



# *Mass Cruisers Auto Club*

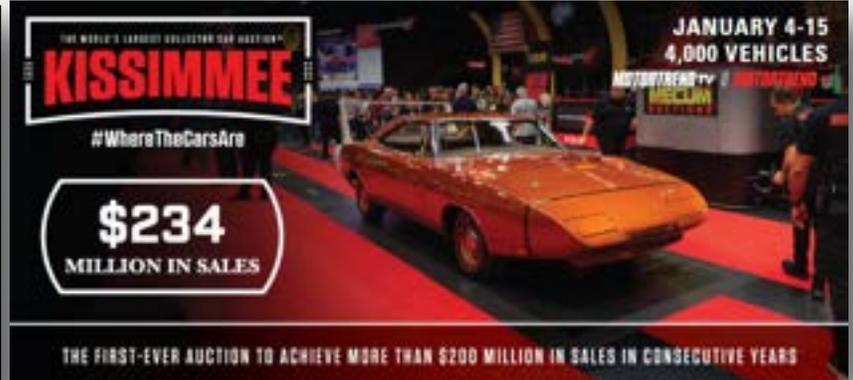
## *February 2023*



**Donald A. (Don) Cole March 1, 1944—January 6, 2023**

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*Celebrating 32 Years of Cruisin'*  
*Volume 32 Issue 2*

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Facebook and Instagram

Contact us by snail mail:  
P.O. Box 217, Wrentham, MA 02093  
Or by email: HO350@comcast.net



2023 Monthly Business meetings are usually held in the Bass Pro Shops Conservation Room on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Visitors, guests and those interested in joining the Mass Cruisers Auto Club are welcome to attend one of these monthly meetings.

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## Board Musings

By Your Board of Directors



We kicked off January 2023 32nd Annual Business Meeting in the Bass Pro Shops Conservation Room with an outstanding buffet spread by Choice Catering from Bellingham. For the first time we invited our Bass Pro Shops Major Sponsors to attend and receive the club's Thank You plaques. Another feature at this annual meeting was when the "2022 Cruiser of the Year" is announced by the previous "2021 Cruiser of the Year" honoree, John Ricker. The tradition began in 2004 following the 2003 unexpected death of fellow club member Jimmy Veglia whose family would select a vehicle they thought Jimmy would like to own and present the owner with a beautifully crafted trophy. They also presented the club with a \$100 gift card which the Board of Directors determined would best be used to recognize and honor a club member at the club's annual business meeting in January as the "Cruiser of the Year". The Veglia family continued their tradition for 10 years when the club took on continuing the tradition as a regular part of our yearly annual meeting. Tradition, also practiced, is that honor can only be received once and the honoree is kept a secret right up to the moment of announcement at our annual meeting when a totally surprised John Griffin was called up front to receive the 2022 recognition by John Ricker. As the years rolled on, the club's memorial plaque was filled with last year's honoree John, so the plaque was sent to Rainbow Creations to be rebuilt with enough room for holding 16 more honoree names. Look for the new plaque to be hanging on the club trailer in April.



2021 Cruiser of the Year John Ricker selects 2022 Cruiser of the Year honoree John Griffin (R)



## Editor's Musing

By John Buchanan EDITORIAL



February kicks off the season to make sure those long distance weekend car events are marked on my calendar and any required advance registrations are submitted and hotel rooms are booked. Let's see; the Adirondack Nationals at Lake George, N.Y. Sept 7-10 is always sold out and this year I can register on line this year beginning Feb. 1, I've already confirmed my Surfside hotel room. The following weekend, Sept. 15 -17 is the Old Orchard Beach Car Show and I rebooked my room at the club's HQ Edgewater Motor Inn last year and can wait on registering for the show. Rich Armando is planning to organize a weekend car show cruise to the Yarmouth Nova Scotia Annual Car Show for July 13 -16 that I've penciled in until I get more details while Bruce Berry wants to go back out to Minnesota for the MSRA "Back to the 50's" show on June 23-25. That's a three day cruise out with overnight stops outside Cleveland and the Wisconsin Dells and another 2-3 days return following the show, but what a car show with over 10,000 pre-1964 cars. We have until April to pull the trigger on registering or wait until 2024 the 50th Annual.



