



Mass Cruisers Auto Club

November 2022



Bass Pro Shops Cruise Nights at Patriot Place Close Out the 2022 Season pages 4 through 15



ALSO INSIDE:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MUSINGS Page 3

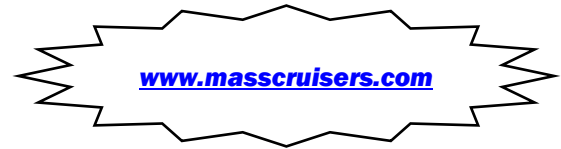
CAR SHOWS, EVENTS & SWAP MEETS Page 12



Celebrating 31 Years of Cruisin'
Volume 31 Issue 11

We're on the Web
www.masscruisers.com
 

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



2022 Monthly Business meetings are usually held in the Bass Pro Shops Conservation Room on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. There are no COVID restrictions and visitors, guests and those interested in joining the Mass Cruisers Auto Club are welcome to attend one of these monthly meetings.

DIRECTORY	Page 2
BOARD MUSINGS	Page 3
EDITOR MUSING	Page 3
JUNE 2 CRUISE - BREEZY	Page 4
OCT. 6 CRUISE WINNERS: 1939 MACK ED WRECKER 1964 BUICK 225 ELECTRA 1958 CHEVROLET TRUCK 1932 LASALLE SEDAN 1963 FORD ECONILINE	Pages 4-6
OCT 20 CRUISE WINNERS 1939 CHEVY FLATBED 1970 CHEVELLE SS 1957 FORD RANCHERO 1955 GMC 100 4 X 4 1950 CHRYSLER T & C 1949 CHEVY FASTBACK 1952 CHEVY BELAIR	Pages 9-15
SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS	Page 16
HALLOWEEN CRUISE	Page 17
NOVEMBER EVENTS PAGE	Page 18

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Our Major Cruise Sponsors



Board Musings

By Rich Armando



At the upcoming November 15 monthly meeting Fred Tierney has lined up what should be an informative guest speaker. Barret Jackson's Northeast Region Outreach Consignment Specialist Mike Tramontano will give club members a presentation about Barret Jackson Auctions and will answer any questions you may have about the car auction scene and the collector car market in general. Pizza will be served before the meeting starts. If you are planning on joining the group for a slice or two you must RSVP to me rich-chapman@verizon.net by November 14th so I can order the correct amount of pizzas. There is no sense in over-ordering more than what will be eaten. If you are only going to attend the meeting to listen to the speaker then that's fine but if you don't RSVP me to include you in the pizza count then, as they said on the Seinfeld show, no pizza for you if you don't RSVP.



Our last cruise night of the year was held on October 20 and just like all of them it was a total success. Numbers proved that even though we had to cancel a fair amount of nights this season the food pantry crew did excellent job in collecting a LOT of donated food and money which will be distributed to the 5 pantry's that we support. Of course the pantry crew could not do their job if it wasn't for the work of all of the other members who participated in setting up, controlling the night and breaking down all the cones, ropes and the club trailer. So this was a total team effort. The tickets for the November 12th night out have been ordered. As with the pizza, if you did not RSVP me that you would be attending and how many then, no tickets for you.

Wayne Lestan, our by-laws committee leader, will be looking into what the club has to do if nobody new steps forward to run for office. The by-laws state that the president/chairman of the board can only serve for two consecutive years which I have already done. Also Diane has been the club secretary for quite a few years and will still stay active on the board but wants to take a break from secretarial duties. Who wants to step forward for either one of these positions? There will be plenty of assistance from current board members who were past club presidents and who will be staying on the Board so you will not be thrown in without backing. Hopefully we can present a slate of officers at the November meeting as stated in our by-laws. If not then, since we have a guest speaker, we will have to take it up at the December meeting. This will give Wayne time to come up with a solution.

With greatest sympathy I want to let Jeannine and Glenn Brayman know that the club's thoughts are with them with the loss of their daughter Danielle.

This month I will be able to end on a happy note. When you see Kevin Rushlow congratulate him on his retirement. Rumor has it that his last day of work was October 28th. Can't wait to see the gold watch that he has earned.

