



# *Mass Cruisers Auto Club*

## *December 2022*



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*Celebrating 31 Years of Cruisin'*  
*Volume 31 Issue 12*





Contact us by snail mail:

P.O. Box 217, Wrentham, MA 02093

Or by email: HO350@comcast.net



[www.masscruisers.com](http://www.masscruisers.com)

Our Monthly Business meetings are usually held in the Bass Pro Shops Conservation Room on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM however our December meeting is moved back one week to Dec. 13 due to the Christmas Holiday season. Enjoy this season of Joyous celebration.

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## Board Musings

By Rich Armando



As the winter is fast approaching it appears Mother Nature was not notified since the weather for all of November has been outstanding. For those of you who have yet to park your car for the winter I hope you have gotten it out for a ride or possibly for one of the many Christmas parades. Summer goes by so fast it's great to have a few more weeks that we can enjoy our hobby.

A big thank you to Fred Tierney for coming up with the idea and getting our guest speaker to our November meeting. Michael Tramontano from Barrett Jackson had an excellent presentation about how the auction company conducts business. It was also good to see the food pantry representatives attend the meeting to receive their pre-Thanksgiving cash disbursement. Heather Porreca, Vice President of the Hebron Food Pantry in Attleboro said that for every dollar they spend at the Boston Food Bank they receive 20 times that amount in buying power. That is great and hopefully the club's checks helped make some families have a better Thanksgiving. Kevin estimated that if we didn't have all of the cancellations due to weather or stadium events the club would have raised over \$30,000 dollars. This is pretty impressive and a thank you to everyone who works the cruise nights in whatever capacity.

Another task worth mentioning is the success that John Buchannan is having every year for putting out such a great newsletter that you are now reading. Once again he has been awarded the Golden Quill Award from Old Cars Weekly for his efforts. Congratulations John.

If you haven't yet volunteered to take a seat on the board of directors or possibly hold the office as president or vice president you can still throw your hat into the ring at the December meeting. As it sits now with no volunteers we will have to discuss what should be done and who will run the club for 2023. Since the November meeting was suspended to give our speaker time for his presentation we have some catching up to do. We will also hold a discussion and then come up with the earliest starting date that the club will hold our cruise night. Please remember that since our regular scheduled meeting would have been only 5 days before Christmas the board decided to hold the meeting one week earlier than usual in hope of having a larger turn out than normal. So mark your calendar that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Conservation room at The Bass Pro Shop.

Stay safe and see everyone then.

## Editor's Musing

By John Buchanan EDITORIAL



The Christmas Holiday season is one for giving, gifts to our families and making year end donations to our favorite charities. Our Mass Cruisers Auto Club over the past 31 years has evolved initially from one that was finding ways to socialize with fellow collector car owners to eventually make charitable giving become an integral part of our hobby experience. Our initial charter as a tax exempt 901 c7 social organization also evolved to become a Massachusetts registered tax exempt 901 c3 non-profit in recent years as our 50-50 drawings and food pantry collection efforts at Patriot Place have provided us and our fellow auto enthusiasts the opportunity to contribute to worthy causes when attending our Bass Pro Shops cruises.

It is also a time to reflect and be thankful for our blessings that allow our interests in enjoying our collector vehicle hobby freely with a minimum of intrusion by governments or fear for our safety during these times.







## October 20 Whitehall Auto Sales Shop Tour

By Steve Fernald; photography by John Buchanan



Tucked in between I-495 and the I-90 Mass Pike in Hopkinton is Whitehall State Park and its namesake Reservoir. Along the reservoir's western shoreline is Spring Street off Rte. 135, a back road less travelled and where I've lived for 30 years. A mile and half away from my home was one interesting antique auto restoration shop where I would stop on occasion to talk with its friendly and informative owner Tom White when I spotted an interesting car parked outside. It didn't take too many recent visits before realizing this was a road trip shop tour my fellow Mass Cruisers members would appreciate and be interested in doing. So, on October 20 a dozen club member cars gathered at the Whitehall State Park parking lot to cruise on over to Tom White's Whitehall Auto Restoration around the corner on Spring Street. Tom not only had some awesome restorations in the shop, but also had very informative background stories he shared about each of the cars they were working on. Fortunately, despite limited parking on the property, parking along Spring Street was not a problem on this road less traveled from its busy feeder highway, Rte. 135.

