

Mass Cruisers Auto Club

November 2023



Halloween Trunk or Treat Cruise pages 4—7



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CAR SHOWS, EVENTS & SWAP MEETS Page



Audrain Concourse Newport page 8



Celebrating 32 Years of Cruisin'
Volume 32 Issue 11

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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



Another very successful cruise night season has come to an end. Due to the hard work and commitment of the members who work the cruise night's night after night I have some impressive numbers to share with you. The food pantry cash donations totaled for the season \$30,896.03 with tons and tons of food donations. From what I have been told, it was not uncommon to have whatever food pantry that was manning the entrance that night to have to send out for another vehicle to bring all of the donations back to their pantry. The clubs 50/50 Workforce Grant program for the four Tech-Voc schools we support also did fairly well. Participation in the 50/50 program for these schools is a hard sell considering most of the cruise participants in attendance have already made cash donations at the food pantry entrance. Keeping this in mind, and that there is only so much extra money people have to donate, the 50/50 crew did a great job soliciting donations from participants willing to support this great cause. All of this wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for the work of the "setup and parking" crew volunteers. Several of our members start the day as early as noon time. It starts by contacting Bass Pro to bring the trailer up and once it is in place they start putting out all the traffic cones, setting up the tables around the trailer and all of the signage needed to keep the traffic flowing smoothly. If my notes are correct, we missed three cruise nights. One to a Patriots preseason game and one to a rain cancellation. Another early spring cruise experienced uncomfortable weather with poor turnout that the 50/50 and food pantry collections were suspended with no cruise winner selection as well. Not making up some cancellations was not a bad thing. Having to put on this cruise two weeks in a row would have been a lot to ask of the membership and having a few weeks off to recharge the batteries and support other area cruises was a good thing. Thank you to every member who has shown up to help at these cruise nights. Without your commitment we would not have been able to put on one of the biggest and best run cruise nights anywhere.

Just because the cruise nights are over that doesn't mean cruise season is over. The club has two events planned for the coming weeks. On November 4th Fred Tierney has organized a tour of a private collection at the Piston Palace. Because the owner limits tours to only 10 at a time, Fred will try to set another tour date for those that didn't make the 10 cutoff or couldn't make the Nov. 4 tour. The next cruise is the following day, November 5th to Wrights Chicken Farm when we turn the clocks back one hour and the sun will set at 4:30 PM, the traditional end of our cruising season until next April. This event is always an enjoyable day. If anyone has any ideas for additional cruises before they start sanding and salting the roads please let me know. There is still time to fit some in. If your idea does not happen this year there is always the spring of 2024.

It was approved at the October meeting to bring back pizza before the monthly meetings during the winter months. John Griffin, Fred Tierney and Rick White have volunteered to take turns picking up the pizza and bringing them to the meetings. Keep an eye out for a reminder a few days before the meeting. Speaking of pizza an anonymous member brought in and setup pizza for everyone at the October meeting ahead of the November start. Whoever that was thank you for your generous act.

We also would like to schedule some guest speakers for these meetings. Does anyone have any ideas for some sort of presentations at these meetings?

A sunshine report from Diane Thornton noted both Bob Hines and John Ricker are doing very well after their respectful surgeries. Speedy recovery to both and I hope they will be back in circulation soon.

Finally, it's that time of year to look for new blood to help run your club. If you have any interest in getting on the board please let me know. If you do not want to be on the board at least you can come up with ideas that would make the club more interesting and enjoyable to belong to.

Editor's Musing

By John Buchanan EDITORIAL



October turned out to be a banner month for finding stuff for our November newsletter which has 15 pages of content. Not wanting to waste a blank page for Page #16 when you print out a copy, my search came up with a checklist for winterizing your car from MassDrive.com. This may be a little too basic for many experienced winter weary warriors, but could be beneficial for a newly minted car owner facing their first winter in New England, so pass it along. If you think November might be a bit early, like the Christmas decorations now appearing in stores, tonight's October 30 weather report included 3—6 inches of snow falling in northern Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. See you next spring.



