

Rocket Rumbings

Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

Volume 12 Issue 4

WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz

April 2006

Drag Day Duel

NEOC Show Winner vs. Drag Day Veteran

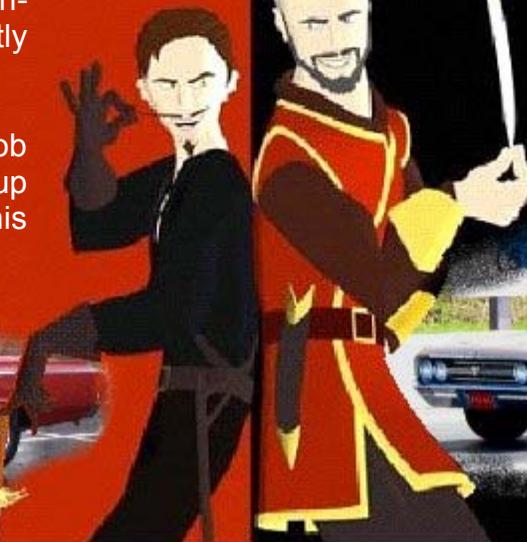
Well, it was bound to happen. Psychologists will disagree on whether or not it is child-like behavior or a question of honor to challenge another to a duel, but that is exactly what has happened.

NEOC 2005 Show winner Rob Brainard and his '64 442 will line up against Dan Alessandrini and his

'64 Cutlass on May 5th at Lebanon Valley Raceway to prove that his car not only looks good but goes fast too!

How will these two stack up

(Continued on page 2)



Dates to remember

- April 6th - Thursday 7 PM
NEOC Mtg - Presidential Compound, Meriden, CT
- April 9 - Sunday
Stafford Springs Swap Meet
- April 19-23 Spring Carlisle
Carlisle, PA
- May 4th - No NEOC Mtg - Meet us at LVD the 5th!
- May 5 - Friday
Spring Drag Day—See details in this issue

- May 7—Sunday
GMO Spring Dustoff—Wellesley, MA
- May 11 - Thursday
Drag Day Rain Date
- June 24 - Saturday
Extinct Auto Day
Larz Anderson Museum - Brookline, MA
- June 28 - July 2
OCA Nationals
Dallas, Texas
- July 9 - BSAAC Show
Endicott Estate in Dedham, MA

March Meeting Minutes

By Bill LaPierre Club Secretary

Eight brave and hearty souls endured blizzard conditions and slippery roads strewn with overturned cars and maimed bodies in order to attend the March meeting held at my place in the foothills of the Connecticut Himalayas. Attendees warmed their frozen bodies by a roaring fire, ate Patty's not-so-spicy chili and conversed about Oldsmobiles until the last stragglers shook off the snow and cold.

The following diehards get honorable mentions for their roadway bravery. Don Jack drove all the way up from Stratford in his Chevy 4x4 then left Ruth at the mall. Gus Kutschker drove from Canterbury in his all wheel drive van. Dave Richter slid sideways the whole way down from Granby, MA in his invincible S10 4x4. President Minore made it in Barbara's S10 4x4 all the way from Wallingford. Larry Gagain humbly accepted the "long distance" award for his 3 mile voyage cross-town in his '06 Civic, all the while battling a raging cold. Then Jim Schmitz arrived after he flew in from Detroit! His tricked out 4x4 carried him safely from long-term parking. He called earlier from Detroit and promised me he was going to attend. He kept his word! Forrest the Beagle entertained the troops. Clean up was a cinch with no vacuuming needed; he allowed no crumbs to hit the floor.

The hot topic of the day was the discussion of the commemorative 10th anniversary show plaques. Don Jack took the lead on this important subject and hard choices were made after a lengthy and raucous discussion. All attendees of the show will receive a plaque. Class winners will receive a special additional decal to affix to the plaque.

Discussion the status of the club roster followed. Jim Schmitz passed around a copy of the new roster booklet that was just mailed out to the membership.

At my suggestion, President Minore agreed to host the April meeting at the presidential retreat in Wallingford, CT. Security will be tight so be sure to arrive early to beat the lines at the main gate.

Vice President and Webmaster Glenn Johnson was conspicuous by his absence so we were unable to get a full report on the status of the new club web site.

President Minore drew the business to a close and a pizza was ordered. **RR**

Drag Day Duel

(Continued from page 1)

against each other? Who will prevail, will it come down to equipment or drivers? Will the 4 speed take the automatic? Will the immaculately restored show winner dust the Cutlass or will seasoned drag day veteran Dan, smoke Rob with his skillful launches and quick 60 ft times? Will Glen Morris emerge from the shadows to beat both of them in his 69?

