

# It's All About the NUMBERS.....

By Judy Badgley

and the final

“Tail” of

## HURSTY THE ALLIGATOR

(Mascot of the Hurst/Olds Club of America)

Hursty is retiring. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend a national meet, you may not know who Hursty is. This article will change all of that!

Hursty the alligator has been the mascot of the H/OCA since 1990. He began his “job” by being the long distance award won by former members Steve and Ruth LaCoe at a small car show in Lansing, Michigan. Hursty is a 2 ½' green alligator piñata. LaCoe's had already left, so Doug Badgley volunteered to take it to them at the upcoming H/OCA National Meet. And so began his journey.

The alligator was delivered to LaCoes in Hazleton, Pennsylvania at our Poconos show. Steve decided he didn't want the “gator”. Meanwhile there had been some concern that members Jerry and Linda Korff had not arrived as they had left for the meet quite early. It turned out they had taken the scenic route and were just fine. Steve decided to present the alligator to Korff's as a navigational tool to guide them on their travels. At the awards banquet Steve named the alligator “Hursty” and made the presentation. The presentation was so dramatic, the group decided the new mascot should be a traveling award that would be presented to someone different at each National meet.

Korff's took Hursty back home with them to southern Indiana, with a promise to bring him to the next meet in Springfield, Missouri.



Hursty at Jerry & Linda Korff's in Indiana

That was the beginning of a journey that took Hursty nearly 20,000 miles in 17 years. He lived in 9 different states with 16 different caretakers. (Korff's received him in both 1990 and in 2002). His travels took him through 19 states and portions of Canada. He married “Oldsa” (a stuffed alligator) and with her had a baby alligator “Doc”.

Here is a quick rundown of Hursty's adventures:

**1991-** presented to Cyndi and Duane Wolfgang. Duane had volunteered to be our new editor and Cyndi had her fingernails painted with the Club logo.

**1992-** presented to Eldon Wheaton for feeding Hursty cake during the banquet.

**1993-** presented to Larry & Linda Mitchell of Ohio for spending their honeymoon at the National meet.

**1994-** John Zimmer brought his 1974 H/O model car to the

National meet instead of his “real” car (it looked like rain).

**1995-** presented to Tommy Wright who was celebrating his birthday. Linda Vaughn sang “Happy birthday” to him.



Tom Wright, Linda Vaughn & Jon Wessel

**1996-** presented to Kent Kirchner for his annual National meet t-shirt autographing.

**1997-** presented to Calvin Badgley who had just paid a very high price at the Museum auction for an authentic 1974 Indy jacket.

**1998-** presented to Bruce Whitaker for arriving at the Kansas meet as a warlock, (Wizard of Oz).

**1999-** presented to Dan Davis for being the original owner of the 1969 H/O he brought to the meet.

**2000-** presented to Joe Brickner for bringing his Trans Am to the meet instead of his 83 H/O.



Sharon & Joe Brickner

**2001-** presented to Jim Jacobs for pulling off the side of the road for a “pretend” cop, while caravanning with the group to the meet.

**2002-** presented to Jerry and Linda Korff for the most hotel room changes during the show.

**2003-** presented to Jim McCann for installing the pace car decal set to his 72 H/O in the parking ramp at the meet.

**2004-** Presented to Bob Lewezak for FINALLY bringing his 74 H/O to the meet.

**2005-** Presented to Doug Emmons for his fine job of escorting Linda Vaughn during the meet.

**2006-** presented to Wes Worsham for joining the H/OCA to find a wife.

**2007-** The 23<sup>rd</sup> National meet held last year in Niagara Falls, New York, the officers decided it was time for Hursty to retire. The traveling was taking a toll on him and he had served the Club loyally for many years. Hursty was presented to Judy Badgley, co-founder of the Club.

Hursty will be enjoying his retirement years in the Oldsmobile Museum of Doug and Judy. They have their large collection of Oldsmobilia on display in the upstairs of their home. Hursty has a prime location with the Hurst/Olds display.



Hursty resting in the “Hurst/Olds” display Hursty wishes to thank the members for the fond memories he has collected during his active years. He hopes you will stop by and say “hi” if you are in the area. He also reminds you to enjoy and have fun with your Hurst/Olds.

Now for the rest of the NUMBERS. You already know how many miles Hursty traveled and how many caretakers he had. Now here is the H/O’s he took care of: 1-69; 1-72; 3-74’s (1 Delta); 1-75; 1-78 Prototype; 2-79’s; 5-83’s; 2-84’s; and 1-88 Aero. No 68 and no 73. Hmmmm, Maybe he retired a little bit too soon!.