

Rocket Rumbings

Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

Volume 12 Issue 3

WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz

March 2006



Spring Drag Day '06

The temperature outside as I write this, is probably cold enough for HE-double-toothpicks to freeze over (or at least Hell, MI)! Makes it a bit hard to get up the energy to start turning wrenches on our fair weather friends all tucked away in the garage for their winter hibernation. But as you'll see in a few pages, its time to register for Spring Drag day. Don't worry, you won't need a wig and a dress, but you will need a well tuned car and an appetite for fun.

Carl "Dragmaster" Dudash has once again worked out a great deal for us to get into Lebanon Valley Dragway in West Lebanon, NY on Friday May 5th! Carl has done a great job keeping the cost the same and at \$70 it is a LOT less expensive than a speeding ticket (and no points off your license either)!

Carl just informed me that the track officials have once again let us have the two drivers/one car for \$70 (otherwise how would Steve ever get to race, I've never seen him run HIS car)! So bring a buddy, bring some spare parts and your enthusiasm as we always have a good time!

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NEOC/OCA Renewals

Hey fellow NEOC'rs,

If you can read this, your NEOC dues are paid and you are a member in good standing. If you can't read this, you are either blind or you didn't get a newsletter because your dues were not paid.

So, are your OCA dues also current? If not, you will be hearing from me again personally asking you to pay up!

NEOC requires all it's members to also be members of OCA. This maintains our chapter recognition and compliance with OCA allowing us some club benefits. The most important benefit is insurance and advertising for our annual all Olds car show.

So please check your OCA status and update as necessary. I will be reporting on our club status in the near future.

Glen Morris
Membership Coordinator

Dates to remember

- March 2nd - Thursday 7 PM
NEOC Mtg - Bill LaPierre's in Somers, CT
- April 6th - Thursday 7 PM
NEOC Mtg - TBD
- April 9 - Sunday
Stafford Springs Swap Meet
- April 19-23 Spring Carlisle
Carlisle, PA
- May 5 - Friday
Spring Drag Day—See details in this issue
- 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
- September 10 - Sunday
NEOC Annual Car Show

January Meeting Minutes

The January meeting was held at Riley & Scranton's in Glastonbury, CT on Saturday January 14th. It was quite a nice day for a ride to central Connecticut to hang out with Olds friends. As in the past the meeting was primarily about the car show.

Discussion started with the date and Steve indicated that the date was in fact September 10th with the 17th as a rain date. A couple cars were tossed around for the flier and dash plaques with a '79 Hurst/Olds leading the votes.

While on the subject of dash plaques and trophies, Don Jack brought up a concept he had seen at other shows to commemorate our 10th Anniversary Show with a plaque to hand out to all participants. The discussion ended with Don trying to get pricing for a plaque to be discussed next meeting.

Bill Black reminded everyone of the necessity for sponsors for the show and will be putting together another Car Show Ad Book to list and help us all patronize those that sponsor the show. Prices for the ads are as follows; Business Card (1/4 page) = \$25, Half Page = \$50, Full page = \$100, Inside cover = \$200 and the Centerfold = \$250.

Jim Schmitz agreed to have a sample flier to be approved at the meeting at Everett's in February. **RR**



After seeing this, It's not hard to imagine why insurance costs are sky-rocketing!

February Meeting Minutes

Well it was a bright sunny Saturday in early February when the Olds faithful once again convened on Rumford, RI for our annual meeting at E & G Automotive (a.k.a. Everett's place). Once again our gracious host provided donuts and coffee to get us going. Amazing what a little caffeine can do for your parts sorting ability.

Before the official start of the meeting parts were disappearing as Everett tried to reduce inventory in light of his upcoming move. As soon as NEOC Veep Glenn Johnson got everyone's attention the official side of the day got started.

First up on the agenda, seems El Presidente' Minore was sitting in warmer climates with an umbrella in his glass as we cleaned Everett out of all the good parts... sorry Steve. With the absence of the Grand Pubah Glen Johnson ran the meeting.

Official thanks and recognition was bestowed upon Everett for his hospitality. His new address is going to be 512 York Ave. a back friendly first floor location. Hopefully we'll be invited there next year!

