

Rocket Rumbings

Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

Volume 11 Issue 12

WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz

December 2005

An NEOC Christmas Carol



'Twas the night before Christmas
And all across our land,
We were all very concerned
With the war, storms, and gas prices at hand.
We still cherish our Oldsmobiles
Through all this worry,
Which leads me to write
This twisted Christmas story.
Our Oldsmobiles are stored
Waiting patiently for Spring,
While we survive the Winter
On a prayer and a wing.
So Mama in her nightgown
And me in my jeans,
Had just settled down for the night
Or so it seemed.
When near our garage I heard some noise,
I had to go check on our Oldsmobile toys.
The moon and lights on that crappy snow
Made me think "to Florida I should go".
When what to my foggy eyes appears
A 1968 H/O and it wasn't the beers.
The H/O was driven by some old guy with white hair
Who said the color of his hair was no care.
His car needed restored by someone with knowledge.

So, to us he came for the New England Olds Club.
The paint on the car had started to fade.
It would not show well, even in shade.
The engine was tired from winning many a race,
It needed NEOC to restore it to its place.
"Where the heck is Richter, Johnson and Minore
I need this car done to finish this story"
So, NEOC arrived and went straight to the works,
And when they were done, called Ford owners jerks.
The newly restored H/O was now real shiny,
The paint was as smooth as a baby's rear hiney.
Now the old white haired guy was on a high,
NEOC restored his car and now it will fly.
He shook all our hands while putting beers in our pockets,
And said "now that's what Olds meant by Oldsmobile
Rockets!"
He jumped in the H/O with a smile on his face
And said out loud "I'm ready to race".
He tore down the street leaving rubber in all gears,
While NEOC rejoiced and drank all their beers.
But we heard him exclaim as he burned out of sight
"Merry Christmas to NEOC, you guys are all right"

Merry Christmas to all you Olds nuts,
Glen Morris



Has Your Time Expired?

There is a final membership reminder included this issue. Memberships expire at the end of December and annual dues are still only \$20. Just think of all the fun, camaraderie and info you gain from the club! If you have moved or never filled one out, fill out the form and send it in with your renewal. Also remember to get the newsletter electronically, you get it sooner, in color and can keep a copy on your pc. **RR**

Dates to remember

- December 3rd - Saturday
NEOC Holiday Party - Angellino's Wethersfield, CT
(details inside)
- January 14th - Saturday
NEOC Annual Car Show meeting - Glastonbury, CT
at Riley & Scranton Automotive
- February 4, 2006 - Saturday
NEOC Meeting - Everett's in Rumford, RI

November Meeting Notes

Those of you not attending the November meeting missed out on a great spread by our hosts, Don and Ruth Jack.

We started out going over the details of the Christmas Party at Angellino's on the 3rd (see the details and directions in this newsletter). Also discussed was renewals (it is still just \$20) and the printing of the membership roster.

Anyone venturing onto the website lately would notice it looks different, this is the direct result of Glenn Johnson getting involved. If you get a chance take a look and let Glenn know what you think about the changes. The web page is www.NEOLDS.com new info is always appreciated for the newsletter as well as the website.

Our next few meetings are not going to be held on the traditional Thursday evening. In December we will have our meeting at the Christmas Party, in January we will be meeting at Earl's (Riley & Scranton) for our annual car show meeting, and in February, we will have another meeting at Everett's to peruse the products and conduct our meeting (don't forget to bring some money for the deals).

The car show looks like it will make a September debut this year. The second Sunday (the 10th) is the date that is tentatively scheduled, the car show meeting in January will firm that up.

So send your renewal back to Dave Richter with cash or check (Dave doesn't take credit cards yet) and we look forward to seeing you at the Christmas party on December 3rd! **RR**

E & G Automotive

NOS / Used Oldsmobile Parts
ANTIQUOLDS@AOL.COM

Everett Horton
401-435-7139 Fax 401-435-5580
P.O. Box 16095 9 Newman Ave.
Rumford, RI 02916

NEOC Christmas Party

December 3rd

Don't forget the Christmas party coming up on the 3rd of December! Same location as last year;

Angellino's Restaurant

1115 Silas Deane Hwy in Wethersfield, CT

860-721-6945

Cocktails at 6:30 PM - Dinner at 7 PM

On the menu this year are Appetizers, Entrée's of Chicken Marsala, Sausage & Peppers, Penne Bolognese and Red Roasted Potatoes. Also included are an assortment of homemade breads, coffee, tea, soda and juice. The cost includes dinner, tax and tip. Dessert is picked up by the club, so all you need to worry about is liquid libations, if you so desire.