**Don Cole**

March 1, 1942—January 6, 2023



Don Cole and I were co-workers on several new product introduction projects at the Waters Corporation in Milford, Mass. during the 1980's. When I got back into the hobby in the early 1990's with my 1952 International pickup truck, it was Don who, at a Wheels of Time cruise in South Easton where he was parked in his 1934 Ford hot rod stake bodied truck, greeted me with, "how would you like to join the Mass Cruisers Auto Club?" Don's easy manner made him the ideal candidate to welcome any new member into the Mass Cruisers, giving them their first signature yellow club tee shirt, a copy of the club's by-laws, club member contact list as well as a list of any planned and scheduled club events. Each member eventually finds a niche where they can ply their skills outside of the traditional and necessary administrative roles that make car clubs great. In addition to a five year stint as the club Treasurer in the 1990's, Don took on the additional annual responsibility of being sure there were club member tee shirts of all sizes and Mass Cruisers club plaques on hand. Don would also manage and organize the club's multi-space reserved spots at the yearly Great Woods flea markets and was a core participant at the frequent Junk Yard Junkets and club work projects. He also coordinated club member participation at the Blue Hills Regional Technical School open house events. A car club's longevity and vitality depends on having members like Don Cole who, with their unselfish and willing manner, make friendships that last a lifetime. May your rest in peace.

*Continued on Page 5*

**Don's Cars, 1956 to Present**

**ca. 1956:**

- 1936 Dodge Pickup
- 1929 Chevrolet Coupe
- 1930 Chevrolet 2-dr (parts only)
- 1936 Chevrolet 2-dr
- 1934 Ford Pickup (parts only)
- 1937 Ford 2-dr Humpback ( his first "favorite")
- 1951 Ford 2-dr (parts only)
- 1937 Oldsmobile Coupe

**ca. 1961:**

- 1946 Mercury 4-dr
- 1932 Standard
- 1935 Austin
- 1957 Volkswagen Beetle

**ca. 1965:**

- 1961 Saab
- 1962 Volvo 4-dr
- 1958 Volkswagen Beetle

**ca. 1968:**

- 1966 Volvo 122 2-dr
- 1963 Volvo Wagon
- 1967 Ford Cortina Wagon
- 1961 Triumph TR-3

**ca. 1972:**

- 1968 Volvo 120 Wagon
- 1966 BMW 1800 (not discussed)

**ca. 1977:**

- 1970 Volvo P1800E
- 1968 Volvo 142
- 1971 Volvo 142E
- 1971 Volvo 142E (parts only)

**ca. 1980:**

- 1973 Saab 99LE
- 1976 Volvo 240 Wagon
- 1972 Volvo 140 Wagon
- 1967 Volvo 142 Sedan
- 1969 Volvo 1800 (parts only)

**ca. 1986:**

- 1980 Ford Fiesta
- 1983 Volvo 240 Wagon

**ca. 1989:**

- 1984 Dodge Charger
- 1934 Ford Pickup (w/Volvo engine)

**ca. 1991:**

- 1980 Toyota Corolla
- 1984 Nissan Sentra
- 1985 Volvo 240 Wagon

**ca. 1997:**

- 1982 Toyota Pickup
- 1990 Ford Ranger Pickup
- 1990 Volvo 740 Wagon
- 1937 Ford 2-dr Humpback (same as his first)
- 1999 Volvo V70 Wagon
- 2001 Ford Ranger Pickup

**ca. 2006:**

- 2006 Ford Fusion
- 1959 Volvo 544

**ca. 2012:**

- 2012 Ford Fusion
- 1973 Volvo P1800ES
- 2007 Ford Ranger Pickup
- 2014 Ford Escape



Don replacing the brakes on his Ranger Pickup Truck at a club Saturday morning workshop.