Walking up to the main barn past Tom's daily driver 1964 Buick Riviera Gran Sport and peeking out the garage open doors were three sets of vehicle taillights, a 1955 Chrysler 300 prototype finishing up a full nut and bolt rotisserie restoration behind Tom's Riviera and next door a fully restored 1955 Chrysler New Yorker convertible in striking two-tone dark imperial green and gold paint and its stall mate, a 1957, Chrysler 300 in striking Gauguin Red (see page 6). As the club members split into two groups, one around the '55 New Yorker with Tom Sr. and the others around the '55 Prototype 300 with Tom Jr. we were treated with a running story on each of these cars and later on the other half dozen or so projects the shop has undertaken. Continued on Page 5





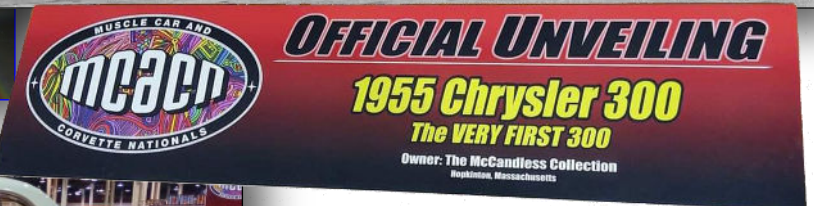


## October 20 Whitehall Auto Sales Shop Tour

By Steve Fernald continued from page 4



The most exciting project being worked on at Whitehall was the 1955 prototype Chrysler 300 which was being restored for legendary Mike McCandless's museum collection <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NebbVd4s5k> in Burlington, NC and was destined to be unveiled at the November 19 Muscle Car & Corvette Nationals in Chicago. Mike happens to be the son of legendary Herb "Mr. 4 Speed" McCandless who drove for Ronnie Sox & Martin becoming the first to record NHRA National Event wins in both Pro and Sportsman eliminators in the same season. Some of the unique challenges Tom faced restoring this car back-to-factory-original prototype standards was finding original 1955 Chrysler 300 parts and no longer manufactured OEM parts like the tires. They have another 1955 300 parts car in the yard and for the racing tires used in the first prototype, Tom showed us the steel die they made to mold the original race tire information on the new replacement black-wall tires. All the work except for paint and plating is done in their shop, and that includes making up the new wire harnesses to match the original look and color codes.



Although not being at the official unveiling of the very first 1955 Chrysler 300 at the 2022 MCACN show was not on our calendars, it was great to see first hand the fabulous restoration work and detail that went into it.





## October 20 Whitehall Auto Sales Shop Tour

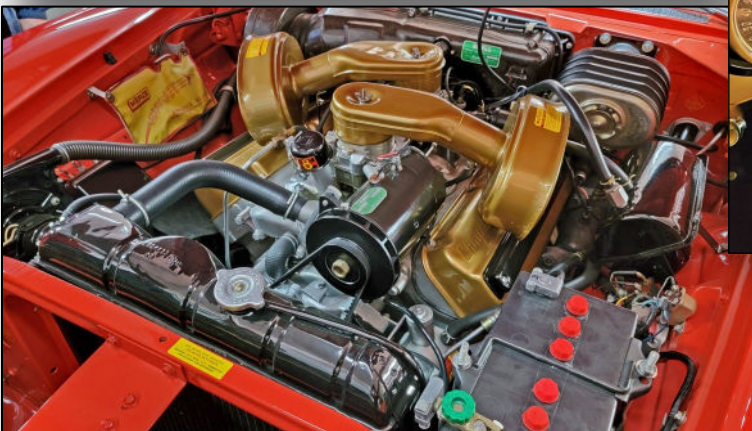
By Steve Fernald *continued from page 5*



As beautiful as all the 1950's era Chrysler Motors vehicles are on the outside, seeing what was under the hood is even more exciting for auto enthusiast gear heads. The 1955 Chrysler New Yorker's 331 cu. in. HEMI engine sporting dual 4 bbl carbs with air cleaners and painted in the matching body color gold finish along with the 1957 300C 392 cu. in. HEMI with a totally different air intake setup for the dual 4 bbl carbs were treats to behold.

The workshop building in back also housed a pair of 1957 Ford Thunderbirds, one finished and the second in primer getting ready for paint so, it isn't all about MOPAR's, it's more about quality restoration projects large and small.