Editor's Musing

By John Buchanan EDITORIAL



We closed out our Bass Pro Shops 2022 cruise season at Patriot Place in October with a bang after having three weather related cancellations during this past summer's drought and two Gillette Stadium events, the Elton John concert and a Patriots pre-season Thursday night game conflicts. We plan our bi-weekly Vintage Motorsports sponsored cruise awards to be made without any cruise cancellations happening and as a result of the cancellations were left with lots of cruise award plaques left at the end of September to present. The good news for all those great and unique vehicles that showed up by the hundreds during our two remaining October 6 & 20 cruises we were able to recognize and reward those car owners with the remaining plaques. The result is this November newsletter issue is filled with an abundance of recognition photos and back stories about these beautiful cars and trucks, some that showed up for the first time and some whose owners are regular Bass Pro Shops cruise attendees.



October 6 Cruise Winner: 1939 Mack ED Tow Truck

By John Buchanan



Victor Bernan from Weymouth has owned his 1939 Model ED Mack for 46 years but over the past 16 years started collecting parts to restore it to its original condition and also change it from its original flatbed configuration into a period correct Tow Truck. He undertook a three-year restoration of the cab and chassis and then later added a tow crane about two years ago. He also collected tools and equipment to fill the crane bed area to complete the period correct look-and-feel of a 1930's wrecker which made it a fitting cruise winning selection for a Vintage Motor Sports plaque.

One of the problems with these early Model ED Mack trucks, which were essentially a three-quarter ton vehicle, is with their three-speed tranny and 6.34 rear end gearing that was perfectly suited for 1930's road conditions and speed limits, but a definite handicap to-day traveling to Foxborough from Weymouth with a maximum cruising speed in the 30-35 mph range, even over the back roads. Victor upgraded the tranny to a four-speed Warner and is now looking to find the matching gear set for either a 5.73 or 5.32 ratio rear end to improve his travel time to car events.





October 6 Cruise Winner: 1964 Buick 225 Electra

By John Buchanan



Although Dan Horan, who hails from Brockton, has only owned his Wedgewood Blue 1964 Buick 225 Electra Convertible for three months, he had been mulling over buying it for about a year. It took an fortuitous incident while rooting around his barn. He pulled out a mint set of 1964 license plates still in their original RMV sleeves, and taking this as an omen, he didn't hesitate to contact its Alabama owner to bring the Buick to its new Massachusetts home and a Cruise Award winning plaque from Vintage Motorsports. The Buick 225 Electra's for 1964 came with upgrades from the previous years; 425 cid 360 HP, OHV, V8 w. 1 x4 bbl carb, dual exhaust and Super Turbine 400 transmission.



Marie Armando (L) and Diane Reizovic (R) couldn't resist selecting Dan Horan's beautiful 1964 Buick Electra Convertible for one of the October 6 Vintage Motorsports sponsored Cruise Award plaques.





October 6 Cruise Winner: 1958 Custom Chevrolet

By John Buchanan



The first surprise after seeing Cumberland, RI resident Russell Klowan's highly customized and striking Salmon colored 1958 Chevrolet Pickup Truck is learning it was originally a Chevy Suburban that was cut and stretched some 25 - 30 years ago in Florida. The truck features many unique custom touches such as no chrome, the slanted Nomad style rear tailgate with the exhaust tips coming through the bumper, the rear quarter air intake slits, a fully custom built dash and of course that beautiful smooth engine bay, home to a big block 409 V8. The side quarter graphics are a tribute to seven-time NASCAR champion Dale Earnhardt's #3 as well. Russell first saw the truck at the Daytona Turkey Run then again a year later where it was for sale at the Fall Carlisle Show, and that was when he decided to buy it. Since then he has tried unsuccessfully to track down the build history, however the quality of the truck's workmanship was worthy of being recognized with a Vintage Motorsports Award plaque without knowing who its creator was.

