



ROCKET FUEL

Motor City Rockets - Southeastern Michigan

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I. Notice from the Editor

Autumn and winter 2006 were a fun time for our club. We went to the Woodward Dream Cruise, spent a very enjoyable weekend in Frankenmuth for the Auto Fest and also had a wonderful Christmas party.

This is my last newsletter as editor. It has been very enjoyable for me to work on the newsletters and has kept me very involved with the club. But it is time to give someone else the opportunity to record our club's happenings.

Thank you to everyone for your newsletter submissions and support over the past couple of years - I appreciate the help I received from our club members. 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 send them to the new editor - editor@motorcityrockets.com

Denise Tucker
MCR Newsletter Editor



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II. MCR Officers

MCR President
MCR Vice President
MCR Treasurer
MCR Secretary

Steve Apking president@motorcityrockets.com
Dan Evans vicepresident@motorcityrockets.com
Alan Wilcox treasurer@motorcityrockets.com
Tom Bejma secretary@motorcityrockets.com

A. Other Important MCR Positions

MCR Newsletter Editor
MCR Club Historian
MCR Merchandise Manager
MCR Activities Director
MCR Web Master

TBD editor@motorcityrockets.com
Dorothy Maseles historian@motorcityrockets.com
Mary Szelag merchandise@motorcityrockets.com
Bill Szelag events@motorcityrockets.com
Brian Lorway webmaster@motorcityrockets.com

III. MCR CLUB CALENDAR

A. Future MCR Meetings and Events

January Jan 20 - Joint MCR and 08 Nationals Meeting, Hyatt Regency Dearborn, 9 a.m.
February Feb 17 - Joint MCR and 08 Nationals Meeting, Hyatt Regency Dearborn, 9 a.m.
March Mar 17 - Joint MCR and 08 Nationals Meeting, Hyatt Regency Dearborn, 9 a.m.

Please note: You can also refer to the MCR Website and review the calendar of event

IV. MCR Spotlight

A. 2006 Frankenmuth Auto Fest

By Sue Apking and Bill Szelag

The Motor City Rockets recently attended the 23rd annual Frankenmuth Auto Fest. It was held the weekend of Sept 8th-10th, 2006. Several MCR members left early Friday to caravan and got there about noon. We met up with fellow members who had arrived earlier. Throughout the afternoon more Oldsmobiles arrived and friends gathered to greet each other. This particular car show is held in the town of Frankenmuth, which can best be described as Michigan's Little Bavaria. With its strong German heritage, Frankenmuth is perhaps Michigan's largest tourist attraction and the entire area provides activities for the whole family. It is a town of only 4500 but the population more than doubles for the annual Auto Fest. If you like to eat, shop, visit the world's largest Christmas store, take in a little history or walk along soaking up the beautiful scenery, then Frankenmuth is the place to go.

The Auto Fest is a premier car show that officially begins Friday night with a Big Block Party on Main Street. The street is closed to regular traffic and more than 1000 classics suddenly appear and line the street. It's just awesome to see how quickly and orderly they are able to accomplish this. After all the show cars are in place you can just stroll along viewing all the



cars. To kick off the Block party, they have a "Cackle Fest" where top fuel dragsters light up the streets. That definitely heats up the action and gets everyone and everything going. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the majority of the over 2000+ cars are displayed by the river and ball fields in Heritage Park. Each year, however there is a featured club that can park right downtown on a small grassed park area on Main Street. It's a coveted location and this year that distinction belonged to the Motor City Rockets!

We had the privilege of showing off our Oldsmobiles, and we were proud to oblige. We had 35 cars displayed on Friday, 45 on Saturday and 30+ on Sunday. The numbers varied because some members could only be there one day while others were able to attend all weekend. This was probably the largest club showing we've ever had with about 34 club members present. There were also other Oldsmobile owners registered for this show from other parts of the state that were not MCR members. We found out who they were and invited them to join us. We discovered that a few did belong to the OCA. We had a terrific time swapping stories. They were grateful for the opportunity to share that prime location with us and we were happy that even more Oldsmobiles could be shared with the general public regardless of club affiliation. All Oldsmobiles were welcome.