*Continued on Page 7*







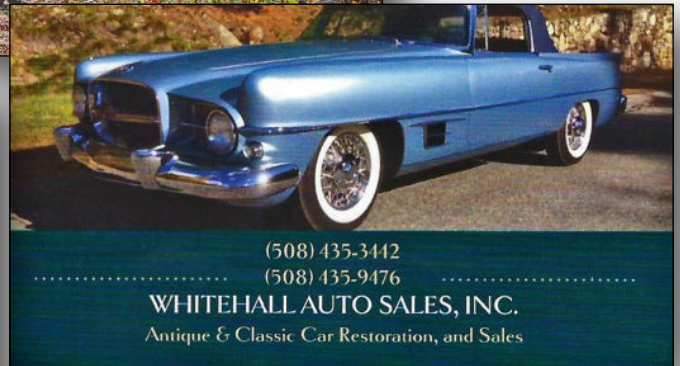
## October 20 Whitehall Auto Sales Shop Tour

By Steve Fernald continued from page 6

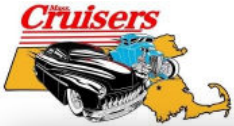


Up back in the attic portion of the rear workshop garage is storage for customer cars and a long hidden rare 1957 Dual Ghia pictured on the Whitehall business card waiting its turn for a full restoration. Still, the 1947 Chrysler Town & Country convertible and 1954 Mercury convertible and 1973 Camaro

Z28 drew interested members to look over these beauties on a beautiful autumn day. I want to thank both Tom Sr. & Jr. for their time and interesting back stories about the restoration projects they have going on in their shop.







## GATHERING of the CLUBS at WRIGHT'S

by John Buchanan



The Annual Gathering of Car Clubs at the Wright's Farm Restaurant in Harrisville, R.I., a long standing tradition when we turn the clocks back one hour on the first Sunday in November, also marks the traditional end of our car show and cruising season in New England. Drawn from a wide area of southern New England car clubs like our own drive their antique vehicles ranging from Model "T" era through the '1960's and beyond cruise into the rear parking lot where the entrance to the 500 seat Carriage Room banquet facility is located. We had perfect weather this November for 19 club members and 11 cars to cruise to Wright's for our 11:30 AM reserved seating for their famous all-you-can-eat family style chicken dinner. Following the dinner while our better halves took advantage of the 20% discount coupons in Wright's Gift Shop, we looked over all the antique cars that filled the back parking lot. We then followed that up by cruising down the Bronco Highway to Chepachet on U.S. Rte. 44 and their antique shops followed by enjoying a refreshing late afternoon break in the historic Tavern on Main to watch the Patriots tame the Colts on T.V. before heading back home as the sun sets earlier..



As always, seeing the cars attending the annual gathering at Wright's Farm Restaurant on the 1st Sunday in November is a big part of the cruise experience.



Following the Wright's Farm Chicken dinner, Club members relax at the historic Tavern on Main in historic Chepachet and watch the Patriots take on the Colts before heading home.







