



# The ROCKET FUEL Newsletter



## Greetings from the President:

The year is quickly coming to an end and since this will be the last newsletter of this year, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a joyous holiday season. 2008 marked an amazing year for our club with involvement in many activities including hosting a national meet.

Though most of the year is behind us, some important events are still at hand: annual voting for club officers, nominations for the Spirit Award and the club's Christmas party. Please check the e-mails that have been sent to you regarding these matters.

*Steve Apking*



## Editor's Notes:

By now, you should have received a ballot listing those who have put their name in the hat for officers' positions. Hope you got your vote in to Tom Bejma.

Also don't forget to nominate a fellow member or members for the annual Spirit Award. This award is given in recognition of hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to the club. It started as a way to honor Bill & Mary Szelag, former members who contributed much to our club. Last year's honor went to Alan Wilcox. Please let Steve Apking know of your nominations by Dec. 8.

Results of both the officers' election and the Spirit Award will be announced at the Christmas party on December 13.

Lastly we need someone to take on the newsletter editor's position. If you like to be in the know, this is the position for you.

Kelly and I also want to add our holiday greetings. Be safe and enjoy your family and friends.

*Sue Apking*

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## November/December Birthdays

*Martha Pregler Nov. 7*

*Tom Bejma Nov. 12*

*Jack Jokie Nov. 16*

*Michelle Brochu Nov. 21*

*Greg Carriere Nov. 26*

*Pat Kress Dec. 11*

## October 25 outing:

Pat Macaluso set up a tour for the club of the Lingenfelter Car Collection. If you are not familiar with the name, Bill Lingenfelter is famous for performing some serious modifications to Corvettes. Located in Brighton, Michigan, this warehouse, broken up into 3 sections, houses some 150 + cars from exotic sports cars and high end luxury ones to muscle cars and of course Corvettes. Oldsmobiles were also represented with a 70 442 and a 66 Toronado on board. The other thing that is amazing is that this collection began just some 10-12 years ago. All cars are operational and maintained by a crew that keeps watch over all this beautiful machinery. We had 40 members present for the tour and 29 attended lunch later at Bakers in Milford. It was great to see so many come out and enjoy the camaraderie, cars and food on such a brisk fall day.

## November Meeting:

The club resumed our regular meeting schedule on Sunday, November 16 at the home of Dorothy Maseles. 17 members were present. After acknowledging Dorothy for hosting, president, Steve Apking recognized November birthdays. Treasurer, Alan Wilcox, reported that we now have 99 members and our treasury is financially sound. While discussing funds, it was decided that we would purchase a half page ad for the 2009 OCA Nationals. Items on the agenda included our upcoming Christmas party, officers' elections and the spirit award nominations. Members were reminded to cast their votes. It was also noted that a newsletter editor is still needed. Discussion was held to consider some new ideas for 2009 get-togethers. They included bowling, trip to Gilmore Museum, Hot Rod Power Tour. We also discussed our regular events like dinner cruises and Frankenmuth. Also working on an event between Christmas and New Year's.

Under new business, Paulette Width brought up the subject of left-over table settings from the 2008 OCA Nationals. Comments that came from members for possible uses were: have some for Christmas party; give some to Karen Piskorowski for the summer picnic; use some for Traverse City; possibly order some new ones for members who would want one to correspond with the year of their car. Cindy Klemm can provide numbers for model years. There are also left-over award plaques that members thought could go to businesses that donated services for the 2008 Nationals. A list of those businesses was compiled.

Dave Tucker to contact Brian Lorway about web site pictures.

Sue Apking

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Holiday Greetings Rockets!

It's time to celebrate Christmas and the Holiday Season with MCR club members, spouses and guests! Our thanks to Dave & Cindy Klemm for graciously volunteering to host the MCR holiday party this year. Hopefully, many of you will be able to come to the party and enjoy the food, fun & gifts and of course share friendships and our love of Oldsmobiles. The MCR holiday party has always been great fun! As in previous years the festivities will include great food, "the" Gift Exchange and a Toys for Tots voluntary toy donation. Please see details below.

**Please RSVP how many will be attending by December 6<sup>th</sup> via e-mail to my attention (Jeff Pregler) at [mcr\\_events@yahoo.com](mailto:mcr_events@yahoo.com). You will receive an e-mail from me confirming your attendance and a spouse/guest.**

### Christmas / Holiday Party Details

**Location:** Dave & Cindy Klemm's Party Place  
**Address:** 35788 Koenig, New Baltimore, Michigan 48047  
**Phone:** 586-709-6637/Cindy or 586-350-3900/Dave  
**Date:** December 13, 2008 (Saturday)  
**Time:** Anytime after 4:30 PM  
**Food:** Bring an Appetite - more details to follow.