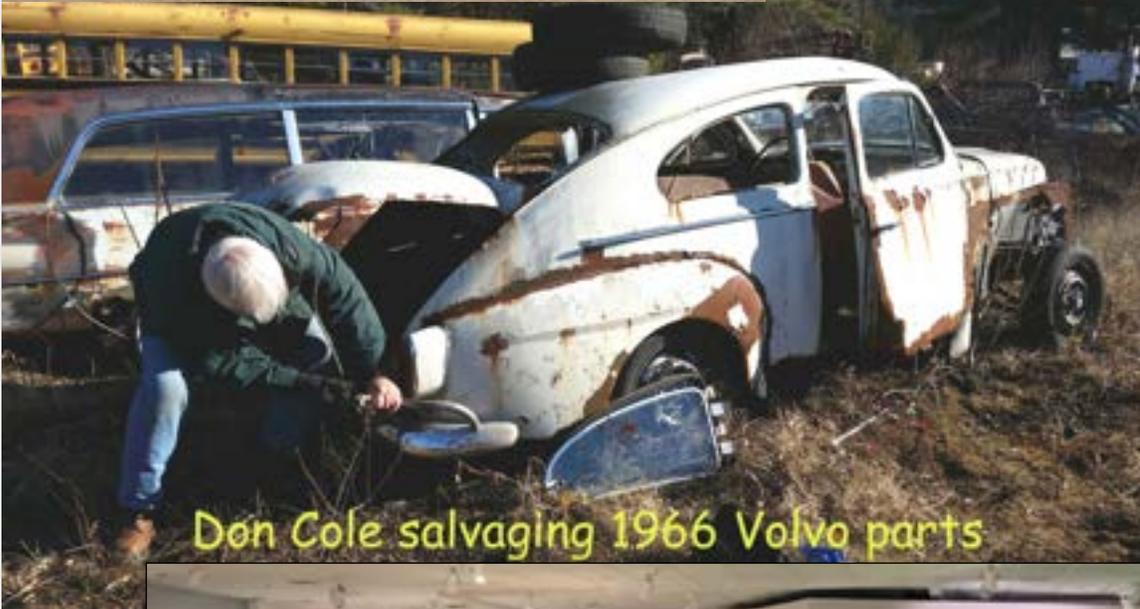


Don's 1937 Ford Humpback, Bradford, VT, ca. 1960



### Don Cole

March 1, 1942—January 6, 2023



Don Cole salvaging 1966 Volvo parts

Top L Don driving into the Bass Pro Shops Cruise in his '75 Volvo P1800 ES; Top R Don manning the club's Great Woods Flea Market spot.  
L. Don salvaging Volvo parts on a Junk Yard Junket.  
Bottom: Lou Valentine (left & Don Cole (right) standing next to the 2022 Newport Car Museum featured ar of the Month" Volvo P1800S.





