

Rocket Rumbblings

Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

Volume 12 Issue 6

WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz

June 2007

Old Sturbridge Village



2010 Host Hotel Decision

NEOC Members,

As you may already know, Bill Black and I have chosen the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center in Sturbridge Massachusetts to host our proposed national Oldsmobile meet in 2010.

This was a very difficult decision for us but based on our extensive research, we believe it to be our best option. Bill and I have investigated over a dozen different venues since January. We physically visited six places and received proposals from three. We concluded early on that there was not going to be any place in New England that could accommodate all our needs.

I would like to share our reasons for choosing the Sturbridge Host Hotel:

- ♦ "New England is at our doorstep" is the motto of the Sturbridge area. Our first impression was that this area epitomizes New England charm and we are *The New England Oldsmobile Club*.
- ♦ There are over 500 possible overflow rooms in a one mile radius of the Host.
- ♦ They are centrally located to all our proposed day trips.
- ♦ The hotel is located on scenic Cedar Lake complete with a private beach, swimming, paddle boats, fishing, miniature golf, volleyball, indoor racquetball courts, fitness center, indoor pool, and Jacuzzi and sauna.
- ♦ There are two full service restaurants on the prem-

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Dates to Remember

June 7 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday at 7 PM
Basil Treco's, New Britain, CT

July 5 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday at 7 PM
John Welsh's, Meriden, CT

July 14 - NEOC Picnic - Saturday at 12 Noon
Glen Morris', Wallingford, CT

August 2 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday at 7 PM
Bill LaPierre's, Somers, CT

September 6 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday at 7 PM
Schaller's, New Britain

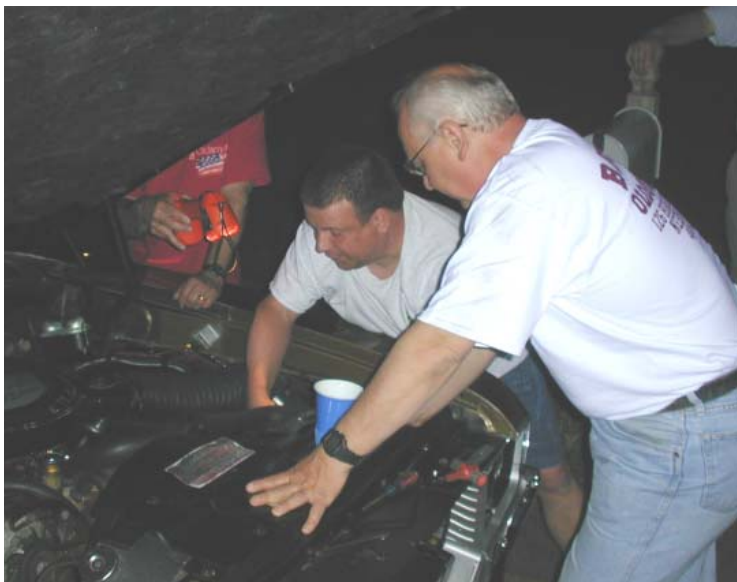
September 9 - 11th Annual NEOC Olds Show
Schaller Body Shop, New Britain, CT

May Meeting Notes

May 10th was a beautiful New England Spring evening as 17 members congregated at Steve Minore's for our monthly meeting. Hope the second Thursday didn't keep anyone from making it. We moved it due to prior experience holding a monthly meeting the night before Drag Day.

Glen Morris filled everyone in on the 2010 New England Nationals, you can read all about it in the lead article this month. This is shaping up as an event, let's hope for approval!

The H/O show in Milford and the GMO Dust Off were discussed as well as general club business and of course there is always the parts changing hands afterwards. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, why not come out for the June meeting the 7th. Remember, Dave fixes cars for free at meetings... (see below!) **RR**



Dave Richter at work diagnosing the starter as Mike Babij lends moral support. At least Glen is holding the flashlight!

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Adrien Adam
Manager/Owner
custommuffler@snet.net

2010 Host Hotel Decision

(Continued from page 1)

- ises and many others within walking distance.
- ♦ The banquet and meeting facilities can handle 20 to 700 people.
- ♦ There is a 12,000 square foot exhibition hall which will be made available for Lansing, GM, or specialty Oldsmobiles.
- ♦ We estimate car show parking to be 500+ which includes the scenic lawn area adjacent to the lake.
- ♦ Currently, there is a 2.2 acre parcel of land directly in front of the hotel that can be used for the swap meet. If it is not available in 2010, Old Sturbridge Village which is a half mile away, has expressed an interest in supporting swap meet and trailer parking space.
- ♦ In addition to all this, the room rates and minimum required expenses were lower than any other proposal that we received.

