

# THE PUGET SOUND ROCKET

## Newsletter of the Puget Sound Olds Club

An Official Chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America

February 2017



The display above at LeMay America's Museum last year featured the "Mother Road, Route 66." In July of this year, the Olds Nationals will take place in Albuquerque, NM. Your editor had the privilege of being a member of the selection team for the 2017 Nationals. While there is not a significant amount of Route 66 still preserved, what remains is a major attraction. Albuquerque is 1440 miles from the Puget Sound Region. If you should decide to make the journey, it would be well worth the drive. The attractions of the Albuquerque area are impressive; a museum preserving buildings from the 16 hundreds (before the pilgrims), the Al Unser Museum, and a balloon museum that displays an outstanding history of ballooning.

The editors of a number of Olds Chapter newsletters in the Western U.S. are suggesting a caravan to Albuquerque for the Nationals. We will bring you more information in coming months. The caravan to the 100<sup>th</sup> Olds Anniversary in Lansing was a lasting memory. Joining fellow Olds members on the road is unforgettable.

**Between the Bumpers**  
Page 3

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Page 10

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
Page 13

**Puget Sound Olds Club  
2017  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**  
Ed Konsmo  
[ekonsmo@msn.com](mailto:ekonsmo@msn.com)  
253-845-2288 home  
253-576-1128 cell

**Vice President**  
Ed Straw  
[ekstraw@comcast.net](mailto:ekstraw@comcast.net)  
425.485-3093

**Secretary**  
Robert Kruse  
[robertkruse@gmail.com](mailto:robertkruse@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**  
Kathi Straw  
[ekstraw@comcast.net](mailto:ekstraw@comcast.net)  
425.485-3093

**Membership Chairpersons**  
Ed & Kathi Straw  
[ekstraw@comcast.net](mailto:ekstraw@comcast.net)  
425-485-3093

**Newsletter Editor**  
Ed Konsmo  
[ekonsmo@msn.com](mailto:ekonsmo@msn.com)  
253.845-2288 home  
253-576-1128 cell

**OCA BOARD MEMBERS**  
PNW Zone Director  
Jamie Cox  
[jamiecox2@shaw.ca](mailto:jamiecox2@shaw.ca)

**PSOC Website:**  
[www.pugetsoundoldsclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundoldsclub.org)

## President's Message

PSOC Members,

On January 7th, the first chapter meeting of 2017 was held at the Plum Delicious Restaurant in Renton with 9 chapter members in attendance. On February 4th, we will hold the second meeting of the year at the Plum Delicious. At our November meeting, the members present voted to hold the first three chapter meetings of 2017 on the first Saturday morning of the month at 11am at the restaurant. We would like to see a greater turnout of members at the February meeting. If you are not familiar with its location, directions are in this newsletter on page 7. Please join us for breakfast or an early lunch. The food is great!

Thru the work of member Jim Edwards, we will be able to park Buicks, Olds and Pontiacs at the Greenwood show on the same block at the 2017 show on June 24. We will be in contact with the Buick and Pontiac clubs requesting their participation. More information will come your way in coming months. Great work, Jim!

**A reminder.** If you have not sent in your 2017 chapter dues, please take the time to complete the form in this newsletter and send it to Kathi. As of the January meeting, only 24 members had renewed.

*See you at the Feb. meeting.*

**Ed Konsmo**  
President

### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE NEWSLETTER:**

Information to be considered for submittal in to the newsletter needs to be received by the 25th of the month. Please send your information as an e-mail or attach it to your e-mail in word document form. If you have problems or questions, call Ed or Pam at 253-845-2288. Please e-mail your submittal to: [ekonsmo@msn.com](mailto:ekonsmo@msn.com)



## “BETWEEN THE BUMPERS” ... By Ed



### Commemorating Oldsmobile's Turnpike Cruisers



CUTLASS SUPREME HOLIDAY COUPE



CUTLASS SUPREME CONVERTIBLE

CUTLASS SUPREME



The following article was written by Thomas A. DeMauro for *Hemmings Classic Car*.

