

ROCKET FUEL

Motor City Rockets - Southeastern Michigan

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I. Notice from the Editor

The newsletter will be in part a forum for the 2008 Nationals here in Michigan in order to help keep everyone aware of the things that need to be done to accomplish this big event, as well as the progress.

Some of the Rockets were able to attend the Shelby Township Lions Charity Car Show on Sunday, October 2nd. Sue Apking wrote a delightful article about the MCR Traverse City Trip. There are also some fun pics. The MCR Christmas Party was a great time for those who attended. Club officers were also elected that night.

Thank you to everyone for your newsletter submissions - they are greatly appreciated.

As always, please go to the MCR website for the latest merchandise, archives and pictures from MCR events: <http://www.motorcityrockets.com>.

If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let me know - editor@motorcityrockets.com

Denise Tucker
MCR Newsletter Editor

II. MCR Officers

MCR President	Steve Apking president@motorcityrockets.com
MCR Vice President	Dan Evans vicepresident@motorcityrockets.com
MCR Treasurer	Alan Wilcox treasurer@motorcityrockets.com
MCR Secretary	Tom Bejma secretary@motorcityrockets.com

A. Other Important MCR Positions

MCR Newsletter Editor	Denise Tucker editor@motorcityrockets.com
MCR Club Historian	Dorothy Maseles historian@motorcityrockets.com
MCR Merchandise Manager	Mary Szlag merchandise@motorcityrockets.com
MCR Activities Director	Bill Szlag events@motorcityrockets.com
MCR Web Master	Brian Lorway webmaster@motorcityrockets.com

III. MCR CLUB CALENDAR

A. Future MCR Meetings

January - Sunday, January 22, 2006 - Bill & Mary Szlag's house at 2:00 p.m.

February - Saturday February 25, 2006 - Dearborn Hyatt Regency 12:00 noon.

Food will be served, compliments of the Hyatt, and we will have our regular meeting as well as a tour of the hotel. As most of you know, the Hyatt is where we will be hosting the 2008 Oldsmobile Club of America Nationals and this meeting is our kick-off for the planning of this event.

March - Sunday, March 19, 2006 - 2 p.m. Location TBD

IV. MCR Spotlight

A. 2005 Shelby Township Lions

By Alan Wilcox

The Shelby Township Lions Club Show was today. MCR members in attendance included:

Dave & Denise Tucker	Alan Wilcox
Tom & Kristy Walker	Steve Apking
Tom & Susan Hatty	Carl Vincentini
Mike Anderson	Ed & Sue Pashukewich
James Kryta	Dave Marcoux
George Sandford	Jim Biske

George Sandford represented the MCR as our only winner, taking home a gi-mungous second place trophy in his class (81 - 00 Restored). Congratulations to George!

The weather was perfect and a good time was had by all.

B. 2005 MCR Joint Meeting with RE Olds Chapter

By Steve Apking

October 15th Joint Meet with REO Chapter

Saturday, Oct. 15th was the date set for the joint meet between the Motor City Rockets and the REO chapter. We traveled there to have lunch and see a presentation of the Aerotech by Bill Porterfield, a retired engineer from Oldsmobile.

We started the day at Meijer's in Northville, where several members gathered to caravan to Lansing. Those members were Bill Szelag, who brought his friend, Charlie Barrette, Tom and Kristy Walker and Steve Apking. We left at 9:30 A.M. to head west on I 96, where we met up with another member, Bill Tumidawski and his wife, Sharon. Continuing on, we suddenly noticed a 2004 Aurora driving alongside and lo and behold, it was another MCR member, Jeff Pregler and his wife, Martha.

We pulled in to the RE Olds museum about 11:00 A.M. Other MCR members were already there. They included Dan Evans and his dad, Doug Width, Tom and Suzi Gasser, Jerry Garfield and Tom Bejma and his son. Shortly after arriving, we all enjoyed a box lunch followed by a sale of raffle tickets.