With all this said, we are extremely pleased with the cooperation, communication, and support provided by the Sturbridge Host Hotel. We believe that NEOC and the Sturbridge Host Hotel will host the best Oldsmobile National meet ever!

We will continue updates as they happen,
Glen Morris
Bill Black

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President's Message

By Bill LaPierre

There are Six New England States

I was reading the May 2007 issue of Hemmings Muscle Machines magazine the other day when I came across the article "Pilgrim's Progress" which described the history of drag racing in New England. The article opens with these ominous words: "Don't think for a second that the FIVE states that make New England don't hold the gold standard when it comes to automotive competition." The author, Jim Donnelly, goes on to describe the 60-70's racing scene and its most notable players.

How many of you read that article and read right over that blatant typo asserting that there are only FIVE states in New England? As someone who was born and raised in New England I can assure you that there are SIX New England states: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. I can understand why Mr. Donnelly wouldn't know the correct number of New England states, I believe he is from California. The thing that really frosts my shorts is the editors at Hemmings missed it. The magazine is published out of Vermont! I am aware that most of the staff hail from other parts of the country, but that shouldn't absolve them of this basic editorial responsibility.

The Sturbridge Host Hotel was chosen by NEOC as the site for the 2010 OCA Nationals because it was felt that it best represented New England versus the other sites considered. Here is our chance to show off our little corner of the country to our OCA brothers and sisters while dispelling some of those stereotypes that are floating around out there. Let's make the best of it!

New England Weather

The first couple weeks of May provided ample opportunities for working on and cruising in our beloved Oldsmobiles. Dave Richter joined me in my brother's '67 442 for the drive to the May meeting at Steve Minore's A-Body Speed Shop. I was pleased to see five other Oldsmobiles in attendance. The weather was just right, not too hot, not too cold, with no rain in sight. I was planning on driving my '66 442, but I hadn't gotten around to taking care of several outstanding maintenance, repair and detailing items that were long overdue. BTW, Dave kept the tow truck at bay when he diag-

nosed a loose starter cable on Glen Morris' '69 Cutlass. Way to go Dave!

The weekend of May 11-13 sported absolutely pristine old car weather. Temps in the low 80's, comfortable humidity and bright sunshine provided perfect conditions for cruising. I kicked myself for procrastinating on the things that needed to be done on the convertible and resigned myself to performing these tasks instead of driving the car. I spent the entire weekend replacing a failed top pump and waxing the '66. I planned on attending the cruise at Mark's Auto Parts in Granby, CT on Monday night. I was putting the finishing touches on the car and was about to hop in and fire that Rocket up when I heard thunder in the distance. Ten minutes later it was pouring! I have not been able to drive the car since because of work and the weather. I also missed the Hurst Olds gathering in Milford on Saturday because of rain. Oh well, maybe I will finally get to Mark's on the 21st and Muscledalooza on the 27th.

Let's hope for good cruising weather on Saturday June 2. Get your Olds spruced up and head towards Sturbridge, MA for a chance to check out the Sturbridge Host Hotel where NEOC hopes to host the 2010 OCA Nationals. After checking out the facilities, we will be cruising to Fenders Drive-In in nearby Holland, Ma for lunch. It is our intention to photograph NEOC's finest Rockets at the Host Hotel in order to add some zest to our presentation to OCA in Bowling Green, KY in July.

See you on the road,

Bill LaPierre 860-763-3134 bill.lapierre@cox.net

Cover Cars and Submissions

The deadline for submissions (ads, articles, notices, etc.) is the 15 of the prior month. In other words, if you wanted an article to run in August, it would need to be submitted by July 15th.

Also, we are still working on cover cars for newsletters coming up this Fall. While the weather is nice, get out the wax and tire dressing then snap a few shots and tell us all about your baby. **RR**

Spring Drag Day 2007

Well, the weather cooperated and handed us a nice day for our semi-annual Drag Day (or more politically correct “Test & Tune”. All we need to work on is getting the wind under control at Lebanon Valley.

Well, that’s not really true. Some of us need to work on our launches, speed shifting, tuning, and general driving skills. When I get all that down, I’ll probably be too old to enjoy it anyway.

