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[www.motorcityrockets.com](http://www.motorcityrockets.com)

# Motor City Rockets

*The Rocket Fuel Newsletter*

## *President's Message*

This first edition of the all New "Rocket Newsletter" makes me so proud to be a member and president of the Motor City Rockets. It is members like Sue Apking who make this club so great; she has stepped up to the challenge because she recognized the gap we have had for such a long time. With that said, I am happy to say after a long hiatus our newsletter is back in all its glory.

**Now as members we have a responsibility to Sue!** We need to supply her with content: such as write ups about your car (s), why do you have a love for Oldsmobiles, shows you have attended, technical how-to articles, great pictures, resources, etc. Right now the plan is that Sue will be publishing the newsletter bi-monthly. THANK YOU SO MUCH SUE!!

The reason I became a member of this club years ago was the great relationships I noted in the membership, my long time love for Oldsmobiles and my Oldsmobile related employment of 25+ years.

This club's membership is outstanding, with a base that has been close to 100 members consistently and has always had a broad diversity of experiences, ideas and information to share.

Knowing what I do about this club, I would like to have each and every one of you take some time and start thinking about our upcoming indoor business meetings, activities and next year's outdoor club events and activities. We have prided ourselves on having monthly meetings or activities all year long (exception sometimes November!).

For our indoor meetings in the past we have had guest speakers who spoke to us about automotive test tracks, ethanol fuels and the Chevrolet Volt. We have also had club members show us how to rebuild an alternator and carburetor and how air bags deploy. Of course we need to have programs for the start of our indoor meetings. Having guest speakers, how-to sessions, information or educational video benefits our members immensely.

It is time to start thinking about who you may know, what you can do and of course what you may want to see at a club meeting. Please send me any ideas and contacts you have as soon as possible. We need to start getting our meetings scheduled now.

Club activity suggestions are discussed at each club meeting. The January meeting starts our base of activities for each year. The ideas are suggested by attending members and voted on at the meeting. The club has monthly core activities and also activities that are placed on our calendar as a suggested additional activity. Often a calendar activity is spearheaded by a member as when Greg Carriere promoted the Bakers of Milford get together in August. Greg made all the arrangements with Bakers and developed the communications which were sent out by our Events coordinator Jeff to collect all the RSVP's.

In closing I want all of you to know we have accomplished quite a bit over the last year with the addition of numerous new members, a total rewrite of our Bylaws, very well attended meetings, events, activities and of course all our great new merchandise selection! Let's continue to make this club great by participating, volunteering, sharing ideas and suggestions for the betterment of the club.

Sincerely,  
Pat Macaluso

### *Welcome New Members*

**Rick Zwolinski**

**Dale Masters**

**Jeff Luke**

**Ray Dunn**

**James LaRocque**

**John Chase**

**Jay Chance**

**Mike Pettinga**

**Dennis Smith**

**Frank Zagata**

**Mel Thomas**

**Gary & Becky McAdam**

**Gordon & Amy King**

**Kenneth Judd, Jr.**

**Greg Skiver**



## *Editor's Notes*

Welcome back to a new edition of the MCR newsletter. Yes, I know it's been awhile since the club published one and as announced at the Woodward Dream Cruise, I'm here to try it again. As your editor, I will report on club news, report meeting minutes and notify you of monthly meetings and other upcoming activities. For now I plan to publish the newsletter every other month unless adequate material comes in to warrant a monthly one.

But I do need some help in this new endeavor, so I

am enlisting the aid of every member. Please share the stories of your cars and the adventures you have had with them. If you have a tech tip that aided you in a repair, share it. If you come across an auto related article that you find interesting, share it. If you'd like to place an ad, we can handle that. Any ideas for content will be greatly appreciated. Remember this is **your** newsletter!

**Share! Share! Share!**

That's the name of the game.

You can contact me via e-mail at [S442apking@aol.com](mailto:S442apking@aol.com) I'll be waiting!