**The club will supply the plates, napkins and plastic tableware, etc.**

### Directions to the Klemm's Party Place

Please MapQuest the following address – 35788 Koenig, New Baltimore, MI 48047



### "White Oldsmobile (White Elephant)" Gift Exchange

One of the highlights of our annual MCR Holiday Party is the "White Oldsmobile (White Elephant)" gift exchange. For those coming for the first time or as a reminder for those previously attending, here are the details:

- Each person or couple brings a wrapped gift or gifts. If you bring one per couple, you go home with one, if you bring two per couple, you go home with two, etc.
- The gift can be a gift you received in prior years (re-gifting is encouraged) or something you have that you no longer need or want—obviously best if not really used or worn. If you choose, you can go out and buy something, but it is surprising what you can sometimes find around the house. Sometimes the items are gag type gifts but there are usually some nice, desirable items also. A combination of both usually makes for the most fun and trading. **Be Creative!** Something Oldsmobile or car related is nice but not required. Model cars, car books, car accessories (fuzzy dice, seat beads), etc. are a few of the car-related gifts that have been used in the past. Non-car related ladies gifts include candles, crafts, nuts or some nice cherry jams and other cherry goodies or cookies from Traverse City maybe!



Once you get there with the gifts, we'll tell you how the exchange works in more detail but basically everyone gets a number. When your number comes up, instead of picking a new gift from under the tree you will also have the option of swapping (stealing away) a nice already opened gift from a fellow MCR member. Talk about Christmas spirit! Further swapping - up to two times can also take place and that is what makes it so much fun.

Last year we did a **Toys-for-Tots** donation. We feel this is a worthwhile organization and we'll continue again this year. Please do not wrap the Toys-for-Tots gift since the receiving organization needs to inventory the items received. This will be considered optional so don't feel obligated. However it may help a child, less fortunate, have a brighter Christmas holiday.

Please feel free to contact me (248-740-9898) should you have any questions. We look forward to seeing all of you at the party.

Happy Holidays!

**Dave & Cindy Klemms, Host & Hostess**

**Jeff Pregler, Activities Coordinator**

**Steve Apking, President**

**Tom, Bejma, Secretary**

**Dan Evans, Vice President**

**Alan Wilcox, Treasurer**



## 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>

## 'Family' Reunion Includes 1906 Mama and Baby REOs

By Gerald Scott  
Staff Reporter

There was a heartwarming car event in Lansing the other day related to the R.E. Olds auto pioneer family's legacy.

Olds, of course, was the founder of both Oldsmobile and the REO Motor Car Co., both of which helped make Lansing the center of R.E. Olds-related automobile production for most of the 20th century.

With that in mind, the Lansing-based nonprofit R.E. Olds Transportation Museum is proud to announce the "homecoming" of the 1906 Mama and Baby REO - matching cars, large and pocket-sized - which arrived together from California on Sept. 2.

Get this - the 1906 Baby is an identical, working, gas-powered, 1/8-scale miniature replica of its full-sized 1906 Mama. (Kind of like Me and "mini-me.")

Built as an REO promotional tool for the 1906 model year, Baby REO was the first fully functional miniature gas-powered car ever built. It is estimated the headlamp alone would cost up to \$10,000 to replace because no parts are available.

The miniature was valued in the mid-six figures, but because of its irreplaceable nature is essentially priceless today.

Meanwhile, in mid-August, Mama and Baby were auctioned in Pebble Beach, Calif., and were purchased by Peter and Debbie Stephens, the great-granddaughter of Ransom Eli Olds and her husband.

The Stephens, who live in Ohio but are regular visitors to Lansing and Detroit because of Debbie's ties to the Olds family, were on hand at the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum for the arrival and donation of the two cars. (Peter is also the retired chief financial officer of Wendy's International, the corporate parent of the Wendy's restaurant chain).

Debbie Stephens grew up in East Lansing and is a keeper of the flame of the wider R.E. Olds automotive legacy.

"We are pleased that after 102 years of traveling, Baby and Mama REO have finally come home to Lansing," said Peter and Debbie Stephens in a joint statement.

"This important part of Lansing's history belongs at the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum and we can think of no place better for them to reside into retirement.

