

# Rocket Rumbblings

Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

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

Volume 14 Issue 1/2

WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz

Jan/Feb 2009

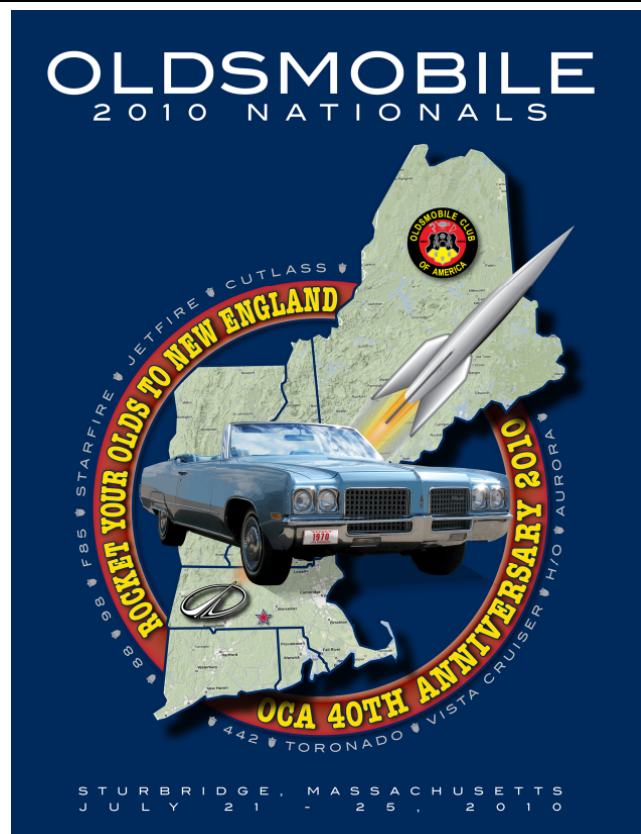
## 2010 Nationals Update

Bill Black has been pounding the pavement so to speak. We have 400 rooms within a 1/2 mile of the host hotel blocked for us. All room rates will be \$99 or less. Bill in his retired accountant uniform has developed a budget and has put cost sheets together for each committee. These were handed out at our Nationals meeting at Bill LaPierre's house on 01/31. That meeting lasted well over three hours and a lot of good ideas were exchanged. Bill and I determined that future meetings will be in smaller groups in order to get more benefit.

Here is a brief summary of the committees for 2010:

**Sightseeing and trips:** We've locked in one trip per day for the event and the prices are all below the \$50 target price including the Ladies Luncheon. A touring bus company is handling all the arrangements but we cannot lock prices until one year before the actual event. We still need to decide on the need for shuttle service and make arrangements for golf carts. Ed Palmieri is the champion of this committee.

**Entry packet, etc.:** Gene and Joan Miller are working many aspects of this including raffle, sponsors and donors. We will start gathering items for this within the next couple of months. I hear that Joan loves to shop!



Meet magazine: Jim Schmitz, Mike Barillaro, Bill and I have met with a publisher who will give us a proposal for recruiting ads and support. Jim will also provide a 2010 pamphlet that we will have available for Spring Carlisle and the 2009 Nationals. We are pursuing the fact that this will be the 40th anniversary of OCA and we would like to make this magazine a collector's item.

## Dates to Remember

Jan 25, 2009 - NEOC Feb Mtg - Sunday @ 12:30 pm

Jan 25, 2009 - 2010 Nat's Mtg - Sunday @ 1 pm

Bill LaPierre's, Somers, CT

March 5, 2009 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday @ 7 pm

Dave Richter's, Granby, MA

April Mtg (yet to be determined)

April 15 - Tax Day

April 22-26 - Spring Carlisle

Carlisle, PA

May Mtg - (yet to be determined)

May 1 - Spring Drag Day

Lebanon Valley Dragway, Lebanon, NY

## Jan/Feb NEOC Meetings

In anticipation of an upcoming snow, a dozen members headed to Glastonbury to go over club and show business.

The first item was a meeting concerning the Nationals magazine that was held just prior to the NEOC mtg at Riley & Scranton. Several members met with the representative of a company that sells ads and puts books and informational packages together. The purpose was to see if it makes sense to let someone else do some of the specialty work and if so, how much.

From there it was over to Earl's place where the club business was discussed and then on to the meat of this meeting which is out 2009 NEOC car show.

The Official show date is August 30, 2009 and like last year there is no rain date. We have the insurance and JWO is set with our informational ad. We decided on 100 dash plaques to the first 100 cars registered. The trophies will come from the same place as last year.

