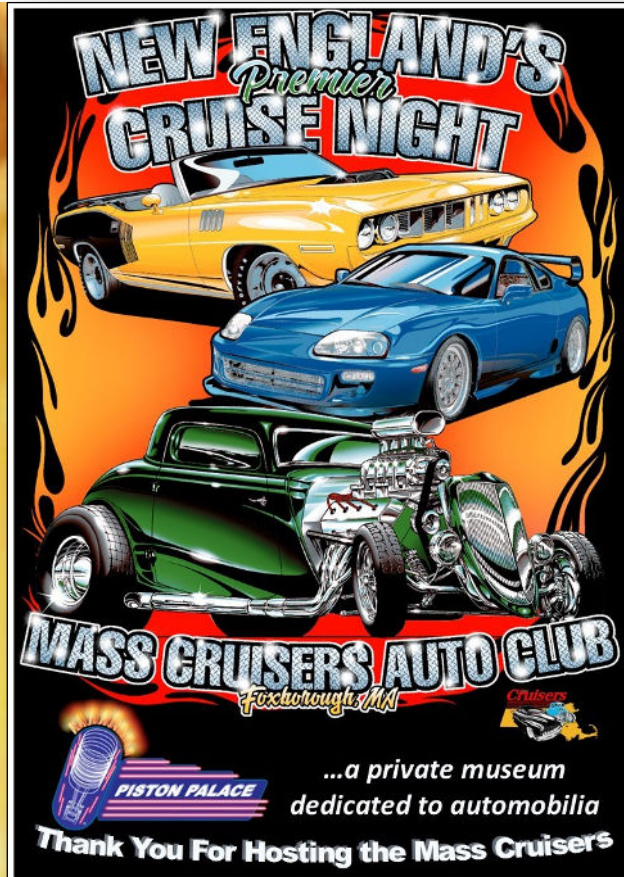




Mass Cruisers Auto Club

December 2023



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Celebrating 32 Years of Cruisin'
Volume 32 Issue 12

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2023 Monthly Business meetings are usually held in the Bass Pro Shops Conservation Room on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM. Visitors, guests and those interested in joining the Mass Cruisers Auto Club are welcome to attend one of these monthly meetings at 6:30 PM after club business is conducted.

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Board Musings

By Rich Armando



As we start the 2024 season we have a new member who volunteered to be on the board of directors. During the meeting when I asked if anyone wished to get on the board Bob Hines had his hand raised but went unnoticed. After the meeting it was brought to my attention that Bob had raised his hand but decided not to pursue a position once we moved on to other club business. A phone call to Bob the following day did confirm what I was told. To make room on the 7 person board Larry Nyborn told me in the meeting he would indeed step down as a board member to make room for someone different to serve. With Larry stepping down this does not mean he will be abandoning the club. Larry has served as President for 4 terms, Vice President for 2 and Secretary for one term. With a record like that Larry is in fact deeply rooted within the club and will be staying involved as an advisor to the board as needed. Thanks to Larry for many years of service to the club and welcome to Bob Hines for stepping up and joining the board.

The thank you gifts for members who have worked the cruise nights have been ordered and delivered. They will be passed out at the January annual business meeting so if you have worked at the cruise night plan on attending that meeting to pick up your gift.

At our November monthly meeting, members were told about a potential opportunity for the club to be involved with the new yearly "World On Wheels" trade show to be held next March 2024 inside the Patriot Place 80,000 sq. ft. Socios.com Field House, a.k.a "bubble". The Board met with the trade show promoters on Monday, Nov. 27 to see what was expected from the club. They want to provide a section of the show's space to focus on anything with wheels and to use the Mass Cruisers club to help promote this. In exchange we would be given as much room as we need to possibly hold the area vocational school small engine build-off competition that was moth-balled when COVID hit. We can also set up a table to promote the Mass Cruisers and our cruise night, possibly sign up new members, sell our tee shirts and display as many cars that the club is willing to bring out that time of year, the weekend of Friday, Saturday and Sunday March 22nd thru Sunday March 24th. Your board feels this would be a great event to become involved in and will be making the commitment to do so. There would be no cost for the Cruisers to setup for the weekend. Of course everyone's help will be needed so plan on putting some time aside for this in March. More info will follow at the December meeting.

