

# Rocket Rumbblings

Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

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

Volume 16 Issue 1/2

WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz

Jan/Feb 2011



## NEOC Annual Christmas Party

The annual NEOC Christmas Party was held on December 4<sup>th</sup> at The Adams Mill in Manchester. The conversations flowed as freely as the beverages during the cocktail hour. Mike Babij made a grand entrance escorting the Olds twins. It was then onto dinner where based on the hush that fell upon the room, was enjoyed by all. After dinner the new officers were announced and departing were thanked for their service. The bounty of raffle gifts were distributed to young and old alike. Thanks again go to Basil and Rosemary for arranging another successful holiday get together. **RR**



Members "Belly up to the bar"

More  
photos  
on page 4

## Dates to Remember

- Feb -5 12 NEOC Mtg - Saturday 1 PM  
Steve Minore's - Meriden, CT
- Mar 5 - NEOC Mtg - Saturday 1 PM  
Tom Comer's - Clinton, CT
- Apr 7 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday 7 PM  
John Lenihan's - Holyoke, MA
- Apr 10 - Ty-Rods Swap Meet - Sunday  
Stafford Speedway, Stafford Springs, CT
- Apr 27 - May 1 - Spring Carlisle  
Carlisle, PA
- May 1 - CSRA Swap Meet - Sunday  
Lake Compounce—Bristol, CT



## Retired at 32?

This month we are starting a new feature highlighting members' and their cars. On page 5 you can read all about how one of our members found out he had to retire his. The rest of us can only hope to retire at that age. Oh hell, I would love to just BE that age! **RR**

# January Meeting Minutes

By Larry Gagain

The January car show meeting was held at Glen Morris' ranch in Wallingford, CT. Parking was easy because all you had to do was keep it between the snow banks!

The car show location was the top subject as well as judging. Both garnered quite a bit of discussion.

We have had several members suggest a number of good locations to hold the show. We eliminated a few locations including another stint at the Host Hotel in MA. The remaining locations were going to be checked out in the upcoming weeks as we need to lock in the location to get the insurance that OCA offers as well as getting the promotional material going.

We discussed the car to be featured and it was decided that we would bring several choices to the February general membership meeting and decide then.

In the past, we have had problems getting volunteers to help with Judging. We get plenty of criticism, but not much help actually judging the cars. I know it takes some time out of a nice relaxing day to judge, but we have had some shows where we had quite the turnout for judging. This allowed judging to be done quickly and in no time we had all the judges back out enjoying the day.

The last several years, we have had less and less volunteers for judging. What typically ends up happening is that the fewer judges end up doing more and more, resulting in burn out. Therefore we discussed several different options for judging including what some other clubs do. What are YOUR thoughts? Are you willing to help with judging or do you think we'd be better off with peer judging?

After the meeting we proceeded to finish the food Glen had provided and discussed other oldsmobile and snow related issues till the afternoon was gone and we departed. **RR**

# February Meeting Minutes

By Larry Gagain

In February we met at Steve Minore's in Meriden. Attendance was large enough that overflow parking Steve had arranged with the town at the nearby school had to be used. We weren't sure if the 16 members were there for the meeting or to try to abscond with parts from Steve's vast collection in his parts department.

At 1:10 the gavel dropped and Glen got the meeting going. Among the items discussed were NEOC decals for your car windows. We are looking into a nice static type decal with the NEOC logo. Something you would be proud to put on your car and can easily be removed. Larry asked for a good decal to put on his trunk lid with adhesive that would stay attached. He was particularly worried about the edges peeling up after multiple trips through the car wash, but we are still looking into static decals for the inside of the window. Also discussed were NEOC membership cards to help everyone stay aware of their renewal status.

We selected a tentative date of September 11th for our show and plan on keeping the 18th available as a rain date if needed. We reduced the number of potential venues to just a couple and by the next meeting we will have a final decision. We voted on a car to use on the flier and dash plaques and Jim will have a sample flier by the next meeting.

Judging was once again discussed and no real decision was made but we will have some type of judging.