Bill Porterfield then began his presentation by relating his experiences with the Aerotech. He was also involved in other concept cars. One was the FX3 project, entitled, " Darth Vader", that started out as a Cutlass. Others included the Calais and the Firenza. While none of these concepts made it to production, some features of the Calais did. Bill concluded his presentation around 1:45 pm with applause from the club members.

We then did the raffle drawing. The winner was Judy Badgely of the RE Olds Chapter. She split a pot of \$121.00 with the other half going to the museum. After a few words to our chapter, everyone was wished a safe trip home. Some members stayed, however, to browse the museum as it is now loaded with GM vehicles for all to enjoy. This was a great gathering with an interesting presentation, a good lunch and a great day to drive our Oldsmobiles.

C. 2005 MCR Traverse City Trip

By Sue Apking

On the Road Again

Motor City Rockets trip to Traverse City, Sept. 16-18, 2005

The fourth annual Motor City Rockets trek to Traverse City, Michigan took place the third weekend in September. Although it was raining Friday morning when we started our trip, it didn't dampen the spirits of the four members and their wives who started this caravan. The group was comprised of Dave & Denise Tucker; Pat & Suzie Macaluso; Al & Kelly Ferry; Steve & Sue Apking. We drove to Linwood, Michigan where we met up with fellow member, Bill Szelag and his wife, Mary at the home of yet another member and his wife, Lanny & Pat Yankee. The Yankees graciously invited us to stop at their house for a break which gave the guys a chance to see Lanny's garage. It could best be described as a second home as it was outfitted with an office, kitchen, bath and den with TV, all with custom cabinetry done by Lanny. Oh, by the way, he also had two Oldsmobiles housed there that we got to see: a beautiful, completely restored red '72 442 and another '66 Cutlass in progress. Though it was hard, we did manage to drag the men away and headed down the road for breakfast at Linwood Corners Restaurant. From there, Lanny led our five-car caravan to Traverse City. This caravan included Dave Tucker's 1965 442 convertible; Pat Macaluso's 1964 442 convertible; Steve Apking's 1971 442 W30; Bill Szelag's 1970 Cutlass convertible and Lanny Yankee's 1972 Cutlass convertible. We took a different route than we had in past years and by sheer coincidence, saw four different Olds for sale in various spots along the roadside. Traveling on, we finally left the rain behind and got to our destination about 3:00 P.M.

When checking in at the hotel, we met another member of our club and his wife, Ken & Pat Kress, who drove their 1959 98 convertible. After we were all assigned our rooms, the ladies then took a short rest while the guys headed out to clean up their cars. At 6:00 P.M. sharp, we all met at the parking lot of a Sam's Club. Here we met up with more car lovers. They included: Jack Tokie and Dorothy Maseles, who, by the way, are responsible for planning this Traverse City trip each year. They put so much effort into all the activities and somehow make it better each time. Hope they know how much we all appreciate it. Others there were: Don & Eva Cooper, from the RE Olds chapter, with their 1972 442 Cutlass. We then had a caravan that cruised to a winery called Chateau Chantal. It is a 65- acre estate that sits high atop a ridge on the Old Mission Peninsula. To say it is beautiful does not do it justice. The views were magnificent as the sun was just beginning to set. It was a wonderful setting to show off our cars. We then took the opportunity for some wine tasting and that just whetted our appetite for the wonderful dinner that lay ahead. Leaving the winery we drove to our dinner destination, Boone's Long Lake Inn. Known for their prime rib, they have excellent food and ample portions. We can all attest to that. Exiting the restaurant, we headed for our rides and lo and behold, there was a gorgeous moon to accompany us as we made our way back to the hotel.