October 5 Bass Pro Shops "Trunk or Treat" Cruise

By John Buchanan



The weather was perfect for our annual Trunk or Treat Bass Pro Shops Cruise at Patriot Place. And our perennial Halloween Ambassadors, Diane Thornton and Lorna Rabbitt, greeted participants in their Minion costumes being chauffeured around the cruise in the back of Diane Reizovic's Mustang convertible. Their selections for the best Halloween decorated 'Trunk or Treat' themed displays are pictured below. Patrick Touhey donned his formal finery to once again M.C. the best Halloween Costumed boys, girls and adults. It seems the number of contestants vying each year is increasing, but of course the perfect weather helped too.

1st Place: Red Riding Hood & coyote in her 1957 Chevrolet BelAir trunk



2nd Place: Skeleton @ Castle in his 1986 Oldsmobile 88



3rd Place: Chuckie in red lighted 1967 Chevrolet Nova engine bay

Mass Cruisers 2023 Judging Ambassadors: MINIONS



continued on Page 5



Patrick Touhey & Cocoa, co-M.C.'s for best Halloween costumed boys, girls & adults





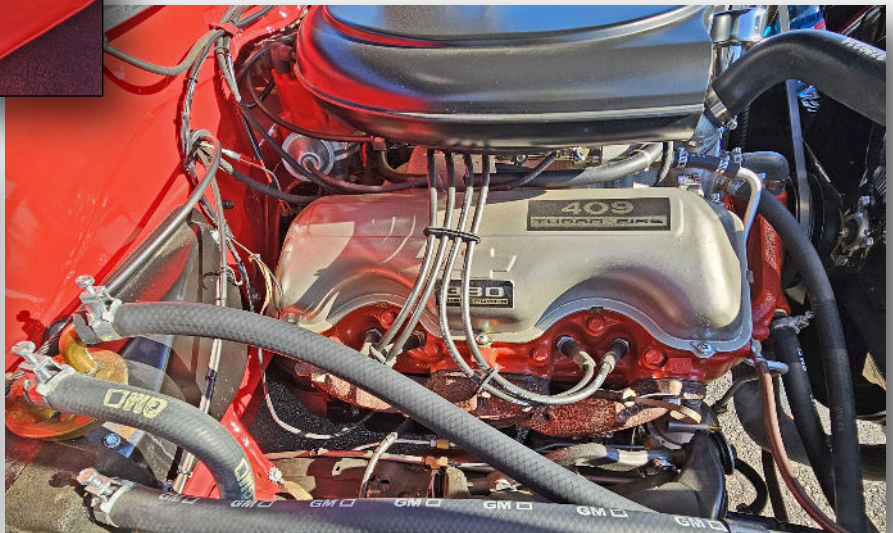
October 5 Cruise Winner #1: 1962 Chevrolet Biscayne

By John Buchanan *continued from Page 4*

The first of September 21st three Vintage Motorsports Cruiser Awards went to Rich Boardman's stunning Vermillion Red 1962 Chevrolet Biscayne sporting a brand new 409 V8 backed by a 4 speed T10 Borg-Warner manual tranny. It was a underwent a 3 ½ year total body off nut and bolt restoration in Virginia that was completed in 2018. The original was a sad green and fawn colored 6 cylinder with three on the tree. While still retaining the red 1962 Biscayne interior, it was rebuilt using a 1964 chassis, all new hardware and is rolling on 18-inch U.S. Mag wheels making it a much better driving and handling classic for today's cruising needs.



There is no mistaking the classic scalloped look of Chevy's legendary 409 valve covers and made famous in the Beach Boy's lyrics: "Giddy up, Giddy up 409.... Nothing can catch her Nothing can touch my 409, 409"





October 5 Cruise Winner #2: 1960 Chevrolet Impala

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

Scott Peter from Franklin, MA has owned his 1960 Chevrolet Impala for 29 years and has over time been making continuous improvements, the latest being a total refinish two years ago of the white vinyl interior to its current striking red diamond stitched seating and door panels painted to match the red trimmed white paint finish. 1960 Impala's unique horizontal bat/gull-wing fins were Chevy's last hurrah in the battle of the fin design era that was started by GM Design Chief Harley Earl started in 1948 with the Cadillac.