Cost: \$27 per Adult and \$6 per Child

Make checks payable to New England Olds Club and send them to: Dave Richter, 372 Batchelor St., Granby, MA 01033. We need to have a count on the number of people attending so make sure to get your money to Dave before Thanksgiving! (This would also be a good time to get Dave your dues and renewal as well!)

Please remember we will be having our raffle as well, so bring a gift if you like! Remember it does not need to be Oldsmobile related! **RR**

See page 7 for directions!

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From the 3rd Bay

By Jim Schmitz

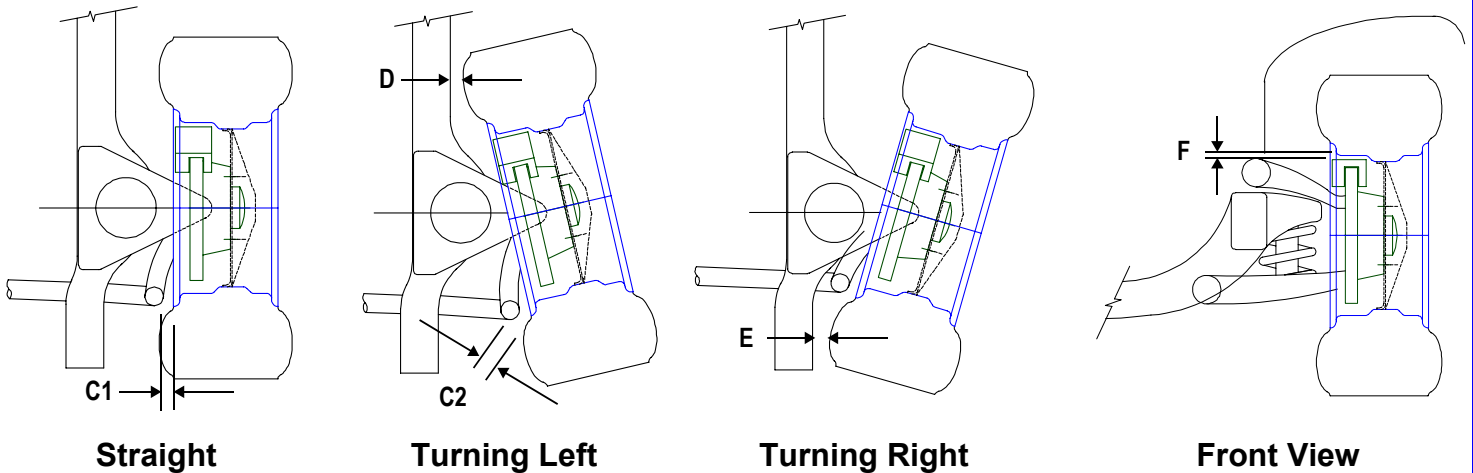
What hits, what fits...

As I discovered last month, buying new wheels and tires offers us significant choices in not only appearance, but size selection as well. In order to make sure they fit we either need to measure carefully and make a few calculations or find a very friendly tire shop that will acquire the wheels and tires you want and mount them on your car so you can see if they fit for free. Because none of

measurements as shown in the illustrations of the left (drivers side) front wheel. Take the measurements on both sides, not only is it good insurance but it can also alert you to a potential frame alignment problem. If you find the measurements are taken the same way on both sides and see a substantial difference in the dimensions... get your frame checked out before you bother with wheels and tires!

To insure that the steering components (C1) have sufficient room between the edge of the rim and the tie rod ends, and to check to see if wider tires are used, the tie rods won't rub your new tires (C2), measure as shown.

Views of Drivers Side front



the tire shops in my area are willing to order and mount tires just to see if they fit, I went with the measure and calculate method.

In order to use the same wheels front and rear, I had to make sure I chose carefully. I crawled under the front of the car and got some measurements for clearance. As we all know (hopefully), the front wheels are a bit more involved as they need to clear the frame and suspension as well as steering components both when headed straight and turning. Therefore you need to take meas-

urements as shown in the illustrations of the left (drivers side) front wheel. Take the measurements on both sides, not only is it good insurance but it can also alert you to a potential frame alignment problem. If you find the measurements are taken the same way on both sides and see a substantial difference in the dimensions... get your frame checked out before you bother with wheels and tires!

