

Jan– Apr 2021

Scott Phillips—Editor



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Capitol City Rockets—Olds Club of America  
Winner of the 2019 OCA Editorial Excellence Award and  
2020 Old Cars Golden Quill Honorable Mention

## The Rocket Review Quarterly Winter Recap 2021



This is a view of the Sunday morning Dunkin Donuts "Cars and Coffee" cruise at Dulles Landing near South Riding, VA. If the weather is good, there's usually a turnout of modern sports/performance cars and classics. Our Spring Dust Off Cruise will meet there 7-9 am on Sunday, April 18th. Get the Olds out!

### President's Message—Joe Padavano

#### Save the Dates!

- **Sun, Apr 18:** Spring Dust Off Cruise, 7-9 am; Dunkin Donuts Cars and Coffee, Dulles Landing Shopping Center, South Riding, VA.
- **Cruise After the cruise: 9-11 am; Leesburg Public House**
- **Apr 21—Apr 25:** Spring Carlisle
- **Sun, May 2:** Club Meeting in Rockville, MD, 12:30 pm

Well, the Dark Blue '85 Olds is off the DL. The Trans is in the car and functional. Geeze, that took a lot longer than I expected, waiting for parts and such. Gotta say that I learned a lot about setting up a 200-4R, so I'm glad I practiced on this one first. I didn't appreciate how much of the internals were common with the TH200 until I got into this.

I now have a nearly complete set of all the special tools and most of the assortments of the selective washers that set end play in the various sections of the trans. That was the worst part. You have to assemble a bunch of components, figure out the correct thickness washer, and then wait for that one to show up when you order it. No, you can't just sand down the one you have unless

you have a surface grinder. I also now know exactly what internals need to be upgraded (like replacing the thrust washers with roller bearings). I think I've decided to build one for the 64 Vista, which will need to be a lot stronger than this one behind a 307.

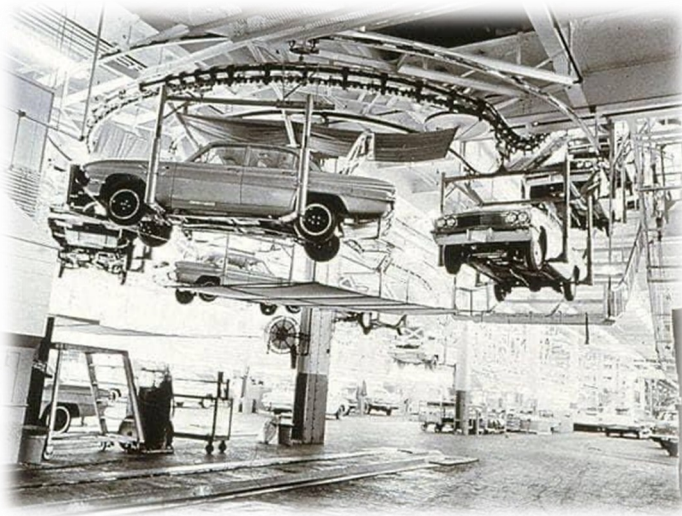
The added thickness of the roller bearings requires machining of the mating parts to make room. CK Performance sells a "rollerized" package that includes the required bearings and the machined parts to accommodate them. The HD parts include the hardened stator shaft, higher strength input shaft, hardened drum, and a couple hardened ring gears for the planetaries.



## *Capitol City Rockets Info*

*The Capitol City Rockets is the Suburban Maryland, DC, and Northern Virginia chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America. The Capitol City Rockets originated in 1989, and is currently operating in its 32nd year. We split monthly meetings between Kilroy's Bar and Grille off the Braddock Road exit of 495 in Northern VA and the Hard Times Café in Rockville, MD, with one peer judged show co-hosted each year with the Metro Buick Club. The club currently consists of over 57 members, from Virginia, Maryland, Florida, and even DC and West Virginia. A membership form is located in the back of this newsletter. One need not own an Oldsmobile to join, and dues remain \$15 dollars per year, payable by November the 1st, either by check or using the PayPal button on our Hemmings.com website. Current membership in the Oldsmobile Club of America is a requirement of CCR membership, as we are required to submit rosters to OCA for yearly insurance coverage for our events.*

One thing the Oldsmobile Club of America Facebook group is good for is viewing the occasional early GM picture trove. Below left the compact Y bodies (I think these are 61 or 62 Buick Special/Skylarks) come down and around the bend on the assembly line, nearly complete. Below right, the now highly desirable and valuable 1969 Hurst Olds parked out back in the mud lot of the Demmer facility in Lansing, where they underwent the conversion process into an H/O after leaving GM. Thanks to Joe P for the pictures.