The advent of the Turnpike Cruising Package marked a shift in Oldsmobile's methodology regarding vehicle performance and economy. A September 1967 press release stated that Chief Engineer John Beltz had challenged his staff two years prior to increase fuel economy and usable performance, minimize noise and vibration and reduce exhaust emissions. Accordingly, the resulting 1967 Turnpike Cruising Package was engineered to achieve those goals and thrive at the elevated speeds traveled on the expanding network of modern interstate superhighways without compromising around-town throttle response or comfort.

Oldsmobile bucked conventional thinking of the day by not simply installing a smaller displacement engine. Instead, a 400 was the basis of the \$142.18 Turnpike Cruising Package (coded L66) and the desired improvements in efficiency would be realized by tailoring it to work with a lower-than-was-typical-at-the-time rear gear ratio and the mandatory additional-cost, variable-vane converter equipped, Turbo Hydra-Matic three-speed automatic transmission.

Only available on the Cutlass Supreme sports coupe, holiday coupe and convertible, the L66's 400 was outfitted with a two-barrel carburetor, a mild cam, a 10.5:1 compression ratio which required premium fuel, and dual exhaust. Its cam had 250/264-degrees advertised duration and .435/.435-inch lift with just 36-degrees overlap. By comparison, the cam in the 400-powered 4-4-2 had 286/286-degrees advertised duration, .472/.472-inch lift and 58-degrees overlap. Changing the cam and using the two-barrel carb in place of the 4-4-2's four-barrel, reduced peak horsepower to 300 at 4,600 RPM from 350 at 5,000 RPM. Peak torque decreased to 425-lb.ft. from 440-lb.ft. but it was reached at a much lower 2,600 RPM instead of 3,600 RPM, which moved more torque down in the rev range and satisfied the objective of fostering mid-range torque increases rather than peak horsepower and reducing efficiency-robbing friction.

New Climatic Combustion Control used a valve-and-diaphragm system in the air cleaner assembly to maintain a 100-degrees Fahrenheit carb inlet air temperature by mixing under hood air with preheated air ducted from the exhaust pipe. The consistent temperature allowed for more precise carb tuning than could be achieved when having to compensate for wide variances in inlet air temperature. This resulted in increased fuel economy and lower emissions.

The 4-4-2 suspension with heavy-duty wheels, springs, shocks and front and rear anti-roll bars allowed the Turnpike Cruiser maintain stability and comfort at high speed. In a *Car Life* magazine road test, performance numbers were compared against a 4-4-2. The TC was slower 0-60 at 8.2 seconds versus the 4-4-2's 6.5, and in the quarter-mile it posted a 16.2 E.T. at 86 MPH versus 14.8 at 94 MPH. Let's remember, however, straight-line acceleration wasn't what the Turnpike Cruiser was built for.

*For 1968, the package was moved to the 4-4-2...*

It was built to cruise at high speed comfortably and efficiently and according to the *Car Life* road testers, it did just that, while posting 19.26 MPG at 60 MPH and 17.22 MPG at 70 MPH on the GM Proving Grounds. Unfortunately, mileage figures for the 4-4-2 were not included. It should be noted that the test car had 2.41 rear gears, which is listed in much of the Oldsmobile paperwork I've seen, yet the story stated that 2.56 gears were planned for the production models.

Additional options on the test car included: a UHV Transistorized Ignition; power brakes, windows, steering, seat and antenna; Rocket Rally Pac, vinyl top; tilt wheel; AM/FM radio; rear speaker and lamp-mirror group. A set of 195R-14 radial tires were also installed in place of the standard 7.75 x 14 white stripen nylon-cord tires, but radials were listed as an option for the L66.

