



# The ROCKET FUEL Newsletter



## Greetings from the President

Another sign that you better get your car ready for cruisin' has come across my desk. The flyer for the Lansing Homecoming has arrived. The date is June 14. If you've never attended, you need to experience it. For information, you can call Don Cooper at 517-627-6697 or e-mail [OLDSHOMECOMING@aol.com](mailto:OLDSHOMECOMING@aol.com). As we have done in the past, those of us attending will caravan to Lansing. Details for that will be forthcoming as we get closer. I'm also sure that volunteers from our club will come forth, as we have in the past, to assist the R.E. Olds members when the time comes.

Volunteers are beginning to come forth for the 2008 OCA Nationals. If you're unsure of volunteering because of other commitments, not to worry. One 2 hour or 3 hour shift for even one day is all we ask. **JUST VOLUNTEER!**

Kelly and Sue have some more details in Editor's Notes.

If you really love Oldsmobiles, an OCA Nationals is something to witness. So come on and help your fellow MCR members to make this one memorable Nationals.

Until next month, Steve

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MAR 2008						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25	26	27	28	29	1 Dinner Cruise Bastone Royal Oak
2	3	4	5	6	7 Autorama Cobo Hall	8 Autorama Cobo Hall
9 Autorama Cobo Hall	10	11	12	13	14	15 MCR/OCA Meeting Hyatt Hotel Rotunda Room
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Happy Easter	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

UPCOMING EVENTS: APR 2 GM PERFORMANCE BUILD CENTER TOUR, WIXOM, MI  
 APR 19 MCR/OCA MEETING AT THE HYATT/THOMAS SUITE  
 MAY 4 BEARING BURNERS WARREN TECH CENTER  
 MAY 17 MCR/OCA MEETING HYATT REGENCY CORD SUITE  
 MAY 18 DUST OFF - HOWELL, MI  
 JUNE 14 LANSING HOMECOMING

Trivia Question: By 1950 my company had become the largest manufacturer of power mowers in the world with sales that year of almost 10 million dollars. Who am I? (see answer on pg. 6)



## Editor's Notes:

And speaking of Nationals, have you signed up as a VOLUNTEER for our own Nationals this summer? It's real easy to do and will be lots of fun. Both Kelly and I have volunteered at past Nationals, so we know what we're talking about. Simply contact a committee head and inquire about the duties of that committee. If it sounds like something you'd like to do, then please sign up. A list of committees, heads of those committees and the number of volunteers needed (for the week) for those committees are included later in this newsletter.

Cindy & Dave Klemm have provided us with a great link to some Oldsmobile history. Check it out at: <http://members.shaw.ca/bcolds/milestones/milestones.html> Another good site for Olds fans, courtesy of Dan Evans: [www.outrightolds.com](http://www.outrightolds.com)

Also, a note from Dennis and Karon Piskorowski: they made their reservations for the 2009 OCA Nationals and were told that there are only 60 rooms left. If you plan on attending next year and want to stay at the host hotel, you might want to check this out. Call Seven Springs at (800) 452-2223 and mention the 2009 Oldsmobile Nationals.

Check out Dan Evans and Dennis & Karon Piskorowski and their Olds in the March Cruis'news.

## *Sue & Kelly*

### **Change for April's Dinner Cruise:**

April's dinner cruise will take on a different tone. Sue Pashukewich came up with a terrific idea for the MCR Club April event and has volunteered to make arrangements for a tour at the GM Performance Build Center in Wixom. Tours are scheduled on Wednesdays so we would have to deviate from our regular Saturday dinner cruise schedule.

Sue has visited the GMPB Center and says the facility is designed with tours in mind with a very nice lobby and even restrooms. The plant floor is very clean and fairly quiet. There are two lines building Corvette engines and one assembling Cadillac engines. Tours take place starting at 3pm on Wednesdays. The main crew is gone for the day but there are a number of persons still building engines on an overtime basis.

Tours are broken up into groups of 10; on a limited basis, tour participants are able to touch & feel pistons (with titanium connecting rods), the weight of heads, etc. and ask a lot of questions. It is our understanding that 30 visitors is about max for a group per day. The tour runs about 2 hours and then afterwards we can meet at a local restaurant in Wixom for dinner. The club event would be scheduled for Wednesday April 2, 2008 at 3:00 pm with a limit of 30 club members. Dinner reservations would be made so we can meet after the tour.

Due to the logistics of this event Jeff needs you to RSVP in advance so that we have an accurate count of MCR members who want to go. Sue will make reservations after we have a tally of members interested in attending.

Please RSVP to Jeff through e-mail or call and leave a VM message @ 248-740-9898.

**MCR Meeting Minutes:** submitted by *Sue Apking*

- The February 16 meeting of the Motor City Rockets was called to order at 9:00 a.m. There were 30 members present. After a brief welcome, February's birthday were recognized.
- It was with sadness that Steve Apking next announced that we were losing one of our members, Scott Wozena. Scott will be moving to Ct for a new job. Scott is a valued member and has put many hours into the planning of the 2008 Nationals. He is responsible for securing the Henry Ford as one of our National's events and wrote descriptions of events that you see on our "Rocket Reunion" web link. We will miss him and wish him well in this new endeavor. He better hang on to that Cutlass Convertible also.
- Alan Wilcox reported that we now have 108 members and that our treasury is in good shape.
- Dates and times for the next two months meetings were discussed. Check the MCR calendar on the web site.
- The March dinner cruise will be at Bastone Restaurant in Royal Oak on Saturday, March 1. Rsvp to Jeff Pregler if you are going.
- Spring and summer activities from the Dust-Off to Woodward were briefly discussed and all details will be on the web site. There was talk of a picnic at Dennis and Karon Piskorowski's home at the end of June. When details are completed, an e-mail will go out.
- One interesting note that came to our attention via the Michigan Dept. of Transportation is the possibility that part of Lansing Rd/Old US-27 being renamed M-"442". This is in the talking stage right now but who knows what could happen. If there is any more communication concerning this, Steve will get back to the club.
- As there was no new business, the MCR meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