# 1956 Mercury XM Turnpike Cruiser at MECUM

By Fred Tierney

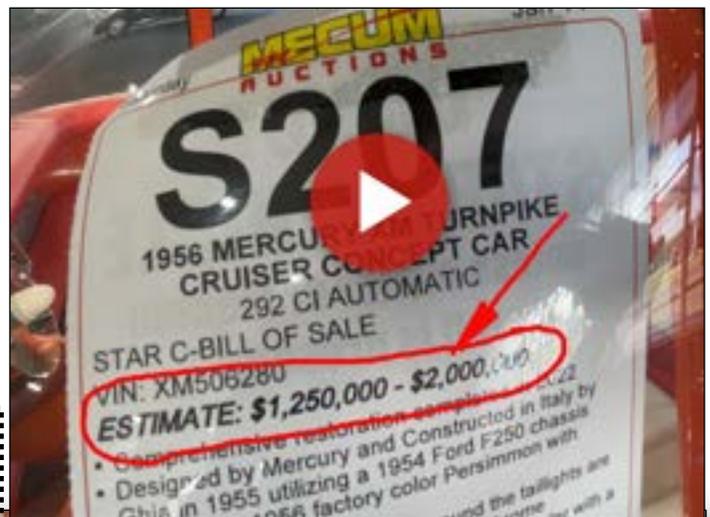


My annual January vacation in Florida coincides with the annual Mecum Auctions giant Kissimmee event that I attend each year as our club's correspondent for our monthly newsletter and this year's auction was particularly exciting for me because the recent extensively restored concept 1956 Mercury XM Turnpike Cruiser was in the auction. The concept 1956 Mercury XM was designed by Mercury and originally Constructed by Ghia in Italy. The restoration was closely followed by Old Cars Weekly readers like me and it was scheduled for the auction block in Kissimmee, FL on January 14 at the Osceola Heritage Park auction venue. It is huge with display tents for each of the eleven auction days, a food court, free Dodge thrill rides, Auction Block building, Bid Goes On lot, vehicle collections display, vendor displays, show stage and on and on. The 4,000 auction vehicles are all available for viewing and are displayed together based up on the day they are scheduled to be auctioned. Each vehicle has a label stating the vehicle information, the day it will run, a lot number and an estimated price range.

My brother in-law and his brother went with me on Wed. Jan. 12 but you really need two days to see and experience this event. Because of the pre-auction estimate for the Mercury XM was \$1,250,000—\$2,000,00 and the publicity about the restoration, I expected it to be showcased with the featured cars, but I had a hard time trying to find it and, when I found it, it was parked in the January 14 tent among all the other line up of cars that were scheduled to hit the auction block on Friday. I snapped some pictures, then after the auction results were posted following the auction, was surprised to learn it wasn't sold and was relegated to the BID GOES ON lot with a last bid price of \$350,000. Compared this to last year's heavily pre-sale and on-site promotion efforts by the McNeil family to enlist Wayne Carini for the Custom Hirohito 1951 Mercury that sold for \$2,145,000, twice its pre-sale estimate. It points out the importance of going the extra mile to build the excitement among potential bidders at big auction events like the Mecum Auctions.

I'll be back next year; See you there in 2024.

1956 Mercury Turnpike Cruiser Concept Car  
292 CI Auto built by Ghia  
LAST BID \$350,000 "Bid Goes On"





# MECUM Kissimmee Auction Results

by John Buchanan *Continued from Page 6*



The Mecum Kissimmee auction is always a bell weather auction in several ways. It is the first major auction in the new year. It is also the largest collector car auction in the world both in terms of number of cars and dollar sales. And this year their Kissimmee auction broke both records with over 4,000 cars generating \$234 million. The less-than-spectacular best bid of \$350,000 for the 1956 concept Mercury Turnpike Cruiser was to Fred Tierney, equally surprising to me was the \$1.1 million price paid for the 1970 Pontiac GTO Judge. Our Peluso Precision Automotive Bass Pro Shops cruise sponsor Steve Peluso, a well known local Poncho owner/collector/enthusiast, must be grinning from ear to ear. And what about the initial \$1,430,000 reported SOLD prices for each of the two 1969 Dodge Hemi Daytona's and that 1966 Shelby 427 Cobra. Perhaps there is a reason why there was a popular MSRP-like price limit placed for them. If you are like me though, I enjoy going through auction sales results to look for any similar cars to my own '61 Impala bubble top. The '61 that was SOLD at the Kissimmee auction went for \$110,000 and it was not a rare Impala SS Sport Coupe, but a recent nicely restored non-numbers matching bubble top. I'm smiling too! By the way, if you want a better perspective on real world values for your proud rides, the OLD CARS REPORT PRICE GUIDE from 1925-1970 is in the February 1, 2023 issue of Old Cars magazine.