Since sharing seems to be the theme here, I'm asking members to share their birth month and date, no year. If you're so inclined, there will be an acknowledgement of your special day in the newsletter.

In closing, **Cindy Klemm**, merchandise manager, asked that you be informed that name tags are available and sell for \$12.00. She is also working up something with the new MCR spirit wear with pictures. Look for it soon in an upcoming newsletter.

*Sue Apking*

## *Birthday Greetings*

**9/3 Bill Tumidanski**

**9/6 Karl Kimball**

**9/24 Ed Pashukewich**

**9/30 Jeff Pregler**

**10/16 Kelly Ferry**



## September 2012



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Labor Day Bill Tumidanski			Karl Kimball	Frankenmuth Auto Fest	Frankenmuth Auto Fest
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Frankenmuth Auto Fest						*Fall Touring Event
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
*Fall Touring Event	*Fall Touring Event					Autumnal Equinox
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Ed Pashukewich					
30						
Jeff Pregler						

“Be sure to check the MCR web site calendar for additional details.”

**An asterisk \* denotes a club activity.**



## October 2012

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
						*Great Pumpkin Classic Car Show
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Kelly Ferry				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
			Halloween			

## *MCR SERVICE TEAM*

President	Pat Macaluso	president@motorcityrockets.com
Vice President	Phil Woodward	vicepresident@motorcityrockets.com
Treasurer	Alan Wilcox	treasurer@motorcityrockets.com
Secretary	Sue Pashukewich	secretary@motorcityrockets.com
Newsletter	Sue Apking	editor@motorcityrockets.com
Activities	Jeff Pregler	events@motorcityrockets.com
Merchandise	Cindy Klemm	merchandise@motorcityrockets.com
Historian	Dorothy Maseles	historian@motorcityrockets.com
Webmaster	Brian Lorway	webmaster@motorcityrockets.com

### *Meeting Minutes*

As we have had no formal meetings during the summer, there are no minutes to report.

### *Activities*

As you know, summertime around southeast Michigan is packed with car events. Although we can't be at all of them, the following are those that we attended as a club. Though each event was unique in itself, there were two things that remained constant through all of them: the *heat* and the *good times*. Hope you enjoy a short summary of all of them.

#### *Homecoming*

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Oldsmobile Homecoming was held June 16 and about 30 members made the trek west to Lansing to be a part of it. The R.E. Olds chapter always does a super job hosting this show and it's the one event where we can take our cars to the place where it all started so long ago. I believe there were over 500 cars registered and the swap meet is always one of the best. This is truly a family event with activities for young and old and has become one of the best attended events by the Motor City Rockets.

### *Baker's*

On Sunday, July 21, Greg Carriere made it MCR Day at Baker's of Milford. It was another hot day but we set up our canopies and simply enjoyed letting others stroll by to admire our Oldsmobiles. For those of you who may not know, Baker's is a restaurant who hosts a weekly car show and raffle every Sunday from May to September. Chris Baker is a great host as was his late father, Paul. We had about 15 members present. While we admired other cars that were there, we decided that our Oldsmobiles were definitely the best. This is a nice and relaxing way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

### *Concours d'Elegance*

On Sunday, July 29, twenty three members attended the Concours d'Elegance of America, held at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth. The Inn, a former seminary but now a hotel, banquet center and golf course proved to be a lovely setting for some of the most beautiful vehicles from around the United States and Canada. There were 22 classes of cars. Three of those classes had Oldsmobiles owned by MCR members. Jack Tokie, with his 1957 Fiesta Station Wagon was in the Jet Age Station Wagon Class. Jeff Stolowski was a representative in the American Muscle Class with his 1970 Oldsmobile 442 Pace Car convertible and Doug Width, with his 1932 Oldsmobile F-32 Convertible was a member of the American Popular 1928-1942 class. Doug won Best of Class with his car.