**2008 Nationals Update:**

- 198 Registrations
- Master schedule of events being put together for hours of operation, will need some tweaking as we get closer.
- Hotel rooms are filling up fast; Friday & Saturday being our heaviest bookings; rooms for specific events have been identified. Got word from Fairlane Mall that part of their parking lot can be used for trailer parking; also have use of traffic cones to help set boundaries and help traffic flow on showfield. Hotel will provide trash cans.
- Meet merchandise, specifically shirt colors are being discussed and orders will go in shortly.
- # of volunteers for each committee has been established and members are urged to sign up for their choice of committee and shift time.
- Banquet and welcome reception are set; details for each program are being finalized.
- Need for judges emphasized by Jerry Garfield.
- Though the OCA coordinates this we're still awaiting word on drag racing; Milan Dragway has yet to set up their schedule.
- Tours are set and busses are scheduled.
- Raffle items coming in; some items needed are foam board and a frame

***HOW I LOVE OLE MICHIGAN***

It's winter here in Michigan  
And the gentle breezes blow,  
Seventy miles an hour,  
At twenty five below.  
Oh, how I love ole Michigan  
When the snow's up to your butt.

You take a breath of winter and your nose  
freezes shut.  
Yes, the weather here is wonderful  
So I guess I'll hang around.  
I could never leave my Michigan  
Cause I'm frozen to the ground!

## February Dinner Cruise: Sue Apking

The cold and snow of winter may keep us from our cars but it doesn't stop the Motor City Rockets from getting together. On February 2, 23 of us turned our regular monthly dinner cruise into a lunch cruise. Jeff Pregle arranged for us to visit two museums and have lunch in between. First we met at the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum.

It's located in the actual last operating Hudson dealership and houses production cars from the Willow Run plant. There were displays of Hudsons, Tuckers, Kaisers and Corvairs and many displays on loan from GM Powertrain. There was also tons of memorabilia.



After touring the museum we went to lunch at the Sidetrack Bar & Grill, located at the Amtrak crossing in historic Depot Town in Ypsilanti. It provided us with a cozy atmosphere where we all had a delicious lunch. Next it was on to the Michigan Firehouse Museum. Also located in Ypsilanti, the museum houses the original 1898 firehouse and a modern 10,000 sq. ft. addition. We got the chance to see how life existed in a firehouse circa 1900.

The museum also has an extensive collection of hand, horse and engine propelled fire apparatus, along with many displays of fire related items. It was interesting and fun and if you have any appreciation of firemen, you need to visit. Thanks again to JEFF PREGLER for a great afternoon.

Check out both web sites: [www.ypsiautoheritage.org](http://www.ypsiautoheritage.org)

&

[www.michiganfirehousemuseum.org](http://www.michiganfirehousemuseum.org)





## 2008 NATIONALS VOLUNTEER CONTACT LIST

Committee	Head	E-Mail	# of volunteers needed <u>for the week</u>
Registration	Jeff Pregler	<a href="mailto:jjmlpregler@yahoo.com">jjmlpregler@yahoo.com</a>	22
Showfield	Doug Width	<a href="mailto:pdwidth@aol.com">pdwidth@aol.com</a>	50
Tours	Ken Kress	<a href="mailto:kkress7737@aol.com">kkress7737@aol.com</a>	44
Banquet	Paulette Width	<a href="mailto:pdwidth@aol.com">pdwidth@aol.com</a>	35
Security	Dave Tucker	<a href="mailto:dwtucker@ameritech.net">dwtucker@ameritech.net</a>	44
Ladies Lunch	Kelly Ferry	<a href="mailto:mrmdux@aim.com">mrmdux@aim.com</a>	4
Trailer Parking	Lanny Yankee	<a href="mailto:cutlass442@prodigy.net">cutlass442@prodigy.net</a>	10
Raffle	Dennis Piskorowski	<a href="mailto:dennis1970@yahoo.com">dennis1970@yahoo.com</a>	15
Tabulation of Judging	Jenn Ferry-Cronin	<a href="mailto:pamprdrat2676@yahoo.com">pamprdrat2676@yahoo.com</a>	8

### MCR SERVICE TEAM

<b>President</b>	<b>Steve Apking</b>	<a href="mailto:president@motorcityrockets.com">president@motorcityrockets.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Dan Evans</b>	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@motorcityrockets.com">vicepresident@motorcityrockets.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Alan Wilcox</b>	<a href="mailto:treasurer@motorcityrockets.com">treasurer@motorcityrockets.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Tom Bejma</b>	<a href="mailto:secretary@motorcityrockets.com">secretary@motorcityrockets.com</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Sue Apking</b>	<a href="mailto:editor@motorcityrockets.com">editor@motorcityrockets.com</a>
	<b>Kelly Ferry</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Jeff Pregler</b>	<a href="mailto:events@motorcityrockets.com">events@motorcityrockets.com</a>
<b>Merchandise</b>	<b>Cindy Klemm</b>	<a href="mailto:merchandise@motorcityrockets.com">merchandise@motorcityrockets.com</a>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Dorothy Maseles</b>	<a href="mailto:historian@motorcityrockets.com">historian@motorcityrockets.com</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Brian Lorway</b>	<a href="mailto:webmaster@motorcityrockets.com">webmaster@motorcityrockets.com</a>

Answer: Ransom E. Olds