Steve Huntington (R) honored Russell's custom '58 Chevy





October 6 Cruise Winner: 1932 LaSalle Town Sedan

By John Buchanan



Ken Bourque purchased his 1932 LaSalle Town Sedan nine years ago after selling his 1919 Dodge Brothers Roadster. It was Ken's wife Barbara that picked it out for him from a picture in Hemmings when she thought it could fill that empty garage spot formerly occupied by the Roadster. This LaSalle was originally purchased by an 85 year old mechanic of a San Antonio private collector of some 30 to 40 cars that he maintained for its late owner. It was his favorite car in the collection that included Duesenberg's and Packard's. When the mechanic turned 90 he knew it was time to let it go to another caretaker. Along came Barbara and Ken's LaSalle was able to garner a Vintage Motorsports Award plaque at tonight's cruise. The LaSalle was the lower cost companion brand of Cadillac that was introduced in 1927 and was continued to be built by Cadillac up until 1940. LaSalle's actually outsold Cadillac as it was competing with the Packard 120's, so it was a surprise to LaSalle owners when it was dropped from production in 1941.





October 6 Cruise Winner: 1963 Ford Econoline Truck

By John Buchanan



Ron Keogh's custom 1963 Ford Econoline pickup's Camaro green with added flake finish really pops in the afternoon sun. It also was popular with the kids at our annual Halloween cruise with animated costumed characters that were activated when stomped on a foot switch. Ron built the truck in his home two-stall garage over two winters five years ago. Two things inspired him, incorporating 1960 era custom touches like the '60 Impala instrument gages in the cab and rolled & pleated white vinyl interior in both the cab and truck bed side walls. How about the 120 louvred rear tailgate & nerf bars up front? Powered with a Ford 302 V8, C4 tranny & '63 Mercury 9 inch rear the 1960's vibe continues. Ron's pickup was one of the 200 invited customs to participate in the 2018 Hot Wheels 50th Anniversary Legends Tour in New Jersey and now a 2022 Vintage Motorsports Award cruise winning selection thanks to Kelly Hines and Heather.



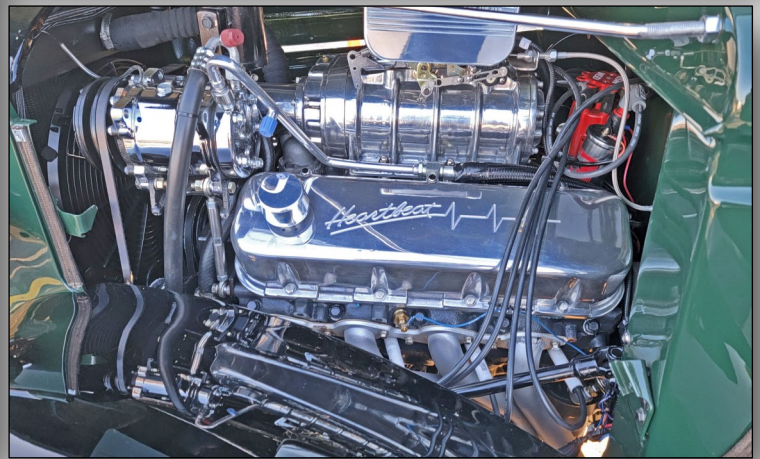


October 20 Cruise Winner: 1939 Chevrolet Flatbed

By John Buchanan



Ed Clark drove his 1939 Chevrolet VD 1 1/2 Ton Flatbed hauling the 1939 John Deere Model L Tractor with an attached Harrow on the flat bed from his Seekonk home up to our Bass Pro Shops cruise. He must have enjoyed the opportunity exposing the typical workday commuters on their way home today with an amazing piece of pre-WWII rolling farm history. Keeping up with today's traffic is not a problem either with a supercharged 496 V8 and 4L80E auto tranny driving its GM 14-bolt dually rear axel. Ed has owned the Chevy for 16 years taking 8 years to do all the restoration work himself. Having worked on a farm in his younger days, he also undertook searching for a period correct 1939 John Deere Tractor to compliment the truck/tractor package vision he had in mind. Seeing plenty of early 1940's available, he finally found this 1939 Model L in Pennsylvania that required two years to restore. Being such an unusual and surprising attendee at our Bass Pro Shops Cruise and a flawlessly restored one as well, Cruise Director Bob Hines led Ed over to the coned-off display area immediately on entry to be parked to show and later receive one of the evening's seven Vintage Motorsports sponsored cruise winner awards.