Only two ways to find out the outcome, either come out and join us for Drag Day Spring 2006 on My 5th at Lebanon Valley Dragway. Or stay tuned to your favorite newsletter to see the results next month! **RR**

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Drag Day Full

Are you on the list?

Attention Racers! Dragmaster Carl has reported that the roster for our May 5 Lebanon Valley Dragway track rental is full. Everybody who is on the list should have been contacted by Carl. If you have sent a deposit check that's post marked March 16, 2006 or earlier that has not yet gotten to Carl (we all know how snail mail works), you will have a spot. Any later entries will be put on the contingency list.

If someone on the roster can't make it, those on the contingency list will be notified in the order that their names were received.

The majority of responses for the rain date were in favor of Thursday, May 11. So, that's it. Lebanon Valley Dragway has confirmed that as our rain date.

But the way, if you happen to be sitting home in your easy chair wondering what this is all about, come out and join us!! There is no cost to come and watch. Come on out, hang with the crowd, ask questions... You may get a ride in someone's car (if you don't think this is possible, ask Steve Minore!). You might even get hooked! **RR**

Spring Time

By Glen Morris

Hey it's springtime, right? It must be time to remove the snow tires from your classic Oldsmobile, right? It must also be time to change the oil, plugs, points, wires, and condenser, flush the cooling and put some Turtle wax on that baby, right?

I must be crazy, right? Well maybe, but back in the 60's and 70's this was a yearly tradition for those who cared for their cars.

I still have the G-78 14 snow tires for my original 1968 Olds Cutlass. (They are great for fillers when painting the car!) I also tuned the original Cutlass on an annual basis replacing plugs, wires, etc. and also drove the car about 12k per year. I have yet to drive my 1968 Cutlass Ram-Rod 12k since I bought it 17 years ago!

We all love to "tinker" with our older cars. We have time to do this because the newer cars need a lot less "tinkering". Think about it, when was the last time you thought about timing or cleaning the points in your daily driver? The positive point of this is that we can "tinker" with our old cars while driving our daily cars.

I don't know about you, but I love to "tinker" with my Olds cars. It recently cost me \$18.00 and about 15 minutes of my time to change the plugs in my '69 Cutlass. I also spent over \$200 parts and labor to change the plugs in my '98 Expedition.

Do the math! I still love old cars especially Oldsmobiles. Stay tuned (pun intended). **RR**

Oldsmobile Rockets into 1955 in this vintage advertisement.

1954

With Flying Colors...

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ROCKETS INTO 1955!

Flashing into the future with flying colors... Oldsmobile for '55... more spectacular, more colorful, more powerful than ever! In their exciting series (Ninety-Eight, Super "88", "88"), every one of them new, all-around-new, all the way through! And Oldsmobile's new-proved "Rocket"—the engine that blasted the way into the Power Era—is all new, too! New 202 horsepower, new higher torque, new higher compression ratio—new evolution chambers! Every new Oldsmobile has that remarkable new "Eco-Aid" look—bold, sweeping front-end design—dazzling new styling from front to rear—the newest new idea on wheels! And Oldsmobile, color sensation of the year, offers an even wilder choice in dramatic new "Flying colors" patterns. More than ever, Oldsmobile is out ahead to stay ahead! See your dealer... see these magnificent "Rocket" Oldsmobiles for 1955!

When Did YOU Last Mount Snow Tires?

By Bill LaPierre

I read the article regarding snow tires titled "What's That Noise?" in last month's issue of Rocket Rumbles. The article ends with a question, "When did YOU last mount snow tires? My answer to that question is November 2005, the day before the first significant snowfall of the winter season here in Connecticut. I mounted two sets of four snow tires on dedicated steel rims on both of our everyday vehicles. You may be just pulling your snow tires off your car as you are reading this, or you may not have snows at all. Sorry for the bad timing but I felt that I absolutely had to put my 2 cents worth in on this very important topic.

I feel that cars and trucks should be equipped with proper winter tires regardless of which or how many wheels propel the car. M+S tires are an inadequate compromise between traction in slippery conditions and traction on dry pavement. Add in tread life, rolling resistance and noise suppression and it is obvious that the average M+S tire will struggle to perform well in any one of these categories by nature of its attempt to cover all of those bases. Once the tire is worn past half its tread life, wet road traction falls off the charts. M+S tires worn to just above the wear bars are just plain dangerous in wet and slippery conditions, yet are still legal. I can't believe how many cars I observe attempting to navigate snow covered roads with these grossly inadequate tires.