Saturday morning found us up early so we could be at Cherry Capital Cadillac to display our vehicles. This dealership, which used to sell Oldsmobiles made a great place for our car show. They generously gave up lot space so we could be front and center. We put up our MCR banner and we were ready to go. We also had music courtesy of a local DJ from Oldies 107.5 WCCW and some of our members were interviewed on the local radio station about their cars and their love of Oldsmobiles. By this time there were others who joined us. They included: Erick & Anne Drake in a 1971 Olds 88 convertible; Jeff Stolowski driving a 1969 Cutlass convertible; Doug & Paulette Width in their 1954 Starfire convertible; Denny & Barb Lehner with a 1968 98 convertible; Jim & Sally Beaton in a 1964 98 convertible; Joe Comstock with his 1976 Cutlass Supreme; Dick & Alinka Minor and Richard Knowlton with their 1966 & 1958 Corvette Convertibles and 1970 Rally 350 respectively. Many of this group had been with us on the previous evening at the winery.

With the gang in gear, the day's activities began. The guys gathered and spent their time shining cars, discussing cars, car parts and ways to ways to make their cars even more special than they are. The women spent their time shopping downtown. Sometime close to noon, we ate lunch, held a raffle, took our famous group photo and left for a cruise to Frankfort, Michigan with Jack and Dorothy leading the way in a 1956 88 convertible, We were told that we would be visiting a car collection and then having dinner later. Nothing prepared us for what lay ahead. To say that we saw a few cars in a building would be a gross understatement. What we saw was unbelievable! There were three buildings filled with automobiles. The owner of all this is Larry Hale, a former General Motors employee. He generously opened his collection for us to look over or in the case of the men, drool over. His collection includes some 43 cars, ranging from some early Ford roadsters to Chevy Camaros and Corvettes; Pontiac Trans Am and Buick Centurys . He also had some International Scouts and some mini Indy pace cars. However, what caught our eyes were the 16 Oldsmobiles. There were Hurst Olds, 442s and Cutlass Supremes. There were hardtops, convertibles and pace cars. It was awesome. The rest of the building housed an office with extensive volumes of information covering all these cars. To complement the cars, he had memorabilia around that he had obtained mostly through e-bay. I know I'm forgetting to mention other facets of what was there but there was so much to absorb. It was very hard to get the guys away from there but the ladies finally succeeded and we headed into downtown Frankfort for more shopping and some sightseeing by the beach.

Our next stop was for dinner at Celia's Restaurant. We decided on a light menu as we had eaten so much the night before. However, Celia's is known for their homemade pies and of course, we all had to take advantage of that. Well that's when the circus began. I think we overwhelmed the staff after we placed our orders for our favorite flavor of pie. The orders came out slowly, a few slices at a time. Then we had to reorder because they were running out of certain flavors. Well, one of our members, Pat Macaluso, being the nice guy that he is, took it upon himself to help out the waitresses and began going to the kitchen and serving up some of the dessert. Our Pat will now be forever known as the "Pie Man". This was so comical but the really funny part was when Pat got done serving all of us, there was no pie left for him. So he got a cookie, day old cookie in fact. Suffice it to say, we had a terrific time at Celia's and the restaurant will never be the same. We now headed back to Traverse City and again were accompanied by that same full moon that we had seen the night before. It was a beautiful sight.

Sunday morning began with us checking out of our hotel and meeting at the Cracker Barrel for breakfast. From there we had one more surprise. We got to visit the workplace of Mike Nickels. Mike has a shop where he works on Woodies. He is one of only twelve in the country who do this. He had many cars that he was working on and we got to see firsthand his expert craftsmanship. He has done Woodies for people all over the world and sometimes uses very exotic wood. One example of this was wood he showed us that came from Hawaii. The trees that this particular wood comes from cannot be cut down. It can only be gathered after it has fallen on its own. You can just imagine how expensive it is. In fact, he showed us some of that wood that cost \$6,000. He was very gracious to open his shop to us on a Sunday morning and we were very grateful.