While I’d like to see what would happen if I had tires with more bite such as drag radials, I have to admit I also like the whole idea of going fast on stock street tires. Guess I’ll have to either spend the cash for some tires or learn how to drive. I do want to get my car into the 12’s in “stock” street trim. I’m almost there, just need a little more... If only I had paid a little more attention when I was putting the motor back together.

Oh well, as with most of you every time I get something to help me go faster I think of something else I need! Ever try using a factory “Tic-Toc-Tac” to shift by? If you haven’t, don’t bother. While they look cool and sell for big bucks on eBay, they are not something you can read as you bang gears going down the track. A rebuild is not in the budget so when shifting by ear, you don’t want to wait too long!

I don’t think we had any major breakage although Earl lost a water pump and I’m not sure John Welsh even made run number one before he had to trailer his Rallye.

Anyway, here are some photos from the day. I tried to get a photo of Bill Black’s ‘70 Supreme but I must have

been in my car when he was running, I didn’t see it all day. It was nice to see some members we don’t normally see at Drag Day come out and enjoy the fun and camaraderie! **RR**



Here's a good wa

Dan Alessandrini leaves the line hard in his '64 Cutlass, before the 30 mph head wind, his best time was 14.1 seconds at 98 mph. Dan's getting pretty good with that small block combo in his '64 Cutlass.



Basil Treco wrings out his '67 F85.



Here we see the difference between a car properly set up to launch at the drags strip and one more at home cruising the back roads of Connecticut. Note that he hasn't left me... yet.





ay to battle the ex. Ex-Prestdnt Steve Minore's small block '68 Cutlass and Current President Bill LaPierre's '66 go at it in the 1320.



Earl turns the wrenches as Dave relaxes in that comfortable Olds interior from 1967. Doesn't Dave just look like he belongs perched in a '67?



How'd you like to have this trio parked in your garage?



Love seeing the pits and staging lines full of Oldsmobiles!



Sean Eliason tunes his carb with help from an onlooker. Did it help? We'd need his time slips to determine that, but it sure did a nice burnout!



Eastern Mass GMO Spring Dust Off

Sunday May 6th was the 14th annual Eastern Mass GMO Spring Dust off. I headed out around 7:30 with my 69 442, my friend Meg came along for the ride. We were supposed to meet Mike Babij at the rest area in Sturbridge on the Mass Pike, but we got our signals crossed so we traveled solo to the show. At the toll booth in Natick I spotted Glen Morris's 68 on his trailer a few vehicles in front of us. We arrived at Haskin's Motorcars in Wellesley around 9:30 and the lot was about half full already. The weather was a bit chilly but it didn't rain which was the important part. George Berejik, as always, served as Master of Ceremonies. Lloyd Woodland was on hand with his impressive display of racing memorabilia. Club member Gene Miller was at the show with his recently restored 1979 Hurst/Olds. Larry Gagain brought his 68 442 and John Anderson was present with his 71 W30. Dennis Lumbra was also at the show with his 63 Dynamic 88 and Glen Morris drove in with his 68 Ram Rod. The day was spent looking at cars, eating and socializing with a little judging mixed in. I don't think there were as many cars at the show this year as last year, but some places on the east coast had rain which probably kept a few people away.

Around 2:00 pm the awards presentation got under way. Gene Miller won the 50/50 raffle. There was also an auction for some raffle items. Lloyd Woodland discussed progress on the restoration of the original Brainbeau Olds race car he purchased from Gene Horn which he drove back in the 60's. Gene Miller was a big winner because he also won first place with his car. Dennis Lumbra and John Anderson were first place winners as well and I received a runner up award with the 69.

After the show we assembled a small caravan and headed west on the Mass Pike. The weather got better as the day went on and by the time we drove home it was a beautiful sunny day. The Connecticut guys all headed off the Pike at RT 84 and we made it back to Hadley by 5:00.

Thank you to the Eastern MA GMO for once again hosting a great Spring Dust Off. We had a great time and it was nice to have a reason to take the car out for a nice long ride. **RR**

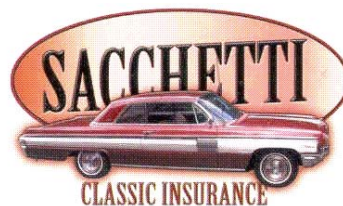
Back Road Cruising

Dan Alessandrini had some pretty good runs, at Lebanon Valley before he headed home, Dan took the scenic route on the way back and made a few stops. Like the rest of us, he is always keeping his eyes open for that beauty still resting in a barn and actually found a few morsels on the way home!