## *Joe Padavano's Message (cont from page 1)*

They also machine the OD clutch piston to allow you to add one more clutch plate (three vs OEM two). CK sells a complete HD build kit with all these parts, the rollerized parts, and the Alto Red friction plates and matching steels. I think this is something like \$1700, which is still about \$500-800 less than a complete trans. Unfortunately, the 200-4R is an inherently weaker trans than the TH400. The input and output shafts are smaller, band is smaller, planetaries are smaller. There's a reason why it's 25-35 lbs lighter. Of course, then the lockup converter is almost that much heavier.

With the trans done, the blue squarebody truck I recently acquired is back at the top of the list. I've decided the motor comes out, though I'm leaving the short block alone. Just plan to reassemble the heads, the Performer intake I got, and get it running on the stand first. This lets me fix the firewall correctly. We'll see what comes next there...

—Joe Padavano, CCR President

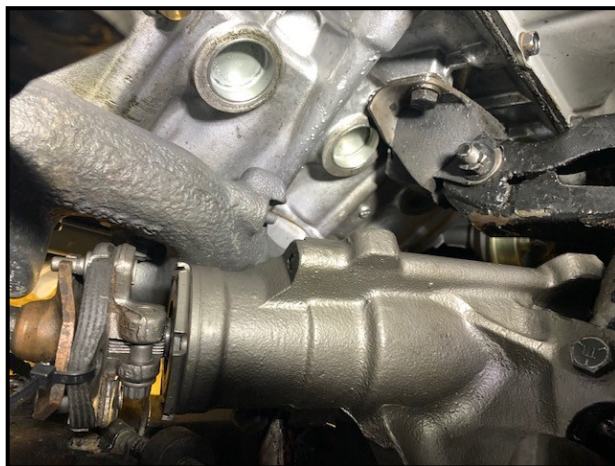


Just a few of Joe's parts cars sacrificing themselves for the good of others. Our Jetfire above recently surrendered the power steering gearbox now in my convertible...

## *'62 F-85 Steering Wheel and Gearbox Replacement*



The original Saginaw steering box to the right, and the refurbished "Jetfire parts car" unit to left, which was rebuilt by PowerSteering.com. Cost was about \$500 with shipping to do the gearbox and pump.



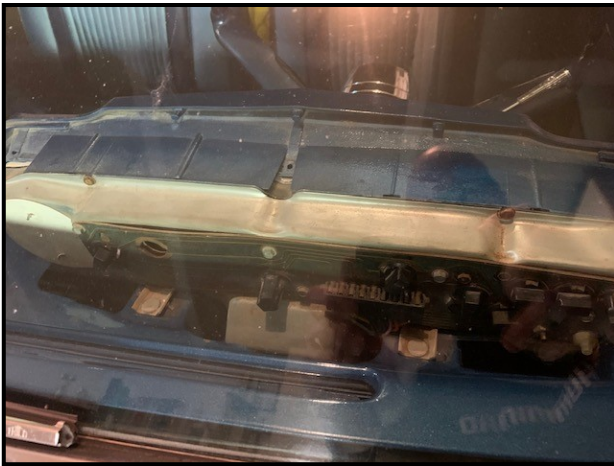
Tight quarters indeed. To install the gearbox with the engine in required dropping the steering column, removing and reinstalling the rag joint, and generally awful wrangling under the car.

Chasing a vibration in my front end the past two winters, I completely rebuilt the steering on my '62 F-85 Sports Convertible with the Jetfire engine. Can't say enough about both the Olds-friendliness and expertise of PowerSteering.com. One terrific upgrade I had done was they "shimmed" the control valve orifice, which reduces the power assist by about 100 psi for a firmer steering feel. Much better. Note to the right my "old" steering wheel, and a common problem of severe cracking. Below is the one I filled, filed, sanded, and painted myself that isn't half bad, considering a "restored" wheel can cost \$800+.



The horn connection on the 62 is pictured. Due to the lack of reproductions for this model, it was necessary to rewire the cap to horn buttons.

## *Twist In LED Bulbs and Turbo Wrap Products*



It's a bit hard to see here, but the nice thing on the '62 is the dash cluster is above the dash. Remove the back and access to all of the bulbs and gauges is easy.



This is the backside of the bulb housing that GM used for many years (same on our '69). They simply twist into the patterned circuit board behind gauges.



Here's a comparison of the original bulb (right) and LED bulb (left) as well as the socket side of the twist in housing. One tip—they only light up inserted one way. LEDs bought at Carlisle.



