

Mass Cruisers Auto Club

February 2022



2022 Mecum Kissimmee Auction
pages 6 & 7



Mecum Shatters World Record
\$217 Million at Kissimmee 2022 Beats Existing
Collector Car Auction Record of \$176 Million

Cabin Fever Sunday Breakout page 11

2022 Annual Business Meeting page 8



Big E AutoParts Swap & Sell pages 4 & 5

ALSO INSIDE:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MUSINGS Page 3

CAR SHOWS & EVENTS Page 9



Celebrating 31 Years of Cruisin'
Volume 31 Issue 2

We're on the Web
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Contact us by snail mail:

P.O. Box 217, Wrentham, MA 02093

Or by email: HO350@comcast.net



www.masscruisers.com

2022 Monthly Business meetings are 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
BIG E ANNUAL PARTS SWAP & SELL	Pages 4 & 5
2022 MECUM KISSIMMEE AUCTION	Pages 6 & 7
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING	Page 8
FEBRUARY EVENTS PAGE	Page 9
SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS	Page 10
2022 CABIN FEVER BREAKOUT	Page 11

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Board Musings

By Rich Armando



The **February monthly meeting**, will be **held on Monday February 24 at 6:30 PM** due to a scheduling conflict; the Conservation room is not available for our regular 3rd Tuesday February meeting and that Monday is Valentine's Day; you know what that means. The Feb. meeting will be an interesting and informative one. Fellow member **John Griffin** will give a talk and demonstration on his other hobby which is flying **radio controlled helicopters**. Hope to see you all then

If you were not able to attend our annual business meeting on January 18 you missed a good time. The caterer did a great job as the food was delicious and there was plenty of it. In fact most members brought home doggie bags. The success is due to the work that **John Buchanan** put into organizing the meeting. John found the caterer and picked out the menu so if you haven't thanked him as of yet please do so next time you see him. Thank you John for doing a great job.

Following the buffet, the short formatted business meeting was held followed by the 2021 Cruisers of the Year Award to **John Ricker** by 2019 recipient **Lorna Rabbitt**. Congratulations John and thanks Lorna for the excellent choice. We then passed out the thank you gifts for those who helped with our Auto Fest show in October. Gift recipients had a choice between a folding director's chair with an embroidered club logo on the carrying bag or a navy blue dress shirt and wind breaker combo, both with the club embroidered logo. Once again **Fred Tierney** was asked to look into purchasing the shirts and jackets through Tri Valley Sports and, as in the past, he accepted the challenge. Thanks to Fred, members who opted for the shirt/jacket got quality garments that they should be proud to wear.

The Mass Cruisers are very lucky to have members like John and Fred who always answer the call when asked with the end results being excellent. Thanks again to both of you.

Members present at this January meeting were asked to vote on helping Seekonk Speedway with their annual opening race season weekend car show on April 30. A motion was made, seconded and voted in favor of attending the April 30th show and to supply Seekonk with our expertise and staffing. More on this will come shortly along with a sign up sheet. Keep safe. Only 2 more months of snow.

Editor's Musing

By John Buchanan EDITORIAL



Are we there yet? Remember asking that repeatedly as kids in the back seat of the family car on a road trip adventure of some kind? We had no concept of how far FAR was or how long it would take to get there. In my era when we'd be taking the annual family vacation drive down east on U.S. Route 1 to the other side of Bangor Maine to visit my aunt & uncle, the only entertainment my brother and I had was playing numberplate poker or looking for those Burma Shave billboard signs for their humorous take on highway safety wisdom and waiting to see what the punch line was.

One of the typical ones were:

PASSING SCHOOL ZONE

TAKE IT SLOW

LET OUR LITTLE

SHAYERS GROW

Burma Shave



Kids today now have their own personal play station/smart phone/tablet while Dad's family hauler has a built-in voice activated touch screen GPS entertainment system or at least a Garmin GPS or the Smart Phone app WAZE to answer that question that is probably never asked anymore, **Are we there yet?**