We decided against placing a paid ad in the Bargain News and just utilizing their free listing for the show. We will stuff the registration packets and goodie bags at the August 6th meeting so we will cut off preregistration at the end of July so we can eliminate any confusion.

Last year the show book helped out tremendously with our costs and Bill is hoping to exceed that this year. We also hope to have Lloyd Woodland back this year with his display. Our DJ is set with Rich from 33 1/3 and we are good to go with the sign permit. The car on the flier this year is a mid-seventies Cutlass and mike will be looking for something we can use in his stash of Cutlass automobilia. **RR**



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## 2010 Nationals (cont'd)

**Registration:** Ted Loran has already created a working data base to handle registration. We will use this to generate other forms and tickets as required. We plan to "dry run" this in the next couple of months to work any bugs out. It will be ready immediately after the 2009 Nationals.

**Show field:** Don Jack has developed a rough lay-out and a traffic pattern has been established for 450 show cars. We would like to get this computer generated but have not yet found the means to do it. Trailer parking will be less than a mile away and shuttle service is being investigated.

**Swap meet:** Everett Horton and Earl Bancroft are right on top of this. The only open issue is contacting the land owner and agreeing to a rental price as well as a date when we can come in and clean and prune some trees.

**Judging:** Glenn Johnson has received the package from Bob Casey and is reviewing it with Bryan Gagne, Bill and me. Glenn will coordinate some of his needs with the data base.

**Security:** We are still looking into this. Prices seem to be very high and we will look into auxiliary police as well as security agencies. John Lenihan, our resident officer is looking into this.

**Banquet and Welcome party:** Bill LaPierre and Larry Gagain have narrowed down meal choices, identified table gifts, and all meal prices will be less than \$50. We may take a different approach to the Welcome Party keeping it less formal, cheaper, and easier to control. Stay tuned.

**Miscellaneous:** Logo (by Lenihan) is complete and has been submitted to JWO. We have an informal scenic cruise planned for anyone who wants to take in New England. The Chamber of Commerce will be providing area discount coupons and directions. John Kleedorfer and I have talked several times and he will be doing an informal site visit with us in the spring. We still need many volunteers who will help with show field parking and lay-out, judging and registration. If you would like to help in any of these areas, please let Bill or I know.

Your 2010 Nationals co-chair,  
Glen Morris

# President's Message

## Four Speed - Four Barrel - Dual Exhaust

By Bill LaPierre

There are several differing interpretations of what the 4-4-2 moniker stands for. When asked at shows I always reply "Four Speed – Four Barrel – Dual Exhaust" because a proper muscle car should be shifted manually. In fact, I prefer that all my cars be shifted manually. My wife Patty and I own three stick cars. Then why are we in the minority? Why do most new cars for sale in America these days feature automatics rather than the good ole stick shift? There are lots of reasons, let's have a look.

In Europe approximately only 10% of the cars sold are equipped with automatic transmissions. The other 90% are manually shifted. That is exactly the opposite of the preference of American drivers. While touring France last Fall I observed that this is a very accurate ratio. I saw very few automatic cars, less than ten in 2 weeks. The only automatic cars I observed were high end Mercedes, Jaguar and BMW's. Virtually everything else had a stick. Every cop car, rental car, ambulance, bus and fire truck I saw was stick shifted. I even saw a 5 speed Dodge Grand Caravan! You can't buy one in the states, I checked.

What is it about manual transmissions that Americans don't like? Is it the added difficulty and effort required? I rather enjoy the required extra level of attentiveness a stick shift requires. Having to shift the car forces the driver to drive the car as opposed to simply operating it. I guess that Americans these days are preoccupied with navigation systems, satellite radio, blackberries, cell phones, DVD movies, day dreaming, scolding the kids, drinking coffee and eating fast food. Driving is has become a boring necessity and our vehicles have become

extensions of our living rooms. I read somewhere that Germans can not understand why we insist on having so many cup holders in our vehicles. You may have a hard time finding someone on the Autobahn munching a burger and talking on a cell phone while reaching to into the back seat to slap the kids. BTW, the accident rate on the Autobahn is significantly LOWER than on American interstates, go figure.

Some folks may just not like having to deal with rolling back on hills, grinding the gears, bucking and causing passenger heads to bob back and forth, or trying to accelerate in the wrong gear. Shifting is hard work that is why manufactures have invented nifty gizmos like sequential manual gearboxes, paddle shifters and roll back assist. Nissan recently introduced "Synchro Rev Match" in the 2009 370 Z. This modern marvel automatically (pun intended) blips the throttle for ultra smooth down shifts so the pampered driver is not required to "heel-and-toe". Technology marches on.