Our weekend was quickly coming to a close as we all gathered to say our goodbyes and head for home. We did have one glitch in our otherwise wonderful weekend and that was when one of our members, Bill Szlag, discovered his camera was missing. Bill takes great pictures and we were all feeling his pain. We're hoping if someone finds it, they will be nice enough to return it. Well, thanks for letting this author gush about the exploits of the Motor City Rockets. Hope you got to experience some of the fun that we all shared.



D. 2005 MCR Christmas Party

By Sue Apking

The 4th annual MCR Christmas party was held on Saturday, December 10th. MCR member Greg Carriere and his wife Gina graciously opened up their home for this event. The house was beautifully decorated and added so much holiday spirit to our festivities.

Our turnout numbered around 37 including spouses and children. The dinner was potluck. So as not to get duplicate dishes, we divided the meal into categories; appetizers, salads, vegetables, meats and deserts. We then divided the alphabet into sections and assigned a dish to each section; A-E Appetizers, F-K Meats, L-P Salads, Q-S Vegetables, T-Z Desserts. This was a terrific system and we had a great assortment of dishes.

After eating, we held a brief meeting. We were to vote on new officers but because there were no new nominations, our roster of officers remained the same. They include: Steve Apking-President; Dan Evans-Vice President; Tom Bejma-Secretary; Alan Wilcox-Treasurer. We also discussed upcoming activities for 2006 and set up our first three meetings for the New Year. Our big emphasis, in addition to having our monthly meetings and outings, will be the on-going planning of the OCA Nationals, which our chapter will host in 2008.

Finishing up on formalities, we got down to the really fun part of the evening- our gift exchange. This is how it works. Each person attending the party brings a wrapped gift. It can be anything as long as it is in good taste. In the past, we've had everything from car parts to candy. The women try to offset the amount of guy items, usually car related, by bringing what the men refer to as 'girlie gifts'. All gifts are put into one big pile. Now each person who brought a gift receives a numbered ticket. The numbers are randomly picked and the holder of the first ticket chosen gets to select a gift. That person in turn picks the next ticket and the holder of that ticket goes on to select an item. However, this is when the fun begins because the second person can steal the first person's gift if they so choose. Left without a gift, the first person then goes back and picks again. Throughout the night, the remaining numbers are called and new gifts are selected again or stolen again and so it goes. This silliness can go on for a while but however it plays out, it always proves to be the highlight of the evening with everyone enjoying a lot of laughs.

Another highlight of the evening is the collection of toys for the Toys for Tots program. Although optional, everyone who attends is asked to bring a toy. This was the idea of our treasurer, Alan Wilcox. Thanks to the generosity of our members, 24 children will have a Merrier Christmas than they otherwise would have had this year. We made a donation to the U.S. Marine's Toys for Tots program of 24 toys collected at this year's MCR Christmas party. Attached is a photo of the toys before they were taken to the Marines.



Needless to say, all who attended had a great time, sharing good food, excellent friendship and lots of fun. And just before everyone left for the evening, we got our annual group photo.



V. MCR MEETING MINUTES

A. Club Minutes - Tom Bejma

MCR Club Meeting 11/20/05

1. Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:10 PM
Thanks to Cliff Carson for hosting the meeting.

2. Finances

- ❖ \$3400 in the bank
- ❖ Staying steady
- ❖ Buying a Bookkeeping Program
- ❖ 87 Members – Lost 1 member in March

3. 2008 Nationals

- ❖ Signed a contract with Dearborn Hyatt (\$115 per night)
- ❖ Need theme/slogan and logo
- ❖ Some Meet Chair positions open
- ❖ Reviewed current positions that are filled
- ❖ Alan Wilcox to email asking for volunteers to fill open positions
- ❖ Keep a list of people who have shown interest
- ❖ Kickoff meeting February 26th at the Hyatt (refreshments provided by the Hotel)
- ❖ Have incorporated the Nationals Committee as a “not for profit” in Michigan
- ❖ Pursuing non-profit status with IRS
- ❖ Information will be sent out on Texas Nationals so anyone can go to observe/help