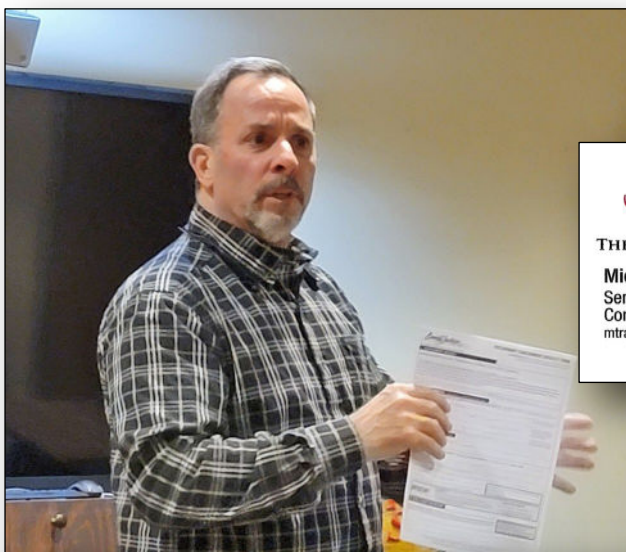
## Barrett-Jackson Guest Speaker

by John Buchanan



Fred Tierney introduced Guest Speaker Michael Tramontano, one of the four Barrett-Jackson Auction Company's Outreach Consignment Specialists, at our November monthly meeting. Some of us were able to enjoy the Barrett-Jackson experience as spectators for their Mohegan Sun auctions in CT before their schedule five year run was shortened due to the 2020 COVID shutdown. What made Michael's talk for club members and guests so interesting was that he focused from the perspective of a potential car owner considering consigning their precious "baby" to one of their four yearly auctions, now NO RESERVE, at Scottsdale AZ in January, Palm Beach, FL in April, Las Vegas in June and either Houston again or possibly Nashville in October. Using this past January Scottsdale auction experience, Mike detailed the steps he took as the consignment facilitator from first contact with a potential consignee through submitting the preliminary consignment request form, the valuation process, to placement in the auction schedule and finally being in the staging line to the vehicle's 2 minutes of fame on the main stage for the actual auction. That big January 2022 Scottsdale AZ auction experienced a 100% sell through rate for 1,841 vehicles and 1,153 pcs. of automobilia earning a total of \$202.2 million. There were over 6,000 registered bidders for this auction which accounts for this event being billed as the world's greatest classic car auction. The best part is you can go online to see all the past auction results or, if you can't attend the Barrett-Jackson experience in person, watch all their actual auctions being live broadcasted online. Thank you Mike for an informative presentation.

Fred Tierney presents Mike with a Mass Cruisers Guest Speaker Thank You Plaque



**Barrett-Jackson**

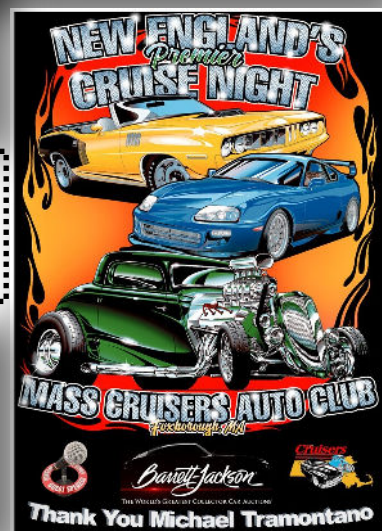
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Guest Speaker Mike Tramontano (L) explains how the preliminary consignment request process works for car owners that would like to have Barrett-Jackson handle their vehicle auction sale.



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## 2022 Food Pantry Drive Results

By John Griffon



The generosity of car owners and spectators attending our Bass Pro Shops cruises at Patriot Place continued in spectacular fashion to support donating to the five participating food pantries during our ten 2022 cruise dates. The final season cruises ending on October 24 finished with a total of \$23,331.50 in cash donations collected by our front entrance team members in addition to over 9 tons of non-perishable food for the year. As is our practice, we presented each of the participating food pantries with checks of \$2,250 in August and the final round of checks for \$2,866.30 each were presented to representatives of the Hebron Food Pantry (Attleboro), Wrentham Food Pantry, St. Anthony's Free Market (Stoughton), at our November 15 monthly meeting in time to meet the increasing needs for the deserving families they serve ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday season. Representatives from the Foxboro Food Pantry and Walpole Community Food Pantry were unable to attend the meeting and were presented their checks at one of their open pantry dates, pictured below.

Club Treasurer Kevin Rushlow also noted several other club charitable program donations that were made this past year, namely the Amvets \$507—50/50 proceeds, \$1,000 for the new Vocational School Workforce Grants of \$250 each to Norfolk Agricultural, Blue Hills Regional, South Eastern Regional and Tri-Valley Regional Technical/Vocational Schools that Rick White instituted as part of the clubs 50-50 program and finally for the first time a \$700 sponsorship for a Fall River Little League baseball team when their program experienced losing several financially impacted sponsors due to the COVID shutdown

I personally want to express my gratitude to all our club members who made each of our 2022 cruise nights such a success; our site host Patriot Place, their traffic control staff and security personnel, our Mass Cruisers team of front entrance member volunteers, the Bass Pro Shops sponsorship, our D.J. Crusin' Bruce and especially the car owners and spectators that make this cruise event so special and who donate every cruise. I hope everyone has a safe and healthy winter and I can't wait to get started again next spring. See you all there.