*Motor Trend* tested the Turnpike Cruiser alongside a 4-4-2. With the 2.41 rear gear, it was reportedly running at 2,200 RPM at 65 MPH and the 4-4-2 with 3.08s was turning 3,000 RPM. Average fuel consumption for the TC was 15.7-18.1 MPG and for the 4-4-2 it was 12-15 MPG. The Turnpike Cruiser posted a 0-60 time of 8.7 seconds compared to the 4-4-2's 7.1, and a quarter-mile E.T. of 16.5 at 85 MPH versus 15.5 at 91 MPH. Passing times 50-70 MPH were 5.8 seconds for the TC and 4.3 seconds for the 4-4-2. Listed weights were 3,850 lbs. for the 4-4-2 and 3,860 lbs. for the Cutlass.

Both magazines applauded Oldsmobile's concept of pairing a large-displacement torquey engine with the automatic and numerically low rear gears and including the 4-4-2 suspension and other tweaks in the implementation of the Turnpike Cruising Package.

It returned for 1968 under code L65, but was no longer based on the Cutlass Supreme. The Turnpike Cruising Package instead could be specified for the 4-4-2 (\$236.97) or the Vista Cruiser (\$300.16) and it now included the Turbo Hydra-Matic in the price.

The 400-cu.in. engine featured new bore x stroke measurements. The 4.00 x 3.975-inches used in 1967 became a small-bore/long-stroke 3.87 x 4.250-inches for 1968. Potential benefits were to lower emissions, use the same crank as the new 455 engine for the full-size models and increase torque. A lower 9:1 compression ratio allowed new 400 to run on regular fuel. Though the revisions produced less horsepower at 290 at 4,600 RPM, it not only retained 425-lb.ft. of torque, but it peaked an even lower 2,400 RPM. A 2.56 rear was used in the 4-4-2 and 2.56 or possibly the 2.78 was used in the Vista Cruiser—some factory literature lists one and some the other.

The 455 replaced the 425, a new 350 replaced the 330 engine for mid-sized models and Oldsmobile lowered (numerically) the standard rear gear ratios. Climatic Combustion Control was revised and became

## Commemorating Oldsmobile's Turnpike Cruiser continued from page 4

the Combustion Control System and was standard on all Oldsmobiles. The Turbo Hydra-Matic was also updated and no longer used the variable-vane stator.

There was no Turnpike Cruising Package listed for 1969, but for 1970 a 455 two-barrel engine with 320-hp at 4,200 RPM, a massive 500-lb.ft. of torque at just 2,400 RPM and a 10.25:1 compression ratio was included with the Y79 SX Performance Package option on the Cutlass Supreme, and it was optional for other Cutlass models. Standard were 2.56 gears and the Turbo Hydra-Matic transmission was listed as "required." This engine was superseded by the four-barrel 455 partway through the model year, however, and there were no 455 two-barrel dual exhaust engines listed in the dealer brochure for Oldsmobile's mid-sized two-door models for 1971.

Aspects of the forward-thinking Turnpike Cruising Package can still be seen today in modern electronic engine controls that ensure more efficient operation, electronically regulated overdrive transmissions that keep the revs down on the highway, firm standard suspension settings and the lower profile tires of new cars.

Though the Turnpike Cruising Package wasn't runaway sales success when new, Oldsmobiles equipped with it are still remembered sentimentally by their fans today.



CUTLASS SUPREME SPORTS COUPE

29

# Journey with Olds

Salute to Heroes: 1st Responders & Their Oldsmobiles

**Deadline to submit list: Monday, March 27, 2017**

Sample listing below for your convenience in completing the form.

