

# Rocket Rumbblings

Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

Volume 12 Issue 1/2

WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz

Jan/Feb 2006

*Happy New Year!*  
*Good Bye 2005 and Hello 2006!*

Well, by now the needles have fallen off the ol' Christmas tree (oops... perhaps I should say "Holiday tree"?). And the credit card bills will soon arrive to remind us of the fun we had this holiday season.

Hopefully that fun includes finding some restoration or speed parts hiding under the tree or hanging out of your stocking. I know that in between shoveling snow and enjoying (?) winter sports, laying on your back on the cold garage floor probably isn't high on anyone's list of favorite things!

*(Continued on page 3)*



With the demise of Oldsmobile, the prices of these collector cars is sky-rocketing! Who'd have thought an Oldsmobile would set the auction record?



NEOC's Annual Car Show can always be considered good "clean" fun!

## Dates to remember

- January 14th - Saturday 12 noon  
NEOC Mtg - Riley & Scranton  
Glastonbury, CT
- January 21 & 22 - Autoparts Swap 'n Sell  
Eastern States Expo Center  
West Springfield, MA
- February 4th - Saturday 11 AM  
NEOC Mtg - E & G Automotive  
Rumford, Rhode Island
- March 2nd - Thursday 7 PM  
NEOC Mtg -
- May ?? - Spring Drag Day  
Watch for details
- June 28 - July 2 OCA Nationals  
Dallas, Texas
- September 10 - Sunday  
NEOC Annual Car Show

# Help Wanted

## E & G Automotive

NOS / Used Oldsmobile Parts  
ANTIQUOLDS@AOL.COM

Everett Horton  
401-435-7139 Fax 401-435-5580  
P.O. Box 16095 9 Newman Ave.  
Rumford, RI 02916

### WANTED:

Oldsmobile enthusiasts in search of a bargain.

### MUST POSSESS:

- Car, van, pickup, trailer or shopping cart to haul away your parts.
- Willingness to search through aisles and aisles of parts to find the perfect treasure.
- Some knowledge of what you desire (Everett can help you here as can many other members!).

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must have strong back to carry parts (or gullible friends).
- Wallet with Cash (won't need much), check or credit card.

### INTERVIEW:

- No Interview required, just show up ready to shop!

### LOCATION and DATE:

- Saturday February 4th, 2006
- E&G Automotive

## E & G Automotive

401-435-7139 Fax 401-435-5580  
P.O. Box 16095 9 Newman Ave.  
Rumford, RI 02916

### MOVING SALE!

The building I am in has been sold and will become Condo's, what else is new?

Right after our annual meeting at my place February 4th I will start the huge job of moving my collection of Oldsmobile parts. A lot of parts that have been hanging around will go out>>>>>>. Now is the time to thin out. As you can tell by what I have up here I hate to throw things out. Here is your chance to get stuff cheap, real cheap. I will take cash, it talks, credit cars and checks. Bring a pick-up, a van and a trailer if you want. The more you buy the better the price. The more you buy the less to move PLEASE!

It will be the same venue as in the past coffee and donuts will be there early and a table of eats will be there for lunch.

My new place is only a couple of miles away and is on the FIRST floor, a plus right there. Not as big as this place but acceptable. Not as much parking either but it will do.

Looking forward to seeing you all in February, bring a friend.

Everett  
E & G Automotive

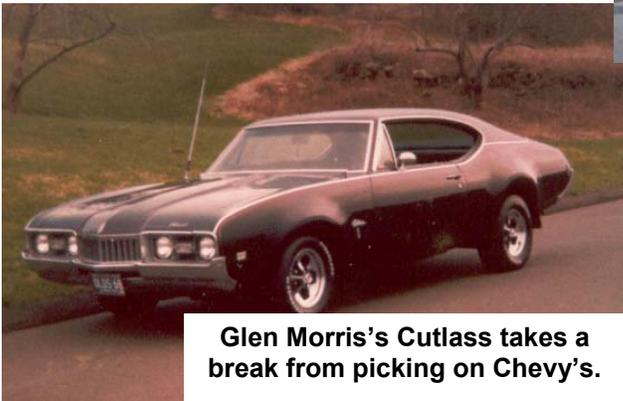
# 2005 Memories (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

To help keep you warm, here are a few memorable moments from last year to keep you enthused about getting your pride and joy ready for next year. So get out there in your parka and start on those projects. Before you know it spring will be here and you'll be thrashing your car late nights for Dray Day or that first cruise night wondering how it snuck on you so fast! **RR**



Club members are always ready to lend a hand. We had a whale of a good time this past summer!



Glen Morris's Cutlass takes a break from picking on Chevy's.