One of the most striking features in Scott's Chevy when you look inside the cabin is the brilliant red diamond patterned seats & door panels and learn they were painted with durable upholstery paint used for boating seats.



**October 5 Cruise Winner #3: 1964 Buick Riviera***CONTINUED FROM Page 6*

Rich Smith's 1964 Buick Riviera in tasteful silver paint is a great example of Buick's late entry into the personal performance luxury segment that was started by the Ford Thunderbird. Rich's ride was a previous national award-winning car that he has further refined with an LS3 6.2L V8 and 4L60 four speed tranny and air ride suspension riding on 18-inch Schott forged-billet wheels for an awesome highway cruiser.





2023 Audrain Concours at the Breakers Mansion

by Steve Vining



On Sunday Sean Sullivan and I (our 2 club photographers) attended the Audrain Concours in Newport, R.I. The show's award presentations took place on the back lawn of the Breakers Mansion. The rainy weather of the previous 3 days gave way to nice, partly sunny conditions for the awards. There were approximately 175 vehicles entered in the Concours d'Elegance which was a bit higher than previous years. There were some outstanding cars of various vintages, although my personal favorites were the classics from the 20's and 30's, as well as the early 'brass era' cars. There were, I believe, at least two V16 Cadillacs, an Auburn Boat Tail Speedster, a few Roll Royce's and a couple of Bentley Race Cars, as well as numerous others. Representing the 'Brass Era' were a Thomas, a 1912 Rambler Country Club, a 1904 Oldsmobile 'Curved Dash', a Grout Brothers Model J Steam Car (built in Orange Massachusetts), and a 1912 Simplex 50HP Torpedo Tourer. The "Best of Show" was a 1938 Delage D8-120 De Villars Roadster.

The Audrain Concours show field at the Breakers in Newport overlooks the famous Cliff Walk on Rhode Island Sound.

"Best of Show" 1938 Delage D8-120 De Villars Roadster also won the Curvaceous & Streamlined Award



Sarah Moon poses with her Orange, Mass. built 1903 Grout Brothers Model J 2 cylinder steam powered car.



This 1912 Simplex 5 passenger Torpedo Tourer was sold for a Pre-WWI car record \$4.8 million at the 2023 Bonham's Scottsdale auction



October 1 Bristol Veterans Tribute Cruise In

by John Buchanan



The Saturday September 30 rain delayed annual Veterans Tribute Cruise In Car Show was held on the following day, Sunday October 1, at the R.I. Veterans Home Grounds in Bristol, R.I. Although a little over 120 registered cars attending was less than we normally experience, we think was primarily due to some 15 previously scheduled and weather related rescheduled area car shows on Sunday. We were able to fill out both sides of the main entrance drive with an impressive display of show cars for the resident veterans, their family members and spectators to enjoy. As always, the show kicks off with a parade led by the Bristol Police honor guard and the Mt. Hope High School Marching Band, and It's the Veterans themselves that vote for the Top 25 favorite cars & motorcycles displayed to receive the recognition awards. And, ta-da, this year's "Best of Show" car selected, went to Fran Barboza's 1951 Oldsmobile 88 Convertible.



Fran Barboza with her "Best of Show" plaque for her 1951 Oldsmobile 88



Bristol Police Honor Guard and Mt. Hope H.S. Marching Band

This annual Cruise-In Car Show honors our Veterans: "All Gave Some and Some Gave All"





October 19 Bass Pro Shops Year End Cruise

by John Buchanan



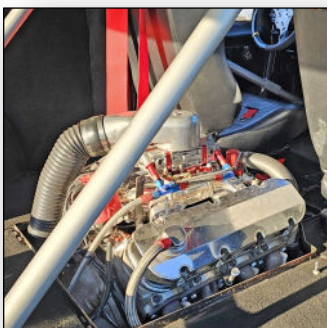
We couldn't have asked for better fall weather conditions to end our final October Bass Pro Shops cruise in Foxborough. With end-of-season sunsets occurring before 6 PM and having so many rain-affected weekly cruise and weekend car show cancellations this season, perhaps this could explain why the main cruise lots 14 & 16 were filled by 4:30 and the overflow lots 12 & 20 as well a little bit later. And, as always, something new and unexpected can be seen showing up at our cruise to make attending this unique New England happening an outstanding experience. Patriot Place was rocking with thousands of collector car owners and spectators to close out our 2023 season and we couldn't be happier to be your hosts and also look forward to doing it all over again next April.



