



# ***Puget Sound Rocket***

***Newsletter of the Puget Sound Olds Club  
Official Chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America***

January-February 2024

**Puget Sound Olds Club  
2024  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**

Ed Straw

[ekstraw@comcast.net](mailto:ekstraw@comcast.net)

425-485-3093

**Vice President**

Position open

**Secretary**

This position is open

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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

[ekonsmo36@gmail.com](mailto:ekonsmo36@gmail.com)

253-845-2288 home

253-576-1128 cell

**OCA BOARD MEMBERS**

**PNW Zone Directors**

**Cole Irving**

[Cole.irving@hotmail.com](mailto:Cole.irving@hotmail.com)



**The end of an Era!** The Triple XXX Root Beer Drive-In has closed. Read the complete story on page five of this newsletter.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*Hello Olds Club Members,*

*Hope your holidays were happy and everything is well with you. I had a nice Christmas. Is your car nice and cozy for the winter?*

*We have reserved Edmonds Francis Anderson for our Annual Car Show for July 13th, 2024, 10:00 -2:00. Be sure to mark calendar now so we can have a good showing of cars.*

*A big thank you to our editor, Ed Konsmo, for our outstanding newsletter and stepping up to continue to do the job. If you think you might want to take over for him, let him know.*

*Received an email about Erik Martinson cars for sale. Please check ads section for information.*

*Did you hear that the Triple XXX restaurant was sold? Jose retired and the new owner told him to take all his memorabilia. So, no more cars shows.*

Ed Straw  
President  
425-485-3093

*Member Birthdays, Etc.*

*January*

*9 Shirley Repp*

*17 James Huber*

*24 Leonard Barlow*

*25 Ed Konsmo*

*February*

*21 Janet Cathcart*

*21 Peter Simpson*



**Editorial**

The calendar has turned to another year. Happy New Year to all our chapter members and their families.

One of the challenges for 2024 is to breathe life back into the Puget Sound Olds Chapter. It seems that attending events sponsored by the chapter is not a very high priority among Olds owners in the Puget Sound area. For those receiving this newsletter who have not attended an event in the last two or three years, would please let us know why. You can simply respond to this newsletter mailing or send an email to Ed Straw at [ekstraw@comcast.net](mailto:ekstraw@comcast.net). Your response will be very helpful in planning future events, at this time, there is only one show scheduled for 2024 and that is the annual Zone Show in July in Edmonds.

At one time, we had close to 100 cars at the Zone Show. While we know that is no longer possible, more than the 20 that showed in 2023 would be great in 2024.

*Chapter Editor*



*Photos from Holiday Events*

*Canadian Olds Group Brunch*





## ***BETWEEN THE BUMPERS***



### 5 Cars That Made Oldsmobile Great (5 That Ruined It)



Oldsmobile used to be one of General Motors' most prolific subdivisions back in its heyday. Today, however, it will only come up in the minds of muscle car enthusiasts, older gearheads, and people looking up ancient history of the automobile industry. It was April 29, 2004, when the Lansing Car Assembly plant in Michigan made the last Oldsmobile car, signifying the end of a motor vehicle brand 107 years old

With a history this long, it naturally had some crazy ups and downs. There were some cars that came together and essentially defined what the name Oldsmobile stood for and are some of the best cars in history.

Whereas a few cars ended up tipping the scales toward GM shutting down Oldsmobile for the foreseeable future. While there are still people who'd rather GM keep Oldsmobile alive, GM had to shut it down due to its unprofitability. Today, a restomod or a revival project is about as close as we can get to a new Oldsmobile, but we can always look at some of the best and worst the classic automaker had to offer. □

#### **Made Oldsmobile Great: 1983 Cutlass Supreme Hurst**

The 1983 Cutlass Supreme is not a contender for the most powerful or the most gorgeous car by a long shot, but it had a certain charm to it, especially when it is wrapped in black. It had a 5.0-liter V8 that made 180 hp and 245 lb-ft of torque. But the Lightning Rod shifter was marvelous and elevated the car's performance.

The car can do 0-60 mph in less than 8 seconds. Add in the fact that Oldsmobile only made 6,500 units of this one, and you'll find it to be an awesome collector's car that will keep the Oldsmobile name alive for many years to come.

#### **Ruined It: 1982 Firenza**

If you remember the Chevrolet Cavalier, you know that it's one of the worst cars the brand has ever produced. The Firenza is basically the result of a tarted-up Cavalier. It's got an even weaker engine than the Cavalier's inline-4, and its body was somehow more prone to rust.