Name	Job Rank	Dates of Service	Area of Service	Oldsmobiles
John Doe	Captain	1987-2002	New York City	1966 442

**TRY A BLODDY MARY!**

# BREAKFAST

## BREAKFAST PLATES

*we use grade AA \*eggs in all our breakfast plates  
(pancakes, muffins or fruit may be substituted for the hashbrowns and toast)*

- \* ALL AMERICAN**  
two eggs, hashbrowns, toast and choice of bacon (4 slices) or sausage (4 links or 2 patties) 10.39  
(turkey sausage also available)
- \* CLASSIC BREAKFAST**  
two eggs, any style, served with hashbrowns and toast 7.99
- \* HOMEMADE CORNED BEEF HASH**  
two eggs and corned beef hash served with hashbrowns and toast 10.99
- \* PORK KIELBASA & EGGS**  
grilled pork kielbasa served with two eggs, hashbrowns and toast 10.99
- \* QUICK START**  
two eggs, two bacon, hashbrowns and toast 9.39
- \* COUNTRY FRIED STEAK**  
delicious tenderized beef steak, served with two eggs, hashbrowns and toast 12.39
- \* PIT HAM STEAK**  
juicy slice of pit ham, served with two eggs, hashbrowns and toast 11.39
- \* T-BONE STEAK**  
sixteen ounce juicy t-bone, served with two eggs, hashbrowns and toast 17.99
- \* SIRLOIN STEAK**  
six ounce, certified angus beef, served with two eggs, hashbrowns and toast 11.99
- \* HAMBURGER STEAK**  
ten ounce hamburger steak grilled to perfection and served with two eggs, hashbrowns and toast 11.99

## Directions to the Plum Delicious Restaurant

From north or south on I-405; At exit 5, take ramp for WA-900 East toward Sunset Blvd NE

Continue up the hill to [3212 NE Sunset Blvd, Renton WA 98056](#) (The restaurant is on the left in front of the Goodwill)

**Happy Birthday to our Chapter Members  
And  
Their Spouses**

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

<b>2</b>	<b>John Haukom</b>	<b>Lacey, WA</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>David Simonson</b>	<b>Milton, WA</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Don Monroe</b>	<b>Tacoma, WA</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Bill Snyder</b>	<b>Monroe, WA</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Bob Bass</b>	<b>Woodinville, WA</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Hugh Russell</b>	<b>Seattle, WA</b>

**2017 CHAPTER MEETING HOSTS \***

*February – No host – Meeting at Plum Delicious*

*March – No host – Meeting at Plum Delicious*

*April – Jim Edwards*

*May – Hugh Russell*

*June – Pam & Ed Konsmo*

*July – Zone Show*

*August – Robert Kruse @ Rhodes River Ranch*

*September – BOP Show*

*October – Ed and Kathi Straw*

*November – Erik Martinson*

*December - Christmas Party*

**\*Host provides refreshments**



## MEMBER NOTES & CHAPTER INFO

This page features notes of interest for and about our members. If you have something interesting to report, please send an e-mail to your editor at [ekonsmo@msn.com](mailto:ekonsmo@msn.com), or call and leave a message, 253-845-2288.

**The following is a note from JWO Editor, Shannon Olson;**

Our first Chapter involved issue will be the May Salute to Heroes: First Responders & Their Oldsmobiles. Just as with the May 2016 Veteran's issue, I am in need of lists of First Responders from each of your Chapters. (Thank you to those Chapters that have already turned in your lists!) Look for the form on page 6 of this newsletter.

Also, if you have First Responders in your Chapter that would like their stories to be featured in this special issue (regardless of their OCA membership), please do send them my way.

Attached you will find a simple sign-up sheet that your Chapters are welcome to use. Any Chapter member (regardless of their OCA membership) that have been, or are Police Officers, Firefighters, EMTs, dispatchers etc. are wanted on your lists. If your Chapter does not have any members who are/have been First Responders, please let me know (I have already heard from two such Chapters). **The deadline to get your Chapter lists to me is March 27, 2017.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**It is time once again to renew chapter dues. You will find a chapter membership form on page 15 in this newsletter. For 2017, dues will remain the same.**

\*\*\*\*\*

# Chapter Meeting Minutes

## OLDSMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA PUGET SOUND CHAPTER

### MINUTES

**January 7, 2017**

President Ed Konsmo convened the meeting at 11:30 am. 9 members were present.