The Jetfire 215 crossover pipe, like most turbo systems, sends exhaust from one manifold (driver's side) to the turbine, which is piped off the passenger's manifold. You wet Jeg's Header & Exhaust wrap, which is more like a thick fabric, secure with clamps, and then "burn it in" to cure it.



Mike Coxen hooked up CCR at the March meeting in Rockville with chili dogs grilled on his tailgate. Toby Turpin waits for one! We've been holding outdoor club meetings and it's great!

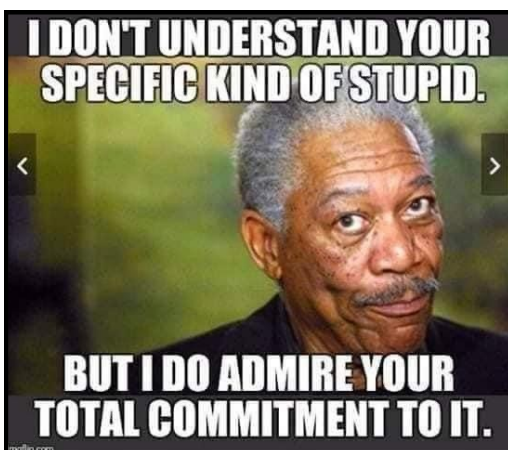


Scott Phillips,  
Editor



I ran into this 75K mile 1989 Cutlass Cruiser Wagon owned by Paul Vickers, an LCPS principal friend of mine, at VA Tire. His teenager drives it, and they love its rear facing back seat.

*smh: Favorite Automotive Memes: Viral Internet Images*



## 2021 Capitol City Rockets Treasurer's Report/Events



Ken Quincy's  
Corner—CCR  
Treasury Report

### CCR FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF April 11, 2021

Balance as of 1-8-21      \$3112.63

**January Income:** \$30 (Dues)

**January Expenses:** \$2.00 (Bank Fees)

Balance as of 2-12-21      \$3140.63

**February Income:** \$270 (Dues)

**February Expenses:** \$0

Balance as of 3-12-21      \$3410.63

**March Income** \$165.00 (Dues)

**March Expenses:** \$0

Balance as of 4-11-2021    \$ 3,575.63

### Proposed Club Calendar/Shows 2021

(all meeting times 12:30 pm)

- **Sun, Apr 18: Spring Dust Off Cruise, 7-9 am, South Riding, VA Dunkin Donuts**
- **Apr 21—25: Spring Carlisle**
- **Sun, May 2: MD meeting (5-9 is Mother's Day)**
- **Sat, May 8: Orphan Car Show/Cruise, Winchester North (VA) Hampton Inn**
- **Sat, May 22: Delaware Valley Olds Club 15th Annual BOPC Show, West Chester, PA**
- **Sat, June 5: 29th Annual Orphan Car Tour, Burkittsville, MD**
- **Sun, June 13: VA meeting**
- **Fri-Sat, June 25-26: GM Carlisle Nationals**
- **Sun, June 27: Allegheny Rockets All GM Show, Canonsburg, PA**
- **Sun, July 11: MD meeting**
- **Tues, Aug 3—Sun Aug 8—OCA Nationals at Embassy Suites Hotel, Murfreesboro, TN.**
- **Sat, Aug 14—All GM Show—proposed site in Ashburn, VA**

# CCR Classifieds

## CLASSIFIEDS :

- ♦ **1968 455 engine** (short block), \$275; C heads \$125; 1971 455 engine, complete, \$650; re-stored set of four 14x7 SS II wheels with bolt-on center caps, no trim rings, \$325. Contact **Owen Griesemer, 240-357-5696.**
- ♦ **1953 Olds 88 2 Door Coupe.** 3 speed manual, frame off restoration, flawless black over yellow paint, impeccable interior, 68,000 original miles, Steve White's AACA Grand National Senior Award Winner. Asking 42K OBO. Contact **Jeff at 757-717-6610 or email JW1962A@gmail** (*ad from last issue, not sure if still available*)



- ♦ **1977 to 1990 Olds custom cruiser wagon parts**—most anything. 703-356-3901 and ask for Dan.
- ♦ Rick Koontz would like to recommend **Pro-Speed Autoworks**—good service, prices, people. 14220 Sullyfield Cir M, Chantilly, VA 20151 (571) 250-5908  
<http://www.prospeedautoworks.com/>

**RON'S CLASSIC CUTLASS**

1964-1987 CUTLASS 442 & H/O PARTS & MEMORABILIA

[WWW.RONSCLASSICCUTLASS.COM](http://WWW.RONSCLASSICCUTLASS.COM)

**POWERSTEERING.COM**  
GEARBOX & PUMP REBUILDERS

**CLASSIC CARS & TRUCKS**  
Show quality detailing available  
Fast ratios for modern steering feel!

**MEDIUM DUTY GEARBOXES & PUMPS**  
**MANUAL GEARBOXES**

**PERSONAL SERVICE • HIGH QUALITY**  
(over for contact information)

- ♦ I'd like to advocate for these two businesses—**Ron's** seems to have what's impossible to find and **PowerSteering.com** is about the best experience I've ever had with a restoration facility in 20 years. Talk to Marty, he's owned an Olds and will work carefully with your steering needs.