Even reliability was not passable, and yet, Oldsmobile charged a high price for the Firenza. It made little to no profit, and Oldsmobile had to scrap the Firenza after just 6 years.

**Article continued on next page.**

### **Made Oldsmobile Great: 1961 Starfire**

Starfire started out as the name of convertible trims of '50s Oldsmobile cars, kinda like 'Spider'. But after a couple of years, Oldsmobile named a standalone model after Starfire, and it's been forever linked as one of the best and finest cars from the classic automaker. But, keeping the tradition alive with the name, the 1961 Starfire was only sold as a convertible.

It was also the first American full-sized mass-market car to offer an automatic transmission with a floor shifter. The Starfire was features galore with leather seats, a tachometer, and power steering. It was the costliest Oldsmobile when it came out, but also one of the most awesome to look at.

### **Ruined It: 1982 Omega**

Two words: 'Iron Duke'. The Omega, judging by the name, was going to be the sports car to end all sports cars in the '80s. But as we can see just by the looks of it, and the fact that non-owners don't remember it properly today, it wasn't such a threat to the '80s stars like the Buick GNX and the E30 BMW M3.

As if that wasn't enough, GM's decision to use the infamous Iron Duke engine for the Omega made sure it would be occasionally present in future conversations, but not among the good ones. The Omega did live up to its name, though, as it was the final car to have the X-body-Iron Duke combo before GM took the wise decision to end it.

### **Made Oldsmobile Great: 1949 Rocket 88**

All muscle car fanatics out there should really thank the Rocket 88, as it was basically the first true muscle car in history. Oldsmobile took some inspiration from the Hot Rod market but went the other way with the design of the body. The Rocket V8 engine was wild and energetic enough to give its name justice, whereas the body was elegant and classy enough to give it the longevity and timelessness that it deserves. Also, we have this car to thank for all the Hellcats, ZL1s, and Boss 302s we enjoy today.

### **Ruined It: 1986-92 Toronado**

Everyone loves Jaws (1975), but very few would defend its sequels, which did not retain any of the good things that made the original so great. Similarly, the original Toronado was a phenomenal car from Oldsmobile. But somehow, they decided to downsize it and take things in a new direction for the 1986 - 1992 model.

The muscular body was gone in favor of a more conventional look, the headlight design was changed for the worse, and the 7.0-liter V8 was no longer under its hood. It may have been an okay car on its own, but carrying the legacy of the original Toronado was not something it did successfully. We can only say, if it ain't broke.

### **Made Oldsmobile Great: 1968 Hurst Olds**

There was a 6.55-liter engine size limit for GM in the 1960s. To get around it, they partnered with independent businesses to give us what we want. Some of the best results of this workaround were the ageless Yenko Camaro and the '68 Hurst Olds. Oldsmobile would partially deconstruct the 442 and send it to Hurst, where, they would install a 7.45-liter V8 that makes 390 hp. This car was one of the proofs that Oldsmobile would put the customers over them and find out a way to give us one of the best muscle cars in history.

### **Ruined It: 1975-80 Starfire**

As great as the 1961 Starfire was, some of the later models bearing the name were nothing like it. The original Starfire was a luxury powerhouse with a beautiful body. When Oldsmobile revived the Starfire name back in 1975, people were excited to see the glorious car return.

But what we got was the underpowered and horrible-to-drive Chevy Monza with an Oldsmobile badge. We have seen automobile manufacturers take the shortcut and bank on a discontinued model's popularity and use its name for a new car many times, but this was one of the worst examples.

### **Made Oldsmobile Great: 1966-70 442 W30**

The Oldsmobile 442 models that came with the W30 package were pretty fast muscle cars thanks to powerful engines of 6.5 liters, or even bigger. Oldsmobile had nailed the design of the 442 by the mid-'60s, so they all looked badass. And then there are the engines. The one in 1966 442 W30 made 350 hp, while it was 380 hp for the '68. They all had air intakes visible on the outside, like ram air hoods with tubes running down the front bumpers to the carb. These things rocked and came close to going head-to-head with segment leaders.

### **Ruined It: 2001-03 Aurora**

After noticing early signs of the beginning of the end close by, Oldsmobile put some effort into the Aurora, which had a sleek design, some racing accolades, and the Northstar V8 engine. While the engine was a bit problematic, at least it was a proper V8. But the second-generation Aurora ditched the sleek and sporty looks for a bloated sedan appearance, marketed poorly, and the performance wasn't as good as the competition.

