

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

By Judy Badgley

You are invited to attend the  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party  
of the  
Hurst/Olds Club of America  
Saturday, October 4, 2008  
1-4pm  
at the R. E. Olds Museum  
Lansing, MI

The details of this party are in the last paragraph of this article. I hope you will take time to read about the history of our Club AND to join us to celebrate 25 fantastic years.

The Hurst/Olds Club of America was formed September 4, 1983. The R. E. Olds Museum held an annual car show on Labor Day weekend and this was the location of our organizational meet.

Doug and Judy Badgley handed out literature at car shows for nearly a year to Hurst/Olds enthusiasts. A surge in interest in these cars had immersed because of the introduction of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition Hurst/Olds. They placed ads in magazines as well. Many people were calling or writing to show support for a car club designated for Hurst/Olds enthusiasts.

There were 18 Hurst/Olds that were on display in the car show at the R. E. Olds Museum that Labor Day weekend. They came from as far as Wisconsin and North Carolina. Some interested enthusiasts came

without a car to find out about the new organization. As I recall, there were 5) 1968 H/O's on display that day. There were also examples of the NEW 1983 H/O.

A meeting was held during the car show and 16 people signed on to form a new car club. The Club was formed as a Chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America and a name was decided. These 16 members became the Charter members of the *Hurst/Olds Club of America*.

The new group quickly decided on a structure for the Club. Bylaws were outlined and 4 officers were elected: Director, Judy Badgley; Editor (Vice Director), Wayne Mason; Secretary, Lois (Morris) Janetzke; and Treasurer, Jim Carlson. The annual dues were set at \$5 plus membership in the parent club, Oldsmobile Club of America.

Our first "printing" as a Club was a notice of formation and an invitation to join for all of those people that had expressed interest, but were unable to attend the car show and organizational meeting. A membership application was included.

By the end of 1983, we had 41 members of the Hurst/Olds Club of America representing 15 states. The first official newsletter was sent in January 1984. It was 4 pages and had no name. A contest to "name the newsletter" was included in the mailing.

By the end of 1 year, our Club had grown by nearly 500%, to a solid membership of 76. Dues was increased to \$7.50 to accommodate a more frequent mailing of the newsletter. The newsletter had grown from 4 pages to 8 pages and had added a lot of interesting information.



Many things have changed since that Labor Day weekend in 1983. The Club has grown in size to a current base of over 500 members. We currently have members in 46 states and 4 countries. Our newsletter has grown in size to 16 pages published 6 times a year. We have added more H/O's (1984) plus the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition and the Hurst/ Olds Aero cars. Many 1-of-a-kind H/O's have surfaced and been preserved. This is all due to the enthusiasm of our members.

Our first international member joined in November of 1984. Graeme and Jeanette Dennis of Australia became member number 88 of our group. They have a 1972 H/O. Australia drives on the left side of the road and at that time ALL cars had to be right-hand drive if they were to be driven. Graeme sent several articles about the process of converting the H/O. By the time the hard work was done in the conversion, Australia changed the laws and exempted cars of a certain age! In 1991 Graeme and Jeanette traveled to the USA and attended our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual meet held in Springfield, Missouri and hosted by Jon Wessel.

In 2000 a National Hurst/Olds Day was established. The date was selected as the date the first 1968 production car was completed and ready to ship. This date was May 24, 1968. We contacted President Bill Clinton to have the day declared "officially" but found out our request didn't meet the criteria. We decided to make it official ourselves and the date was established. We use the weekend closest to that date and prior to Memorial Day weekend as the day we celebrate. This is a very special way to celebrate the creation of our special cars, by having everybody get out and show off their car.



2004 H/O Day and Doc Watson

During this 25 years, we have had opportunities as a group to meet some of the finest people and share some amazing experiences at world famous racetracks

and tourist sites in the USA. Doc Watson (creator of the Hurst/Olds) and his family have been active in our Club since 1987 and attended their first national meet in Ohio, 1988. Linda Vaughn came to us in 1993 and attended her first meet at Indy in 1994. Those of us that have taken advantage of these opportunities have been enriched.



Linda Vaughn at Indy 2004

On October 5, we will be celebrating the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the H/OCA**, at the place where it all started, the R. E. Olds Museum, 240 Museum Dr., Lansing, MI 48933. You are invited to attend with or without your Hurst/Olds. We are hosting a potluck dinner and you are asked to bring a dish to pass and your own table service and beverage (no alcohol).

There will be a special "thank you" for those attending. We would like to be able to plan for everyone, so **please** let us know if you will be coming. Call Lois at 517-675-5428 by September 28, 2008 to make your reservation. If you need hotel rooms for an overnight stay, we have blocked rooms at the Comfort Inn and Suites Hotel at 9742 Woodlane Dr., Lansing, MI, 517-721-0000. A rate of \$79 + taxes has been guaranteed if you tell them you with the H/OCA. Rooms must be reserved by September 14, 2008 to get this discount.

We look forward to celebrating this occasion with all of you.