We were proud to be on hand to support our fellow members at this prestigious affair. There were special areas for car clubs to park and we ended up on the 18<sup>th</sup> green. Again we set up canopies and used our designated area for some relaxation after walking the grounds to see the car displays on yet another hot day.

### *Gratiot Cruise*

Some 18 MCR members attended the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Gratiot Cruise on August 4. As in past years, Cliff Carson, an MCR member hosted the group. He always provides parking in the lot at Baker College and that put us front and center to view the parade of cars cruising that Sunday. We received great goodie bags in the form of insulated lunch bags with lots of surprises inside. While most of the day was spent watching the cruise and visiting with each other, a fair amount of walking was done in pursuit of the most coveted "I Cruised **GRATIOT**" signs. Thank you, Jill Woodward for making the stroll with me. After the

cruise, Cindy & Dave Klemm invited the group to their home for a barbecue. As usual, there was more than enough food and everything was delicious. Thanks go to Cliff, Cindy & Dave for a wonderful day.

### *Woodward Dream Cruise*

The 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the Woodward Dream Cruise was held on Saturday, August 18. To say it's just one day is a misnomer for the cars begin gathering the weekend before and cruise every night until the big day. From the news accounts I heard, there were 1.5 million people and 40,000 cars present. Unbelievable! The weather cooperated beautifully and surely aided that huge turnout.

As in past years, the Motor City Rockets were camped out at our home base at Woodward and Long Lake in Bloomfield Hills. This is the location of one of the many Charter One bank branches located in the metro Detroit area. They graciously provided their parking lot for us and by day's end it was packed with classic Oldsmobiles.

We set up canopies along the grassy areas on Woodward in front of the bank and enjoyed viewing the myriad of cars that passed. As the day went on, we even managed to put our judging hats on and scored the cars as they drove by. Of course all Oldsmobiles received the highest scores.



Along with that, we had the OCA Road Show materials displayed and MCR merchandise out for sale. With that kind of exposure, we were able to bring in 6 members, one returning and 5 new ones. Some members took to the streets to cruise or should I say inch their way down Woodward while others simply let the cruise come to them. All in all it was a perfect day. To those outside of Michigan who may be reading this article, you really need to add this to your bucket list and experience it firsthand.

Thanks goes to Pat Macaluso and Jeff Pregler for organization and communication; Alan Wilcox, handling the OCA road show; Jill Woodward preparing and distributing goodie bags; Cindy & Dave Klemm for the setting up and selling of MCR merchandise. And let's not forget all members who took a work shift either manning a gate or selling merchandise. Again, as in past years, a donation was made to the bank to be given to a charity of their choice.

## *MPG Open House*

The Motor City Rockets got the opportunity to participate in an open house at the GM Milford Proving Grounds on Saturday, August 25. Steve Apking, who currently works at the grounds, provided the contact for the club. 15 members attended, bringing their classic Oldsmobiles.

We were able to take a self-guided tour of the road system on our way to and from activities held at the Vehicle Dynamics Test Area or “Black Lake” as it is called. The activities included viewing the advanced driving demonstrations and test driving various GM cars along a course. There was also a local business expo and a \$3.00 hot dog or nacho lunch was made available.



The highlight of the event was the chance to be a passenger when the professional drivers demonstrated various maneuvers on Black Lake. MCR members, Jim Dyar and Cathy, Mike and Donna Franks and Brock Loewen’s son, Derrick got to buckle up and be passengers on these drives.

There was one maneuver called the ‘Rockford’ move. Seven cars lined up. In one continuous motion they began moving in reverse. Then in unison spun 180 degrees and continued in the opposite direction. It worked fine the first time but in the second demonstration, one driver turned the wrong way and two cars crashed. No one got hurt but unfortunately, no other civilian got to ride in any demos for the rest of the day.

It proved to be a fun, exciting and interesting day.



*Upcoming Club Event!*

**Great Pumpkin Car Show**

Go to <http://www.mycratemotor.com>.

Look for  
Events" link  
flyer.

