

# Rocket Rumbblings

Newsletter of the New England Oldsmobile Club

Volume 12 Issue 8

WWW.NEOLDS.COM

Edited by Jim Schmitz

August 2007

## OCA National's or Bust

This year the OCA Nationals were held in Bowling Green KY. I decided to drive down in my 1969 Olds Cutlass wagon so I could load it with parts for the swap meet. Dave Richter wasn't able to get his 67 convertible ready for the trip so he was going to ride with me. Prior to leaving, Dave got the air conditioning working in the wagon. In spite of the AC system being changed to R134A, it cranked out ice cold air. I put my satellite radio in the car; we were prepared to travel the 16 hours in relative luxury.

On Monday July 16<sup>th</sup> I picked up Dave around 9:30 and we headed to a truck stop in CT to meet Mike Babij who was going to follow us in his '68 Cutlass. Somewhere on rt. 84 a truck kicked up a stone at my windshield. At our first fuel stop, I noticed the stone had chipped the windshield and it was starting to crack.

We're on rt. 81 in Pennsylvania outside of Wilkes Barre and all of a sudden the car doesn't want to go. The engine is running, when I give it gas the speedometer goes up, but the car won't accelerate. Fortunately there is a rest area just ahead and it's downhill. I move from the center lane to the right and coast into a tractor trailer parking spot. As I'm stopping I hear a noise in the back of the car and the brakes are suddenly spongy. The noise was the left rear tire hitting the quarter panel and the brake problem was the brake drum being out past the brake shoes. The axle had come out of the rear end. Be-

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Just like the racers of old... Glenn packs a mechanic for trips! Here Glenn and Dave check out the axle that tried to escape!**

## 2010 Nat's in New England!

For those of you that haven't yet heard. YES, we are in for hosting the 2010 Oldsmobile Nationals right here in New England as voted by the OCA Board of Directors. FIRST time in New England!

There is a lot of work ahead of us and I will look forward to a good volunteer support contingent of NEOC members. GMO and the Long Island Olds chapters have also pledged support.

I won't go into too much detail at this time, but it will be forthcoming in e-mails and newsletters, so stay tuned.....

Glen Morris

## Dates to Remember

August 2 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday at 7 PM

Bill LaPierre's, Somers, CT

August 9 - Cruise to Hemmings Cruise

Bennington, VT

August 27 - Mark's Oldsmobile Cruise Night

East Granby, CT starting at 5 PM

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

October 4 - NEOC Mtg - Thursday at 7 PM

Location TBD

## July Meeting Notes

The July meeting was held at John Welch's and we talked about several upcoming and possible events.

First, Bill Black shared that with help from fellow members he had collected over \$900 for the car show ad book with additional money still scheduled to come in. Congrats Bill on a great job!

Bill has also been looking to line up some trips as a club, the first discussed was Mark's Cruise night in Granby on August 27th. Bill was also looking to set up a cruise to Hemmings, check out this month's newsletter for details.

Ever wonder about how much power you are really putting to the ground? Want to dyno your car to see if those parts you added made it more powerful? If so, call or email Bill as soon as possible as he is looking to get something set up for this fall.

Once you have your car all set up, why not take it to Fall Drag Day on the 28th of September? Drag Master Carl is setting up our last drag day of 2007. Sign up using the form in this month's newsletter.

Once the meeting was adjourned, several flexible members found out what it was like to be part of the underground railroad as they ventured deep into the recesses of John's secret parts stash! **RR**

### E & G Automotive

NOS / Used Oldsmobile Parts  
ANTIQUOLDS@AOL.COM

EVERETT HORTON  
(508) 336-0440

Fax (401) 435-5580  
Cell (401) 573-6361

546 Arcade Ave., Suite 2  
Seekonk, MA 02771

### **CUSTOM** **Muffler of Enfield**

33 Palomba Drive  
Enfield, CT  
Phone: 860-741-4344

Adrien Adam  
Manager/Owner  
custommuffler@snet.net

## NEOC Picnic 2007

Although it was the weekend prior to the Old's Nationals, members piled into their cars for a quick (for some anyway) road trip down to the Morris' where Glen captured quite the horsepower in his car corral!