1. Bar-Ken Service Center, Inc. Rt22 + 295 Canaan New York. 518-781-4717 Ask for Mark 68 400 motor from a 442 for \$500.00

2. Drake's Auto Parts Lee Ma. 413-243-1818
69 442 he described it as Flooded/rotted. also
69 Cutlass Supreme he said take both and make 1 out of it. Call for pricing.

Now if I can only find that 1971 W-30 drop top hiding under a 35 year old car cover...



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Orson Benedict 860-309-9111

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NOM 455, Turbo-400 trans, 12 bolt posi, Beautiful Matador Red urethane paint from bare metal. Black interior with buckets/console in very good condition, mint dash with original AM/FM. Performance enhancements include Edelbrock aluminum intake, Holley carb, 2 1/2" Flowmaster exhaust. This is a fast, great looking muscle car. Best reasonable offer! Please call for additional information Tom 203-294-1591

Directions To The Next Couple of Meetings

The **June meeting** will be held at Basil & RoseMary Treco's in New Britain on June 7 (the first Thursday) at 7 pm.

RoseMary & Basil Treco (860) 229-5156
343 Eddy Glover Blvd., New Britain, CT 06053-2411

From Hartford and points North

Head West on I-84 to exit 39A onto Route 9 South. At exit 30 Route 71 [Hartford Rd.] for 1.6 mi, Turn RIGHT (West) onto Eddy Glover Blvd for 0.7 mi. to #343.

From Waterbury and points West

Take I-84 (North-East) After the merge with Route 72, stay on 72 and exit at Columbus Blvd. Follow Columbus for 0.2 mi and make a LEFT (North) onto Washington St. in 0.6 mi. continue (North) onto Farmington for 0.3 mi, bear RIGHT onto Eddy Glover Blvd for 0.5 mi to #343.

From New Haven and points South

Take I-91 (North) to exit 17 [Wilbur Cross Parkway] US5/SR15 for 7.5 mi to SR72 [SR9] (West) for 3 mi, to exit 26 Columbus Blvd, in 0.5 mi turn RIGHT (North) onto Washington St. in 0.6 mi. continue (North) onto Farmington for 0.3 mi, bear RIGHT onto Eddy Glover Blvd for 0.5 mi to #343.

The **July meeting** will be held on Thursday July 5th at 7 PM and will be hosted by John Welsh in Meriden, CT.

John Welsh
186 Greenbriar Road, Meriden, CT 06450
203-639-9951

From Hartford and points North

Head South on I-91 from Hartford. At exit 17 turn off onto ramp (CT-15/W. Cross Pkwy/E. Main St.) for 1.7 mi, Turn off onto ramp at Miller Ave, follow ramp for 0.4 mi. Go LEFT (West) onto Miller Ave for 0.4 mi. Turn LEFT (South) onto Yale Ave for 0.5 mi, then go LEFT (East) onto Greenbriar Rd. and proceed to #186.

From New Haven and points South

Head North on I-91 from New Haven. At exit 15 turn off onto ramp (CT-68/Yalesville/Durham) Merge onto SR-68 [Barnes Road] (West) for 2.1 mi. Turn RIGHT (North) onto N. Main St. Ext. for 0.6 mi. continue (North) on Yale Ave for 1.2 mi. Turn RIGHT (East) onto Greenbriar Rd and proceed to #186.

From Waterbury and points West

Head East on I-84 from Waterbury, At exit 27, take I-691 East. At I-691 exit 10, turn off onto ramp (CT-15/W. Cross Pkwy/E. Main St.). Merge onto SR-15 [Wilbur Cross Pkwy] South for 2.3 mi. Turn off onto ramp at Miller Ave, follow ramp for 0.4 mi. Go LEFT (West) onto Miller Ave for 0.4 mi. Turn LEFT (South) onto Yale Ave for 0.5 mi, then go LEFT (East) onto Greenbriar Rd. and proceed to #186.

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

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



For Sale: 1980 Cutlass Supreme Brougham

Turn-key Great Condition, 350-4bbl, th350, A/C, PW, PL, Keyless Entry, Leather interior. Contact for more info \$3,900
Brian McMahon, Bristol, CT 860-585-1441 or email
mcmahonba@sbdglobal.net (see photo)

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