Several car show issues were brought up, however due to the absence of the Car Show Chairman, (Steve wanted to be present for any decisions) we respectfully placed car show items on the agenda for the next meeting. Even so a few things were brought up for some limited discussion.

First Don Jack brought a sample of a plaque he had proposed for the members to take a look at and discuss along with some estimated pricing. Even though no decision was made, it did bring with it some lively discussion. A decision on trophies, plaques, quantities, etc. will be made at the March meeting, allowing plenty of ordering time.

The proposed 2006 show flier was passed around, the final version of this will be determined at the March meeting as well.

Once again, the availability of premium space for club members' interesting stories was brought up to the

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membership. Please take a few minutes and dig through some of your photographs, I am sure there are plenty of Olds stories out there to be shared with your fellow Oldsmobilers.

With the completion of NEOC business, Paul Iantosca filled the group in on some auction happenings as well as a rough car show schedule that the GMO club is hoping to attend.

The first bit of news was that the Berejik Olds dealership buildings will be torn down so a mall can be built on the property. That notwithstanding, the GMO is planning

“extinct”, but I guess if the shoe fits... And of course the Endicott Estate in Dedham, MA show on July 9th followed by none other than the greatest show on earth (or at least for Oldsmobiles in the Northeast), our very own All Olds Show on September 10th.

Once Paul finished, the meeting was adjourned and we all enjoyed a slice of pizza while shopping. Wonder if the mall ever thought of pizza and beer while shopping. I bet a lot of us would put up less of a fight!

Funny how the best laid plans seldom work out. As I watched the tube and savored an adult beverage, I actually spent some time the night before the meeting and jotted down some parts I could use for the cars so I wouldn't forget. So after the meeting ended I went back to shopping, seems I only hit one item on the list, but came home with a number of other parts! **RR**



on holding a show there in early April. Get out that wax and tire dressing, April's only a month away!

The Larz Anderson Museum's Extinct Auto's Day will be held June 24th in Brookline, MA, \$15 is all it takes to enter. See www.mot.org for more info. Wow, never thought of us as

Reluctantly, members stopped searching the parts shelves to get down to some club business.

E & G Automotive

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What's that noise?

I had my hands tucked far into my pockets, keys at the ready as I was walking to the car last weekend in Cooperstown, NY. Thinking of how cold that drivers seat was going to be and wondering why I didn't get my wife a remote start for her car also, when I heard a sound that so much a part of my youth I quickly turned to see where it was coming from.

I looked around and expected to see a truck, or at least the family minivan, traffic had stopped and I could not pick out which car it was. Then as I stood watching the reason many main streets no longer have parallel parking, the traffic started to move and I could clearly make out the culprit. It came from (of all things) a nice new, green and tan Rustang convertible.

Yup, someone in Cooperstown actually had the nerve to put studded snow tires on a new mustang! Studded snow tires are for the most part a relic from the past. Well let me take that back, snow tires in general are a thing of the past for most of us. A past where the only people with anything other than rear wheel drive were farmers and hillbillies in pick'em up trucks and a bunch of guys driving off road in Jeeps with four wheel drive.

If you wanted to get traction in snow, you typically had the change out your rear tires for snow tires. Want traction on ice? Add studs. As far back as I can remember people had that spare set of snows at the ready to be mounted in late fall and run till spring. I recall my dad ordering a new set of Super Stock II's for his new W31 so he could mount the snows and not detract from the style of the car.

When I got my first car, the first thing I did was put the stock rallye wheels in the shed and pick up some Cragar SS's. I put some F60's on the front and H60's on the rear. Oh yeah, looking cool now! Looked good in summer but went nowhere in the snow. Also, any of you who had mags from the late 70's and early 80's recall that they had a tendency for the

Spring Drag Day '06 (cont'd)

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As in the past, there is a non-refundable down payment to hold your spot and the balance is due at the track on the 5th. See the details on the registration form. **RR**

chrome to rust and the aluminum to pit. So come winter I picked up a set of G78-14 white walls with G78-14 snows out back mounted on a fashionable set of standard 14" steel wheels with hubcaps. So much for looking cool, but I did get around better with the skinny tires and snows. I still recall when Illinois banned studs and I sat there with side cutters pulling them one by one from the tires!