October 20 Cruise Winner: 1970 Chevelle SS

By John Buchanan



One of the most popular muscle cars among enthusiasts today arguably are the big block Chevelle SS's and we get to see our share of these beauties regularly showing up at our Bass Pro Shops cruises. It was time to recognize one of them at the October 20 cruise with a Vintage Motorsports Cruise Night Award Plaque and Angel Aldrich, who came down from Fitchburg with his black 1970 Chevelle SS that he's owned for four years and was fresh off a one-year restoration, went back home with one to hang on his Aldrich Auto Body shop wall. We won't say there was any preference for specifically selecting a 1970 Chevelle at the cruise because Rich Armando, shown below presenting the award to Angel, and happens to be shopping for one for wife Marie, and this particular Chevelle also happens to be a perfect example of why these muscle cars have become highly sought after.





October 20 Cruise Winner: 1957 Ford Ranchero

John Buchanan



Back in the day, Ford Model T and Model A pickup trucks were created by placing a pickup box behind the roadster body. Ford Australia's designer modified a coupe with an integrated loadbed body in 1934 that could be driven to church on Sunday or deliver produce or animals to market during the week. This coupe utility was popularly called a "UTE", a favorite crossword puzzle word. In America, Hudson produced a pickup truck based on their Hudson Super 6 from 1942 to 1947. It wasn't until 1957 when Ford resurrected the coupe utility idea with the Ranchero pickup truck based upon the two-door ranch station wagon and short-wheelbase Custom sedan claiming it as "More Than a Car! More Than a Truck!" Jack Alaimo's 1957 black Ford Ranchero is great example of this First Generation (1957-1959) full size coupe-utility pickup that continued in compact and mid-sized form for over 20 years. Jack saw this Ranchero for sale two years ago after the previous owner of 15 years passed away. It has the 312 V8 and 3-speed standard shift and had FOR SALE signs posted on both the windshield and rear window.





October 20 Cruise Winner: 1955 GMC 100 4 x 4 Truck

By John Buchanan



When I asked Steve Sullivan, who hails from nearby Walpole, how long he owned his 1955 GMC 100 4 x 4 Truck he said, "15 years". When I asked how long he took to restore it to its current show quality finish, he said 2 years, 2 months and 4 days after beginning the process like many COVID projects that were started in 2020. Although the restoration isn't yet 100% complete, they never really are, his Jimmy was worthy of season ending Vintage Motorsports Award plaque. What also makes this particular GMC unique is that it has a NAPCO 4 x 4 conversion kit which, in 1955, could be ordered from GM and installed with very few modifications to the chassis; and with their "shift on the fly" transfer case and dual range, in what was predominantly the two-wheel light truck world of the 1950's, you could have a versatile and durable "mountain goat" of a truck for the bargain price of an additional \$1,250-\$1,500.





Oct. 20 Cruise Winner: 1950 Chrysler Town & Country

John Buchanan



Rich Strauss (L) from Westwood is one of those auto enthusiasts that have a hard time keeping the number of cars he can garage at one time manageable, but when another gem comes along he can't resist jumping at becoming the car's next caretaker. Such was the fate of Rich's latest unusual find, a 1950 Chrysler Town & Country Station Wagon RestoRod of only one week under his ownership. The only clue one has this is no ordinary Town & Country were the give-away American Racing wheels, 16 inch up front and 18 inch wheels out back, with telltale disc brakes peeking out. The interior also looks original period correct, but lift the hood and see the Mopar 423 Wedge that's connected to a 700 R4 tranny with a 10 bolt rear and you know this is something special; another reason why this Chrysler was selected for a Vintage Motorsports cruise award plaque, not just because Mike Rabbitt (R) happens to prefer Chrysler's.