1970 Pontiac GTO Judge Ram Air Conv.  
1 of 7 w. Auto, POCl Senior Gold Winner  
SOLD for \$1,100,000



1966 Shelby 427 Cobra Roadster  
CSX3270, 427 CI, 4-Spd.  
SOLD for \$1,430,000



1969 Dodge Hemi Daytona  
Factory 4-spd, 6,490 mile  
SOLD for \$1,430,000



1969 Dodge Hemi Daytona NASCAR  
Driven by NASCAR Driver Bobby Allison  
SOLD for \$1,430,000



# Annual Big E Auto Parts Swap & Sell

by John Buchanan

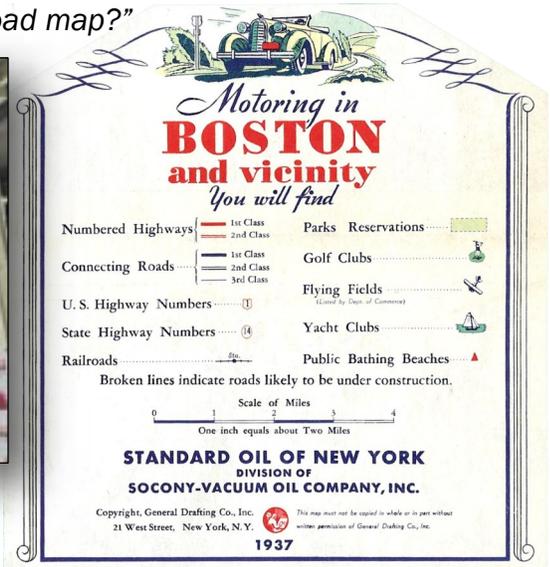


It's January and another new year so it's off to the annual Auto Parts Swap & Sell at the Big E's Better Living Center in West Springfield for a healthy dose of distraction from the Patriot's sitting out the divisional playoff's again, The Saturday morning crowds were pretty good and fellow club member Bob Walton, who also made the trek West, was able to empty his wallet and also break out the credit card as well. For me, I found a couple of vintage road maps for my collection as well as a mint condition 1939 New York World's Fair General Motors Exhibit Building brochure "HIGHWAYS AND HORIZONS". It included photos of their seven brand vehicles and a layout of their "FUTURAMA" exhibit building. There was an interesting article visualizing the future of transportation, "A VISIT TO TOMORROW", through the highways of 1960 that will be built for speed with safety. The vintage 1937 Socony map of Boston & Cape Cod that was with the brochure reminds us that "while your tank is being filled, **thoughtful attendants** will check many of the important "little things" that might cause you trouble if they went unnoticed. Radiator filled? Windshield clean? Tire pressure O.K.? Oil level correct? Have you the latest road map?"



I've seen criticism posted of Facebook from past swap attendees saying the Autoparts Swap & Sell is filled with nothing but tool & toy vendors or race car parts and you do find a few set up each year, but over the past few years I've seen a different mix of vendors and products that keep me coming back each year.

Continued On Page 9





# Annual Big E Auto Parts Swap & Sell

by John Buchanan *Continued from Page 8*



Of course some of the best tire kicking you can do in January is at the Annual Big E Auto Fest, and there were some great looking tires to kick this year. Here's a few that got my attention:



Among the muscle cars available for sale, I liked this yellow 1969 Camaro Z28 that was a standout contender.



How about a 1932 Ford Cabriolet Street Rod (above) or antique 1940 Ford Tudor Sedan (left) to park in that empty driveway spot?



A Troyer Modified Chassis is ready to be transformed into your very own asphalt racer.



This Ford Model A Sport Coupe was attracting attention all morning long.