So, hearing all those studs clatter on the street, I started wondering when I last mounted a set of snow tires, and where the old ones went? Well like many people with the advent of front wheel drive, all wheel drive, four wheel drive, traction sensing differentials, etc., etc., etc. I don't have the need anymore! I picked up my four wheel drive Blazer in '82 and haven't looked back on snow tires since.

As I take a look around the neighborhood, I can't find anyone that doesn't have at least a front wheel drive car. In addition, like me, most have some sort of SUV or other four wheel drive vehicle (Subaru's mostly).

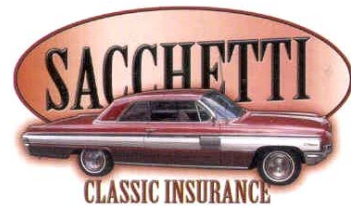
Between mud and snow tires and placing the weight over the drive wheels the automakers have, for the majority of us, engineered out our need for "winter tires".

As for the question of where they went? Well I'd be inclined to say they left on a parts car or are tucked away in my dad's basement. Man I hope he doesn't plan on selling soon! The more I reminisce the more stuff I think I have stashed in the dark corners of his house and garage! When did YOU last mount snow tires? **RR**

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Spring 2006 Drag Day Signup Sheet

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Car #1 _____

Car #2 _____

Second Driver _____

----- cut here to save info below -----

Drag Day Information:

Date: Friday, May 5, 2006 **Rain Date:** to be announced

Location: Lebanon Valley Dragway, Route 20, West Lebanon, NY

Phone Hotline: (860) 542-5753 Call Thursday evening prior if rain is forecast.

Cost: \$70 to race all day. A \$30 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a place on the roster, the remaining \$40 to be paid the day of the event when you sign in at the track. Please make deposit checks payable to LVD (that's for Lebanon Valley Dragway). Write "Spring 2006 Drag Day" on the check memo line. Send this sheet and payment to: Carl Dudash, P.O. Box 200, Norfolk, CT 06058

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 4 pm.

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

You may have two drivers for a single car or one driver may bring two cars for a single entry fee. Crew members and spectators are free. All drivers, crew, and spectators must check in at the tower to sign the release waiver. Wristbands and run stickers will be issued.

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

KEEP IT SAFE. NO ALCOHOL.

**Carl “Dragmaster” Dudash
Spring Drag Day
P.O. Box 200
Norfolk, CT 06058**

Directions To The Next Meeting

The **March meeting** will be on **Thursday March 2nd**.
This meeting will be hosted by Bill LaPierre in beautiful Somers, CT.

Bill LaPierre

27 Heather Lane, Somers, CT 06071-1932

860-763-3134

Directions:

From I-91 North or South - take Exit 47E and follow Hazard Ave. (SR-190) East for almost 5 miles.

Make a right onto Maple Street for 1/4 mile

Bear left onto Pinney Rd. for another 1/4 mile

Then bear left onto Billings Rd.

Go to the second Somers Hill Circle and take a left (either way will get you there, but this is the most direct route!)

Take the first right which is Heather Lane. Follow it to #27 and join the rest of us!

Phew! With all those lefts, I feel like I've just driven in a big circle!

April Meeting

We currently have an opening for a host home for our April meeting on Thursday April 6th.
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.

Oliver

Autobody Co., Inc.

1519 Dwight Street
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Phone 413-532-9413

Fax 532 - 7218

Wanted:

Grilles for 1971 or 1972 442. Not looking for perfect, NOS or aftermarket grilles. Just looking for cheap! I happen to prefer the 442 grilles to Cutlass Supreme and would like an inexpensive set for my 71. Damaged is no problem as long as most of the pieces are there to work with.

Call Jim @ 860-379-5221 or jim70442w30@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!)

Wanted:

Interesting articles for popular club newsletter. Prefer Oldsmobile related, but not required. Humorous, technically oriented or just interesting will do. Can be typed or hand-written, photos add interest.

Call Jim @ 860-379-5221 or jim70442w30@aol.com

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