"It is our hope that the people of Lansing and Michigan will come to the museum and be reminded of the many contribu-

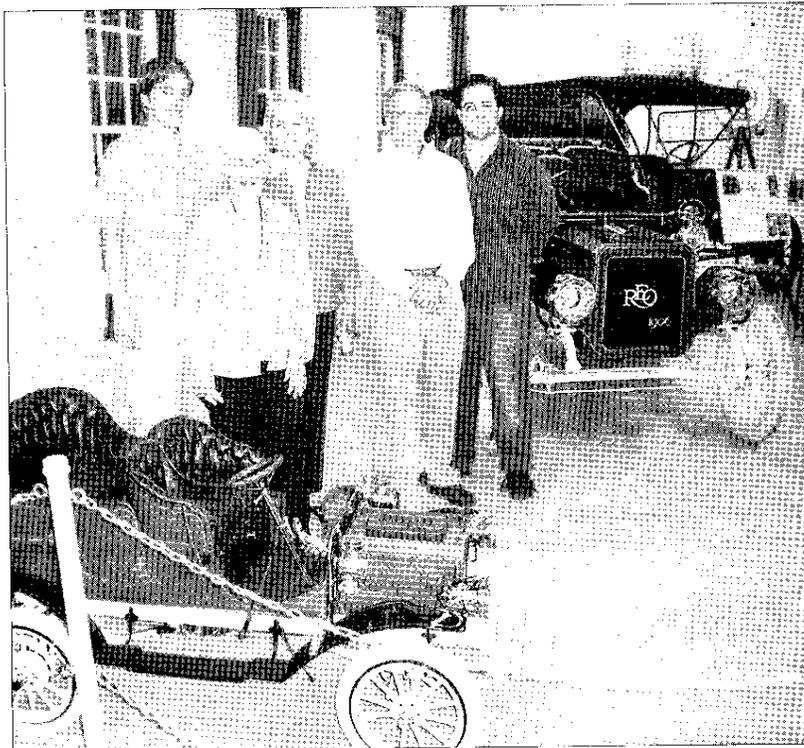


PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

**THE 1906 REO "BABY CAR,"** foreground, is a 1/8-scale model of the Mama Car in the background. The scale model car was developed as a marketing tool by the REO Motor Car Co. of Lansing. Olds family descendants, including Ransom Olds' great-granddaughter Debbie Stephens, is pictured here third from left.

tions of this city and, most importantly, R.E. Olds, who put Lansing and the automobile industry on the map."

Mama and Baby were first unveiled in January, 1906, at the National Auto Show in New York's Grand Central Palace. It subsequently made a cross-country tour visiting various dealer showrooms, fairs, conventions and other auto shows to critical acclaim and enthusiastic reviews.

Baby was leased to Barnum & Bailey Circus and Ringling Bros. Circus for promotional stunts and circus acts. Baby REO also served as the celebrated midjet Tom Thumb's transport at the Ringling Bros. circus.

Meanwhile, Baby REO was used for 30 years as an exhibit at fairs and conventions, but was "lost" in 1936. In anticipation of REO's 50th Anniversary, the company started a nationwide search for Baby REO.

It was eventually found in 1954 in Altoona, Pa., in a REO truck dealer's collection and was returned to Lansing for the first time in nearly 50 years.

It went on temporary display in the REO corporate offices in Lansing but was again lost until

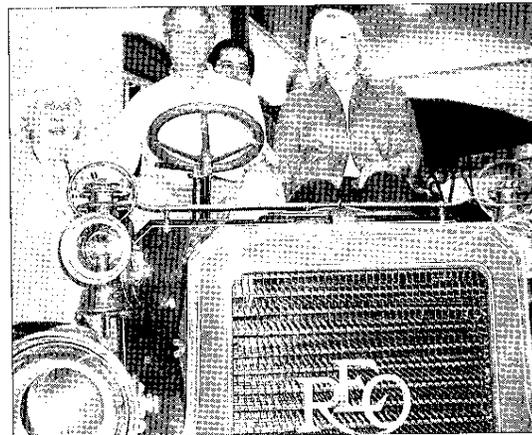


PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

**PETER STEPHENS,** at steering wheel, and the entire Stephens family, which includes descendants of auto pioneer R.E. Olds, together beam at the donation of the 1906 REO Mama and Baby cars to the museum.

the mid-1980s, when Dick Teague, a noted car designer, found it this time in Mississippi.

Since the 1980s, Mama and Baby REO have only traveled as an identical pair once since the late 1980s.

Thanks to the generous donation of Peter and Debbie

Stephens, the 1906 Mama and Baby REO now have a permanent resting spot.

The REOs can be viewed during regular museum hours. Special accommodations for groups and special events can be made by calling the R.E. Olds Museum in Lansing at (517) 372-0529.

This article By Gerry Scott appeared in the "Tech Center News". It is "reprinted with permission of "Detroit Auto Scene".