Sunday concluded the event with judging. Judging may not be the correct term. An independent team of judge enthusiasts select cars based on the personality of the car owner and character they put in each of their vehicles. There were about 55 winners including 25 Top Picks along with some specialty awards. To give you an idea of the fun side of this show, some of the award categories were entitled: Sweet and Low; Most Heavenly Body; The Bruiser Award; Ground Pounder; and my favorite: What Was I Thinking. Since our club was the featured club for the 2006 Auto Fest, three awards were made available to us. The deserving recipients were Bob and Lori Kanas, ('67 442), Bill and Mary Szelag, ('70 442 W30) and Doug and Paulette Width, ('54 98 Conv.). Their awards were beer steins, very appropriate considering the German heritage of the town. Congratulations to all three! Preceding the award ceremony, Steve Apking, chapter president, addressed the audience telling them about our club and its many functions.

We had a great time at this event and this didn't happen on its' own. It took months of preparation from the initial contact at last year's Frankenmuth event to the final tear down of tents at our display on Sunday afternoon. Bill Szelag, our activity director, made all the plans. This included all the communication between the event coordinator and our membership and the arrangement of our motel rooms. Thanks, Bill, for a job well done. The other members present pitched in and handled everything else. There wasn't one person who didn't do their share. We had people setting up tents, placing signs, hanging banners, putting up tables and chairs and most importantly greeting and sharing stories with fellow Olds enthusiasts. Everyone took a turn manning our display area where we shared information with others about the OCA and our chapter. We proudly displayed both the MCR and OCA club banners with an official OCA Roadshow event. All the hard work resulted in our chapter signing up 10 new members. We also sold over \$500 of MCR spirit items. Thanks to everyone! You know who you are.



While we had some rain on Saturday and it got a little breezy on Sunday, that didn't diminish anyone's spirits. It just goes to show that wherever you find Oldsmobile owners, you will find good people too. They just seem to go hand in hand.



The main drag in Frankenmuth for the Friday night Block Party

V. MCR MEETING MINUTES

A. No club minutes



VI. MCR Club Events and Items of Interest

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

A. 2006 MCR Christmas Party

By Sue Apking

IT'S A WONDERFUL CLUB

One of my favorite things to do during Christmas is to watch old movies when time allows and among my favorite holiday movies is "It's A Wonderful Life". For the few of you who may not be familiar with the plot, here's a short synopsis. George Bailey is a simple man who leads an uneventful life. He's kind to everyone, generous and hard-working. He has dreams, and those dreams always include helping others. When troubled times hit and his life doesn't turn out as he expected, George feels he has let everyone down and contemplates ending his life. Luckily an angel, named Clarence, comes to George's rescue, showing him the many ways he has helped others along the way and explains to him all the wonderful things that have happened because he was born. In the end all the people who George thought he had let down, come to his aid. It's a hopeful story and helps to restore our faith in mankind.

In thinking about this story, I always think about the what-ifs. What if I had done this, what if I hadn't done that? I include serious as well as fun things. Do things I do really count and matter to anyone else? Well they do, and the same goes for you. By now, you're probably wondering what the point here is, and what does this have to do with the Motor City Rockets?

Well, all of these thoughts came to me when I was beginning to recap our recent MCR Christmas party. What if I had never joined the club? Wonder if I had lost the opportunity to meet all the great folks that make up our club? What if I had never attended any MCR event, especially our annual holiday party? Well, the answer is I would have missed a lot.

If I had not attended our Christmas party, I wouldn't have seen a beautifully decorated home, filled with collectibles and made warm and cozy by our host, Dorothy Maseles, with lots of help from her sister, Peg.

I wouldn't have had the chance to sample a variety of wonderful dishes and desserts. I also would have missed out on maybe the best gift exchange ever. I'll never forget how 'cute", Pat Macaluso looked with the pink sweater vest he received along with a couple of oil filters. If I hadn't been there, I wouldn't have seen Denise Tucker trade her t-shirt for a wine holder and wine and then warn away anyone who tried to steal it. But even better, I wouldn't have been privy to an old Oldsmobile hubcap made into a clock that got exchanged so many times, I lost count. I also

would not have had the opportunity to be part of the Toys for Tots collection that the club participates in each year.



But more importantly, I would have missed out on being around some of the very nicest people I have ever met if I had not gone to this party and that would have been a shame.

So for me, I don't have to ask what if anymore. I found the answers to all my questions. They are found in the people and in the spirit of our club, the Motor City Rockets.



Editor's Note: Here is a picture of our donation to the Marine's Toys for Tots program. We collected 18 toys that will help brighten the holidays for 18 children.





VII. MCR Memberships - New Members

The Motor City Rockets would like to welcome the following new members to the club!

