

Nov-Mar 2016-17

Capitol City Rockets — Oldsmobile Club of America
2009-14 *Old Cars Weekly* Golden Quill Award winning publication

Scott Phillips—Editor



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The Rocket Review Quarterly

Spring Storm Edition 2017



November 16, 2016 saw the Capitol City Rockets now annual tour of White Post Restorations take place at the WPR facility in Virginia. Pictured are Zaman Khan's '68, Joe Padavano's '62 Deluxe, and Robin Robinson's '62 Starfire, with Ronnie Smith's '71 SX in the background.

President Joe Padavano's Spring Message

Save the Dates!

- **Annual Spring Dust Off Cruise, Sat, April 8, 3-6 pm. Nokesville Burger King.**
- **May Picnic lunch/ cruise to USA Auto Parts in Kearneysville, WV—date/time TBA**
- **CLUB DUES ARE OVERDUE! Please either use the PayPal button on the club website or send \$15 to the club mailbox.**

Spring should just about officially be here by the time you read this – despite winter's last gasp. We're only three weeks from our Dust-Off and the cruise/show season. I'm certainly looking forward to driving my recently-acquired '67 Delta 88 – hopefully to be on the road for the Dust-Off (though upcoming business travel may delay that a little). It always seems like the last 10% of the work takes the other 90% of the time to finish, unfortunately. One of the things that fascinates me about building a new (to me) car is the research into design details and obscure options. For example, who knew that the Tic-Toc-Tach (interestingly, without the usually accompanying gauges) was a factory option on the 1967 Delta 88 line? RPO (Regular Production Option) Y79 was a fairly pricey \$79 option for 1967 and was essentially the same unit used in the

1968-69 Rally Pac in the Cutlass line. It was a one-year-only option for the Delta line, however. I've certainly never seen one in the wild.

There are a number of research resources available to you, many on-line. For example, the website <http://oldcarbrochures.org> has copies of the Salesmen SPECS booklets for most years from 1964-73. These are pocket-sized documents that list all the available options, RPO codes, and prices for each model that year. They are fascinating documentation of exactly what equipment was standard or optional on each model sold in a given year, though you need to be aware of the printing date of the booklet. Some equipment changes were made mid-year and are not captured in early printings. For example, the 1964 booklet was printed before the (cont on next page)

Capitol City Rockets Info

The Capitol City Rockets is the Suburban Maryland, DC, Northern Virginia chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America. The Capitol City Rockets originated in 1989, and is currently operating in its 28th year. We split monthly meetings (currently) between Kilroy's Bar and Grille off the Braddock Road exit of 495 in Northern VA and Branded 72 BBQ in Rockville, with one peer judged show co-hosted each year with the Metro Buick Club. The club currently consists of over 30 members, from Virginia, Maryland, Florida, and 1 each from 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 club rosters to OCA for yearly insurance coverage for our events.

Joe Padavano's Message (Cont)

442 was released in April 64, and thus that option does not appear..

Another valuable document is the Product Information Manual, popularly known as the Assembly Manual. Reprints of these books are available for the A-body cars (Cutlass/442 line) but they were made for all Oldsmobile car lines in a given year. Finding the less popular versions can be a challenge, however. I was fortunate to find a person who had a PIM for the 1967 full size cars. He loaned it to me so I could scan it and have my own copy. These books are made up of the factory engineering drawings that were used to design and assemble the cars, and show details like specific harness and hose routing, shock and spring use, paint and upholstery codes, and engine dress details. These are invaluable for a totally correct restoration.

Of course, if your intent is simply maintenance or rebuild, the Chassis Service Manual and Fisher Body Manual are the two books you must have. These contain all the information needed for routine and not-so-routine maintenance activities, including dimensional specs, torque settings, wiring schematics, and troubleshooting procedures. These should be the first "tools" that you get for your new (old) car acquisition. I strongly recommend getting original paper copies, not reprints or electronic versions. There were no original electronic copies, so all reprints and CDs sold today are scans of original paper copies. Details get lost in that process, especially the fine print on wiring diagrams. Originals are readily available on ebay.

I understand that some people enjoy the hands-on aspect of old car ownership, and some are content to just add gas and drive them. Both are equally valid ways to enjoy old cars, and while those who chose to have others maintain their cars may question the need for these documents, I'd suggest getting them anyway. At a minimum, these count as spirit items for judged shows, and simply paging through them will give you an new appreciation for your car. Also, it can help to be somewhat educated on what your mechanic is telling you – not all mechanics today are that well versed on these older cars. Now let's see those cars out at the various club functions this year.

By: Joe Padavano, CCR President



White Post Restorations Tour—Ronnie Smith

Our annual tour of White Post Restoration (WPR) occurred on November 13th. It was cool and sunny, with no salt on the roads. Around a dozen members met at Mission Barbeque in Winchester for lunch. We arrived at the shop at 12:45 for our 1pm tour. Waiting in parking lot were members of the Cam Jammers car club from Purcellville, Va. They found out from one of our members that we were having a tour and joined us. We now had around 30 people for the tour.