Thanks to Fred Tierney for organizing the first visit to the Piston Palace. What a great time we all had along with a nice lunch thanks to Fred's efforts. Also thank you to John Griffin for picking up the pizzas and drinks for the November meeting and to Johnny "Sweet Pea" Sturniolo for moving the clubs trailer from Bass Pro to the clubs storage area in Wrentham.

See you all at the December 19 meeting; pizza served at 6 PM followed by guest speaker Bob Slater who will tell us about his upcoming plans for the "World On Wheels Showcase" at Gillette in March.

Editor's Musing

By John Buchanan



Outdoor car events go into winter hibernation when the threat of snow triggers the inevitable road salting battles throughout New England. Our area Car Shows & Events practically disappear until the spring rains wash all that accumulated road salt & sand away. If you're interested in events where the snowbirds migrate to I suggest looking at Jack Malcolm's postings. <https://massautoclubs.org/maynard-area-event-listing>

Car 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; use it for more listings beyond this area

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

DEC 9,,ATTLEBORO,,BRISTOL COUNTY STREET RODS HOLIDAY PARTY,,FOR INFO,,CALL,,.....,WOODY,,508 222-7518
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 DEC 11 MONDAY,,AUBURN,,WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA ROAD TO ARLINGTON,,AMERICAN LEGION,,88 BANCROFT ST. ,,NOON
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 *FEB 24,,WESTFORD,,ROADMAN CC GATHERING OF CLUBS,,WESTFORD REGENCY 219 LITTLETON RD,,6PM,,ON FACEBOOK
 *MAR 3,,NORFOLK,,MODEL A CLUB MARCOM FLEA MKT,,7:30-11,,HOLMES TRANSP CO,,22 MYRTLE ST,,DEAN,,508 285-3211
 *MAR 24,,MAYNARD,,WINTER BLAHS AUTO PARTS SWAP'N SELL,,MAYNARD ELKS ON RT 62,,7:30-11:30,,CRAIG,,508 561-3977
 *APR 18,,FOXBOROUGH,,BASS PRO SHOPS CRUISE KICKS OFF ITS 16TH SEASON AT PATRIOT PLACE ON U.S. RTE. 1,,4:30 PM—8 PM



Piston Palace Museum Tour

Cruise organized by Fred Tierney with photos by Diane Thornton



On November 4, 2023, a group of Mass Cruisers were fortunate enough to attend a tour of "The Piston Palace" in Rhode Island, hosted by its owner Jeff Goldstein. The museum is a personal lifetime collection of automobilia, very significant vehicles and recreations of dealership showrooms and service shops. It truly is an amazing lifetime collection of automobile history. Jeff was our tour guide and spoke about many of his Museum's treasures. At the conclusion of the tour we all had lunch at a local restaurant. It was a great experience and enjoyed by all. Thank you to Jeff for his hospitality and tour of his "Piston Palace".



[Home \(pistonpalace.com\)](http://pistonpalace.com) The Piston Palace is a private museum in Warwick, Rhode Island, owned and meticulously curated by Jeffery Goldstein with over 100 years of General Motors memorabilia showcasing beautiful examples of General Motors vehicles from 1957 to 1972 as well as a couple of Ford hot rods. The museum layout simulates the environment of dealership showroom. The museum also maintains an extensive library collection with specific emphasis on Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild art designs and models.



Fred Tierney presents Jeff Goldstein a Mass Cruisers thank you plaque for hosting the tour



A lunch at Chelo's of Warwick following the tour was enjoyed by all.



Wright's Farm Annual Gathering of the Club's Cruise

By Diane Thornton



The weather was awesome. Eleven cars assembled at the Wrentham American Legion Rte. 1A lot. With a Box of Joe supplied by the Thorntons and Steve Fernald volunteering his tailgate for dispensing the brew while everyone waited for the cruise departure time. Another group preparing another event being held at the American Legion and sharing the lot taking pictures of our cars and chatting with us. Johnny Sturnio led the "cruise" from Wrentham through the back roads with Richie & Marie Armando taking the last car position and communicating with Johnny when any in the group got separated at lights or cross streets. It worked out really well. Other club members met us at the Wright's parking lot. We were surprised to be the first group seated at 11:30 AM!