Annual Auto Parts Swap & Sell @ the Big E

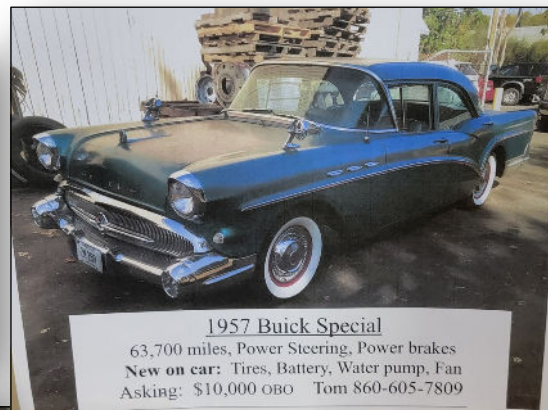
By John Buchanan



What do you do when the Patriots aren't in a divisional playoff again? I take in the Auto Parts Swap & Sell at the Big E's 150,000 sq. ft. Better Living Center in West Springfield if the weather is good. This annual mid-winter break has been happening for almost 40 years now and, despite COVID disrupting the 2021 Swap along with the increased convenience of remote shopping on eBay and Googling whatever you want from your Barcalounger with Amazon PRIME delivering stuff almost overnight, in-person shopping at a swap meet still offers something you'll never experience surfing the internet. Finding something new, different or sometimes surprising is what keeps me going back year-after-year when there's a mix of Hot Rods, Customs, Imports & Antiques for sale, racing parts for oval, street or strip, and auto swap parts, tools, accessories & memorabilia for your garage.



Regarding cars for FOR SALE, and there were some really nice ones this year, there was car for sale spotted in a photo tacked on the wall of the Dunkin Donut stand, one nice looking 1957 Buick Special for \$10,000 o.b.o.. *continued on Page 5*





Annual Auto Parts Swap & Sell @ the Big E

CONTINUED FROM Page 4



When at the 2020 Auto Parts Swap I saw lighted reproduction automotive marque signs a vendor bought from a liquidated specialty sign company. He was back this year with the remaining inventory laid out on the floor flashing impressive 4 multi-color lighting displays that were wireless controlled. I wasn't going to pass it up this time, so the Chevy Impala SS sign is now hanging in my garage.



One interesting vendor was a budding author of books, specifically racing story books for kids. Thom Ring, author of **THE RED RACE CAR** Books, is a former winning kart driver and dirt midget racer, racing reporter, technical editor for Trackside magazine and publisher of Shorttrack magazine. Thom saw this need for racing stories for kids so that is who he now writes for. He publishes "easy reading" story books for new readers as well as bigger stories for better readers. If you are looking for some different kind of gift books to give your children for their birthdays or Christmas; www.redracecar.com to see the selection he has available.



Sunday morning was slow for this vendor



2022 Mecum Kissimmee Auction

By Fred Tierney



The Mecum Kissimmee Auction held at the Osceola Heritage Park Fairgrounds in Kissimmee, Florida kicked off the new year with 2,954 collector cars being sold at auction for a record setting \$213 million while enjoying a 85% sell-through rate from the 3,500 presented. Mecum Kissimmee continues to hold the enviable position of being the world's largest and most successful collector car auction and I have attended them for the past few years during my January vacation time away from our New England winters. It is amazing how well organized this event is. Mecum, unlike the Barrett-Jackson auctions, allows a reserve price. The Heritage Park Fairgrounds accommodates, an auction hall (as seen on TV), approximately 16 pavilions housing the auction cars, a large food & entertainment area, many vendors and shuttles running to and from all the venues. Vehicles that do not meet their reserve price inside the auction hall are labeled "THE BID GOES ON" and are moved into a display lot where you can view them and bid again if desired. All the grounds and event areas are open to the public. Admission is \$20 before the auction start date on Thursday and \$30 on auction days through Sunday. There is a bidder and seller fees of 10% added onto each sale.

Although the premier car going on the block at this year's 2022 auction was the Prototype Ken Miles 1965 Shelby GT350R "Flying Mustang", me being a classic 1957 Mercury Monterey Convertible owner, I was excited even further learning the 1951 "Hirohata" Mercury was also going on the auction block. This ground breaking custom Mercury was built for Robert "Bob" Hirohata by the team at Barris Kustoms in 1952 after Bob saw a top chop done by George Barris on a 1949 Mercury. Hirohata's 1951 Mercury went on to dominate the car show circuit, grace magazine covers, and eventually see some motion picture work. He later sold the Merc in 1955 and in 1959 it was eventually found in a used car lot by 16-year-old Jim McNeil who bought it for \$500. Jim got it back on the road then put it into storage, bringing it out in 1988 for a full restoration under the watchful eyes of the late George Barris. The Merc continued to be shown as a show car and was added to the National Historic Vehicle Register in 2017. Jim died in 2018, but the car remained in the family until now when Wayne Carini was brought into the picture to help the McNeil family bring this historic Merc to the Mecum Kissimmee Auction where it was finally sold for \$2,145,000, twice its pre-sale estimate and reserve price.