The next meeting will be at Tom Comer's place in Clinton, CT and in April we journey to John Lenihan's in Holyoke, MA. With the meeting finished we proceeded to Steve's basement parts store! **RR**

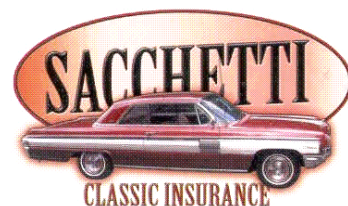
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# President's (1<sup>st</sup>) Message

By Glen Morris

## HAPPY NEW YEAR NEOC!

Let me start my message by thanking those who held office in 2010 or are assuming new roles in 2011:

Glenn Johnson. Always dependable. Glenn stepped into the Presidential position after the untimely resignation of Bill LaPierre. Glenn will remain as web-site administrator in 2011.

Bill LaPierre. Bill did a fine job as President during his tenure. We hope to see more of Bill this coming year.

Dave Richter. Another dependable officer. Dave has been the club treasurer since he was born. Dave steps into the Vice President position for 2011.

Bill Black. Faithful Co-Chair and financial expert for the 2010 Nationals. Bill will take over the treasurer role from Dave Richter for 2011.

Larry Gagain. Larry stepped into the vacant Secretary position some time ago and has done a fine job. Larry will continue in this position for 2011.

Jim Schmitz. Jim continues as newsletter editor but asks for your continued support. The newsletter is the heart beat of the club.

Glen Morris. Oh that guy! He will continue as membership coordinator until we can find someone else to fill that position.

2010, what a year it was! The 2010 Oldsmobile Nationals finally happened right here in our own backyard. This was the first time in the 40 year history of OCA that this happened in New England. We all deserve a big Thank You for pulling this one off.

We had some issues, opportunities, and unnecessary commentary during the Nationals. This has to be expected when you get this large a gathering of people for this type of event. My goal for the upcoming year is to put the comments behind us, learn from the issues and opportunities, and move forward for the sake of our club. I must quote Glenn Johnson, "it's a car club", and that's where we need to focus.

We WILL have our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual all Oldsmobile Car

Show this year. Mike Barillaro has stepped up to help organize this for us. Steve Minore has promised his support also. We are in great shape to do this with the many left over supplies from the Nationals. And Bill Black and myself will fully support this effort just as we did this past year.

We are entertaining a new venue for the show and possibly a new format. Please offer your comments and support during the club meetings and/or forward your suggestions to any club officer. We could make this show the best ever on the heels of 2010.

Other traditions will continue also: Mark's Cruise, NEOC annual picnic, Drag day care of Carl Dudash, GMO Spring dust off, NEOC annual Christmas party, attendance at the 2011 Olds Nationals in Reno, and other shows and cruises as discussed at the monthly meetings. We could use an Event Coordinator to help with these and other events so please let me know if you are interested.

In summary, the NEOC has come a long way in the past 15 years and I am proud to be associated with each and every one of you. We can continue our success with your involvement. Do it for your love of Oldsmobiles and compassion for the people who love them and drive them as you do.

THANK YOU,  
Glen Morris  
NEOC President

## NEOC Elections

Well as many of you know, elections were held for 2011 officers. We are happy to announce that the new officers are:

President - Glen Morris  
Vice President - Dave Richter  
Secretary - Larry Gagain  
Treasurer - Bill Black

We would like to thank everyone for participating and we would especially like to wish our new officers the best. Even though you may have not been lucky enough to be an officer, why not consider helping out and becoming active this year? **RR**

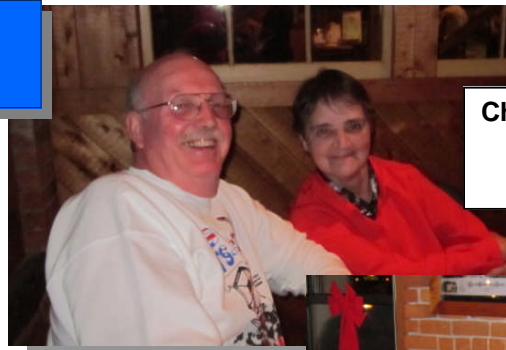




# Christmas Party (cont'd)



Lots of raffle prizes



Charlie & Helen didn't have to sell ANYTHING this party!!