“Upcoming  
to download

5<sup>th</sup> Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Great Pumpkin Classic Car Show



**TangerOutlets**  
1475 N. Burkhart Rd. Howell, MI 48855

## Saturday, October 13, 2012

### 10am - 3:30pm

Interested In Sponsoring? We're Interested In Talking To You!

Contact Paul at (517) 545-8651



**Paulson's  
Construction**

*Major Sponsors:*

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or go to [www.paulsonsconstruction.com](http://www.paulsonsconstruction.com)**

100% of all proceeds will be donated to the Livingston County Salvation Army

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: S M L XL (\$5 charge for 2XL and above \_\_\_\_\_)

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Car Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Livingston County Salvation Army.  
Send registrations to Paulson's Construction, 115 University, Howell, MI 48843.

**\$20 EARLY REGISTRATION. FREE EVENT T-SHIRT FOR EARLY REGISTRATION BY SEPT. 21, 2012.**  
**SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THE DAY OF THE EVENT FOR \$10.00.**  
**10x10 POPUP TENTS \$20 EXTRA CHARGE - LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE - PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
**(YOU WILL RECEIVE NOTIFICATION IF ACCEPTED FOR A POPUP SPACE)**



***Teck Tip* It all started with a winter getaway and a stop at the Mecum Auction in Kissimmee, Florida.**

I knew before purchasing our 1970 4 4 2 Pace Car at the auction that the headlight switch didn't pull out all the way. Thinking this would be an easy fix I bought a new switch, pulled the car into my workshop to "bring it up to snuff" and then the fun began.

This being the first time I ever had to change a headlight switch in a 1970 Cutlass I figured it would be easy; after all you just squeeze the button and pull the shaft to remove the switch. Wrong! After I removed the fuel gauge, revisited by "sailors" vocabulary, I discovered I needed to be a contortionist and several hours later I finally got my hand on the D\_ \_ \_ button.

After I installed the new switch, replaced the fuel gauge and made a trip to the chiropractor I turned on the headlights and all four headlights came on. Hit the dimmer switch, nothing happened. Okay, time to replace the dimmer switch, so back to the auto parts store for a new dimmer switch. Thankfully this change *was* easy. Hooked everything up again turned on the lights, hit the dimmer switch and nothing changes: all four headlights stay on. So I start checking for a short somewhere.

I pulled the front light harness connector off the firewall, applied power to the low and high beam circuits and all four headlights stayed on when I energized each circuit. So much for the easy fix. Now it's time to check the wiring harness for a short. I removed all the covering from the harness from the firewall to the core support to look for broken wires or unusual wear, nothing. Checked the ground to the headlights and everything is good. None of the lights were dim but I cleaned all the connectors anyway, at this point I'm not leaving anything to chance.

Time to try the lights and you guessed it, all four lights come on again. Talk about driving me crazy. Next I disconnected the low beam bulbs, applied power to the high beam circuits and everything works fine.

*Finally* progress! I attached the driver's side low beam, applied power and all was right with the world on the driver's side. Next I plug in the passenger side low beam, turn on the lights and here we go again, all four lights turn on AGAIN! Frustrated doesn't even begin to describe how I'm feeling, however, I am getting closer. At least now I know the problem is on the passenger side.

Now my thoughts are that if all four bulbs light, they must be good, right? Not wanting to tear the harness apart under the radiator and waste all the time that will take, I decided that I am going to try plugging in a new bulb on the passenger side. After all, I have nothing left to loose and I have spares in "stock" which saves me from making another trip to the auto parts store. I plug in the new bulb, turn on the headlights and only the low beams come on, FINALLY! Hit the high beam switch and everything lights up perfectly in my world.

Curious as to what was going on and never having heard of this problem before, I checked the “old” low beam and discovered that the lighting element had shorted out internally from low beam to high beam causing all four lights to always stay on.

Now it's time for some serious cruising if Cindy ever lets me drive the car. Submitted by: Dave Klemm