Our front entrance team continues to support the five area Food Pantries by collecting your \$\$ and non-perishable food donations.



How about an unusual Pro Street 454 mid-engine custom 1985 Chevy Astro Van (left) or custom 1948 Cadillac convertible (right) to tweak your curiosity?



These three 1936 extinct models were good examples of finding something different to look forward to finding at our cruises; a 1936 DeSoto Airflow (above) and a 1936 customized Studebaker President sedan 1936 Graham Cavalier Sedan cruiser (left).

continued on Page 9

**October 19 Cruise Winner #1: 1968 Oldsmobile 442***Continued from Page 8*

The first of three Vintage Motorsports Cruiser Awards for the October 19 Cruise was Moe StJean's 1968 Ivy Green metallic Oldsmobile 442. Moe, who hails down the road from Pawtucket, R.I., discovered his Olds back in 2008 when it was destined to become a drag race car by the previous owner. He bought it and spent the next two to three years bringing it back to its original condition, including replacing the chrome where needed. He still uses the 8-track tape player and is always looking for tapes in good condition because they do come apart with heavy use and the tapes can become brittle with age. Moe is a regular at the Friday R.I. Chevy Owner cruise in Cumberland, R.I. with this first Oldsmobile 442 model year and it is always great to see it show up at our Bass Pro Shops cruises.

*continued on Page 11*



October 19 Cruise Winner #2: 1967 Custom Ford Bronco

Continued from Page 9

The second of three Vintage Motorsports Cruiser Awards for the October 19 Cruise went to Rich Strauss's highly modified black 1967 Ford Bronco that was attracting attention from everyone that spotted it parked in Lot 14. Although Rich found the Bronco out in California it was Georgia built by Dennis Graham as a show truck. Powered by a 572 big block V8 with a blower poking through the hood straight 4-inch exhaust pipes and that tubbed rear bed clearing 22" x 16" wide Mickey Thompson meats along with an AutoMeter Pro Comp instrumented dash you would think drag truck, but it has no roll cage or sissy bar & drag chute attached to the Art Morrison frame. Then, the brown leather & alligator trimmed interior speaks luxury along with the a/c & heat says comfort. Also, Rich added Thrush mufflers & 3-inch exhaust pipes to quiet her down because he loves driving the Bronco to shows or cruise nights, not trailering it.



Big Block 578 V8 & Tubbed bed for 22" x 16" w MT's

Then there is that piston shifter, how cool is that?





October 19 Cruise Winner #3: 1949 Chevrolet Suburban

Continued from Page 9

The third October 19 cruise Vintage Motorsports winner selected was Wally Hayes recently traded 1949 Chevrolet Suburban that was still sporting its former Texas home state tags. This was its first cruise from its current Norwood, MA home, and we loved it. First, being a rare two door model with the tasteful Brown over Tan paint scheme that's hiding several road cruising upgrades starting with the LS1 5.7L V8 & 4L60 4 speed auto tranny and Mustang II front end on its original chassis. Being from hot Texas, it has dual air conditioning, with a second one located in the third seat area dedicated to cooling the back half of its large interior. The complimentary brown leather seating and bucket seats up front complete the luxurious look and feel of this old timer.



One of the unique features of Wally's Suburban is having two a/c units with the second a/c unit located in a custom internal trunk inside the 3rd seat area box shown below that is providing cooling in the 2nd row rear seating area with vents underneath the seat, shown left





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CAR SHOWS, SWAP MEETS & EVENTS

By John Buchanan

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Of the dozen bills submitted to the Massachusetts 193rd General Court affecting our hobby, your Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs (MAAC) Board has attended public hearings and testified and submitted position papers on behalf of our member car clubs and fellow auto hobbyists for the following Bills:

✗ [H.3433 \(HD.427\)](#) An Act relative to duplicate license plates

Allowing NO duplicate license plates – this would kill the Year of Manufacture Plate.