Oct. 20 Cruise Winner: 1949 Chevrolet Fastback

By John Buchanan



Rick and Barbara LaSalle from Cumberland, RI have only had their custom 1949 Chevrolet Deluxe Fleetline Fastback two-door sedan for a couple of weeks now but it has several unusual features that make it one interesting street sleeper. First is the most obvious custom feature, the triple 1959 Cadillac bullet tail-lights. Second, and hidden from view in the trunk is a Bluetooth communications system that provides, radio, smart phone communications and GPS tracker features. Under the hood is the sleeper part, a big block 454 V8 coupled to a TH 400 tranny. While looking inside at the custom leather interior of the pre-bucket seat era bench seat cars of the 1950's, and noticing that the simple addition of an interior color matching bench seat console with cup holders, how these pre and post war cars can be easily and inexpensively transformed into comfortable long distance highway cruisers. 1949 was a significant styling year for all the General Motors cars as body designs dramatically changed from the pre and post WW-II

designs to streamlined notch-back and fastback styles. This Chevy De Luxe Fleetline fastback design was new and very popular then and still is with collectors. This was another great selection for our final season cruise Vintage Motorsports award plaque that Club Photographer Steve Vining (R) selected.





October 20 Cruise Winner: 1952 Chevrolet Bel Air

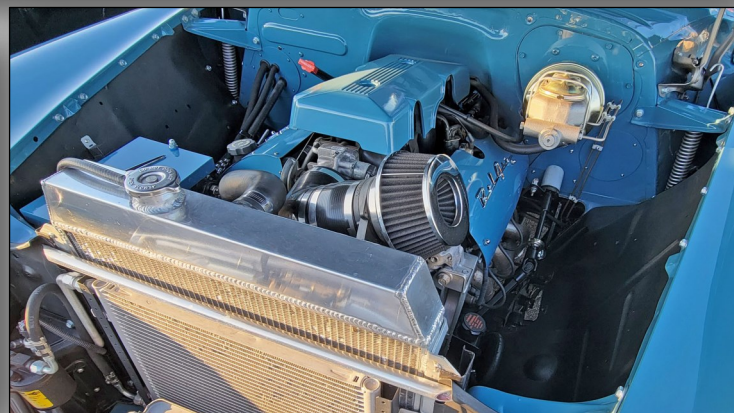
John Buchanan



Wally Hayes, leader of the Old Koots Car Club out of Norwood, is well known for owning some very nice and interesting cars and, with a few of them taking home deserving Vintage Motorsports Cruise award plaques over the years. His 1952 Chevrolet BelAir resto-rod is no exception. Wally has owned it for a year now having added some 3,000 miles to the 1,000 miles since the original build. He commented that this is one of the nicest cars he has owned. It was built by the former Kentucky owner, originally for himself, from a car that had been in storage since 1969. He built it over 14 months straight full time, only farming out the paint PPG Gulf Blue & Fontana Grey two-tone paint and matching grey leather custom interior and upholstery work to Pro Custom Interiors in Knoxville, TN. The resto-rod was executed perfectly hiding a former 2008 Silverado LS1 V8 under the hood and with a 4L60E four-speed tranny which Wally was able to average 23.6 mpg when he drove it to the Syracuse Nationals and back. The Mustang II front end, 15" Ridler Wheels, radials, P.S. & P.B. makes handling on the highway a breeze.



Fred Tierney (R) normally attracted to classic Ford, Mercury & Lincolns couldn't resist honoring Wally's (L) 1952 Chevy BelAir with a Vintage Motorsports cruise award plaque.





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October 6 Halloween Cruise Memories

John Buchanan



Our perennial favorite Halloween Cruise ladies, poodle-skirt clad Diane Thornton and "Pink Lady" Lorna Rabbitt, came up with another winning Halloween themed creation for 2022, harking back to those Happy "American Graffiti" Days that included a functioning "Juke Box" playing nostalgic 1950's & 60's rock & roll tunes via Bluetooth from their smart phone thanks to Lorna's hubby Mike's technical touch. Their selection for the best decorated Halloween themed car was Christine Cox's 2007 Mustang GT CS convertible decorated as a green eyed black cat while she, also dressed in fetching witch's garb to complete the theme with her traditional travel witch's broom.

