



ROCKET FUEL

January 2004

Motor City Rockets – Southeastern Michigan

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I. Notice from the Editor

Greetings! I hope everyone had a great holiday break. This month's newsletter highlights MCR member and new Treasurer Alan Wilcox. Congratulations to all of our new club officers, and thank you to former board members Greg Carriere, Chris Carson and Doug Width for all of their hard work over the past few years. Included in this issue are the dates and locations for the upcoming meetings. Enjoy and hope to see you at the January meeting!

Some Olds news - Bill Szelag was able to get information about the final Olds production. There will be Final 500 Collector's Editions for the last Oldsmobile models building out in 2004:

 Bravada – builds out second week of January

 Silhouette – builds out last week of March

 Alero – builds out in May

There will be examples of these at the Detroit North American International Auto Show. Be sure to get your while supplies last.

Visit our website for updates – <http://www.motorcityrockets.com>

If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let me know – mcreditor@ameritech.net

Denise Tucker
MCR Newsletter Editor

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II. MCR Officers 2004

MCR President	Tom Walker hot-rod@twmi.rr.com
MCR Vice President	Steve Apking s442apking@aol.com
MCR Treasurer	Alan Wilcox starfire@wt.net
MCR Secretary	Matt Roediger eleanorroediger@aol.com

A. Other Important MCR Positions

MCR Newsletter Editor	Denise Tucker mcreditor@ameritech.net
MCR Club Historian	Dorothy Maseles SnoVillNut@aol.com
MCR Merchandise Manager	Mary Szelag oldscat@comcast.net
MCR Activities Director	Bill Szelag oldscat@comcast.net
MCR Web Master	Brian Lorway lorway@wideopenwest.com

III. MCR CLUB CALENDAR

A. Future MCR Meetings

Meetings are always on the 3rd. Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted

- Jan 18th: Lorie & Doug Hill's House 2PM
- Feb. 15th: Cliff Carson's storage building 2PM
- Mar. 21st: Dave & Denise Tucker's House 2 PM
- April: Location TBA. (maybe the Walkers)

Directions and details will sent by the secretary prior to the meeting so watch your email or contact Matt @ eleanorroediger@aol.com

1. Food

As always, please bring a dish to pass and share.

IV. MCR Member Spotlight

Rocket Fuel would like to profile MCR members and the Oldsmobiles they own. We would like to spotlight a member's car each month in the newsletter so if anyone wants to be part of the "MCR Member Spotlight" send the info and a photo to Denise Tucker. mcreditor@ameritech.net

A. January 04 Member Alan Wilcox -> In the Spotlight

Let me introduce myself. My name is Alan Wilcox. I am the club's new Treasurer. I live in Farmington Hills, Michigan and I teach at Ferndale Middle School, 7th and 8th Grade Science. I have been a member of the Motor City Rockets for about 18 months. I have been an OCA member for about 10 years. I was born and raised in Lansing, Michigan. I attended Harry Hill High School and graduated in 1979. My father worked for Oldsmobile for 42 years and we



always had two Oldsmobiles in the garage. In 1976 I got my first car. It was a 1968 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme 4-door. It was Willow Gold with a Willow Gold interior. Other than the warped head that it had, it was a great first car.

Then in '79 I was able to get a brand new Starfire. It was the base model with the 4-cylinder engine and a 4-speed manual transmission. It was Bright Blue and a lot of fun to drive. One time in college, we had to get a refrigerator over to our house from the landlord's house and we were able to fit it in the back of that car. After I got married, we traded the Starfire in on an '82 Firenza. In retrospect, it was a bad move as the Firenza had a multitude of problems, but the Starfire was a manual transmission and my wife didn't want to drive a manual.

In '84 we were able to afford a second car, so I got a 1970 Cutlass Supreme convertible. It was in rough shape, but after new motor mounts and ball joints it went everywhere I asked it to. In '85 we traded in the troubled Firenza on a new Calais for my wife. This car was great. It never had a bit of trouble in the years we owned it. I moved up from the '70 to a '71 Cutlass Supreme convertible. This one was red with white interior. It was a great looking car, but had some hidden trouble like missing floor pans that had been replaced by bondo and an intake manifold that would not stop leaking antifreeze. Finally, in '87 I sold it and bought an '87 Cutlass Salon with T-tops. That may have been the best car I've ever had, and one that I definitely wish I had kept. My wife traded in the Calais on a Grand Am and then migrated to a Dodge Grand Caravan. I traded in my Salon in '90 for a Calais Quad 442. This car was a lot of fun to drive too. In 1992, we made an addition to our family when we adopted our daughter Kelsey. Then in 1995, we were surprised by our second daughter Emily.

In '96, I traded the Quad 442 in on a Cutlass Supreme Sedan, which was a very nice but sedate vehicle. In about 1990, I got the itch to have another Cutlass convertible. I had had a 70 and a 71, which I liked, but there was always something special for me about the 68's. I really wanted an Ocean Turquoise model, but the only ones I ever saw for sale were in Texas or California, and as I was saving every penny I had to get the car, it would have to be a local one. Finally, in 1999 I saw an ad in the local Auto Trader for a 68 Cutlass convertible for sale. In the picture it looked black (I love black cars) and when I went to look at it, it turned out to be Jade Gold. I took it out for a drive and fell in love with it. It had a '67 330 in it, but the owner had the original 350 (which turned out to have a cracked head) that would go with the car. I wanted a turquoise car, but in nine years of looking, I hadn't seen one for sale locally. The Jade Gold was a beautiful color in its own right and the Willow Gold interior was nice in that it wouldn't heat up like a black interior, but wouldn't get as dirty as a white interior. I finally made a deal with the seller and ended up the proud new owner of a 1968 Cutlass S convertible.