Story by Ramya Shah

## Issaquah's Triple XXX Root Beer Drive-In closes its doors after 55 years.



ISSAQUAH, Wash. — Issaquah's Triple XXX Root Beer Drive-In announced its closure just hours before ending operations for good on Nov. 29.

The drive-in, located at 98 NE Gilman Boulevard, sold for an undisclosed amount, according to Glenn Combs, who represented the seller. The sale closes Dec. 1. A sign on the door announced the beloved spot would close on Wednesday.

"We thank you for the many happy years of serving you," the sign, posted by management, reads. "We have retired!!!"

The new owners are a group from Issaquah that has long ties to the community, Combs said. The group is still deciding what to do with the property.

XXX Root Beer Drive-In opened in 1968, according to the restaurant's website. The drive-in is known for its comically large portions of 1950s-style diner favorites, including giant XXX burgers, "Why did the chicken cross I-90?" entrees and, of course, root beer floats and milkshakes.

The vintage-inspired restaurant was purchased in March 1999 by Jose Enciso and his wife, according to its website.

The owner's son, Jose Enciso, Jr., said he came to the restaurant with his kids on Wednesday to enjoy a last meal, say goodbye to his dad and reminisce. Then, the crowds kept coming.

"It got to the point where we had to get up and punch in, throw on a T-shirt," said Enciso, Jr. While he was here to eat dinner, he ended up working through the night.

"But it's good, I wouldn't have had it any other way the last night being here," he said. "To come together as a family again and deliver to our community."



**CAR SHOWS & SWAP MEETS - JANUARY-FEBRUARY**

- JAN 6** Tacoma, WA; Caffeine & Gasoline - First Saturday of Every Month.  
*First Saturday of every month. Hot coffee and donuts if you get there early.*  
Griots Garage & Events Center, 3333 S. 38th St, Tacoma, WA 98409  
8am - 10 am; Adm. Free; 800-345-5789; [customerservice@griotsgarage.com](mailto:customerservice@griotsgarage.com)
- JAN 11** Warren, OR; Highway 30 Cruisers Monthly Meeting  
*Meets second Thursday of each month.* Warren Country Inn, 56575 Columbia River Highway. Warren, OR 97053; 5:30-7:30pm; Adm. Free; Highway 30 Cruisers; [HW30cruiser@gmail.com](mailto:HW30cruiser@gmail.com)
- FEB 3** Tacoma, WA; Caffeine & Gasoline - First Saturday of Very Month  
*First Saturday of every month. Hot coffee and donuts if you get there early.*  
First Saturday of every month. Hot coffee and donuts if you get there early.  
Griots Garage & Events Center, 3333 S. 38th St, Tacoma, WA 98409  
8am - 10 am; Adm. Free; 800-345-5789; [customerservice@griotsgarage.com](mailto:customerservice@griotsgarage.com)
- FEB 10** Kent, WA; 5<sup>th</sup> Annual All Motorsports Swap Meet  
On the tarmac at Pacific Raceways; rain or shine.  
Pacific Raceways, 31001 144<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Kent, WA 97301; 9am-5pm;  
Adm. Fee \$12 online, \$15 at the gate; Vendor Fee 55\$; Pacific Raceways  
253-639-5937; [dianah@pacificraceways.com](mailto:dianah@pacificraceways.com)
- FEB 16-18** Puyallup, WA; Early Bird Swap Meet  
*Buy "Sell" Trade Cars, Bikes, Trucks & Boats, Parts/Projects, Antiques & Collections and Car Corral;* Washington State Fairgrounds, 110 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Puyallup WA 98071; 10am-6pm; 8am-5pm; 9am-3pm; Adm. \$10; Reg. Fee \$45; Silver Dollar Pub; 253-318-6385; [Admin@silverdollarpub.com](mailto:Admin@silverdollarpub.com)
- FEB 22-25** Portland, OR; Portland International Auto Show  
Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE MLK Jr. Blvd, Portland OR 97232  
10am-10pm; Adm. \$15; Reduced Adm. \$8-12; Vendor Fee \$1250+  
Oregon Auto Dealers Association; 503-233-5044; [info@oregonautodealers.org](mailto:info@oregonautodealers.org)