Americans are just too preoccupied and lazy to demand stick cars. I guess that coughing up an extra \$800 - \$1200 for an automatic transmission is less painful than having to manually shift gears. There is even an automatic motorcycle for sale out there. Where's the fun in that?

See you on the road. **RR**

## Last Chance Renewals!

Memberships expire at the end of December and annual dues are still only \$20. Please take the time to fill a new application out and send it to Dave with your renewal check, especially if you have moved, never filled one out, or noticed that you haven't gotten a newsletter and yours dues are paid. You can fill out the renewal application in this newsletter or go to our website, [www.neolds.com](http://www.neolds.com), click on "join" and then "NEOC application page 2" to get a copy to fill out. **RR**



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# Oldsmobile Omelets? Bravada Burgers?

**A** New England Oldsmobile Club Cookbook? Have you got some great New England recipes that you want to share with other Oldsmobile lovers? How about contributing them to the NEOC/OCA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 2010 Nationals Cookbook!

I'm coordinating the creation of a cookbook that NEOC can sell at the Nationals in 2010 to help raise money for the event. The plan is to have 250 to 300 recipes to include in a cookbook that will be presented in hard cover with a plastic comb binder.

Get creative with your recipes and give them fun, Oldsmobile related names. Do you have a great chicken casserole recipe? How about calling it "Chicken Cutlass Supreme"? (Okay, that one's taken!)

Would you be willing to help type recipes into the cookbook company website to help create our cookbook? If so, let me know. You can reach me by phone at 860-763-3134 or by email at [patty.lapierre@cox.net](mailto:patty.lapierre@cox.net). Also, if there is anyone who feels strongly about wanting to be included in decision making for the look of the book let me know. We can form a committee and plan to meet occasionally to discuss progress.

Enclosed in the newsletter is a copy of the recipe collection sheet for those of you who want to send your recipe to me for entry. Make as many copies as you need, or if you prefer you can contact me for a MS Word version of the form if you'd rather fill it out on your PC. If each of the 67 members of the club submit 5 recipes we'll have 335 recipes. The categories for recipes (which will be used on the dividers for the cookbooks) are Appetizers & Beverages, Soups & Salads, Vegetables & Side Dishes, Main Dishes, Breads & Rolls, Desserts, Cookies & Candy, This & That.

Here are a few guidelines for submitting recipes:

Recipes with famous or trademarked names like "Mrs. Fields Cookies" are not allowed, but creative names like "Rocket Raspberry Cobbler" are MORE than welcomed!

Use consistent abbreviations like:

c. - cup	pkg. - package
pt. - pint	oz. - ounce
tsp. - teaspoon	gal. - gallon
T. - tablespoon	qt. - quart
lb. - pound	lg. - large
doz. - dozen	med. - medium
env. - envelope	sm. - small

List ingredients in order of use in both the ingredients list and directions

Multiple entries of the same recipe will be included once with all contributors listed

Don't include any special notes with your recipe like "This is a great Christmas morning breakfast recipe." While these are nice they cost \$.25 book. We're trying to keep the cost down.

The plan is to finalize the cookbook by early 2010 (let's shoot for February 1<sup>st</sup>) so please submit all recipes by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Once I have an idea who will be helping with recipe collection and input I can assign tasks and plan our approach.

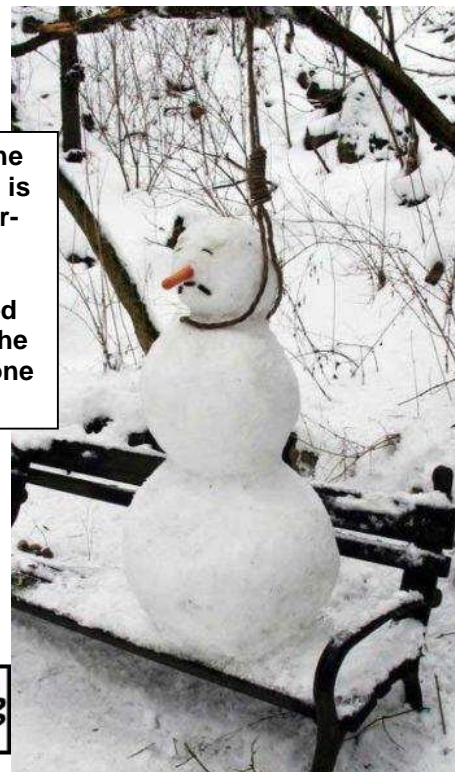
Recipes submitted in writing on the collection sheet can be forwarded to me at:

Patty LaPierre  
27 Heather Lane  
Somers, CT 06071

Thanks for your support!