"Pink Lady" Lorna Rabbitt and poodle skirted Diane Thornton await the annual voting for best costumed boys and girls to begin



Jeanette Cox (right)
Halloween Theme winner



Best Halloween Themed Cruiser 2007 Mustang GT CS



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CAR SHOWS, SWAP MEETS & EVENTS

By John Buchanan



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022 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.

- OCT 29,,FOXBOROUGH,,TRUNK OR TREAT,,LOWRIDER DEPOT,,10 ANNETTE RD,,12-3 PM,,508 698-3115
- OCT 30,,WOBURN,,LIONS CLB 66TH ANN HALLOWEEN PARADE 1PM, LAST SUND,,woburnlionsclub.org/AnnualHalloweenParade.cfm
- *NOV 4-6,,THOMPSON CT SPEEDWAY,,DON HOENIG'S GIANT AUTO/FLEA MKT,<http://www.thompsonspeedway.com>,860 923-2280
- NOV 5,,AUBURN,,NEW ENGLAND GENERAL MOTORS G-BODY MEET,,HIGH OCTAINE CLASSICS 143 WASHINGTON ST,,508 859-4515
- NOV 6,,,,,EVERYWHERE,,DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS AT 2AM,,,,,TURN THE CLOCKS BACK AT BEDTIME
- NOV 6,,,,WHITMAN,,LUGNUTS BREAKFAST SHOW/TOY DRIVE SHOW,,AT VFW 95 ESSEX..9-3pm,,,,,HAL,,617-851-0975
- *NOV 6,,HARRISVILLE, RI,WRIGHT'S FARM RESTAURANT,64 INMAN RD,ANNUAL GATHERING OF CLUBS,,SEATINGS START 11:30 AM
- NOV 11-13,,UNCASVILLE CT,,CT INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW MOHEGAN SUN EXPO CENTER,,ctautoshow.com,,RICH,,781 237-5533
- NOV 13,,EPPING NH,,END SEASON SWAP MEET IN THE PITT,,,,,NEW ENGL DRAGWAY,,RT 27,,,,,800 322-1263
- NOV 14,,TAUNTON,,NEW ENGLAND TOY AND COLLECTABLE SHOW, HOLIDAY INN,,STUART2,,,,,603 382-9724
- NOV 24-27,,DAYTONA FL,,TURKEY ROD RUN,,LARGEST GATHERING OF VEHICLES IN THE SOUTHEAST,,,,,386-255-7355
- NOV 25-26,,ORMOND BEACH FL,,62ND ANN GASLITE PARADE & SHOW,,FRI/SAT THANKSGIVING WEEKEND,,,,,NED,,386 677-0853
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LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD AT SOME SHOWS & EVENTS OF INTEREST IN 2023

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2022 Food Pantry Collections Were Huge

Kevin Rushlow



Thank you, thank you, thank you; to all of our regular Bass Pro Shops cruise donors that bring their non-perishable food donations and \$\$\$ cruise after cruise. In addition to the several tons of food collected at our cruise front entrance, a record total over \$23,000 was collected to be equally shared by our five area food pantries. The record amount of monetary donations happened despite having only 10 of the 15 scheduled cruises. The importance of your \$\$\$ donations is particularly important this year due to increasing demand. The participating Food Pan-



At the October 6 cruise, Food Pantry coordinator John Griffin, along with the cruise Front Entrance team members (L to R) Mark Magno, Bob Okerholm, Steve Fernald & Bob Walton (white coat) present Wrentham Food Pantry volunteer Diana Easty with a \$2,250 check, their first-half cruise season share of your \$\$\$ donations. A second check to each of the five participating area food pantries will be delivered again November ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday

tries are able to purchase \$10 equivalent food from the Boston Area Food Bank for each \$1 donated to fill their shelves with both perishable and needed non-perishable food to balance their donated offerings.