2022 Mecum Kissimmee Auction

CONTINUED FROM Page 6 By John Buchanan



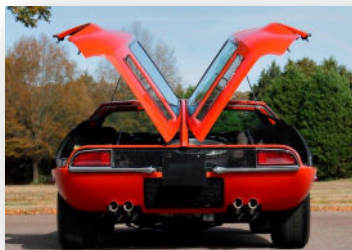
For those of us not fortunate enough as Fred to be down in Florida to see first hand some of these amazing cars going across the auction block, Mecum streams live broadcasts of all their auctions and the Saturday auction was as good as it gets. In addition to watching the highly anticipated Hirohata Mercury cross the stage to be bid up to an unanticipated twice the \$1.1 million reserve price, the historic 1965 Ken Miles GT350R Shelby Mustang, one of the two GT350R prototypes built to race in the SCCAC Production class for its first win at Green Valley Raceway in Smithfield, Texas was the star and top seller at this year's auction. My interest in Mustangs springs from my own experience completing the restoration of a 1965 Mustang with my then 16 year old son Mark back in 1980 which he then used as his daily driver in High School until starting college two years later.

Carroll Shelby sold the GT350R in 1966 for \$4,000 to a Ford engineer Bill Clawson who raced it for another year before it was traded and it continued being raced until ending up in the Shelby American Museum in Boulder, CO. There it sat for another 14 years when a Shelby collector bought it and had it restored to its original SCCAC race condition. He sold it at the Mecum 2020 Indy auction for \$3.85 million garnering the title as the world's most valuable Mustang. And here it is in 2022 at Kissimmee setting another record sell price at \$4.07 million.



There were a few other cars crossing the auction block that caught my interest. One, a 1969 DeTomaso Mangusta, one of 401 built from 1967 to 1971, sold for \$440,000.

Another interesting car was a very rare one of 32 recently restored 1956 Chevrolet Morocco that was sold for \$220,000. We saw a similar black Morocco at the 2021 Old Orchard Beach Show.





Annual Business Meeting

by John Buchanan



Our Mass Cruisers Annual Meeting is traditionally held in January, the start of what we hope will be a better year free from those continued COVID-19 restrictions that we've endured for the past two years. This year's January 18 meeting was somewhat affected with only 30 members attending. In addition to enjoying a delicious hot catered buffet provided by Choice Catering out of Bellingham, we had a fiduciary responsibility as a Massachusetts registered 501c3 nonprofit corporation to conduct an annual business meeting with our members. Following the buffet, Board Chairman Rich Armando called the 31st Annual Meeting to order and went through the official agenda, which included approval of the December 2021 meeting minutes that documented the voted and approved revisions to the club's bylaws, copies of which, were to be emailed to all members of record for 2022.

Following the closing of the Annual Meeting, 2019 Cruiser of the Year, Lorna Rabbitt, was introduced so she could make her selection of the 2021 CRUISER OF THE YEAR AWARD known at this meeting. (**NOTE:** The previous year's COTYA winner selects the following year's award winner who exemplifies best efforts and attitude as a Mass Cruiser member.) Lorna read a short speech including a brief history of how the Cruiser of the Year award began in 2004. Her 2021 Cruiser of the Year selection is **John Ricker!** A High Five to the 2021 "Climb to the Clouds" Porsche driver, John!

After the 2020 cruise year events were cancelled due to the pandemic, Lorna noted that she had to adjust her selection from who she would have picked last year. She also noted that the perpetual plaque that has all the previous COTYA winners engraved on it is now filled up and has no more room for adding subsequent year selections. She's already discussed suggested ideas with our award supplier Rainbow Creations and Joe Filipi said he will be able to rehab the plaque in one way or another. So further discussion for coming up with a solution in time before the 2023 Annual Meeting. Also, because we no longer have a clubhouse wall to display the plaque, Steve Huntington volunteered to follow up on suggestions to have it prominently displayed on the club trailer at all our Cruise Nights. Rich Armando then closed the meeting by passing out the thank you gifts to members that worked the 2021 AutoFest.