<p><b>CUTLASS COUNTRY OF NJ</b> Specializing in 1968-1972 (Parts or Complete Cars Bought &amp; Sold) NICK 908-996-7118 Email: nz442@earthlink.net</p>	<p><b>Roy's Upholstery</b> Roy Potts IV Owner Roy's Upholstery.com Roy'supholsteryinfo@yahoo.com Facebook.com/RaysAutoUpholstery</p>
<p><b>SS &amp; BOB'S QUALITY OLDS PARTS</b> Specializing in: 1964-72 442/Cutlass Original and Reproduction Oldsmobile Parts</p>	<p><b>RevTech Performance</b> Marinos Kakouris 21606 Cedar Lane Unit 190 Sterling, VA 20166 rino@revtechperformance.com 571-313-8949 SH www.revtechperformance.com 703-470-7098 MO</p>
<p><b>Offenhauser</b> products distributed by</p>	<p><b>ROGERS</b> Automotive PERFORMANCE TRANSMISSION SPECIALISTS Wayne Rogers 703.631.4242 18067 Willard Road, Chantilly, VA 20151</p>
<p><b>Pro-Speed Autoworks</b> 14220 Sullyfield Cir M, Chantilly, VA 20151 (571) 250-5908 <a href="http://www.prospeedautoworks.com/">http://www.prospeedautoworks.com/</a></p>	<p><b>Cand C Auto Performance</b> HIGH PERFORMANCE PARTS • ENGINE TRUCK ACCESSORIES MACHINE SHOP SERVICE 8081 CENTREVILLE ROAD MANASSAS, VIRG (703) 368-7878 • METRO (703) 631-1265 • FAX (703) 368-7878</p>

## Capitol City Rockets Club Info and Membership Application

*THE CAPITOL CITY ROCKETS is a chartered chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America, Lansing, MI. Chapter dues are \$15.00 per year. Current OCA membership is required.*

### Chapter Officials

*President.....Joe Padavano  
Vice-President.....Cory Correll  
Treasurer.....Ken Quincy  
Secretary.....Jeff Nieschel  
Newsletter Editor .....Scott Phillips  
.....spbillips16@msn.com*

### Chapter Advisors

*Toronado.....Ask Ken Quincy or Cory Correll  
1961-63 A-Body.....Scott Phillips  
1964-65 A-Body.....Mike Stilwell  
1968-72 A-Body.....Joe Padavano  
1973-77 A-Body.....Gary Sutherlin  
1978-80 A-Body.....Michael Coxen, Joe Padavano*

*Performance V8 Tech Dick Miller Racing, (901) 794-2834  
dmracing1@aol.com*

### Bevan Allen Memorial Service Award Recipient

*2000: Denney Keys  
2001: Michael Coxen  
2002: Mike Stilwell  
2003: Dick Brown  
2004: Cory Correll  
2005: Scott Phillips  
2006: Mike "Hitch" Stilwell  
2010: Joe Padavano  
2013: Gary Sutherlin  
2014: Mike Scott and Margaret Straubinger*

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**CAPITOL CITY ROCKETS**

**CHAPTER OF THE OLDSMOBILE CLUB OF  
AMERICA**

→ NEW

→ RENEWAL

OCA # \_\_\_\_\_ OCA EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**LIST OLDSMOBILES CURRENTLY OWNED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**O.C.A. CHAPTERS AFFILIATED WITH:**

\_\_\_\_\_

### SEND NEW MEMBERSHIPS TO:

**CAPITOL CITY ROCKETS**  
ATTN: NEW MEMBERS  
P.O. Box 4244  
ASHBURN, VA 20148

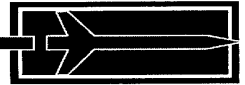
### SEND RENEWALS TO:

**CCR RENEWALS**  
P.O. Box 4244  
ASHBURN, VA 20148

**CCR YEARLY DUES ARE \$15**  
**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**  
**CAPITOL CITY ROCKETS**

**Current Membership in the  
Oldsmobile Club of America is Required**

# Rocket Review



Capitol City Rockets  
P.O. Box 4244  
Ashburn, VA 20148

DO NOT CREASE