♪♪♪ "Two cool cars sitting side by side..." ♪♪

# Bored at Home?

So, you've been bored this winter? Why not pull together some of those spare parts and come up with something to top this!

December 1, 2005

If you're tired of anemic, one lung snowblowers with their slipping drive belts, you might consider Kai Grundt's V8 snow blower that raises the bar on the traditional snow blower in every respect. With electric start, electric block heater, antifreeze heater and eight cylinders, it has no drive belts to freeze up and you'll never get bored with the job as the 454 cubic inch big block Chevrolet produces 412 horsepower, 430 foot pounds of torque and can throw snow 50 feet at just 3500 rpm. Nor will you get cold as the machine has been ingeniously designed to route the engine coolant through the handle bars, with the rear mounted, enclosed radiator keeping the operator nice and cozy. **RR**



# From the 3rd Bay

By Jim Schmitz

## What hits, what fits...

In our last episode, you may recall that our hero....  
Oops sorry, wrong writing project. Last month we were trying to see just how much tire could be stuffed under the front and rear of a '70 A-body.

With replacing the stock wheels with 15 x 8", tire choices opened up tremendously. In the immortal words of Tim the Toolman "More Power" is a good thing and we need a way to get the power to the ground which usually takes us to that other cliché often used in many things automotive, "bigger is better". So, in trying to stuff the biggest tires under the front and rear of the Olds we get back to figuring out the clearances.

The stock 7" wide wheels had 4 3/8" of backspacing, when moving up to an 8" wide wheel, they were offered in 4 1/2" and 5" backspacing. I made a drawing for each combination to determine which would work best. These drawings are shown on the next page. One important note to remember is the wheel **Width** is measured from the inside of the lip where the bead seats to the other lip. This is *not* the outside dimensions. But **Backspacing** is the measurement from where the rim bolts to the hub or brake drum to the *outside edge* of the rim. If you measure a 14 x 7" rim outside to outside it measures about 8". So the bead area of the rim adds close to half an inch on each side.

In Illustration #1 I have laid out the measurements for the old tire and wheel combo. P245/60R14's on factory 14 x 7" wheels. The factory wheels have about 4.375" backspacing. Illustration #2 and #3 show the rear tires I wanted 295/50R15 on 15 x 8" wheels. The only difference is the backspacing. Illustration #2 has 4.5" and #3 has 5".

When figuring distances, remember that the tire is centered on the wheel width, and the backspacing will just determine where that width sits in the wheelwell.

If we assume that the bead area of the rim adds approximately one half inch to the width of the wheel on each side, we see that the factory rims are mounted pretty close to the middle of the rim, only about 3/8" offset. In the attached drawings, starting at the top, I have shown the section width and the tread width. Then by drawing an imaginary line through the center of the tire and wheel, have shown the distance from the center to the edge of the sidewall, The center to the bead area and the offset of the mounting surface to the centerline.

On the bottom is the backspacing and then all these numbers were used to figure out how far the sidewall of the tire is from the mounting surface. This is what we will use to see if our tire clears.