Just a heads up for future meetings in the Bass Pro Shops Conservation Room. We are all set for 2022 except for the month of December when it is not available. This may be an opportunity to try something different for the holiday season.

It is easy to identify 2019 Cruiser of the Year winner Lorna Rabbitt and 2022 Cruiser of the Year John Ricker in the photo below.





CAR SHOWS, SWAP MEETS & EVENTS

By John Buchanan



FEBRUARY 2022 and beyond Area Auto Shows & Events Page

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

NOTE: HEMMINGS ENDED HOSTING The M.A.A.C. EVENTS WEBSITE PAGE IT IS NOW ON THE MASS ASSOC. OF AUTO CLUBS USE [Maynard Area Event Listing - 2022 - Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs \(massautoclubs.org\)](https://massautoclubs.org)

NOTE: Event cancellations and date changes due to the COVID-19 Pandemic has made it difficult to keep track of updates. This list for FEBRUARY & BEYOND is as good as it gets and is our best effort so, check with the event organizers to be sure they are still a GO.

FEB 4-6,,PROVIDENCE RI,,NE INTRNATNL AUTO SHO-CONVNTN CTR-SABIN ST providenceautoshow.com/show-info,401 846-1115
FEB 6,,,,,ENFIELD CT,,AUTO FLEA MARKET,,POWDER MILL BARN,,32 SOUTH MAPLE ST,,,1st SUNDAY,,,,,,413 786-6318

AND LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD IN 2022

*MAR 6,,NORFOLK, MA,,MARCOM FLEA MARKET (MASKS),,HOLMES TRANSPORT,,22 MYRTLE ST,,,30—11 AM,,508-285-3211
MAR 11-13,,,W SPRINGFIELD,,MARK'S BIG E AUTO EXPO,,AT THE BIG E 875 MEMORIAL DR,,,,,,MARK,,860 833-4216
MAR 12,,,ANDOVER, MA,,GATHERING OF THE CLUBS 2022,,,DOUBLTREE BY HILTON,,123 OLD RIVER RD. 6:00 PM,
MAR 13,,,,,EVERYWHERE,,DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS AT 2AM,,,TURN THE CLOCKS FORWARD
MAR 27,,,MAYNARD,,,,WINTER BLAHS AUTO PARTS SWAP'N SELL,,MAYNARD ELKS ON RT 62,,7:30-11:30,,CRAIG,,978 562-2390
APR 3,,STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT,,TY-RODS,,ALL AUTO SPRING SWAP MEET,,MOTOR SPEEDWAY,,55 WEST ST.,,7 AM rain or shine
*APR 24,,FITCHBURG,,,FORD V-8 CLUB-50TH ANN FLEA MKT/CAR SHOW,,,FITCHBURG AIRPORT,,8-1,,,,,BRIAN,,978 263-7256

See below, for status of the M.A.A.C. Events Page

You'll see these postings on different auto enthusiast websites when you are looking for a car show, cruise night or swap meet to add onto to your 2022 calendars:


- Here's the posting on the Junkyard Artist Bill MacGregor's www.junkyardartist.com website:
"If you are looking for a automotive swap meet, truck show or car show anywhere in New England go to the [Maynard Area Car Club's website](http://www.maynardareaclub.org). It's awesome!"
- This is posting is from the Dominators Hot Rod Club:
[New England Car Shows](http://www.newenglandcarshows.com) (courtesy of Maynard Area Auto Club)

By now you may already know that Hemmings stopped providing free web hosting for car clubs which torpedoed the Maynard Area Auto Club's long time website and their popular M.A.A.C. EVENTS page which has a long history of providing a very complete listing of events all over New England and beyond since 1988 through their newsletter "The Dipstick". Although the Maynard Area Car Club ceased to exist in 2020, Jack Malcolm continues to soldier on maintaining the club's popular EVENTS page: [Maynard Area Event Listing - 2022 - Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs \(massautoclubs.org\)](https://massautoclubs.org)