We had 29 members in attendance. All were efficiently served a generous meal! We had time to chat among ourselves and one benefit of being seated first is that we seemed to be able to see friends and acquaintances parade by when they were being seated. Lots of hellos and waves! Mike Rabbitt had the duty of the collecting the members' portion, but made it more fun with his usual jokes and sidebars. Richie Armando was the one making sure that Kevin will get the receipt for the meal! Every member was very happy to be involved in such a nice gesture from the club.

Afterwards, the usual trip down the road to historic Chepachet was enjoyed by a few cars to explore the village shops. It was fun, especially strolling along the street in nice weather. A few others went to the Rabbitt's house for afternoon treats.



Club members look forward to one last cruise with their vehicles before they put them away for a long winter's nap.



This is an event where you will see area Ford Model "T" & "A" clubs gathering with traditional clubs like ours.



Following Wright's famous all you can eat chicken dinner, a stroll along Chepachet's US Route 44 village shops is in order.



2023 Food Pantry Results

By John Griffin



Continuing the tradition that started in the fall of 2015 when an emergency callout by several of the area local food pantries were in need of donations, former Mass Cruiser member Ralph Chadsey set up an annual program identifying five local food pantries that we could support on a shared rotating basis. Each year the collections of non-perishable food and cash donations has exceeded our expectations. Although we no longer weigh the food donations which typically weigh in at around nine tons during the cruise season, we are able to count the cash donations which for 2023 totaled almost \$31,000. This year the cash donations were distributed to each of the five participating food pantries in three stages; checks for \$500 each in June, \$1,600 each in August and finally, I was happy to deliver \$4,080 to each Food Pantry this November following the our final October cruise. We want to express our thanks to the generous donations of over 9 tons of non-perishable food and \$30,900 in cash that our Bass Pro Shop cruise participants gladly donate to our dedicated front entrance team each cruise for the five participating Food Pantries in Foxboro, Attleboro, Wrentham, Walpole & Stoughton.



Lots of smiling faces w.
final \$4,080 checks





Malcom Pray Achievement Center Tour

by John Buchanan



International Motor Press Association (IMPA) Board Member David Fluhrer arranged a member tour of the Malcolm Pray Achievement Center and Museum in Bedford New York for Saturday November 18 which I, along with one allowed guest, my son Jim, attended, making this a "Tank-Away" Saturday, on the road at 7 AM, then back home at 4 PM. The Pray Achievement Center's purpose is to educate, and it offers educational programs designed to inspire students, the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs, to start considering what career field they may want to pursue and to offer them Malcolm's "12 Steps of Success" to help them achieve their chosen path. School groups can participate in guided tours, workshops, and seminars that focus on the intersection of business and engineering. We watched a 2 minute video on the entrepreneurial life of Malcolm S. Pray Jr, narrated by the late Malcolm himself followed by Museum Executive Director Marikay Satryano leading a guided tour of the two garages housing Malcolm's automobile collection. The collection ranges from an interesting and rare 1908 Metz Plan Car to some of Malcolm's own personal cars that he used until his passing in 2013 at age 84. Beyond the impressive collection of automobiles, the walls and display cases contain a lifetime of awards and more importantly, mementos and photographs of the young students who have benefited from Achievement Center programs. We concluded with an IMPA provided lunch in the Reception Center Library which houses an impressive automotive book collection. Jimmy and I left shortly after lunch to make the 160 mile ride back home for another 4 PM event.



1908 Metz Plan Car

An interesting display for me was Henry Ford's substantial 1909 Model T (right) which sold for \$850 or the build-it-yourself 1908 Metz Plan Car (left) using their 14 \$25 boxed installment plan program totaling \$350. Not many of those original 500 Metz's survived.



1909 Ford Model T



A short introductory video of the late Malcolm Pray describing his vision for educating today's youth at the Achievement Center was presented.



Malcolm's '74 Cadillac with VW hood ornament





TOOLS FOR KIDS Program Launched

by Rick White—Charity Coordinator



In addition to our club's 50-50 efforts which supports workforce tool grants of \$250 each to graduating seniors in the four area Vocational/ Technical Automotive & Engine Trade programs, I am pleased to acknowledge the successful launch of TOOLS 4 KIDS this past cruise year.