**Bill LaPierre demonstrates the moves it took to become president of this great club!**

Along with the usual banter about '70 being the top year for Oldsmobile's, there was quite a bit of nervous energy surrounding the possibility of holding the OCA Nats in our neck of the woods.

While some long distance members chose to bring their daily drivers, many of us pulled the car covers and dusted off the toys for one last run prior to the OCA Na-



**Good food, good friends, good cars, great fun!**

Cutlass  
442  
W-30

New and Reproduction Parts for  
1961-1977 Cutlass 442  
1935-1975 Oldsmobile

### **Fusick** **Automotive Products, Inc.**

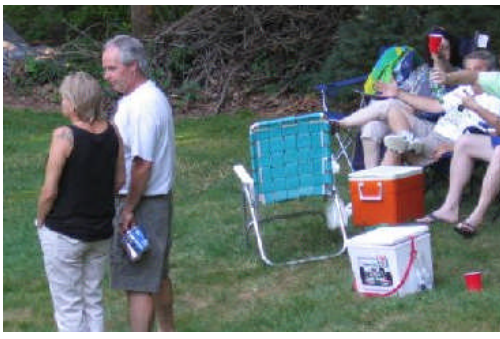
P.O. Box 655 22 Thompson Road  
East Windsor, Connecticut 06088

1-860-623-1589  
Fax 1-860-623-3118



tionals.

Between burgers, dogs and the tables full of food, if you didn't have enough liquid refreshment to satisfy, a quick dip in the pool would cool you off fast!



**"I promise dear, just one more beer and I promise to work on my newsletter article, Please?!"**

Next year don't just wish you were out driving your Olds. Come out and join us!

Special thanks to the Morris's who let us use their home and yard for a nice family outing! **RR**



**Relax at the food table or in the pool, you had your choice!**



**The Alessandrini's brought a unique cake!**



**RICHARD P. SACCHETTI**  
TEL. 401-461-0600  
FAX 401-781-1375  
1-888-526-0900

Licensed in  
RI, MA, CT, FL, NV

PO BOX 8230  
845 POST RD.  
WARWICK, RI 02888  
www.sacchettiagency.

## Cruise to Hemmings

By Bill LaPierre

I am organizing an informal Olds cruise up to Bennington, Vermont for the August 9th Hemmings cruise.

We will meet **August 9th at 3:30 pm in Holyoke, Ma exit 15 off Interstate 91**. Don't be late, we will be departing for Bennington by 3:45. I am figuring it will take about 1.5 to 2 hours to get to Bennington from there. The cruise starts at 5:50 and runs to 8:30. I would love to pull in there with a caravan of hot Oldsmobiles, are you into it? I know its a haul, but its the Hemmings cruise! You gotta do it once in your life. They are giving out trophies and you can rap with the Hemmings Muscle magazine staff. Stay over night if it is too far for you, but just do it!

Rain: ya, it could rain, but I am only going to the rain-date of August 23rd if its a washout. A forecast of possible thunderstorms isn't gonna put the kibosh on this thing. I will be taking back roads from Greenfield, Ma, it is very scenic and there isn't much traffic.

Contact me ASAP if you are interested. Take the afternoon off from work and have a great time with your Olds buddies. Let's show 'em that Olds rocks!  
For more info go to <http://www.hemmings.com/events/cruiseins.html>

## We're Making Progress!

By Bill Black

We're seeing great progress towards making this year's Show Booklet a success. To date we've collected \$1,150, with another \$200 plus in the mail. That's a great start. We have 4 new contributors to the Show Booklet and 12 repeaters from last year. Keep up the good work. Your efforts will enable us to make this year's goal of \$2,000, net of expenses. I need to get all the information to the printer by the last week of August, so please use that time frame to get your ads to me. Also, if you have collected any donated raffle prizes, let me know the contributor's name so I can give them proper recognition in the Show Booklet. If you need any information or copies of the Show Booklet forms, you can email me at [dragonflyfarm@earthlink.net](mailto:dragonflyfarm@earthlink.net), or call (203) 457-1459.

