remain All-Olds (as many

of you commented), will feature more Oldsmobile related items (such as the great Olds clocks Mike Barillaro picked up for the raffle), and hopefully a vendor or two (we currently plan on having an automotive artist there selling his work...and he promises to have some Olds specific artwork ready to go!). What the NEOC needs most of all is your help! Please consider writing a personal interest article for the magazine, a tech article that will help your fellow Olds aficionado, or attend a meeting. The last few months have seen attendance on the upswing since moving to the central meeting place and we would love to see that continue! Please don't hesitate to contact any of the board members, including myself to learn more about your club or to suggest an idea. Our contact information can be found in this issue or on the website www.neolds.com.

Keep the ideas and comments coming. As we get the NEOC ready for the summer season I cannot help, but think of the words of Charles F. (Boss) Kettering, who's work went into many GM and Olds innovations including the automatic transmission and Rocket V8: "My interest is in the *future* because I am going to spend the rest of my life there." Hopefully this summer hold many sunny weekends and great shows.

- Frank Tupka

NEOC Vice President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

The NEOC has a few new members and I would like to recognize and introduce them.

- Doug Waitowitz NEOC #351. Doug is from Southington CT and owns a 1971 Cutlass and a 1995 Aurora. I'm not sure which one he will drive to our all Olds show but two ain't too many!
- Stephani Turner and Al Breunich NEOC #353. They are from Peterborough, NH and own a 1974 Omega and a 1995 Aurora. When is the last time you saw an Omega? Hope they can bring it to our show in September.
- Rich and Karen Santucci NEOC #354. Rich and Karen are from Newton, MA and own a gorgeous 1971 442 W-30. They are not new to the Olds circle of friends as Rich is the Vice President of our sister GMO Eastern Mass. Chapter of the OCA.
- Bob Olender NEOC #355. Bob is from Guilford, CT and recently purchased a beautiful 1977 Cutlass Supreme. He also lists a 1977 Vista Cruiser and a 1973 Vista Cruiser as part of his Olds collection.
- Brian Stere NEOC #356. Brian hails from Bristol, CT and owns a 1996 Cutlass Ciera Wagon. Not all collectable Oldsmobiles are muscle cars after all!
- George Page NEOC #357. George lists Guilford, CT as the home of his 1989 Custom Cruiser. Yet another not often seen older Oldsmobile.
- Dan Fiorillo NEOC #358. Dan owns a beautiful freshly restored 1969 Cutlass and lives in Wallingford, CT. I met Dan at a recent cruise and twisted his arm to join our club!
- Bill Logozzo NEOC #359. Bill is from Niantic, CT and owns a 1957 98 convertible and a 1984 Toronado. Just two more nice cars that I hope can be at our show.

Welcome to NEOC! Our membership is at 65 paid up for this year!

Glen Morris

Membership Coordinator

THE VOTES ARE IN !!

Here are the Oldsmobile Club of America election results for the Executive Committee and the Atlantic Northeast Zone Director positions:

President - Jerry Wilson

Vice President - Karl Sup

Treasurer - Lynn Shipley

Secretary - Dalene DeLong

Atlantic Northeast Zone Directors

Al Bouney

Sal Cerrone

Congratulations to all !!!!

ROCKET RUMBLINGS

CONNECTICUT CLASSIC CAR COMPANY

While all of us are car nuts to some degree, some of us (myself included) just don't have the desire or the patience to take on certain projects involved in our restoration projects. For myself, bodywork is my nemesis, while I have been improving at using body filler and prepping body areas for primer and paint, I just don't have the patience to do everything that is necessary to prep and paint a car effectively.

As stated in my President's Message, in addition to my '85 Oldsmobile, I also have a 1973 VW Superbeetle, which has a lot of sentimental value to me as it was previously owned by a former neighbor of mine who taught me a lot about cars and how to repair them while I was in high school. Since the car was in storage for over 10 years, I spent the past few years slowly getting the car mechanically sound so it could be driven safely. Now that the final mechanical items were addressed last spring, the one big item left on the "to do" list was to address the surface rust and the faded and cracking paint. The biggest issue I had was finding a body shop that would work on an older car in addition to performing the necessary rust repair work. As I learned with my Olds, depending on the workload of accident damage vehicles at a body shop, the car can be tied up for months! I really didn't want to have the same thing happen to my VW, so I put off the paint job. Then I met fellow NEOC member John Welsh last November at the monthly NEOC meeting and all of that changed.

John is a person who wears many hats, in addition to his National Guard responsibilities and employment at Pratt and Whitney, he also owns the Connecticut Classic Car Company in Meriden, CT. John hosted the November meeting at his shop which gave everyone a chance to learn what type of work his shop does. Alt-

hough he has significant experience with Oldsmobiles, he and his staff have worked on other GM makes in addition to foreign and other domestic makes and models. John's mission statement is simple, to focus only on classic cars and to work on the cars in a "first come, first serve" approach. Using this approach, John and his staff ensure that your project does not get pushed to the side for other projects as they will only start a new project once the previous project has been completed.

After the November meeting, I spoke to John and told him about my VW, the story behind the car, and that I was looking to get the surface rust addressed and repainted. He was eager to help out, so I brought the VW to the shop a few weeks later, so his body technician, Dave, could look the car over and see when they would be able to take the car. About 2 months later, I got the call from John in late January, that I was next in line, so I got the car ready, removed the interior and dropped the car off in early February so they could start working on it.

John kept me informed as the work progressed and provided me many photos of the work done throughout the project. He also encouraged me to come down and inspect the progress throughout the project. After about 5 weeks, the car was repainted and put back together and looked awesome!!

In addition, John also has Oldsmobile parts for sale, so if you are looking for a tough to find part, John may have it. If you are looking to get some work done on your classic car, please consider giving John a call. The best way to reach John is through his cell (203) 631-0184. Most importantly, all NEOC members receive a discount!!

- Jeff Walsh



Rust repair work underway



More rust repair....



In primer and ready for paint



Painted and getting reassembled



The finished product!!

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.

Next Meeting:

Thursday July 10th at 7 PM. Hope to see you there!!