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# 32nd Annual Business Meeting

By John Buchanan



2023 ushered in our 32nd year as the Mass Cruisers Auto Club which we typically use the first monthly meeting in January to be the club's official annual business meeting where we introduce the officers and new members to the club. We also encourage members to bring their spouses to familiarize them with their fellow club members. For the first time we also invited our major sponsors to attend to also become familiar with the club members they have been supporting with their financial contributions. Additionally the 2021 Mass Cruiser of the Year makes known their selection for the 2022 Mass Cruiser of the year Award, a recognition award that has become an annual tradition since 2004. Rich Armando kicked off the meeting by introducing the 2023 Board of Directors, basically the same group of six members as in 2022; Rich Armando, Kevin Rushlow (Treasurer), Steve Huntington, Larry Nyborn, Diane Thornton, John Sturniolo (Sergeant at Arms) and newest addition for number seven, John Griffon who is replaced me (John Buchanan) while Rich assigned me to become a consultant to the Board.

Rich and Kevin also reviewed the past years charitable achievements with the five local food pantries sharing \$23,331.50 in cash while collecting 9 tons in non-perishable food donations over the ten cruises. Rick White's new 50-50 Vocational Student Workplace \$250 Tool Grant program for the four graduating seniors Norfolk Agricultural, Blue Hills Regional, Tri-County and Southeastern Regional Vocational Schools in 2022 is planned to be doubled for 2023. Also, the Stoughton Amvets annual drive for their Brockton VA Hospital Veteran's programs collected \$500. Steve Vining was on hand to present the club with a Thank You Plaque for the Mass Cruisers silver sponsorship of a Fall River Little League T-Ball team that had lost their local sponsorship due to the COVID pandemic. The team's name, "The Cruisers"; awesome!



.....  
 Fred Tierney presents Thank You Plaques  
 To (L) Glen Coulter - NORFOLK POWER  
 (BL) Dennis Folan—DENNIS FOLAN REALTOR  
 (Below) Greg Pellegrino - VINTAGE MOTORSPORTS  
 .....



Finally, "2021 Cruiser of the Year" John Rick-er made his selection and presentation of the "2022 Cruiser of the Year" honoree, John Griffon, who was clearly surprised by the honor. Rich Armando commented he expects John will be watching everyone not previously selected to see who will step up and be prime candidates for his 2023 selection next January.



.....  
 John Buchanan presents  
 Thank You Plaques To:  
 (L) Stan - Chorianopolis  
 2nd GENERATION  
 RESTORATION and  
 (Below) Jeff Mosschella—  
 BASS PRO SHOPS host  
 .....



.....  
 (L) Bob Hines &  
 Rich Armando  
 present  
 Thank You Plaque  
 to Diana Griffin  
 PATRIOT PLACE  
 host  
 .....





# MA Legislation 2023/24 193rd General Court

by John Buchanan






## Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs

Find us online at: <https://MassAutoClubs.org/>

Promoting the Interests of the Hobby!!

The 2021/22 Massachusetts 192<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts General Court ended having heard 8,626 bills that were introduced with 524 making it through to passage with 9 of them being vetoed. None of the bills of interest that M.A.A.C. (Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs) was monitoring and/or supporting made it through the session, so the process of resubmitting old and new bills begins all over again this January. Your M.A.A.C. Board is closely monitoring this new batch of bills being submitted to the 193<sup>rd</sup> General Court Clerk's office and will, once again, review the proposed bills as they are submitted categorizing them based on their impact to the car hobby. Bills that promote, benefit or improve our car hobby interests are denoted as "supported." Bills that will have a detrimental impact on the hobby or could harm it are denoted as "not supported." Bills that do not directly affect the hobby but are important for the public to be aware of, are denoted as "Watching". When bills of interest are assigned to the appropriate committee and scheduled for a public hearing, MAAC will try to attend and testify based on our interests. The best way for you and your club to keep informed as to what is happening on Beacon Hill is to monitor the M.A.A.C. website periodically [Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs - "PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF THE HOBBY" \(massautoclubs.org\)](https://MassAutoClubs.org/) where updates will be posted. The M.A.A.C. website is also the new home for Jack Malcom's former Maynard Area Auto Club's favored listing of New England events that auto enthusiast's have used for more than 30 years when looking for upcoming car shows, cruises and swap meets. Also, there is a spring M.A.A.C. meeting planned to be held on April 20 in the Bass Pro Shops Conservation Room, coinciding with our Mass Cruisers opening cruise night so you can attend the cruise and stop inside the Bass Pro Shops to the M.A.A.C. meeting. While you are at it, if your club is not yet a member of M.A.A.C., download the membership application from the website and pass the hat to collect \$20 for yearly dues and identify a fellow club member and alternate to represent your club to keep your fellow club members informed about what's happening on Beacon Hill that could impact our hobby interests.



### FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023 and beyond Area Auto Shows & Events Page

Events of interest that MASS CRUISERS Club members regularly support and attend are **asterisked \***

We use <https://massautoclubs.org/maynard-area-event-listing> to build a localized list; check it out for more listings beyond this area

**NOTE:** This list of area shows & events is our best effort to keep you informed; check with event organizers to be sure they are still ON.

- FEB 3-5,,PROVIDENCE RI,,MONSTER JAM,,AMICA MUTUAL PAV,,1 LASALLE SQ [providenceautoshow.com/show-info](http://providenceautoshow.com/show-info),401 846-1115
- FEB 12,,,,GLENDALE AZ,,SUPERBOWL 57,,STATE FARM STADIUM,,6:30 PM EASTERN TIME,, THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE FOR NEXT YEAR
- \* FEB 18,,(SAT),,WESTFORD MA,,GATHERING OF THE CLUBS,,WESTFORD REGENCY,,219 LITTLETON RD.,,6 PM,,386 253-7223
- FEB 19,,DAYTONA FL,,64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DAYTONA 500 RACE,,THIS STARTS THE NASCAR SEASON,,,,ON FOX AT 2PM,,386 253-7223
- FEB 26,,HANSON,,CRANBERRY FLYWHEELS ICE BREAKER ANTIQUE ENGINE SHOW,, FERRY SUNOCO STA. RTE58,,JACK,,781-974-2531
- \* MAR 5,,NORFOLK,,MODEL A CLUB MARCOM FLEA MKT,,7:30-11,,HOLMES TRANSP CO,,22 MYRTLE ST,,,,DEAN,,508 285-3211
- MAR 12,,,,EVERYWHERE,,DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS AT 2AM,,TURN THE CLOCKS FORWARD
- \* MAR 26,,MAYNARD,,WINTER BLAHS AUTO PARTS SWAP'N SELL,,MAYNARD ELKS ON RT 62,,7:30-11:30,,CRAIG,,978 562-2390
- \* MAR 26,,SWANSEA,,OPENING CRUISE,,DETAIL GARAGE,,207 SWANSEA MALL DR.,,10 AM -2 PM,,GARY or ANDREW,,774 955-5398

### LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD AT SOME SHOWS & EVENTS OF INTEREST IN 2023

- \* APR 2,,STAFFORD CT,,TY-RODS ANNUAL SPRING SWAP MEET @ SPEEDWAY,,RAIN/SHINE,,[staffordspeedway.com](http://staffordspeedway.com),,860 684-2783
- APR 3,,PLYMOUTH,,REBELS & RODS SEASON OPENER,,EAST BAY GRILLE,,173 WATER ST.,,7 AM-10 AM
- APR 17,,LEXINGTON,,MILITARY VEHICLES/ANNUAL PATRIOTS DAY/CELEBRATION PARADE,,3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAY APRIL
- APR 29,,WHITMAN,,NSRA APPRECIATION AND INSPECTION DAY,,VFW 95 ESSEX ST,,8-2PM,,RALPH,,617 827-8344
- \* APR 30,,FITCHBURG,,FORD V-8 CLUB-51ST ANN WINGS & WHEELS,,FITCHBURG AIRPORT,,8-1,,,,,BRIAN,,978 263-7256
- \* MAY 6,,SEEKONK,,SHOW & GO CAR SHOW AT THE SPEEDWAY,,8AM,,,,<http://www.seekonkspeedway.com>,,508 336-9959