**Jim Sullivan—Wrentham (above), Heather Porreca—Attleboro area (left) and Ginger Hoffman—Stoughton (below) receive their checks at the Nov. meeting from our cruise front entrance team members (from left to right) Steve Fernald, Mark Magno, Bob Okerholm, John Griffon and Bob Walton.**

**Later that week, checks were delivered to (Below Left) Foxboro Food Pantry volunteers Sue Blake & Pam Freitas and Walpole Food Pantry co-President Bill Willloth.**







## M.A.A.C. Update: Inspection Sticker Change

by William Ellis



On its surface the new RMV rule that went into effect on Tuesday November 1, 2022, for our annual vehicle safety inspections was to close a much loved 13 month loophole. Motor vehicles passing required inspections will get a new sticker, valid for one year, with the month the last sticker expired seemed to be targeting a practice by some Bay State car owners that were trying to extend an additional free month or two beyond the normal 12-month vehicle safety inspection cycle. Those owners will no longer get a sticker displaying the month the inspection occurred, but the month the last inspection occurred. So a May expired sticker car will get a May new sticker no matter when inspected past the original monthly deadline.

The problem for antique and collector car owners whose vehicles are undergoing extensive restoration or long-term repairs resulting in their vehicles not being ready for its regularly scheduled annual inspection is more troubling. Having inspection stickers that expired in a previous calendar year are facing a more perplexing problem with this new rule. Previous year inspected vehicles will receive a January sticker of the current year the vehicle is being inspected, no matter the month the vehicle is inspected. You can imagine the consequences collector vehicle owners will be facing if they now have a January inspection sticker. This change does not impact the requirements for newly purchased vehicles which must be inspected within seven days of the vehicle registration date, and they will receive a sticker of the month which it was inspected and is valid for one year. Of course, this could also mean you may want to avoid purchasing an antique or collector vehicle during the winter months.

M.A.A.C. is already hearing complaints as it could require owners to violate the law every year when they take their car out of winter storage to get their car inspected in the spring.



### Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs



# MAAC

MassAutoClubs.org

**Promoting the Interests of the Hobby !!!**

### 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.

DEC 4,,,MAYNARD,,HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS PARADE,,2PM SUDBURY ST,,1PM LINE UP,,WE CAN ALWAYS USE CARS  
 DEC 4,,TAUNTON,,ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE,,CARS LINE UP ON OXFORD ST. AT BROADWAY (RT. 138),,PARADE AT 12:00 NOON  
 DEC 10,,ATTLEBORO,,BRISTOL COUNTY STREET RODS HOLIDAY PARTY,,FOR INFO,,CALL,,,,,,,,,,,,,WOODY,,508 222-7518  
 DEC 10—MAR 5, 2023,,NEWPORT, RI,,AUDRAIN MUSEUM,,EARLY LANDMARKS IN AUTO ENGINEERING EXHIBIT OPENS  
 DEC 11,,DEDHAM,,ANTIQUE/COLLECTIBLE TOY SHOW-DEDHAM HILTN,25 ALLIED DR 9-3,,[bostontoyshow.com](http://bostontoyshow.com),,WES3,,978 465-3140  
 DEC 17,,WORCESTER,,WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA\* DAY CEREMONY AT HOPE CEMETERY,,119 WEBSTER ST.,, 12:00 NOON

\*NOTE: THERE ARE NO PLANNED 2022 "ESCORT TO ARLINGTON" STOPS IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

\* JAN 21-22,,SPRINGFIELD,,43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL AUTO PARTS SWAP/SELL,,INDOORS/BETTER LIVNG CENTR,,[www.apswapnsell.com](http://www.apswapnsell.com)  
 SATURDAY, 8AM-5PM; SUNDAY, 8AM-4PM,,,BEN,,860 871-6376

FEB 12,,,,,GLENDALE AZ,,SUPERBOWL 57,,STATE FARM STADIUM,,6:30 PM EASTERN TIME,,LET'S HOPE THE PATRIOTS MAKE IT

FEB 19,,,,,DAYTONA FL,,64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DAYTONA 500 RACE,,THIS STARTS THE NASCAR SEASON,,,,,ON FOX AT 2PM,,386 253-7223

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

APR 2,,,STAFFORD CT,,TY-RODS ANNUAL SPRING SWAP MEET @ SPEEDWAY,,RAIN/SHINE,,,[staffordspeedway.com](http://staffordspeedway.com),,860 684-2783

APR 17,,,LEXINGTON,,MILITARY VEHICLES/ANNUAL PATRIOTS DAY/CELEBRATION PARADE,,3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAY APRIL