Looook into my eyes... you feel sleeeeepy...



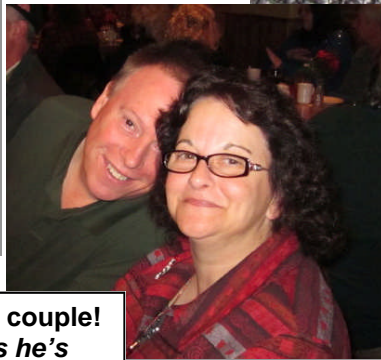
No, I'm NOT looking at the stupid camera...



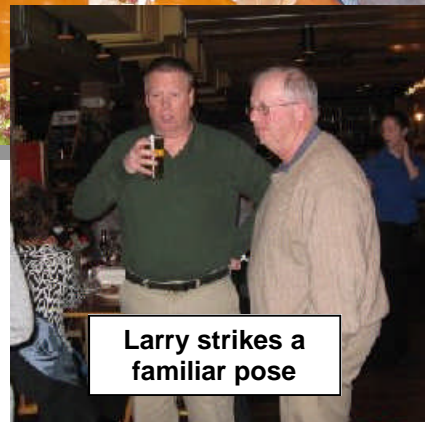
No one would say "Cheese"



Basil & Rose Mary relax after a job well done



Another happy couple!  
(Larry thinks he's getting some later!)



Larry strikes a familiar pose



So how's this go again? I close my eyes, click my heels 3 times and say what? Who's in Kansas?



Hmmm... who DID she come with?

As many of you know, thanks to CIAC's scheduling of the High School Football Playoffs, we were unable to attend this year's Christmas Party. I'd like to thank Glen and Larry for their help with the story and supplying the photos and captions. Jim

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

by Ed Palmieri

**I**t was back in 1990 when the urge came over me to pursue a muscle car. I had never owned a “muscle” version of any vehicle, let alone an Oldsmobile version. But then who wanted an Oldsmobile when there are so many nice Chevy’s out there? So here is where my ride to “acquire” and “retire” starts.

A friend of mine gets the credit for my sudden change of heart from Bowtie to a ROCKET. I had owned a ’76 and an ’80 Cutlass but never a Chevy. One day in passing he said why not an Oldsmobile? Specifically a 442. Hmm.. Food for thought so I looked and was immediately hooked! Now, I needed to pinpoint the year to pursue. I started my research in the ’60’s and progressed up. Once I hit the ’70’s I decided to focus on a ’70’s vintage. Why the 70? Well for me it was the lines of the exterior, I loved the cutout rear bumper and the grill design. The interior was nice and I thought to myself, “why not a convertible”?

Later in 1990, November to be exact, I decided to join OCA. I figured where better to find what (I think) I wanted. I called OCA prior to joining and discussed my wishes with an unknown listener. I was told by the person on the other end that “everyone wants a ’70, good luck trying to *find* one”. Well, in addition to making this something I wanted, I now felt challenged! OK, the gloves are off and the search was on! I started by making a check sheet with the options I wanted and then I perused the pages of any old car classifieds I could find. Once my first JWO arrived I read that religiously, usually turning to the Classified section before reading the articles. I documented 14 calls throughout the country (and 1 to Canada) before coming across an ad in JWO. This ad was for a car in Kansas City, MO. As with most of the cars I sought, this one was way beyond the financial means available in my “car stash”. So I was hesitant to call because it sounded too nice for me to chase. Eventually, I decided to call because of those 3 little letters, OBO (or best offer) that was next to the price.

When I first started looking I had no idea on the options available so I was calling on vehicles which fit my pocketbook and not necessarily, as I discovered later, my ultimate desires. By now I had the opportunity to speak with a number of other Oldsmobile enthu-

siasts and had also been buying books and reading reference materials. The net result was that my check sheet had grown somewhat as I learned which options I really wanted to have. So it was probably a good thing that it took me a little over a year to actually find a car with the majority of options I just had to have.