- ❖ Texas Nationals hotel is \$109 per night
- ❖ Have told Texas Club that MCR will help
- ❖ REO will help with working the Motor City Nationals, but not too much in planning

4. Secretary Report

- ❖ No new nominees
- ❖ Officers will remain the same

5. Review Summer's of Activities

- ❖ Heritage Center
- ❖ REO Olds Museums
- ❖ Dustoff at Bakers
- ❖ Homecoming 500 vehicles
- ❖ Seattle Nationals presented for nationals
- ❖ Woodward – wet one
- ❖ Traverse City – very enjoyable
- ❖ Shelby Lions – 8 or 10 members

6. New Events

- ❖ Christmas Party at Greg and Gina Carriere house
 - Everyone planning on attending needs to get responses to Greg Carriere
- ❖ Frankenmuth
 - Around TC time
 - Called the Autofest
 - Organizer has offered prime area on the way into town instead of show area
 - 40 Cars needed
 - 2500+ cars
 - Maybe have REO and Cadillac club with us
 - Don't have to decide today

7. Other Business

- ❖ Associate Memberships – Do we support having this type of membership?
 - OCA supports it for \$5
 - Can they vote?
 - Can't hold office
 - Should the MCR charge?
 - Conclusion
 - Associate Members of the OCA will automatically get Associate Members status with MCR
 - All in attendance agreed
 - Response from OCA was that Associate Members (A at the end of their membership number) can vote and get all benefits except JWO
- ❖ Baker's
 - Coverage in CarCraft
- ❖ Long Time OCA Membership Pins
 - Form to send in – see JWO
- ❖ OCA starting database to track membership

- ❖ Tech Corner
 - Steve did timing chain change on his car
 - Had been replaced before
 - Checked oil pick-up and found lots of nylon debris from the previous timing gear
- ❖ MCR Website
 - Bulletin Board is gone
 - When server was updated it was removed and would be difficult to replace
 - BB wasn't being used
 - How are emails being forwarded?

8. Trivia

- ❖ When was this chapter was established?
 - 1976
- ❖ OCA started in 1971

9. Merchandise

10. Raffle

11. New Ideas

- ❖ Contest for Nationals logo?

12. Cruises

- ❖ Baker College will host our club for the Gratiot Cruise
 - More information will be emailed
 - Early August
- ❖ Should the club host a monthly cruise?
 - Need practice for nationals
- ❖ Meeting concluded at 3:15PM

VI. Treasurer's Report

Forthcoming in next issue of MCR Newsletter

VII. MCR Club Events and Items of Interest

Please send your Club event suggestions to Bill Szelag events@motorcityrockets.com

A. Frankenmuth 2006

MCR could be the featured club and park all together at next September Frankenmuth Auto Fest 2006 if we have enough interest from MCR members. We may also invite RE Olds Club and the Cadillac Club if we do not have enough MCR interest. We may do this even in place of our annual trip to Traverse City this year since the time frame is very close.

After you review the following info we would like to get an idea of interest from all MCR members - you are not making a firm commitment at this time but I need to

tell the organizer if we will have the requested participation before he will give us the go ahead.

What we need to know is the following: Please respond by Saturday, January 15th.

Name:

Are you interested in participating?

Yes /No

Check of which days you would be able to attend:

Friday no later than 3pm.

Yes / No

Saturday

Yes / No

Sunday

Yes /No

Hotel Needed? If yes which night? Friday and Saturday, Friday Only, Saturday Only

Vehicle(s) you would most likely bring:

Details:

Dates: Friday, September 8, 2006 to Sunday, September 10, 2006

We would need to have about 40 Cars on display at the park by about 3pm starting on Friday. We would have exclusive parking right at the entrance of the downtown area - prime spot. It is a small grassed park area with pretty good shade. When I was there this year there was also a food station there as well and even some entertainment. The cars would not need to be there over night but should be on display in the prime times of the event including all day Saturday. Some coming and going is allowed We would like at least a few cars remaining Sunday as well. This park is not Heritage Park where most of the other cars are at but it is a prime spot to get to Heritage Park and is right downtown Main Street. The organizer is also willing to provide us with a few of the special awards (German Steins) for judging our Oldsmobiles that they give out to winners on Sunday.