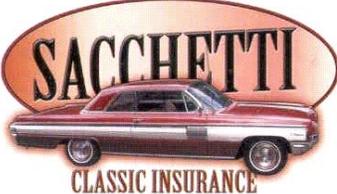
I mount four snows on both my '02 Dodge Ram 1500 4x4 and my wife Patty's '02 Nissan Altima SE 3.5 every fall and I have been doing that for many years. I didn't feel bad driving around the cars and SUV's struggling for traction on Hartford's

snow-covered streets during that first big storm. Our front driver Altima plowed through the 12-inch accumulation with only the slightest difficulty. Front drive helps, but it is definitely the Blizzak WS-50 215/60 R16 winter tires mounted at all four corners that make it possible. These tires also have a special open cell rubber that also grips ice better than normal rubber. The difference in snowy traction between these winter tires and even the brand new M+S tires we run is significant. There is no comparison.

I also mount four Cooper Discoverer 265/70-R17's on my 4x4 Ram. These are traditional waffle style snow tires mounted on dedicated steel rims with center caps. Traction is awesome and far superior to the OEM Goodyear M+S "off road" tires the truck came with. Those were a liability in any wet and slippery situation.

Having the snows on dedicated wheels makes it much easier and more convenient come changeover time. I can mount the snows myself in about 30 minutes in my garage or in the driveway. The expensive and easily damaged alloy rims are then safely stowed away for the season protecting them from the sand and salt.

Vendors like the Tire Rack are doing good business selling winter tire "packages" to a large and varied Snow Belt clientele. Perhaps you should look into it next October before the snow falls. Wouldn't it be better to drop \$500 for snow tires than pay that \$500 deductible on your auto insurance policy after sliding off the road on those wimpy, worn OEM M+S tires? I think so. **RR**



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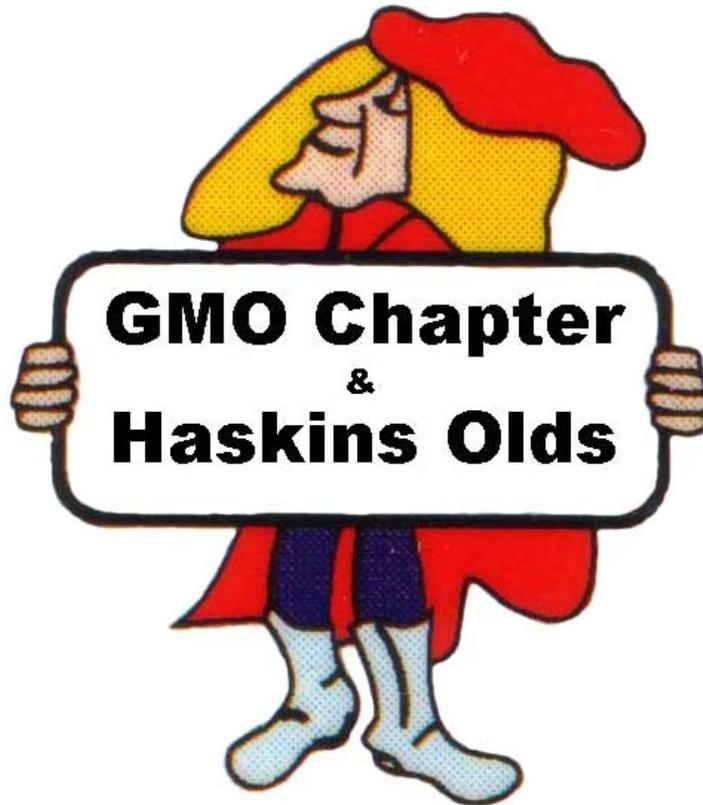
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All Oldsmobile

Spring Dust-Off Show 2006



Sunday May 7, 2006 - 8AM to 3 PM Rain or Shine

Haskins Oldsmobile

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Just East of Wellesley Center on Rte 16

- ❖ Dash Plaques to 1st 100 cars
- ❖ Awards in 20 Classes
- ❖ DJ Music
- ❖ Food & Beverages
- ❖ 50/50 Raffle
- ❖ Super Wheels Qualifier
- ❖ For Sale Signs allowed
- ❖ A Judged Show



Classes

Class #1 – Stock, 1897 – 1949, all Models
Class #2 – Stock, 1950 – 1959, all Models
Class #3 – Stock, 1960 – 1969, Full Size exc Starfire & Toro
Class #4 – Stock, all Starfire
Class #5 – Stock, all Toronado
Class #6 – Stock, 1970 – 1979, all Full Size except Toronado
Class #7 – Stock, 1980 – Present, all Full Size
Class #8 – Stock, 1961 – 1967, F85 & Cutlass, Open
Class #9 – Stock, 1961 – 1967, F85 & Cutlass, Closed
Class #10 – Stock, 1968 – 1972, Cutlass & F85, Open