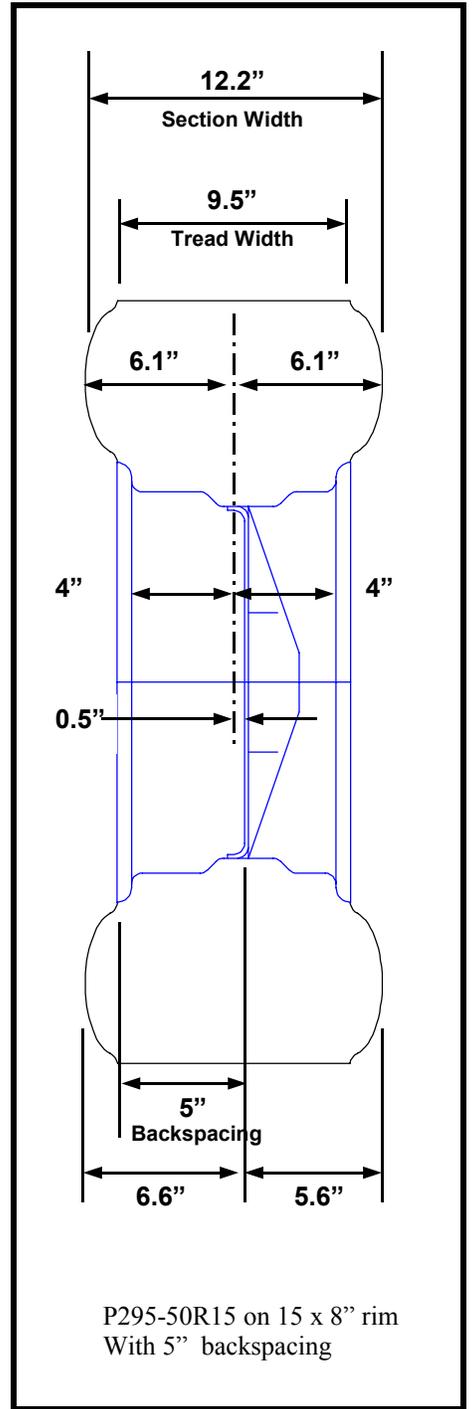
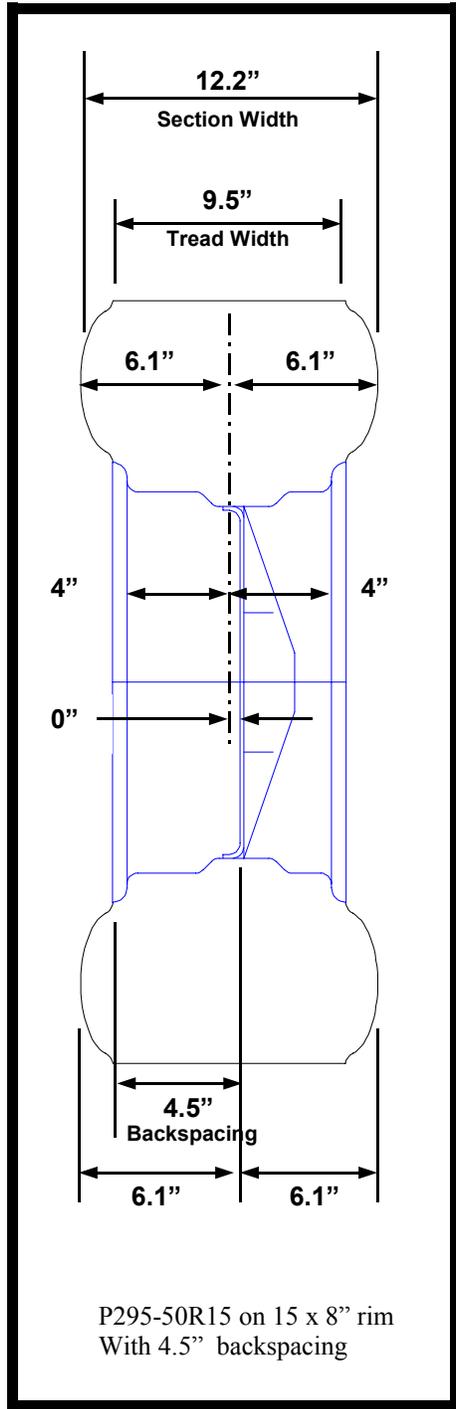
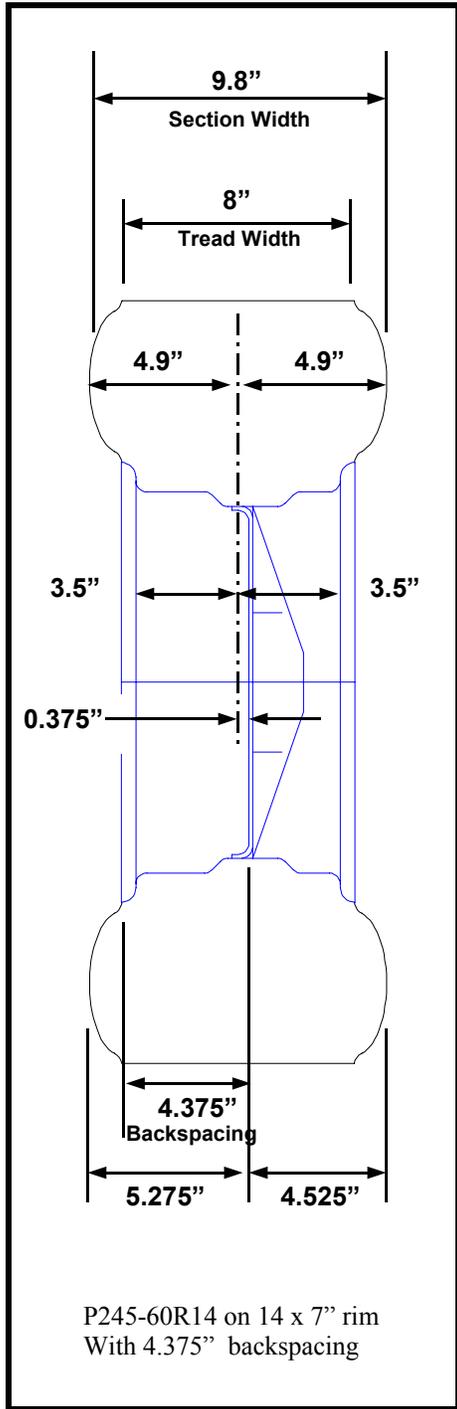
**Free labor is where you find it. I just hope he's still this willing to help when I'm old enough to NEED help!**

