



The ROCKET FUEL Newsletter

BE PROUD, ROCKETS! WE DID IT!

The 2008 Nationals may be history but the memories will live on forever. It was a hectic week beginning with set-up and ending with clean-up but the weather was our friend and made things so much easier. Hard work and long hours were the name of the game but at the end, we were very pleased with all of our accomplishments.

Putting on an event like this is quite a feat and you have to have the right people in the right places to carry it out. We certainly had that handled. All committee heads and all volunteers acted like pros and made things run smoothly. We weren't without some snafus but when they occurred, they were handled quickly and efficiently.

The Hyatt hotel and grounds made for a perfect setting for this car show. Inside, outside and all around were Oldsmobiles and Oldsmobile lovers. With 473 cars and 1,000 plus people, you can understand how busy a week it was.

Each day brought its' own flurry of activities. Wednesday was the Proving Grounds and the RE Olds/Michigan Historical Museum tour along with the welcome reception that evening. Thursday included the Heritage Center tour and a trip to Frankenmuth or Greektown. Friday was judging day, the ladies luncheon and the private dinner and tour at The Henry Ford. Saturday ended the week with the Hines Drive cruise, drag racing, an MGM Grand Casino trip and the awards banquet. All this occurred in addition to the daily events of the swap meet, the raffle and merchandise sales. There were also meetings and seminars that took place on specific days. And all the while this was happening, guests were being registered, trailers were being unloaded and show cars were being placed up to the last minute. These were the things that were visible. Behind the scenes was another story that had its' own array of activities as well.

Working this event was hard work. Make no mistake about it. But the sense of accomplishment and the fun we had will never be forgotten. We gained a new respect for each other and strengthened already well-formed friendships.

For Best of Class and Specialty Award winners, please look in your September JWO. For all other winners, check out the October JWO.

Sue Apking

Greetings from the President:

The Rocket Reunion is now behind and it was terrific. This came as the result of all of you who volunteered. Each of you played an integral part in the execution of the meet. It's a testament to your commitment, talent and work ethic. I've heard comments such as: "you've now raised the bar for a nationals"; "We cannot compete with this"; "great time"; "blown away by the MPG and Heritage tours", "one of the most organized nationals yet" and so on.

Did I say thank you yet? Well, here goes. Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!
You are the reason this club is so great. Photos of the event will soon be up on our MCR web site or you can check out photos at www.EventPhotoPro.com.

Remember, September activities include Frankenmuth and Traverse City. An October activity is still to be determined. Any ideas, please contact me. November will be a regular meeting and we'll conclude our year with the annual Christmas party (date, time and place TBD).

Steve Apking

INDEX

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Page 1 | BE PROUD, ROCKETS! WE DID IT | Page 2 | NEW MEMBERS |
| | GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT | Page 3 | 5 FINGER ADVANCE TO BEST OF CLASS |
| Page 2 | CALENDAR | Page 4 | WOODWARD 2008 |
| | EDITOR'S NOTES | | ANNUAL MCR FALL CRUISE |
| | UPCOMING EVENTS | | MCR SERVICE TEAM |



| SEPT 2008 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------|-----------|----------|---|--------------------------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| 31 | 1 Labor Day | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Frankenmuth | 6 Frankenmuth |
| 7 Franken- | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 GM Centennial Event Traverse City Weekend | 20 Traverse City Weekend |
| 21 Traverse City Weekend | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 Jeff | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT - TBD

NOV - TBD

DEC - TBD

Editor's Notes:

Now that the Nationals are over, our club will be getting back to a somewhat normal schedule.

Monthly Meetings: The 3rd Saturday of the month came to be our regular meeting day at the Hyatt Hotel and that was because of the Nationals' planning. But soon we'll be resuming our monthly meetings on the **3rd Sunday** of each month. The meeting time is **2:00pm** and the meeting place is at a **members' home**. For those new members or for those who may have forgotten, keep the third Sunday of each month open. Notification of each meeting will be via e-mail and posted on our MCR calendar. Members attending usually bring a dish to pass and after eating, the meeting follows. If you would like to volunteer your home for a meeting, please contact Steve Apking.

Dinner cruises: Don't forget about our dinner cruises. Usually scheduled on the first Saturday of the month, a dinner cruise gives us the chance to get together in a non car event atmosphere. It's a great way to get to know something about your fellow members other than what car they drive. If anybody has a suggestion for a restaurant that can handle about 30 guests in a somewhat private area, check it out and send the info to Jeff Pregler. (mcr_events@yahoo.com)

Club Elections: **Attention!** Club elections are fast approaching. Think about the possibility of serving our club as an officer. (President; Vice-President; Treasurer; Secretary) You can nominate yourself or someone else. Be sure to check with the person you nominate to see if he /she is willing to serve. Nominations will take place in **October** and can be sent to our secretary, Tom Bejma. You will be notified of all the nominations. Voting will then take place in **November** and results will be announced in **December** at the Christmas party. More detailed e-mails will be sent out each month as reminders. Sue & Kelly



New Members:

Ross Clark
Ben Virga

****Welcome****
Please join us at our next event.



5-Finger Advance to Best of Class

The judging at the Motor City Rocket Reunion was done, and so were the long hours of tabulation. It was going on 4:00am and Alan Wilcox, Dave and Denise Tucker, and I were quite used up and ready for bed! The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards were prepared for distribution on Saturday morning and at 9:00am on Saturday morning, I was in the Regency J room at the Dearborn Hyatt doing just that. The crowd began lining up long before we had opened the doors in anticipation of receiving their well- deserved awards. Within 2 to 3 hours, most of the awards had been handed out. I had to take off so I could get my 68 Cutlass convertible ready for the Hines Drive Cruise!