Location: Frankenmuth, MI

Cost: \$15 Registration Fee

Lodging: In anticipation of this possibility I reserved 20 rooms at 2 Birch Run hotels for Friday and Saturday nights - room are very hard to get in town and much more expensive. Birch Run is about 5-10 minute drive to Frankenmuth

Comfort Inn \$119 night Website

<http://www.choicehotels.com/ires/hotel/mi017>

Hampton Inn \$129 night

<http://www.hamptoninn.com/en/hp/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=MBSBRHX>

There is further info below as well as a link to the AutoFest Website.

Over 2000 classic cars, street rods, muscle cars in beautiful Heritage Park. Come and enjoy a weekend of fun and entertainment for all ages. Lot's of shopping and other activities for the ladies!! Friday Night "Big Block Party" closes Main Street for visitors to view the classic cars. Saturday and Sunday visit the classic cars in Heritage Park. Call for more information. Many bands.

Friday, September 8, 2006 to Sunday, September 10, 2006

Location:

Harvey Kern Pavilion-Heritage Park
 601 Weiss Street
 Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Website: www.frankenmuthautofest.com

VIII. MCR Memberships

Forthcoming in next issue of MCR Newsletter

IX. MCR Wear

MCR shirts, t-shirts, jackets, sweatshirts & hats are available. Mary will have all items available for viewing, purchase and ordering at all monthly meetings and club events. Contact Mary Szelag for details or to place your order. merchandise@motorcityrockets.com

MCR Clothing Price List

T-Shirts		\$13.00
	Adult & Children's Sizes - White & Grey	
Tanks		\$12.00
	Men's - White & Grey	
	Women's - Grey Only	
	2X or Larger Add \$2.50 Per Item	

Embroidered Clothing

Items with Small MCR Logo

Men's Golf Shirt		\$31.00
Women's No Collar Shirt		\$24.00
Women's L/S Denim Shirt		\$31.00
Men's L/S Denim Shirt		\$32.00
Men's L/S Twill Shirt		\$36.00
Men's S/S Twill Shirt		\$33.00

Wine, Forest, Stone, Navy, White, Black (L/S & S/S)

Sweatshirt		\$20.00
	White, Grey, Black	

Heavier Weight Sweatshirt		\$32.00
	Grey, Navy, White, Black, Red	

Caps		\$14.00
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Items with Large MCR Logo

Sweatshirt		\$40.00
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Jacket	Grey, Navy, White, Black, Red	\$58.00
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Black Satin/Lined
 Name on Front Additional Cost

MCR Logo - Your Jacket		\$20.00
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X. MCR Web Master

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

Drop in and checkout the MCR Web Site (www.motorcityrockets.com). The MCR web site includes:

- ❖ An Event Calendar - Where all MCR members can schedule or post club events
- ❖ Chat Application - Rocket Chat - Where MCR members can host chat rooms
- ❖ An Archive Area - Where all prior years event photos and documents are stored
- ❖ An Event Photo Gallery - A display of current year event photos

With plenty more to come, login and be sure to register. Please send ideas to the web master.

XI. MCR Newsletter

Denise Tucker needs any news articles and anything else that would be interesting. In addition, the "spotlight" is open to any member who wants to show off their car(s) each month in the newsletter so if anyone wants to be part of the "MCR Car Spotlight" send the info and a photo to Denise Tucker editor@motorcityrockets.com

XII. MCR Historian

If you have any Oldsmobile or MCR Club items that you would like to provide to Dorothy Maseles our MCR Club Historian, please send her an email and check out the fine work she has been doing this year. Dorothy Maseles historian@motorcityrockets.com