**Future Oldsmobile National Meets**  
2024 July 24-27 Springfield, MO  
Hotel info to be announced.



A row of Hurst Olds pictured at the 2019 Nationals in Wichita

**Membership Application**  
**OLDSMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA**  
*PUGET SOUND CHAPTER*  
**2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**\$20.00 annual dues payable. Please make check payable to Puget Sound Olds Chapter and mail to:**

**Puget Sound Olds Club**  
**9113 NE 179<sup>th</sup> Place**  
**Bothell, WA 98011**

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 \_\_\_\_\_





# CLASSIFIEDS

**Classified ads are free, unlimited words, within reason. IF YOU HAVE SOLD YOUR CAR OR ITEM, PLEASE LET US KNOW. Please submit your classified advertisement in electronic format by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to [ekonsmo36@gmail.com](mailto:ekonsmo36@gmail.com).**

## FOR SALE:

**1949 Sedan** - In running condition. \$25,000 OBO. Call Erika at 509-659-1757.

**Offered at a reduced price of \$56,999.** Call Ed Konsmo for more details and photos. 253-576-1128

**1950 Oldsmobile sedan delivery**...custom built in Memphis, TN; interior completed by a custom upholstery shop in New Orleans, LA. **No, Olds did not build this car.** Olds' last sedan delivery was in 1934. **Firm price \$47,800.** Don Bougher, [memoryshelf558@gmail.com](mailto:memoryshelf558@gmail.com), 503-393-4500, Keizer, OR.



**1953 Oldsmobile Super 88** – Settling Estate. Contact Kevin Lee 303-513-7607. Price reduced to \$22,500. The car is Located in Arvada. CO



**1958 88 Holiday 4dr** - A driving car \$16,000 Larry 206-779-8764

**1963 F85 Cutlass Conv.** – Okay condition, runs great. **PRICE REDUCED!** \$11,000 – Call Bruce Lyle 360-799-1717 Another Cutlass for sale – motor frozen \$3900

**1966 Toronado** – Great condition, \$3,000. Call Jim Long 360-893-8293. Jim also has two 1970 Toronados, \$2,000 each or best offer.

**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 Auto Check Vehicle History Report. Interested? Please email [oldsmobilecutlass85@gmail.com](mailto:oldsmobilecutlass85@gmail.com) Car located in Indianola, WA.

We will gladly include a photo of your car in your ad in the classifieds. Simply e-mail a photo to [ekonsmo36@gmail.com](mailto:ekonsmo36@gmail.com) and we will include the photo with your ad. If you still have your car for sale in this issue, send us a photo and we will include it with the ad next mont

## NEEDS and LEADS:

**NEED** – Wheel rims for 1976/1977 Cutlass Supreme – Call Mike Challenger 425-753-3368

**NEED** – 1936 – 6 Cylinder engine parts – 213 CI; Frank Geyer 206-949-9087

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**NEED** – 1936 – 6 Cylinder engine parts – 213 CI; Frank Geyer 206-949-9087

**LEAD** - Olds 15" wheels -two ways. First set - Four powder coated with standard wheel covers \$160. Second set - Unpainted with either standard covers or dog dish \$150. Have four minimum mileage Coker 2-1/2" white for \$200. You pick up and inspect in Tacoma. Don Monroe 253-566-8488

**LEAD** – 1973 442 – This is a car that was used as a donor car for another restoration. Still has rust free body panels. Interior panels and dash are excellent. \$500. Call Gus at 206-571-3804.

**NEED – 1967 442** Both F/H & R/H lower rocker molding, chrome (pot metal) that runs along the bottom rear fender from the rear wheel to the rear bumper (approx. 30" X 2"). Also, the front L/H (driver side) side grill cover that goes on the kick panel (non-A/C car). Any help would be greatly appreciated. Dave Lyle 360-678-6546

**NEED - 1970-1972 442, W30, W31, SX conv. or hardtop – OCA and PSOC club member looking for true collector car. The more original and documented the better. Prefer numbers matching.**

**Any condition – from restorable car to showroom condition.**

**Also looking for NOS or used parts for these cars.**

**John Bumb, St. Louis, Mo. (314) 713-3444 or email me at [jbc3735@gmail.com](mailto:jbc3735@gmail.com)**

**OCA and PSOC club member looking for NOS or used parts for 1970-1972 442, W30, W31, SX conv. or hardtop.**

**John Bumb, St. Louis, Mo. (314) 713-3444.**

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## Parting Shot

December 1926

The Ladies' HOME JOURNAL

77



Product of GENERAL MOTORS  
**OLDSMOBILE SIX**