Jim O'Connell
1971 Cutlass Supreme Convertible

Michael Sloop
1987 442
1971 Cutlass

Gerald Harcek
1973 Omega

Wendell & Sharon Hutchinson
1968 Cutlass

Alger Arkwood
1963 Holiday 88

Barry Lott
1956 88 2dr Hardtop
1998 Bravada

Mark Radel
1964 Dynamic 88 4-door sedan

Dennis Hatmaker
1967 442 convertible
1968 Hurst Olds
1969 Hurst Olds
1968 442 W-30
1970 442 W-30

Jack & Ellyn Backstrom
1969 442 Convertible

1969 Cutlass

Dave & Cindy Klemm
1970 Ninety Eight Convertible

Bill Guinta
1955 Starfire Convertible
1958 Fiesta Station Wagon
1960 Dynamic 88 Scenic Coupe

Patrick Rederstorf
1969 442

Stephen McCoury
1964 Dynamic 88 Light Blue

Dennis Piskorowski (MCR #12)
1973 Cutlass

Douglas and Sandra Johnston (MCR #146)
1971 Cutlass Convertible Bittersweet

Frank N. Muth (MCR #147)
1967 Cutlass Supreme Convertible

Ronald Tracy
1967 Cutlass Supreme Convertible

And welcome back:

Dan Wesner
1952 Super 88 4-Door



VIII. 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

Items with Large MCR Logo

Sweatshirt		\$40.00
	Grey, Navy, White, Black, Red	
Jacket		\$58.00
	Black Satin/Lined	
	Name on Front Additional Cost	
MCR Logo - Your Jacket		\$20.00



IX. 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
- ❖ The Bulletin Board is back by popular demand. Please look here for club member details and National updates. (notice - you will need to register to gain access)

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

X. MCR Newsletter

The Newsletter Editor 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 editor@motorcityrockets.com

XI. 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. The scrap books and memorabilia look awesome. Contact Dorothy Maseles @ historian@motorcityrockets.com

XII. Rockets Prepare for the 08' Nationals

By Dave Tucker

For those of you currently involved in the 08' Nationals planning, let me start by saying **THANK YOU**. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. Everyone knows this event will require alot of work, time and energy. I know the executive committee and the MCR Members appreciate all of the effort you are putting into this event. When this event is over, I am confident each of us will reflect back with pride. In the words of our President, Steve Apking, "Together, we can do this".

For anyone that wants to get more involved and be a part of Oldsmobile history, please contact Bill Szlag or Alan Wilcox and let them know how you can participate.

I wanted to include a quick update in the newsletter just to let everyone know what has been going on in recent months. Below is a snippet of the recent activity:



- The Executive Committee is now meeting monthly - The executive committee is addressing overall planning issues, reviewing budgets, reviewing past national's material and data, and holding general discussions on all topics. Additionally, the executive committee is working with the sub-committees on tasks and planning as needed.
- All of the sub-committees have been identified - Each committee has a task list and a timing plan. Many of the committees have assigned coordinators and associates.
 - **A few of the committees do not yet have a coordinator or all of the needed associates.**
If you are interested in being on a committee either as a coordinator or as an associate, please contact Bill Szelag events@motorcityrockets.com
- The executive committee has committed to completing a great deal of the planning before the 07' nationals.
 - This was done in an effort to get as much of the core planning, material and data together so we can start accepting registrations at the 07' nationals.
- A slogan has been chosen "Motor City Rocket Reunion". In keeping with this theme, we are looking for ideas and concepts that can be carried through the event. Submit your ideas to the executive committee.
- A graphics artist has been chosen and is progress of developing the 08' Nationals graphics.
 - The graphics, once completed, will be the main theme on all shirts, hats, printed material, etc.
 - The executive committee has proudly selected Brad Bishop and his company to develop and provide all of the material in support of the logo and graphics needs.
 - Many of you may know Brad as the current JWO editor.
- The Hotel and Banquet committees are hard at work planning for the hospitality needs.
 - Banquet Hall, amount of people, food, entertainment, etc.
 - Welcoming Party, lunches, and all other food and on property needs
- The Judging committee is deep into planning the judging processes, the amount of cars, space needs, etc.
- Many of the sub-committees are also meeting monthly or as needed to make plans and gather information.

As always, you can find more information on the Motor City Rockets Web Site, in the Member area and in the 08' Nationals section. Here you can find all of the planning material, committee lists, task lists, etc as well as meeting dates and minutes.

If you have any specific questions, please contact any of the executive committee members, you're President or myself. I look forward to seeing all of you at the 08' Nationals Planning Meetings each month.

We need your help, inspiration and ideas. Please join a committee or get involved in any way possible. You won't regret it.