William M. Straus 10th Bristol—Steven S. Howitt (Representative) – Fourth Bristol -Norton: Precincts 1, 2; Rehoboth; Seekonk; Swansea: Precincts 4, 5.—Angelo L. D’Emilia 8th Plymouth

Hearing was held on 10/02/23 and Testimony and a Position Paper AGAINST the passage of this bill was submitted

Status: Waiting [Joint Committee on Transportation](#) – Has been granted “Emergency Preamble” so considered Public Safety.

✓ [S.2243 \(SD.114\)](#) & [H.3333 \(HD.486\)](#) & HD.H3339 relative to the year of manufacture registration plates

Allowing for Year of Manufacture Plates to be restored if they follow the color and design.

Anne M. Gobi (Senator)- Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex

James K. Hawkins (Representative) – Second Bristol-Attleboro Wards 1, 2, Ward 3:Precinct A, Wards 4, 5, 6.

Steven S. Howitt (Representative) – Fourth Bristol -Norton: Precincts 1, 2; Rehoboth; Seekonk; Swansea: Precincts 4, 5.

Hearing was held on 10/02/23 and Testimony and a Position Paper SUPPORTING the passage of this bill was submitted.

Status: Waiting [Joint Committee on Transportation](#)

✓ [H.3436 \(HD.431\)](#) & [H.3343 \(HD.1922\)](#) An Act relative to antique motor vehicle inspections

Removing the requirement for annual inspection on vehicles older than 45 years and with correct plates

William M. Straus 10th Bristol—Steven S. Howitt (Representative) – Fourth Bristol -Norton: Precincts 1, 2; Rehoboth; Seekonk;

Swansea: Precincts 4, 5.—Angelo L. D’Emilia 8th Plymouth

Hearing was held on 10/02/23 and Testimony and a Position Paper SUPPORTING the passage of this bill was submitted.

Status: Waiting [Joint Committee on Transportation](#)

✓ [S.2232 \(SD.847\)](#) & [H3337](#) Acts relative to historic route designations

Rt3, Rt6, and Rt20 would become historic routes.

[Paul R. Feeney](#) – Bristol and Norfolk

[James K. Hawkins](#) (Representative) – Second Bristol-Attleboro Wards 1, 2, Ward 3:Precinct A, Wards 4, 5, 6.

[Steven S. Howitt](#) (Representative) - Fourth Bristol -Norton: Precincts 1, 2; Rehoboth; Seekonk; Swansea: Precincts 4, 5.

Hearing was held on 8/29/23 and a Position Paper SUPPORTING the passage of this bill was submitted.

Status: Waiting [House Committee Bills in the Third Reading](#)

[Joint Committee on Transportation](#) reported favorably on 9/25/2023 & referred to House Steering Committee and was Placed on the Orders of the Day 10/10/2023 read, seconded and ordered to a third reading.

[Bills of Interest – Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs \(\[massautoclubs.org\]\(http://massautoclubs.org\)\)](#)

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Winterize Your Car: A Checklist for Getting Your Vehicle Ready for the Snowy Season



- ☐ Ensure battery is charged
- ☐ Replace windshield wipers
- ☐ Have sufficient windshield wiper fluid
- ☐ Check anti-freeze and coolant levels
- ☐ Keep gas tank full to avoid condensation from forming and freezing
- ☐ Assemble emergency kit- first aid, jumper cables, flashlight, flares, blanket, coolant, oil
- ☐ Keep snow tools in car- snow brush, windshield scraper, shovel, gloves
- ☐ Check air pressure and wear on tires, replace with winter tires if necessary
- ☐ Make sure all lights work, including hazards
- ☐ Check that heat and defroster work
- ☐ Check exhaust system for leaks
- ☐ Check oil level
- ☐ Ensure steering works, and replace power steering fluid if necessary
- ☐ Test your brakes
- ☐ Make you have enough brake fluid