**Looks like someone  
isn't happy Spring is  
just around the corner!**

**As for me I am tired  
of shoveling and the  
chill-you-to-the-bone  
cold!**



**Oldsmobile**

Recipe Title \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted By \_\_\_\_\_

**INGREDIENTS:** Use abbreviations: pt, qt, pk, env, c, tsp, T, oz, lb, gal, doz, sm, med, lg, \_\_\_\_\_

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**DIRECTIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## INSTRUCTIONS

- TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY IN INK, NOT PENCIL, AND PLACE ONLY ONE RECIPE PER FORM.
- If more room is needed, use another sheet of the same size and staple together.
- List all ingredients in order of use in ingredients list and directions.
- Include container sizes, e.g., 16-oz. pkg., 24-oz. can.
- Keep directions in paragraph form, not in steps.
- Use names of ingredients in the directions, e.g., "Combine flour and sugar."
- DO NOT use statements like, "Combine first three ingredients."
- Include temperatures and cooking, chilling, baking, and/or freezing times.
- Anything not part of the recipe (ingredients, directions, contributor name, serving size or recipe title) will not be included unless you select Recipe Notes for an extra charge.
- Be consistent with the spelling of your name for each recipe you contribute.
- Your recipes should fit into the following categories:

**Appetizers & Beverages**  
**Soups & Salads**  
**Vegetables & Side Dishes**  
**Main Dishes**

**Breads & Rolls**  
**Desserts**  
**Cookies & Candy**  
**This & That**

Dear Friend,

NEOC is preparing a taste-tempting cookbook featuring favorite recipes from members of our club. Our cookbook will be beautifully illustrated and bound and is sure to be treasured for years. We will offer these for sale at the 2010 Nationals in Sturbridge, MA.

We would like you to submit 3 or 4 of your favorite recipes so you can be represented in our memorable collection. Follow the instructions above. Your name will be printed with each of your recipes.

Each cookbook will contain helpful cooking hints, recipe category dividers, a table of contents, an index, and special pages of interest to our community. The cookbook will be typeset in an easy-to-read format and professionally printed and bound.

Proceeds from our cookbook sales will help fund future projects sponsored by our organization. Your help in contributing recipes will ensure that our cookbook will be a success.

We anticipate a great demand for our cookbooks, and we want to be certain we order enough. You can reserve one or more copies for yourself and your family at this time to be assured of receiving them.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ cookbook(s) for me.

P.S. Please submit your recipes as soon as possible so we can collect them and so that they can be turned over to the publisher in time to get published for the 2010 Nationals. Thank you!



# Spring Drag Day

Even though there's still about 10 inches of snow in my yard it's time to start thinking about getting the old (or new) hot rods ready for a day at the track. The date for our Spring Drag Day at Lebanon Valley Dragway, Route 20, West Lebanon, NY is Friday, May 1, with a rain date of the following Friday, May 8. The cost will be the same as it's been for the past several rentals, \$70 to run all day (Thanks, LVD!).

We'll be handling the roster the same way as last fall. To refresh your memory - you must send a deposit check to me (see attachment) for \$30 along with a stamped,

self-addressed envelope. The checks are to be made out to "LVD" (write "Spring 2009 Drag Day" on the check memo line). Send the check along with a self-address stamped envelope to: Carl Dudash, P.O. Box 200, Norfolk, CT 06058-0200. You will receive by return mail a receipt for your deposit. The receipt will be numbered and signed by an authorized LVD person. Once you get the receipt, it's yours. If you can't make the date, it will be up to you to find a replacement and give the receipt to



that person. Again, you can't sign up to run without the receipt. The number of receipts is limited. It's first come, first served. Once they're gone, that's it. The receipt must be presented at the tower office when you sign in and pay the remaining \$40 of the rental fee. If, and only if, we are rained out on both the primary date and the rain date, you'll be able to use the receipt for any regular Wednesday Street Night/Test & Tune, any regular Saturday Test & Tune, or any Sunday Test & Tune/Open Trophy at LVD. The receipt cannot be used for special events like Mus-

clepalooza. We will no longer hold deposits over till the next rental.