Billy Thompson IV greeted us and would be our guide today. WPR has been in business since 1940. They began by repairing farm machinery before eventually turning to car restoration. Today, after 76 years as a family owned business, WPR is known around the world for high-end classic car restorations. An integral part of their business is restoring brake components, including brake cylinders, master cylinders, calipers, boosters and relining shoes.

Currently, there are 13 vehicles undergoing repairs from minor to full frame-off restorations. These include a 1955 Cadillac, 1977 Land cruiser FJ40, 1960 Cadillac Eldorado, 1958 Impala convertible, 1956 & 1957 Continental Mark II's, 1969 Alfa Romeo Spider, 1967 Jaguar XKE convertible, 1964 Porsche 356C, 1965 Cadillac Fleetwood, 1951 Ford F250, 1927 Studebaker Std 6 and a 1966 Mustang. As you can see, a wide variety of vehicles pass through their shop. Bahrain, Belgium and New Mexico are the final destinations for a few of these vehicles.

Areas of the tour included the machine shop, body shop/spray booths, upholstery and sheet metal shop. They also have a complete automobile woodworking shop, but since no cars were in there, we did not get to tour it. Billy explained the details and history of each of the vehicles and answered member's questions. For any member who has not made this annual event, I would highly recommend it. The tour usually occurs the first or second weekend of November.

Shortly after everyone departed, Harry and Tina Spanos arrived. They are new members to our club who joined in August. Billy was gracious enough to give them the tour of the facility that they had just missed. After their tour was over a friend of mine showed up in the parking lot with his hot air balloon. Balloons regularly use the open area next to the shop for flying. He told me he had some extra space if I wanted to go for a flight. I asked Harry and Tina if they had ever been on a balloon ride and they said no. Hopefully they decided to enjoy the opportunity.



The tour began in the front of the shop, with this stunning two tone 1960 two tone Cadillac Eldorado. Look on the shelf and see the porcelain gas globes.



Billy Thompson IV's specialty is painting, and the tour of the body shop, shown here, is always informative. Looks like the '51 Ford truck bed here.

More White Post Restorations Highlights



This unbelievable 1967 Jaguar XKE with the polished V12 is just about ready to exit the shop this year.



Side by side in the back bays—Lincoln Continental Mark II's. This one just having its engine in



And this one more at completion. It's unusual to see one, but to see a '56 and a '57 side by side was cool.



Last year this 1964 Porsche 356C had just had its floors installed. This year, its getting ready to leave.



This 1927 Studebaker Standard 6 is now a rolling chassis, ready for its drivetrain to drop in.



Guessing this is the short block inline six cylinder for the Stude. WPR takes pride in perfection.



Oh so evident is the care WPR puts into the returning every part to better than factory correct condition.



The Cam Jammers from Purcellville joined in on the fun with the Rockets, with about 30 in all.



It was the end of a really perfect day for mid-November to get the Rockets out and let 'em breathe!

This 1969 Alfa Romeo Spider was just getting started last year, now is in gleaming red paint and awaiting interior work.



Article and Pics by Ronnie Smith

Winter Work—T-10 Trans Rebuild/New Clutch



You can see some of some chatter marks on the clutch disc. While there are no grooves on the billet flywheel, it'll get a nice resurfacing prior to reinstalling the new Centerforce clutch disc and pressure plate. Always had a little trouble getting it into Reverse and First.



A possible culprit for some of the issues with the Borg Warner 4 Wide Ratio 4 speed. Ed Hartnett likes the composition of the Federal Mogul pilot bushing as they tend to be pure brass vs. Chinesium ones that contain traces of iron and can drag on the shaft.

Here's the transmission after its refresh with Ed Hartnett's 4 Speeds. Ed works out of Lansdowne, PA (near Philly) and is a long time fixture at Carlisle and Hershey meets. Having rebuilt this one about 10 years ago, he pretty much re-did it for the cost of his labor. It was leaking a bit, and that was another likely culprit.



By Scott Phillips—Editor



The issue it went in for—grinding going into 4th gear. You can see the darker, stretched brass ring. Trans also got new gaskets, tail seal, speedo bullet, input rollers, syncro keys, tailshaft bushing, and o-rings.



Waiting for install—new 10.5", 10 spline Centerforce Clutch Disc and a new Throwout bearing just as a "might as well." Got it from Jegs along with some 80-90 Brad Penn GL4 Gear Oil. Hoping for a summer '17 debut...

CCR Holiday Luncheon at the Amphora in Vienna, VA

The Capitol City Rockets have always (or most years, since I joined) hosted a Holiday party. Used to be it was held at someone's home, but the turnout was always low that time of year, and a few years ago we decided as a club that we could likely afford a lunch out with members that would like to attend. The Amphora in Vienna, VA was selected due to its central proximity to most of our members, its extensive menu, and, hey, it's close to Ken Quincy, our revered Treasurer!

Each year the attendance has grown, and this year's event on December 11th was no exception. We had a great turnout of over 20 people. There was a lot of car talk, catching up, and general nice holiday spirit shared, and members, friends, and spouses were there to share it together.