In 2000, I traded the Cutlass Supreme in on a 2000 Intrigue. The Intrigue is a very nice vehicle. More get-up and go than the Supreme had. In 2001, I started taking the Cutlass to car shows. I went to the Homecoming in Lansing (the last year it was at the Delta Engine plant) in 2001. In 2002 I was at a small weekly show in Farmington, Michigan and I started talking to two nice people with a beautiful '65 442. It was Tom and Kristy Walker, the President of the MCR and his wife. They gave me some information about the club and I joined that week. I took my Cutlass to the Downriver Cruise and spent some time at the Olds dealer there that the Rockets were

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gathered at. That was a lot of fun (although Kelsey got a bad sunburn that we didn't notice until later). Also in 2002, I took it to the Historic Cars of Lansing/Olds Nationals. I got there early on Thursday and got a perfect spot right on the riverbank in the shade of some big trees. It was the best car show I have ever been to. The breeze off the river kept us cool and we were surrounded by beautiful cars (70 Rally 350 to our right, 67 Cutlass to our left) and really nice people. I won't even go into how fantastic the swap meet was. 2002 was an eventful year for me. I was able to swing a deal for a 1987 442 with T-tops. It is almost identical to my '87 Salon, except it has the 442 paint scheme, it's black instead of blue, and it has the 180 hp engine. It is a great car and I drive it everywhere. In 2003, I wasn't able to make it to many of the club functions. I attended the dust-off in May and went to the Gratiot Cruise in August (until the rain just wouldn't let up and I went home).

Then in October Tom Walker emailed me and said I had been nominated for a board position and was I interested? I thought about it for a while. I figured I could go on enjoying my car by myself, or I could become more involved in the MCR and have fun enjoying my car with other people that loved Oldsmobiles too! I guess I didn't have to be a board member to do so, but I knew if I was that would make my commitment to the club stronger, so I accepted the nomination and was elected club treasurer at the December 2003 club meeting. I can already feel that 2004 is going to be the best year yet with my Oldsmobiles! If you can, attend at least one club function this year and see if you don't have fun.





V. MEETING MINUTES – December 2003

A. Meeting Minutes

The December meeting was also the Club Holiday Party held at Greg and Gina Carriere's house. They provided wonderful hospitality and have our thanks for opening their home to host the meeting. Everyone brought such wonderful food, too!

Voting for the new club board members was done at the meeting. The new officers are listed at the beginning of this newsletter.

There was some discussion of judging parameters at car shows. Some members had some questions as to how certain particulars were determined, including what class a car should be in. Club member Jerry Garfield offered to address the questions from the club and provide information at a later date.

After the meeting, there was a fun gift exchange. Not much swapping or stealing went on. I think everyone went home happy with a nice gift, except for the weather stripping???



VI. MCR Club Events

We need suggestions for Club events for 2004. Please send your suggestions to Bill Szlag.
oldscat@comcast.net

So far suggestions are:

- Going to the Autorama as a group (Cobo Hall - Feb 2004)
- Spring Dust-off Cruise-In & Picnic (Third Sunday in May). We will look at the same location in Livonia and a possible new location in Waterford
- Kart 2 Kart – Go-Kart Racing (on Van Dyke in Sterling Heights)
- Going to the Oldsmobile Museum in Lansing
- Homecoming in Lansing (June)
- The Gratiot Cruise (June...usually same day as Homecoming)
- Downriver Cruise
- Going to the Gilmore Auto Museum in Kalamazoo, MI.
- Pig Roast and Car Show in Waterford (TBD)
- Olds Nationals (Bloomington, MN August 25-28) *FYI – there is a flyer on the Minnesota Chapter's website www.mnoldsclub.org with a lot of information.*

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- North Gratiot Cruise (August)
- The Woodward Cruise (August)
- Another fall trip to Traverse City (September)
- The Harper cruise (Sept.???)

VII. MCR Wear

MCR shirts, t-shirts, jackets, sweatshirts & hats are available. Will have all available for viewing, purchase and ordering at all monthly meetings and club events.

Contact Mary Szelag for details or to place your order. oldscat@comcast.net

VIII. MCR Web Master

Please contact our web master (Brian Lorway lorway@wideopenwest.com) if you have any comments or suggestions for the MCR web site.

A new section has been added to the Motor City Rockets web site under “MCR Around Town” which indicates the towns where all of the current members reside throughout the USA. To view



the maps, click on this icon or go to the Motor City Rockets web site. These maps will be updated as new members join our club.

IX. MCR Newsletter

We are going to try to have a more organized and timely newsletter. Also going to try to mail a copy out to those who do not have access to e-mail hopefully at least once every 2 months and it will be e-mailed monthly and hopefully posted on the web page. Denise Tucker needs any news articles and anything else that would be interesting.