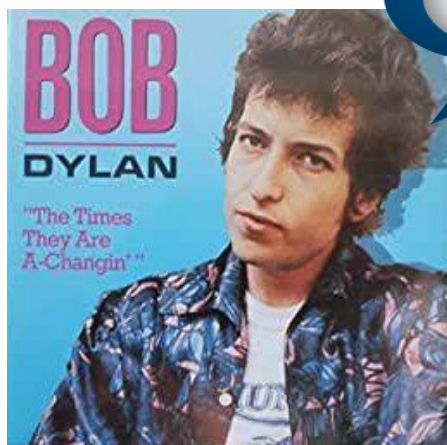
If you hadn't already discovered it, Joel Chappell started a pretty nice go to site several years ago called NewEnglandAutoShows.com It has both a calendar and list format suited for computer and internet age users with hyperlinks bringing you to the event site details. I also know from experience the amount of time and effort it takes to stay on top of events and changes in our own club's postings for approximately a 50 mile radius from our Foxboro/Wrentham/Norfolk local area. When you add all of New England and beyond to your list, it can get downright hectic for one person efforts like Jack Malcolm and Joel Chappell do for the hobby.

"The Times They Are A-Changin'" comes to mind.

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CARS OLD - NEW TRUCKS



2022 Cabin Fever Sunday Breakout

By Diane Thornton



On Sunday, January 23, Mass Cruisers not heading for the Autoparts Swap & Sell at the Big E out in West Springfield, MA, escaped their “cabins” for a meet up at the Newport Car Museum in Portsmouth, R.I.. The day was chilly, but the welcome by the Museum’s docents was very warm. Bob and Johanna Okerholm, John Ricker, Lou Valentine, his guest former Mass Cruiser Rick Cimo, Diane Thornton and Don Cole were greeted with several jolly “hello, Mass Cruisers” as we walked in.

The Newport Car Museum’s email notification of their January Car of the Month for January Meetup visit.



JUNKYARD JENSEN

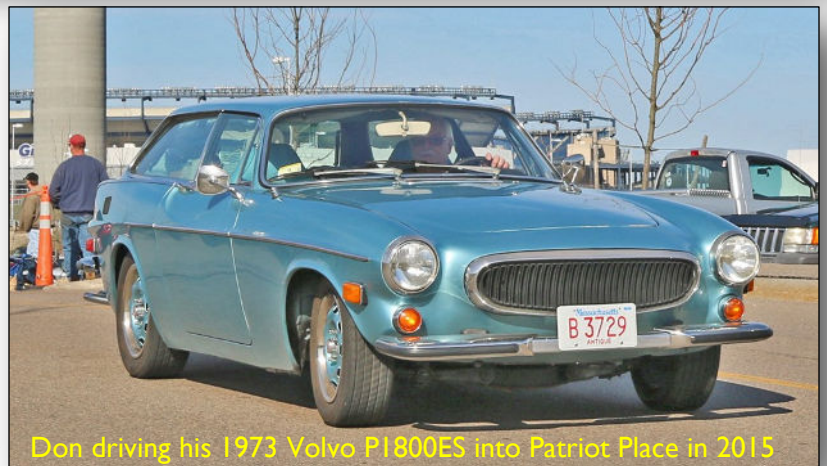


2021 Mass Cruiser of the Year John Ricker and founding Mass Cruisers members Lou Valentine & Don Cole pose alongside the Newport Car Museum’s “Car of the Month” Volvo P1800S

The Museum’s 1968 Volvo P1800S – in an awesome burnt orange color -- popped up in that recent email and spurred me to call Don, a Cruiser who had a blue 1973 Volvo P1800ES, to see if he wanted to venture out to see it. A quick follow up email to the club’s members brought out a few other Cruisers. No one was disappointed with the afternoon (except maybe one lament from Don Cole, “I should have never sold my car”...from back in the day).

I discovered that the Volvo P1800’s were assembled for a time by Jensen Motors in the UK. So I surprised Don and a docent with my claim to know where a Jensen Interceptor was sitting...and brought up pictures on my iPhone of the Jensen in a R.I. junk yard waiting for a needed rescuer. The hulk looked a far cry from the beauties filling the museum floor.

Cruisers, if you have an idea for a Meetup or just want some company on an adventure, consider letting the club members know – you never know what fun could be had. I can try to help with sending emails to our club members.



Don driving his 1973 Volvo P1800ES into Patriot Place in 2015



From L to R: Bob & Johanna Okerholm, John Ricker, Lou Valentine, Diane Thornton and Don Cole



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