I was working a lot of hours during this time span, so my war chest was getting larger by the week as was my option and condition desires. So call number 15 was made and the early stages of negotiations began to unfold. After running through the checklist and determining this one is a possibility, I made a request for pictures and then came the first wait. Remember this is 1990, sending photos via email was not common as it is today, people actually sent photographs through the mail! Once they arrived, after a short deliberation the next thing you know, I was planning my next move, the offer. I didn’t know at the time, but the car was for sale in JWO 6 months earlier, obviously with no acceptable offers. After making an offer and it being accepted I sent a refundable down payment so the vehicle would not be sold from under me during my flight. Final sale of course was contingent on my final inspection, so it was time to plan the trip to Missouri to have a look and a drive. I only had one day off per week at that time so all plans were made around that day. It was a long day! I worked until 3am, went to the airport and caught a 6 AM flight, finally arriving to see the car at 11 AM on that Saturday morning. I was way too pumped-up to be tired at this point in the search process! So here I am, standing behind the car, I have books, flashlights, inspection mirrors and of course a checklist with every possible number listed that I could conjure up to verify. Three hours later, the seller’s wife went out and picked up some famous Missouri barbecue sandwiches, of course I was invited to join them. I was finally getting ready for the drive portion of the show, but we ate first. After lunch, he started it and I was just awed over the music those trumpet exhaust’s produced. As I drove he asked me how it felt compared to the others I had test driven, of course I told him it was comparable to all of the other’s. In reality, I had not driven any others during the search but who was going to admit it then!!!

*Next month we find out if this was Ed’s Olds or not!*



# NEW ENGLAND OLDSMOBILE CLUB

## Membership Application and Renewal Form

☐ New

☐ Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone - home \_\_\_\_\_ Phone - cell \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here only if you want your newsletter mailed USPS. Otherwise the newsletter will be in electronic format and available on line monthly in Adobe Acrobat format, allowing easy viewing, downloading and printing in full color.

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](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 checks or money orders payable to: New England Oldsmobile Club.

Mail completed form and check to: **New England Oldsmobile Club**  
**77 West Dayton Hill Rd.**  
**Wallingford, CT 06492-5324**

Questions? Contact Glen Morris, Membership Coordinator @ 203-269-4365  
or e-mail **[GMorris@aol.com](mailto:GMorris@aol.com)** or check our website at **[www.NEOLDS.com](http://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.



# Directions To The Next Couple of Meetings

The **March meeting** will be on **Saturday March 5th**, hosted by Tom Comer in Clinton, CT.

**Tom Comer - (860) 669-9893**  
107 Old Post Road, Clinton CT 06413

**From Hartford and points north:** I-91 South to I-95 East to Exit 64. Take 145 South to Old Post Road and go right (East). Take Old Post Road about 6/10ths of a mile to 107. The house is located across the street from the Clinton Country Club.

**From the East:** Take I-395 South to I-95 West to Exit 64 and follow as above.

**From the West:** Take I-95 East to Exit 64 and follow as above.

**From the South:** Get a boat.

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 Bemis. 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.

## 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](mailto:Jim70442w30@aol.com)

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## 2011 Dues Reminder

Okay all, the holidays are over, did you renew your NEOC dues which expire December 31st of each year (yes that was over a month ago)?

Please print a copy of the application form from our web site or use the one on the previous page, fill it out and send it with your dues to the club address. Because our database software is a bit old and outdated, we are in the process of creating a new one. Please take the time to fill out a new application as this will insure that everyone's information is up to date.

As stated in years past, we require that you are also a member of the OCA in order to maintain your membership with NEOC. So, check your due date for OCA while you're at it. We review this compliance once a year in the December-January time frame with the Vice President of the OCA. This coincides with our dues also.

So, send your dues in today.

**Glen Morris**

**NEOC Membership Coordinator**

# New England Oldsmobile Club

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

## Membership Information:

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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 - Glen Morris  
Activities Coordinator - Open Position

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