# Nat's or Bust

(Continued from page 1)

ing a non-positi rear end, as soon as the axle separated from the center section, it wouldn't drive. We remove the tire and the axle came right out but the bearing was still secured in the rearend housing. What happened was the pressed on bearing retainer had worked its way loose. We can't put the bearing and the retainer back on in the rest area and even if we could, if it came off before, it would come off even easier the next time. What



**John on the phone with his vast parts network looking for an axle.**

wasn't one of them.

We weren't in the rest area more than five minutes when club member John Welch walks over and says hi. I figured he must be on his way to the Nationals, but he was on his way to Michigan on a business trip, saw the cars in the rest area and pulled in. We show John what happened and tells us of a guy, Tom, in Poughkeepsie NY who does automotive work for him. John has some cars and some parts there including an Olds 12 bolt rear. He calls Tom, and he's home. He pulls an axle; it has a 68-9 style bearing. This is very fortunate, what at first looked to be a trip ender for the wagon or a very long delay might not be so bad after all. Poughkeepsie is 1½ hours away; however Tom offers to start driving towards us. We would drive towards him and by staying in touch via cell phone, meet half way and get the axle. John gets this all set up and then continues on his way to Michigan. What are the chances of running into someone who can hook you up with an obsolete part you need 300 miles from home?

I ride with Mike and we take the '68 to meet Tom. Dave hangs in the rest area with the wagon. While we were gone, the Fusick gang pulled in to the rest area and saw

Dave and the disabled car. Mike and I drive 45 minutes, meet Tom and get the axle. I try to give Tom money, I begged him to at least take \$50 for his fuel and time, but he wouldn't hear of it. There are still nice people in the world. Mike and I head back to the car, put the axle in and we're on our way. The whole delay was only about three hours.

The rest of the trip went better except for the AC compressor belt breaking in West Virginia and some heavy rain in Kentucky.

As far as the Nationals, it was a lot of fun. I sold most of my parts, the Corvette assembly plant tour was very cool, the wagon won an award in spite of the cracked windshield (now 10" long) and as always it's great hanging out with fellow Olds lovers.

While there I bought a new axle bearing and had a garage press it on and put some welds next to the retainer to keep it from coming off. Thought it might be good to have it as a spare for the ride home, but it wasn't needed. I also replaced the AC compressor belt.



**A little luck, a little patience and some good friends got this wagon back on the road!**

The ride home was free of mechanical problems. We ran into other Oldsmobiles heading home from time to time. I arrived home around 12:30 Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The trip took just over a full week. I didn't save my gas receipts because I don't really want to know what it cost, but it was over \$400.

Next year we head to Detroit, that's only 10 hours away, should be a piece of cake compared to Bowling Green!

**RR**



# President's Message

By Bill LaPierre

## Old Sturbridge Village



## A New High Water Mark for NEOC

### Dream of Hosting National Event is Now Reality

A team of focused and dedicated NEOC movers and shakers took on the OCA Executive Board in Bowling Green, KY and left victorious. The New England Olds Club will be hosting the 2010 Nationals in Sturbridge, MA!

Folks, this is truly a new high water mark for our little car club. Taking on the huge responsibility of hosting this event will put this chapter in the national spotlight for years to come. I believe that we are more than up to the task and will set a new standard for future national events. This will be the first national event held in New England and it is our chance to show off our region, cars, cuisine and unique New England culture. Many of the attendees will be visiting our corner of the country for the first time. I am excited for them and our club!