Treasurer Kathi Straw reported that chapter finances are in order.

No minutes to be read. The December meeting was the Annual Christmas Dinner.

#### **Old Business;**

No old business was carried forward.

#### **New Business;**

Treasurer Kathi Straw reported that 24 members have renewed their dues for 2017. A renewal form will continue to be in the newsletter for member's convenience.

The June 24 Greenwood Show was discussed at length. It has been proposed that we contact Buick and Pontiac Clubs to determine if they would like to assemble in the same block at the show as the Olds Club. Greenwood member and PSOC member Jim Edwards will bring up the proposal at the next Greenwood meeting and report back to us.

Hugh Russell gave a brief report about the LeMay America's Museum.

Kathi Straw stated that the chapter did not send donations to charities in December. A motion was made and seconded to send \$25 to each of the five charities that we did in 2016.

The February 4<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting will be at the Plum Delicious Restaurant at 11am.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Submitted by Robert Kruse  
Chapter Secretary

## Swap Meets & Shows to attend in February

**The swap meets and shows are selected based on convenient locations.**

- FEB 4 Tacoma, WA; Caffeine & Gasoline**  
Griot's Garage, 3333 S 38<sup>th</sup> St. Tacoma, WA 98409; 8am; No Adm. Fee;  
No Reg. Fee; 253-922-2400; [info@griotsgarage.com](mailto:info@griotsgarage.com); <http://griotsgarage.com>
- FEB 10-11 Puyallup, WA; 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Corvette & High Performance Swap Meet**  
Washington State Fair Events Center, 110 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Puyallup, WA 98371;  
2pm – 6:30pm; 8am – 4pm; Adm. Fee - \$12; Vendor Fee - \$43 (minimum);  
Corvette & High Performance; 360-786-8844; [lwjohnson@corvettehp.com](mailto:lwjohnson@corvettehp.com);  
[www.corvettehp.com](http://www.corvettehp.com)
- FEB 10-12 Spokane, WA; Spokane International Auto Show**  
Spokane County Fair Grounds and Expo Center, 404 North Havana St, Spokane,  
WA 99202; 10am – 8pm; 9am – 8pm; 10am – 6pm; Adm. Fee - \$7; Seniors/  
Military - \$6; under 12 free; WSECU; [www.visitspokane.com](http://www.visitspokane.com);  
[www.spokaneautoshow.com/](http://www.spokaneautoshow.com/)
- FEB 18-19 Puyallup, WA; Early Bird Swap Meet**  
Washington State Fair Events Center, 110 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Puyallup, WA 98371;  
8am – 5pm; 9am – 3pm; Adm. Fee - \$5; Reg. Fee - \$40; Vendor Fee - \$45;  
Tacoma Model T Club; 253-863-6211; [charlieos@q.com](mailto:charlieos@q.com); [www.earlybirdswap.com](http://www.earlybirdswap.com)
- FEB 19 Hoquiam, WA; Pushrods of Hoquiam Chinese Auction**  
VFW Hall, 105 E Heron St, Aberdeen, WA 98520; 10am – 3pm; Adm. Free; No  
Reg. Fee; Pushrods of Hoquiam; 360-532-1918; [info@pushrods.org](mailto:info@pushrods.org);  
<http://pushrods.org/>

## Future Oldsmobile National Meets and OCA News

**2017 July 18-23; Albuquerque, NM; Hosted by the OCA**

**2018 Gettysburg, PA; Hosted by the OCA**



**\*\*\*\*\* OCA News \*\*\*\*\***

Zone Director Jamie Cox sent to us the link to the new OCA Merchandise site.