The only change to the rules is that one driver can no longer bring two vehicles for a single entry fee. You may have one car with a single driver or two drivers for a one car for a single entry fee. Crew members and spectators are admitted free. All drivers, crew, and spectators must check in at the tower to sign the release waiver. Wristbands and run stickers will be issued.



Bring out that Olds and see what it will do! It does NOT have to be a "Race car"!

Gates open at 8 am. Do not start engines before 9 am. Tech inspection starts at 9 am in the staging lanes. Racing is

from 10 am to 3:30 pm. Closing time may be extended to 4 pm if there are a sufficient number of cars still running.

You are responsible to make sure your car passes tech. No refunds if it fails.

Racing fuel will be available for purchase from 9 to 10 am and again from 1 to 2 pm.

KEEP IT SAFE. NO ALCOHOL.

Phone Hotline: (860) 542-5753 for me,  
(518) 794-9606 for LVD

I look forward to seeing all of you at the track. If you have any questions just call or send me an email. See you at LVD.

Peace, Carl Dudash



How do front drivers get traction with the wheels in the air?

# Directions To The Next Couple of Meetings

In **March** we will be meeting on **Thursday** the 5th at 7 PM and will be hosted by Dave Richter in Granby, MA.

Dave Richter

372 Batchelor Street, Granby, MA 01033

413-467-3690 Email: dmr67442@aol.com

## **From points North and South (but not East) of Granby,**

Take I- 91 to Exit 16, from the Northbound Lane take a Right, from the Southbound lane take a Left. Follow US Rt. 202 North over the bridge into South Hadley and take the 2nd Right on the rotary which keeps you on Rt. 202 North. Follow Rt. 202 into Granby Center, from there it takes 5 minutes until you come to the intersection of Rt. 202 and School St. There is a big sign for Holyoke Catholic High School and the Granby Café is on this corner. Take a left at the intersection and follow school; street for about 1 mile. Take your first left onto Batchelor St. The 5th house on the left (#372) is where you want to be!

## **From the Mass Pike**

Take Exit 7 (Ludlow) at the end of the Toll Booth take a Right and follow Rt. 21 into Belchertown. When Rt. 21 meets Rt. 202, take a Left onto Rt. 202 and follow it into Granby. Watch for the sign for Holyoke Catholic High School and take a Right onto School St., Granby Café is also on this corner. Follow school; street for about 1 mile, take your first left onto Batchelor St. and go to the 5th house on the left (#372).

In **April**, well in April we don't have a clue where we'll be meeting! As you have hopefully figured out, the meeting place moves among the members' homes' and business'. Some of the more active members usually take a few turns at hosting a meeting. As of this writing, we don't have anyplace scheduled for the April meeting. Why not join us at the March meeting at Dave's place (see directions above) and volunteer to host a meeting. We promise not to destroy the house, we won't leave with any parts (unless we paid for them), and you'll have a good opportunity to chat with the folks that make this club happen. Quite often that can be parlayed into some free advice on your ride, and you don't even need to start it up!

## 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..

Note: ads only run for 1 month, please renew monthly.

### ***To submit a classified ad:***

Email: [Jim70442w30@aol.com](mailto:Jim70442w30@aol.com)

Snail mail: Jim Schmitz

860-379-5221

## **1969 Oldsmobile Cutlass - For Sale**

'69 Supreme W-31 clone for sale

**\$8,500**

General specifications: Aztec Gold exterior (re-paint), Black (dyed) original Supreme interior, 350 c.i. 4bbl numbers matching engine, Turbo-350 with Shift kit\*, SS11 14" Wheels.

The Good: (4) New B.F. Goodrich radials\* (less than 1k miles), 12 bolt posi\* with 3.55's, New in dash tachometer\* (aftermarket), New under dash gage trio set\*, New HEI distributor\*, New aluminum flex fan\*, 2.5" stainless dual exhaust, Complete functional original ram air set up, Complete heavy duty 442 suspension.

The Bad: Rust beginning bottom of doors and front fenders (previous repair), History of car unknown. No documentation.

The Ugly: Right front fender and hood need sand and buff or re-paint.

Pictures are 2-1/2 years old taken in California before shipment to CT and before new(\*) items listed above were added and hood painted.

Contact Glen Morris: 203-269-4365 or email: [gmorris01@aol.com](mailto:gmorris01@aol.com)



# New England Oldsmobile Club

## Business Address:

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Granby, Ma 01033  
413-467-3690 Email: dmr67442@aol.com

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Email: gmmorris01@aol.com

## Newsletter Publication:

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



## Executive Board:

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