TOOLS 4 KIDS is a new Mass Cruisers program to collect functional automotive tools for graduating local area vocational, automotive students. We all have tools that we've upgraded or have more multiples than we need. Our goal is to collect and distribute functional basic tools to them. We collect tools at every Cruise or, for large amounts, we will pick them up. Every tool we get is donated

to students at no cost to the student. Students entering the work force need start up tools. Most automotive vocational students don't come from an automotive family so they have no hand-me-down access to tools. Every auto enthusiast has extra tools that are just cluttering their tool box or laying around unused. Kids can use them. We take them all. Rusty, dusty, kind of crusty, a tool is a tool. They'll all get a second life and help kids starting out. For our first year I'm pleased with the results of several sets of sockets, wrenches, about a hundred miscellaneous and specialty tools, including some unexpected Snap-On sets. Over the winter while you're tinkering with your rides start a bucket. Toss the oldies in and bring them to a cruise or meeting. I want to thank all this year's generous donors for giving us a great start.

The 50/50 Vocational Student Workforce grant program that provided \$250 cash awards to graduating seniors from four area Technical/Vocational schools, Blue Hills Regional, Tri-County, Norfolk County Agricultural and Southeastern Regional is being increased to \$400 grants, recognizing the increased costs associated of equipping these future technicians with the necessary tools their chosen trade requires.



Rick Hodgkins made one of the first donations to the "Tools 4 Kids" program with an EFI Injector Cleaning Kit. The donation bucket for dropping off your tools is located underneath the club table.



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November Guest Speaker: Jeff DeMarey

by John Buchanan



Our Guest Speaker series for the upcoming winter monthly meetings, that include pizza provided by the club for those of us that arrive hungry, got off to a great start with Jeff DeMarey, President of the Stonewall Insurance Group. Jeff, whose specialty insurance business was located in out in Wilbraham, became one of our Bass Pro Shops Cruise sponsors from 2014–2017 when the Mass Cruisers were one of the two host car clubs at the Goodguys Northeast Nationals during its five year run at the Big E in Springfield. However, insurance was not the topic at our meeting. It was his 501c3 charity, Springfield - Boston Education Foundation and its signature reincarnated event, the annual historic Wilbraham Hillclimb. The Springfield - Boston Education Foundation mission is to educate children and young adults about the storage, repair, maintenance and skills it takes to drive collectible cars as well as publish technical and historical bulletins on the intricacies of these great automobiles.

What most of us weren't acutely aware of was that western Massachusetts back in the early days of automotive history was a hot bed of automotive manufacturers beginning in the late 1800's with the Knox in Springfield and Stevens-Duryea in Chicopee to the later well known classic American Rolls-Royce that was also built in Springfield in the 1920's. So there was a pipeline of newly manufactured automobiles being fed East from Springfield to Boston. And the mile long Monson Road hill, with its 23% grade, was used for unofficial hill climb testing these new brass era automobiles and motorcycles like the legendary Indians also manufactured in Springfield. The Automobile Club of Springfield began organizing the first hill climb event in 1908. It later went the way of those long gone manufacturers and was briefly reinstated again in 2013 for the town's 250th Anniversary. The Springfield - Boston Education Foundation, whose mission included picking up sponsoring the re-enactment of the historic Hillclimb five years ago, celebrated its 5th Annual event on May 13. Hillclimb participation is limited to pre-WWII vehicles from 1946 and older. Jeff's plans for the future to increase interest for both spectators and also attract auto enthusiasts, is to include a car show to be held nearby at the Wilbraham & Monson Academy 400 acre campus. This is an event club members may want to consider adding on to their annual calendar for May 11 & 12, 2024.

**JEFF
DeMAREY**

Founder, Director & Trustee

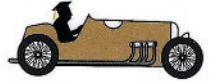
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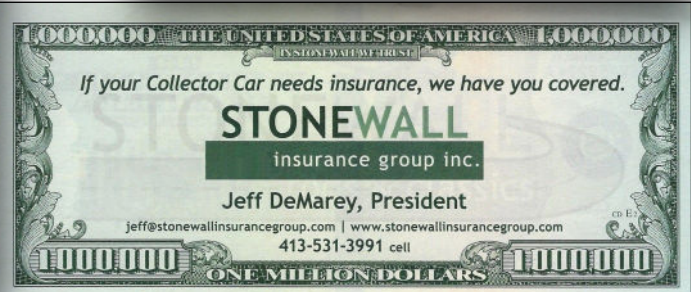


(69) Wilbraham Hill Climb Teaser 2023 - YouTube



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