The Amphora is a 24 hour restaurant located on West Maple Avenue in the heart of Vienna, has been in business since the late 1960's, and offers a highly diverse

menu, bar, pastries, and even catering. They have a second location in Herndon, and are famous among the late night crowd for being open all night.

The CCR Holiday Luncheon has really become a celebration of each year with friends and associates of the club, and this year was no exception. We hope if you didn't make it this year, you're able to attend next year—same time frame, and very likely, same place!



The Amphora Restaurant in Vienna, Virginia has been the host to what is now an annual Holiday Luncheon for CCR the past three years.

New member Randy Garretson brought his '79 Hurst/Olds. This is from earlier in the fall at Katie's Coffee. Randy got it in Memphis—all original and just replaced the body bushings.



Pictured is Robin Robinson's 1962 Starfire. Robin joined CCR this past year.



Scott Hoffman came as well in his '72 442 Convertible.



OLD SCHOOL (LITERALLY) PRE-CCR

Owen Griesemer shared this circa 1986 photo from the archives of the DC region Olds Performance Chapter. Right to left are: Burt Parker's '69 yellow 442, Mike Furman's '67 442, Norm Hines' two 1968 442's, and Lee Wisswesser's '70 Cutlass Pace Car. The picture was taken in Kensington at Einstein High School.

2017 Capitol City Rockets Calendar/Treasurer's Report



**Ken Quincy's
Corner—CCR
Treasury Report**

Balance as of 12-8-16: \$1738.57

Income: Dues - \$105.00

Total Income: \$105.00

Expenses: Bank Fee - \$2.00

Holiday Luncheon - \$367.31

VA Corporation Registration - \$25.00

Total Expenses: \$394.31

Balance as of 1-7-17: \$1449.26

Income: Dues - \$15.00

Total Income: \$15.00

Expenses: Bank Fee - \$2.00

Total Expenses: \$2.00

Balance as of 2-8-17: \$1462.26

Income: Dues - \$175.00

T-shirt sales: \$10.00

Total Income: \$185.00

Total Expenses: \$0.00

Balance as of 3-8-17: \$1647.26

2017 CCR Calendar Dates

- ♦ Sat, April 8. Annual Spring Dust Off Cruise. 3-6 pm. Nokesville Burger King. We are part of a larger Sat afternoon cruise there. Look for Oldsmobiles and try to park closely.
- ♦ May, TDB. Picnic at Owen Griesemer's in Middletown, MD and tour of USA Auto Parts in Kearneystown, WV.
- ♦ Sunday, June 11th, 12:30 pm—regular meeting at Kilroy's Bar and Grille.
- ♦ Sunday, June 18th—Annual Father's Day show at Sully Plantation (members in attendance usually meet up for lunch at noon by the food trucks).
- ♦ June 21-24, Reading, PA—Annual National Antique Olds Club meet. We'll likely have a small caravan of owners heading up as it's close by.
- ♦ Sunday, July 9th, 12:30 pm—regular meeting at Branded 72 BBQ.
- ♦ July 31—Aug 5, Albuquerque, NM—OCA National Albuquerque Pyramid North Hotel.
- ♦ Sat, Aug 12—Annual All GM Show. 9-3 pm at Montgomery College.
- ♦ Sunday, Sept 10, 12:30 pm—regular meeting at Kilroy's Bar and Grille.

Want to know more about local car cruises and upcoming shows? Check out:
www.capitalcruisin.com

CCR Classifieds

Classified ads are free to chapter members. We take cars, parts, services, anything. Submit your typed or printed ad to the Chapter PO box, marking it ATTN: ROCKET REVIEW, or simply email the editor at sphillips16@msn.com You may run your ad for up to 3 issues at a time. Ads must be resubmitted for reprinting after that time, and please let Scott know if you wish to discontinue the classified ad due to sale of the parts or car.

CLASSIFIEDS :

- The Oldsmobile Club of New Mexico, and the Oldsmobile Club of America would like to take this opportunity to invite you to display a photo of your car in the 2017 OCA National Meet Program Book, for a special rate of \$25.00 (US funds) per photo. Share your Oldsmobile with National Meet participants from around the country! (email Scott for flyer for details at sphillips16@msn.com)
- This year's NAOC (National Antique Olds Club) national meet is in Reading, PA, June 21-24. They do have street stock and modified classes, same as OCA.
- **For Sale:** 1970 W-25 Ram Air hood. Stored properly for years. In excellent condition. No rust in frame. Screen intact. This is an original hood pulled off a 1970 442 (it is Not a reproduction). Price \$2500. Contact Mark Levine at oldslover@gmail.com or 301-379-9368.
- **For Sale:** Engine stand, engine hoist, and large air compressor. See pics below. Mimi Keys (Denney's widow) is selling them. All look to be in terrific condition. Contact Mimi at 202-480-4471 if interested.



\$15 Club dues were due November 1. Please renew to keep receiving the *Rocket Review* and great club benefits!

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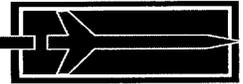
Master Tech

8731 Springs Hollow Rd
Warrenton VA 20186

(540) 351 0233

Frederick442@comcast.net

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

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