I measured all of my clearances as detailed in the last issue and determined that the 5" offset would move the new wider tire too far in and give me minimal (read that almost none) clearance from the tire to the exhaust and lower control arm. It also would not fill the wheel well as much as I hoped. Therefore in the back I went with 4.5" backspacing. When I checked the fronts (using the same method) It looked as if the desired 265/50R15's would come too close the frame when turning, so I used the 4.5" backspacing on all four corners.

So you see, its not really that difficult. Just takes some measuring, and re-measuring ( I did this several times to be sure) and then just taking the big step and ordering everything.

So in conclusion, here is what fit MY car;

- 15" x 8" wide rims at all (4) corners
- 295/50R15 Tires in the rear



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# From the 3rd Bay

(cont'd)

- 265/50R15 Front tires
- 

When I say “fits my car” I mean it. With production tolerances and the possibility of a vehicle being in an accident, you need to measure first! Don’t just take what fits mine and figure it will work on yours. When I was younger I had a ’70 Cutlass that I put H60-14’s on the rear (remember letter tire sizes?) and after a while I realized that the right rear was just slightly touching the undercoating and the left rear had 1/2”-3/4” of clearance! I ended up putting a spacer on the one side. Until that is, I bought the 245/60R14’s that I just pulled off of the W-30!

One other item to keep in mind, my car has had the suspension rebuilt and all of the suspension and body bushings replaced. This could make a difference if you are just looking to slap bigger rubber on your car!

## Front Tires



On the left is the new rubber, P265-50R15’s on 15 x 8” wide rims, on the right are the old P245-50R14’s . When going this wide in the front, extra care is required to make sure the tires do not rub the suspension or frame when turning at both full compression and full extension. These fit well and I have not see any rubbing at all.

## Rear Tires



On the left is the new rubber, P295-50R15’s on 15 x 8” wide rims, on the right are the old P245-50R14’s on the original Olds 14 x 7” Super Stock I wheels. The new tires really fill the wheel well nicely while still allowing clearance to avoid rubbing.

There are a few photos of the car with the old and new tires, you can see for yourself how much better they fill out the wheel wells! **RR**

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Fax 1-860-623-3118

# Directions To The Next Meeting

The **January meeting** will be held on Saturday the 14th at noon and will be hosted by Earl Bancroft at Riley & Scranton Service Center in Glastonbury, CT. The main topic of discussion will be the NEOC annual car show.

## Riley & Scranton Service Center Glastonbury, CT 860-633-3669

### **From north and south on Interstate 91:**

Take "Glastonbury/Putnam Bridge" Route 3 exit off of I 91 just south of Hartford.  
Cross the bridge and bear right onto Route 2 East.  
Take the Hebron Avenue exit. Turn right at end of ramp onto Hebron Avenue.  
Turn right onto Main St. when Hebron avenue ends at stop sign.  
Take immediate left onto Welles St.  
Riley & Scranton Service center is on the left.

The **February meeting** will be hosted by Everett Horton on Saturday the 4th at 11 AM at E&G Automotive in Rumford, RI. As in the past, Everett will have a lunch table and of course his vast warehouse of Olds parts will be open for browsing.

### E & G Automotive

**From Connecticut:** -Interstate 95 North to Providence.

-Route 146 South to Providence or Route 6 east to Providence. *All will lead to Route 195 East.*

-Once on Route 195E take exit 6 "Broadway" Take a right at end of exit.

-Go to next red light and take a right onto Broadway. Go under the highway. Follow Broadway for about 3 miles.

-At the 5th red light you will be at an intersection at the end of Broadway. Look for an empty lot on your right and several new homes on the left.

-This is the end of Broadway and Newman Ave begins, E&G is in the large 5 story building thru the light on your right. Take a right and a left behind the building and go all the way around it until you see the post office and fire station, park in that area. The entrance is on the corner next to the chain link fence. E&G is located on the 3rd

### **March Meeting**

We currently have an opening for a host home for our March meeting on Thursday March 2.

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.

### **Wanted:**

Creative minds.

Actually we really only need some ideas and a few photos. The newsletter would like to publish YOUR story. How you got your first car, or your current car, why you like Oldsmobiles. Why did you pick a specific model to restore. Any restoration tips you want to share with the rest of us?

You don't need to be Sam Clemmens, we can help put your story into words and can scan your photos for you as well!

Why not take a few minutes and see what interesting stories you might have to share! **RR**

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