

## 1978 Oldsmobile Cutlass



The Cutlass –my dad called it the “gutless” for its poor weight to horsepower ratio. I can’t remember much of the specs on this one, except that it had swivel, yes swivel front seats. The original design called for the seats to swivel out to allow the driver and front passenger to more easily embark and disembark the ship. The idea was that two electromechanical interlocks would engage when the car was placed in ‘drive’, holding the chairs steady. In reality, mine did not work. You don’t realize how much you use your butt to gauge the motion of your car until your seat sways gently back and forth while you drive. There is a direct seat-to-hand connection that causes you to make minute corrections to the steering wheel. When this data chain is broken (because you are levitating in the cockpit) the car requires your undivided attention.

The only other feature I remember is that my Cutlass had sidewinder exhaust pipes that stuck out just between the doors and the rear wheels. Johanna will remember a blazing hot day on US 31 when I hit what at first appeared to be a bag of trash on the road. It popped on impact, followed by the sound of wet spaghetti being poured on a floor. A horrid smell ensued. A glance in the side mirror revealed that I was trailing perhaps 15 feet of road kill from my red-hot sidewinders – and it would not come off. Imagine us laughing to the point of tears, swerving wildly back and forth trying to break it free, bucket seats swinging round and round all the while. For once, it was not gutless.

Like the Nova, I have no recollection of what I did with this car.