Now you will need to get into the car and turn the wheels in both directions to measure (D) and (E). When you are doing this, remember, as in the rear the wheel travels up and down, so it is best to take the same measurements when the spring is both compressed as well as extended to the limit. This is not always possible, what I did was jack the car up using the lower control arm so

(Continued on page 4)

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From the 3rd Bay

(cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

I could stuff the wheel up as far as possible, simulating full compression of the spring and took measurements at (D) and (E). Then I put it down and jacked the car up simulating full extension of the spring and took the same measurements.

Because I went to larger wheels, I was not too concerned with the clearance between the brake caliper and the wheel, but if you are using the same diameter wheel, especially if going to an aluminum wheel from the factory steel wheels, this would be another area to watch.

So, now you have all these measurements. What the heck do you do with them?

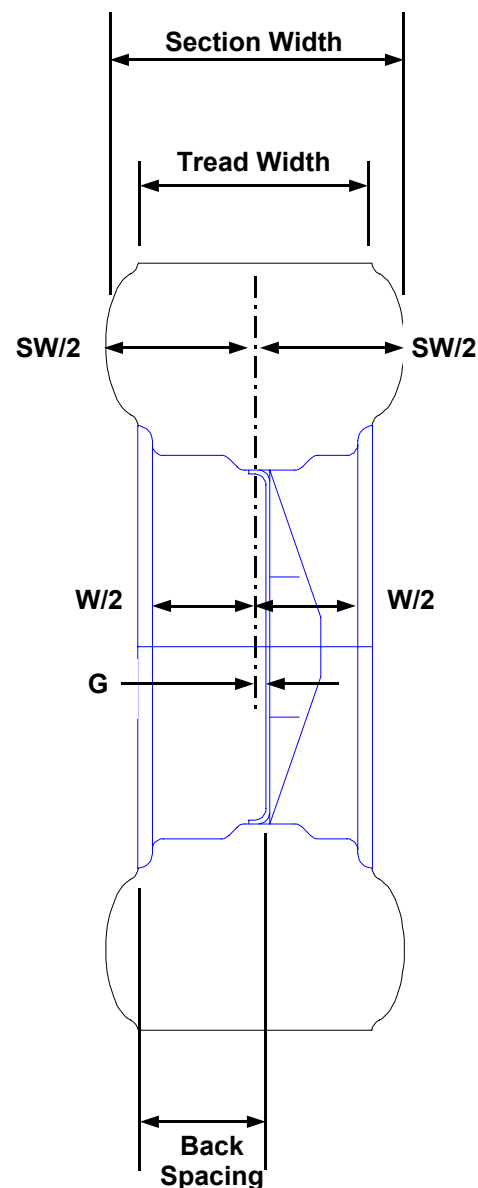
In looking at the dimensions, I determined that for my application (C1), (C2) and (F) would actually increase with the larger wheel size, so all I really had to worry about was the clearance in the wheel well [(A) and (B) from last month!] and by the frame (D) and (E) or so I thought!

I made a drawing of the wheel and tire similar to the one shown. With one drawing I took and made copies so I could fill in the dimensions for my existing wheel and tire combo and then made one for each tire and wheel combo I was considering. While it looks easy enough, there are a few things to keep in mind. To get dimensions for the tires I was considering, I went web surfing. One of the sites with the most information was for the Tire Rack. They have dozens of brands and models listed and they have good sizing charts on them as well. For example, to see the specs on BFG Radial T/A's ® the web page is; <http://www.tirerack.com/tires/Spec.jsp?make=BFGoodrich&model=Radial+T%2FA>. The charts usually also give a recommended rim width for a particular tire.

When you get the dimensions for the tires, keep in mind that you are looking for the widest part of the tire which is usually referred to as the section width, not the tread width as that is typically narrower. Armed with the tire dimensions and your wheel choice dimensions, fill them in. This will give you a starting point to see what fits and what hits.

When you start putting dimensions down, notice that my sketch has two sets of dimensions. On the top I show the tire info from the chart. This is centered on the width of the wheel (SW/2). On the bottom, the backspacing is shown, please note that while these dimensions may be similar, they are usually not the same! Quite often there is a difference between the true centerline of the wheel and the backspacing, note this difference (G). This is especially important when you purchase wheels with increased or decreased backspacing.