We lined up our cars and began the procession out of the parking area and onto Hines Drive. I had to take an alternate route so I could head off about 6 cars that took a left turn instead of a right onto Evergreen! These folks received the Bonus "Vice Presidents' Tour" through downtown Dearborn! We made it to Hines Drive and caught up with the Cruise. I looked in my rear view mirror to make sure we had everyone and noticed a 68 442 convertible behind me, and yet another 68 Cutlass convertible behind him. Our little group alone was turning some heads; it looked like a 1968 Oldsmobile commercial!

Well, the 442 and I ended up stuck at a traffic light and he pulled up in the lane to my left, (I think you know where this is going). We started talking about the detour and then the light was getting ready to change. Ed Pashukewich was riding with me and figured I was going to do something. The light turned green and we both stuffed it! The front tires were about off the ground on both our rides, but his rear tires broke loose and left a dual black path on the road! We stayed pretty close but then I decided to back down a bit knowing that the cops love hiding in that area!

My engine started hesitating and sounded as if it was going to stall, and it did. I pulled off and restarted it, but was having some trouble keeping it running. I pulled over and lifted the hood to find gas pouring onto my intake manifold! I immediately began pouring the water I was drinking on the intake to dilute the gas so it wouldn't make fumes and ignite! I tapped on the carburetor but the gas kept coming! I then decided to get out a screwdriver and check the top bowl screws; they were loose so I tightened them and the leak slowed down to a drip. I restarted the car and the drip stopped as well. I nursed the car back to the Hyatt and parked it; by this time the vapor lock, which partially caused this issue had released and the drip stopped!

It was time to start preparing for the Awards Banquette, so after a beer with my cousin that stopped by, and 2 more with Dave Klemm, I began setting up awards on the stage. I had everything in place; the Best of Class Awards were lined up like I knew what I was doing! Ed Pashukewich set up his Pedal Cars and it was time for me to head to my room to shower and change just in time to return to a full Banquette hall.

Steve Apking started the ceremonies with praise to all of those that worked so hard to make it the Best National Show to Date! We had several guest speakers including Linda Vaughn and Joe Mondello. Top Hat John was our MC and had a few of his versions of life events of some of the guests that he shared with the crowd. Jerry Garfield made announcements of the Best of Class Winners as Doug Width and I handed out the Awards. If the winner was not in attendance I set their award on its' back so I could keep track of which awards I would have to ship out to them. After all of the Best of Class Awards were handed out there were 3 remaining, and they were left standing where I had placed them before the Banquette.

When it was all over I made a final announcement thanking everyone for attending the Nationals, and asked the recipients of the Best of Class Awards to return to the Stage Side Area to pick up the boxes for their awards. This was of course to protect them during the trip home. While people came up, some walked across the stage, and others came around as I directed them to do. In the short amount of time that I handed out the boxes, something caught my attention; the 3 remaining awards were no longer on the table on the stage. I looked everywhere and even asked several people from our group if they had seen where the awards went. No one noticed who picked them up, but I do know that they were picked up by someone or 3 individuals!

So that is a 5-Fingered Advance to Best of Class!

If anyone noticed this taking place, please let me or someone from the Motor City Rockets know.

Thank You All for Attending the 2008 Oldsmobile Nationals!

Dan Evans, Motor City Rockets VP



Woodward 2008

The Motor City Rockets once again participated in the 13th annual Woodward Dream Cruise held on Saturday, August 16th. The weather was picture perfect and we had a great turnout with nearly 50 in attendance including members and non-club members.

It was the second year we met at the Charter One Bank branch on Woodward and Long Lake and it's proved to be an excellent location. We have room to park our cars, we're right next door to a restaurant and we have accessibility to Woodward for some cruise time.

We sat and watched cars cruise the avenue and were always on the look out for other Olds. When we saw them, we would invite them to park in our guest spot for about 30 minutes and learn a little about us. We had our MCR tent set up with OCA and club information. Club members helped with manning the tent and checking in cars.

This year in honor of GM's 100th birthday, there was a GM Century Cruise that kicked off the day. Led by Rick Wagoner, the parade of 100 cars began at the RenCen and continued up Woodward Avenue. It helped start the celebration of the company's first 100 yrs. Three of our members and their cars were chosen to participate: Steve Apking, Greg Carriere and Jerry Skinner.

The combination of good weather, classic cars and the nicest people you'd ever want to know made this year's WDC one of the best!

SUE APKING

Annual MCR Fall Cruise

Here's hotel information for the MCR Fall Cruise to Traverse City scheduled for September 19, 20 & 21, 2008. Dorothy Maseles has blocked 15 rooms at the Fairfield Inn under the Motor City Rockets name. Dates are 19,20,21. Rate is \$100 + tax. Up about \$10 from last year. Phone number is 231-922-7900. You should contact the hotel directly to make reservations and mention the MCR reservation name.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP Jeff Pregler at mcr_events@yahoo.com so we can coordinate the MCR caravan, which will be led this year by Dave Tucker on Friday morning. Details for the caravan will follow.

MCR SERVICE TEAM

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--|
| President | Steve Apking | president@motorcityrockets.com |
| Vice President | Dan Evans | vicepresident@motorcityrockets.com |
| Treasurer | Alan Wilcox | treasurer@motorcityrockets.com |
| Secretary | Tom Bejma | secretary@motorcityrockets.com |
| Newsletter | Sue Apking | editor@motorcityrockets.com |
| | Kelly Ferry | |
| Activities | Jeff Pregler | events@motorcityrockets.com |
| Merchandise | Cindy Klemm | merchandise@motorcityrockets.com |
| Historian | Dorothy Maseles | historian@motorcityrockets.com |
| Webmaster | Brian Lorway | webmaster@motorcityrockets.com |