Copy and paste the link below into your browser

<https://gm-photo-gifts-com.myshopify.com/collections/oldsmobile-club-of-america-collection>

## CLASSIFIED – For Sale/Leads & Needs

Classified ads are free, unlimited words, within reason. **Ads will ONLY run for three consecutive months unless renewal is requested.** Please submit your classified advertisement in electronic format by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to [ekonsmo@msn.com](mailto:ekonsmo@msn.com).

### FOR SALE:

- **1963 F85**; 20,000 miles on the odometer; Call Jim at 206-618-7641 for price and information. (3)
- **1963 conv** Robert Banks 425-454-2289 Please call for a price. (3)
- **Olds Engine** – 260 V8 rebuilt \$200; Call Raymonde Boatman, 253-223-2507 (2)
- **Olds Delco Radio** – 1994 Cutlass Ciera S radio \$45; [stevenlavoie557@gmail.com](mailto:stevenlavoie557@gmail.com) (2)
- **1969 350 Block, Free to a good home!** Bring your truck and save this engine from the scrap heap! 1969 Olds 350 long-block. Oil pan and original cast iron 4-barrel intake manifold included. Partially disassembled. Will consider any offer. It's just collecting dust in my garage and I'd like to see it go to a good home. Contact: [samandw@gmail.com](mailto:samandw@gmail.com) or 425-210-7040 (3)
- **1970 98 2Dr Hardtop** – 87k, car is in Seattle; Call Brent Biggar 509-860-0261 (3)
- **1972 Cutlass Supreme**; Parked since 1998, some rust. The car is located in Bow, WA; E-mail Jeff Moller at [uwarrior@hotmail.com](mailto:uwarrior@hotmail.com). (1)
- **1982 Toronado** – Needs engine, body good. \$300 - Call Mick Preston, Cell 425-622-8294 (3)
- **1985 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme Brougham** 5.0L V8 4BBL Coupe 2D 49,444 ORIGINAL miles - runs great! Car has always been in the same family. Free AutoCheck Vehicle History Report Interested? Please email [oldsmobilecutlass85@gmail.com](mailto:oldsmobilecutlass85@gmail.com) Car located in Indianola, WA (3)
- **Intake Manifold** for 4 barrel 394 motor. Call Jim Long 360-893-8293 (1)
- **1959 Fiesta Wagon** 4 doors and a hood for sale. Contact at Kathleen Gamble at [snohomishironinc@hotmail.com](mailto:snohomishironinc@hotmail.com) (3)

### NEEDS:

- **Radiator shroud for '57, '58 or '59.** Call Erik (425) 433-6480 (1)
- **Fender skirts, driver's door latch and ash trays for 1973 98;** Hugh Russell 206-524-2785 (1)

- **Bumper jack, Driver's door handle w/key; For 1950 Olds; Call Ken at 206-930-1741 (2)**
- **Power Antenna and the name of a Wonder Bar radio repair person. Call Ed Booth; 253-752-6158 (2)**
- **Gravel guard for 1949 88 Coupe; Call Brian McAdams – Cell, 206-618-8647 (1)**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING ADS:** A number at the end of each listing indicates how many issues of the newsletter that the ad has already run. The ad will run for three months. If you have a **THREE** after your ad, you need to contact us if you wish to renew the ad for following issue.



**OLDSMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA**  
**PUGET SOUND CHAPTER**

**2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Check here if this is an address change

HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAY \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAY \_\_\_\_\_

**\$15.00 annual dues payable. Make checks payable to Puget Sound Chapter and mail to:**

**Kathi Straw  
PSOC Membership Chairperson  
P.O. Box 82042  
Kenmore, WA 98028**

**Please assist us in updating our roster by listing your current Oldsmobile(s) below:**

1) YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR \_\_\_\_\_

2) YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR \_\_\_\_\_

3) YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR \_\_\_\_\_

4) YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print this form and mail to Kathi**

## Parting shot...



**If this crew could detail your car for the next show...wouldn't that be great!**