I am so proud of Glen Morris and Bill Black for spear heading this initiative and getting the job done. They have shown beyond a doubt that they are motivated and dedicated to the cause. Now it is our turn to join in and get involved in the process. I don't believe that this is beyond anyone's capabilities and all members should consider pitching in some way, no matter how small. Glen is looking for committee leaders to take charge of the organization effort. Of course, these positions will require dedication above and beyond what the club has required in the past. OCA has provided guidelines and suggestions to assist us in every facet of planning and organization. Committee chair persons and coordinators should be prepared to attend most monthly club meetings and dedicate a bit of their personal time to the cause. Committee members will be asked to do less, but are no less important. If you have skills, experience or a desire to participate in any of the areas Glen has outlined in his recent email to the club, by all means speak up and let him know you are willing to help out. No contribution is too small!

It will take a good number of us to be present that week in July of 2010 to make this work. We will need a small army of volunteers to work registration tables, setup the swap meet and show field, answer questions, solve problems and ensure that our guests are comfortable and are enjoying themselves. Our Oldsmobile brothers in numerous other chapters have done this for us every year, now it is our turn to return the gesture. Please consider attending the August meeting at my home in Somers, CT on Thursday August 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will be a great opportunity to see first hand what is required and what you can do to help. We have three years to get this done, let's not lose sight of the finish line and work together to make this a memorable event for all of OCA!

See you on the road to Sturbridge,

Bill LaPierre

Bill.LaPierre@cox.net

## Mark's Cruise Night East Granby, CT

I spoke with the crew at Mark's and they agreed to host an Oldsmobile night on **Monday August 27th starting at 5 pm**. If you haven't been to this cruise, you owe it to your self to get there and check it out. Attendance is often in excess of 600 cars!!

They will be setting a large area of the winners circle for our prized Oldsmobiles. We will have the opportunity to chose a trophy winner for our most popular Olds.

Mark's is located just off rt 20 adjacent to Bradley International airport in East Granby, CT. That is about a 25 minute ride from Hartford or Springfield.

Rain: "But Bill, what if it rains?" Don't worry, go to the Marks Cruise website and see if the cruise is on or off.

We haven't set a raindate, we will cross that bridge if we have to.

For more info go to: <http://www.markscruisenight.com/>

See you there,

Bill LaPierre

NEOC President

## Fall Drag day

**O**K fellow racers! It's time again to start thinking about getting the wheels ready for another Drag Day at LVD. The date is Friday, September 28. Our rain date is Friday, Oct. 19. Track rentals are getting popular so the days are over for having our rain date the week after the primary date.

A \$30 deposit check (non-refundable) made out to LVD but sent to me at the address below will reserve your place on the roster. \$40 will be due at the track when you sign in at the office.

I just want to go over a few of the rules that some had forgotten last time.

1. You can have two drivers with one car or one driver with two cars for a single entry fee. Two drivers with two cars require two entry fees (like, duh!).
2. If you send in your deposit after the roster is full don't come crying to me afterward. Get your deposit in promptly if you want a spot. I try to give you fair warning when the roster is near full but some don't think that applies to them. If you're late your name will be put on a contingency list.
3. If you're on the roster and for some reason are unable to attend please let me know as soon as you can. You'll be given the names on the contingency list and it will be up to you to get a replacement. Don't think, "Aw, screw it, I'll just forfeit my deposit and not show". Remember, you might be taking a spot that somebody else could fill. I'm not going to hold over deposits till next year if you can't make it.
4. If you show up, go through tech inspection then break something on your first run (or break something rolling up to the staging lanes) you are not entitled to a rebate. The track has fulfilled its obligations to you, it's your junk that broke.

Let's pray for good weather on the 29th. It might be snowing up there by Oct. 19. As always, I look forward to seeing all of you again at the track. **RR**

Please make deposit checks payable to LVD (that's for Lebanon Valley Dragway). Write "Fall 2007 Drag Day" on the check memo line. Send payment to:

Carl Dudash  
P.O. Box 200  
Norfolk, CT 06058-0200

## You might be an Oldsmobile nut if...

- ◆ Most, if not all of your friends own Oldsmobiles.
- ◆ You rarely attend non specific car shows choosing Oldsmobile car shows only.
- ◆ You belong to one or more car clubs only because they are Oldsmobile related.
- ◆ Your Christmas and Birthday lists consist of Oldsmobile merchandise.
- ◆ You contemplate buying a good used classic Oldsmobile for your wife instead of that Acura that she deserves.
- ◆ You go ahead and buy another classic Oldsmobile under the pretense that your wife will actually drive it and it is for her.
- ◆ All your good t-shirts are from recent Olds National events.
- ◆ All your old work t-shirts are Oldsmobile related or from past National events.
- ◆ Your annual vacation always seems to work around an Oldsmobile National event.
- ◆ Your wife still goes on these vacations with you while still resisting driving that other classic Oldsmobile that you bought for her.
- ◆ Your wife stays with you through all this Olds stuff.
- ◆ You dream about utilizing your nuttiness in order to host an Oldsmobile National event and then make it come true.....

I am guilty of all the above.

NEOC will host the Nationals in 2010. A dream come true. Let's do it!

Glen Morris

**RR**

## Rocket Classifieds

### For Sale: 1972 Cutlass "S"

117,000 original miles, an un-molested 350 and 350 turbo trans. I have all original paper work from Lloyd Long Olds in Warwick, R.I. It has some mechanical upgrades. Working A/C R-134, dual Flowmaster exhaust, American Racing Wheels. If anyone wants to see pictures, just ask. Asking \$8,900

Contact: Bob Parker 508-212-4813

# Directions To The Next Couple of Meetings

The **August meeting** will be on **Thursday August 2nd**.  
This meeting will be hosted by Bill LaPierre at the Presidential Palace in 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!

The **September meeting** is scheduled for Schaller Auto World on **Thursday Sept. 6th**  
and will be hosted by Bruce Plourde at our show site.

*Please attend if you can as we will be making final show preparations at this meeting!*

Schaller Auto World - Body Shop  
1-55 Veterans Drive, New Britain, CT  
**860-826-2030**

## **Here are the directions to Schaller Auto Body:**

From 91 North, or South, take Exit 22N Rte 9 North follow to Exit 24 (left hand exit)

\*\*\*There is no exit 24 coming from the other direction! \*\*\*

Kensington Rte 371 take first exit Willowbrook Park (where the triple AAA New Britain Rockcats Baseball team plays) you will see Schaller Honda on the right take right off exit 1st lot Honda dealer take a right Body Shop in back.

Bruce's phone number at the shop is 860-826-2030

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

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

### **Wanted: 1968 W-30 Parts**

Need Rallye Dash and Red inner fenders (not reproductions).

Contact: Chris @ 508-596-9771 or email  
[Chris57ho@aol.com](mailto:Chris57ho@aol.com)

**Wanted: Accelerator linkage** I am looking for the complete accelerator linkage that mounts to the firewall & will fit a 1965 Cutlass/442 w/manual transmission.

Contact: Ted Loranz @ 508-561-7613 or email  
[ted@teds-olds.com](mailto:ted@teds-olds.com)

# New England Oldsmobile Club

Business Address:

372 Batchelor Street  
Granby, Ma 01033  
413-467-3690 Email: dmr67442@aol.com

Membership Information:

77 West Dayton Hill Rd.  
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:

President - Bill LaPierre  
Vice President - Glenn Johnson  
Treasurer - Dave Richter  
Secretary - Open Position  
Membership Coordinator - Glen Morris  
Activities Coordinator - Open Position

## Oliver

**Autobody Co., Inc.**

1519 Dwight Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040

Phone 413-532-9413

Fax 532 - 7218

## Riley & Scranton Automotive Service Center, Inc.

Earl Bancroft - Manager

Shelly Bancroft - President

**Complete Auto Repairs  
Foreign & Domestic**

138 Welles St.  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Phone 860-633-3669  
Fax 860-659-8459

From:

New England Oldsmobile Club  
24 Pioneer Dr.  
New Hartford, CT 06057

Place  
Stamp  
here

To:

«FirstName» «LastName»

«Address»

«City» «State»

«ZipCode»