Class #11 – Stock, 1968 – 1972, Cutlass & F85, Closed
Class #12 – Stock, 1973 – Present, Midsize & Compact
Class #13 – Stock, 1964 – 1967 Performance, Open
Class #14 – Stock, 1964 – 1967 Performance, Closed
Class #15 – Stock, 1968 – 1969 Performance, Open
Class #16 – Stock, 1968 – 1969 Performance, Closed
Class #17 – Stock, 1970 – 1972 Performance, Open
Class #18 – Stock, 1970 – 1972 Performance, Closed
Class #19 – Stock, 1973 – Present, Performance
Class #20 – Modified, All

Additional Awards

Best of Show – Prewar
Best of Show – Postwar
Best of Show – Dealer's Choice

Doug Stavros Award (GMO Members only)
Super Wheels Qualifier (1 Pick)

Pre-Registration - \$12 (\$15 Day Of Show)

Please send entry forms and make checks payable to:

Eastern Massachusetts GMO Chapter
114 West St
Medway, MA 02053-2226

For Show information call: Paul Iantosca - 617-543-0777 (Cell)
Ted Lorz - 508-561-7613 (Cell)

Or email: iantosca@comcast.net
ted@teds-olds.com

Information via the Internet: <http://clubs.hemmings.com/olds-gmo>

Registration Form

..... Cut Here

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Class # _____

Car Year: _____ License Plate _____

Model: _____ Color: _____

In consideration of the right to participate: Entrants/Participants, by execution of this entry form, release and discharge the Oldsmobile Club of America / The Eastern Massachusetts GMO Chapter / Haskins Oldsmobile from all known and unknown damages, injuries, losses, judgment or claims from what so ever.

Date: _____ -Signature: _____

Directions To The Next Meeting

The **April meeting** will be hosted by Steve Minore on **Thursday April 6th** at the Presidential Palace in Meriden, CT.

Steve Minore 203-237-2001
37 Longmeadow Drive, Meriden, CT 06450

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.) Turn RIGHT (West) onto E. Main St. for 0.2 mi, Turn LEFT (South) onto Paddock Ave. for 0.8 mi. on the left. Turn RIGHT (West) onto Overlook Rd. for 0.3 mi. Turn LEFT (South) onto Longmeadow Dr. and proceed to #37.

From New Haven and points south

Head North on I-91 from New Haven. At exit 16 turn off onto ramp (E. Main St.) Bear LEFT (West) onto E. Main St. for 0.4 mi, Turn LEFT (South) onto Paddock Ave. for 0.8 mi. on the left. Turn RIGHT (West) onto Overlook Rd. for 0.3 mi. Turn LEFT (South) onto Longmeadow Dr. and proceed to #37.

From Waterbury and points west

Head East on I-84 from Waterbury, At exit 27, take I691 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. AT SR-15 exit 67W, turn off onto ramp. Turn RIGHT (West) onto E. Main St. for 0.2 mi, Turn LEFT (South) onto Paddock Ave. for 0.8 mi. on the left. Turn RIGHT (West) onto Overlook Rd. for 0.3 mi. Turn LEFT (South) onto Longmeadow Dr. and proceed to #37.

There will be no formal **May meeting** as it is the evening before Drag Day. Therefore, any business requiring club or officer's attention should be brought to the attention of a board member to be discussed on Friday at the track.

June Meeting

We currently have an opening for a host home for our June meeting on Thursday June 1st. If you are interested please contact one of the club officers before the next meeting!

Rocket Classifieds

Club members are entitled to ONE free 25 word ad per issue. There is no charge for name, addresses and phone numbers. Additional words ar 10 cents each. Insert a photograph for only \$5.00 Please submit ads by the 15th of the month. Written submissions are preferred.

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

Please make checks payable to NEOC.

For Sale:

Lots of 1968 Cutlass/442 chrome trim and parts. NOS emblems and more. Time to clean house here. E-mail for needs and prices. Very reasonable. Call Glen @ 203-269-4365 or gmorris01@aol.com.

Wanted:

Posi rear to pep up my anemic '69 Cutlass. Prefer complete and working either a 3.23, 3.31, 3.42 ratio 10 or 12 bolt reasonably priced. Call Glen @ 203-269-4365 or gmorris01@aol.com.
(Let's see if we can't get Glen a posi before Drag Day!)

New England Oldsmobile Club

Business Address:

372 Batchelor Street
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413-467-3690 Email: dmr67442@aol.com

Membership Information:

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Wallingford, CT 06492-5324
Email: gmorris01@aol.com

Newsletter Publication:

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

Executive Board:

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Treasurer - Dave Richter
Secretary - Bill LaPierre
Membership Coordinator - Glen Morris
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