The stock 7" wide wheels had 4 3/8" of backspacing, when moving up to an 8" wide wheel, they were offered in 4 1/2" and 5" backspacing. I made a drawing for each combination to determine which would work best. Next month, I'll share which I bought and why! **RR**





NEW ENGLAND OLDSMOBILE CLUB

Membership Application and Renewal Form

New

Renewal

Check here only if you want your news-
letter mailed USPS. Otherwise the news-
letter will be available for downloading
and printing in color in Adobe Acrobat
format.

Name: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone - home _____ Phone - cell _____

E Mail address: _____

Oldsmobile Club of America (OCA) membership is **mandatory**. If not a member, you can log onto the OCA website and apply on line at http://www.oldsclub.org/joinOCA_2.htm Non compliance with this requirement can result in forfeiture of N.E.O.C. dues.

OCA member # _____ and expiration: _____

Oldsmobiles owned:

Signature _____ Date: _____

Annual dues are \$20.00. Dues expire on December 31.
Please make personal check payable to: New England Oldsmobile Club.

Mail completed form and check to: **New England Oldsmobile Club**
372 Batchelor Street
Granby, Ma. 01033

Questions? Contact Glen Morris, Membership Coordinator @ 203-269-4365
or e-mail gmorris01@aol.com or check our website at www.NEOLDS.com

Ownership of an Oldsmobile is NOT required to join our club. Any year or type of Oldsmobile is welcome in our ranks.

From

**New England Oldsmobile Club
c/o Dave Richter
372 Batchelor Street
Granby, Ma. 01033**

Directions To The Next Meeting



The **December meeting** will be on **Saturday December 3rd** at 6:30PM
This meeting will be in conjunction with our Christmas Party.



Angellino's Restaurant

1115 Silas Deane Hwy in Wethersfield, CT 860-721-6945

From Hartford and points North: Take I-91 South to Exit 25S, merge onto SR-3 (Maple St.) South, turn left (South) onto Silas Deane Hwy (SR-99) for approximately 1/2 mile to 1115.

From New Haven, Meriden, and points South: Take I-91 North to Exit 24, Merge onto Silas Deane Hwy (SR-99) North for about 3/4 mile to 1115.

The **January meeting** will be held on Saturday the 14th at noon and will be hosted by Earl Bancroft at Riley & Scranton Service Center in Glastonbury, CT. The main topic of discussion will be the NEOC annual car show.

Riley & Scranton Service Center Glastonbury, CT 860-633-3669

From north and south on Interstate 91:

Take "Glastonbury/Putnam Bridge" Route 3 exit off of I 91 just south of Hartford.

Cross the bridge and bear right onto Route 2 East.

Take the Hebron Avenue exit. Turn right at end of ramp onto Hebron Avenue.

Turn right onto Main St. when Hebron avenue ends at stop sign.

Take immediate left onto Welles St.

Riley & Scranton Service center is on the left.

The **February meeting** will be hosted by Everett Horton on Saturday the 4th at 11 AM at E&G Automotive in Rumford, RI. As in the past, Everett will have a lunch table and of course his vast warehouse of Olds parts will be open for browsing.

E & G Automotive

From Connecticut: -Interstate 95 North to Providence.

-Route 146 South to Providence or Route 6 east to Providence. *All will lead to Route 195 East.*

-Once on Route 195E take exit 6 "Broadway" Take a right at end of exit.

-Go to next red light and take a right onto Broadway. Go under the highway. Follow Broadway for about 3 miles.

-At the 5th red light you will be at an intersection at the end of Broadway. Look for an empty lot on your right and several new homes on the left.

-This is the end of Broadway and Newman Ave begins, E&G is in the large 5 story building thru the light on your right. Take a right and a left behind the building and go all the way around it until you see the post office and fire station, park in that area. The entrance is on the corner next to the chain link fence. E&G is located on the 3rd floor.

Club members are entitled to a free ad per issue. Photographs are free for one ad per issue (space permitting). Please submit ads by the 15th of the month. Written submissions are preferred.

Note: ads only run for 1 month, but can be renewed. If you'd like your ad renewed, please contact the newsletter editor.

To submit a classified ad:

Email: Jim70442w30@aol.com

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

Rocket Classifieds

For Sale: Vintage Mickey Thompson aluminum valve covers. Manufactured prior to 1968. They are stamped 33-400-425 on the inside, but will fit 455 as well. They are bead blasted and polished. Beautiful. Asking \$150
Contact: Joe Castaldi at 401-862-8745

Business Address:

372 Batchelor Street
Granby, Ma 01033
413-467-3690 Email: dmr67442@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
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Jim70442w30@aol.com

Executive Board:

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