

Cruisin' at the speed of fun

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



2024 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 6:00 PM before club business is conducted.

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<u>Cruisers</u>

Cruisin' at the speed of fun MAY 2024 Board Musings

By Rich Armando





When I started to think about what would be in this month's musings I thought of talking on how successful our April 18th first cruise night of the 2024 season was. Unfortunately Mother Nature threw us a curve and the first cruise night was rained out. It proved to be the right call as the afternoon was filled with on and off rain along with cool temperatures which would have made it extremely uncomfortable for anyone working that night. For future reference Bob Hines and I have to make a decision by 10:00 in the morning in order to give Bass Pro and Patriots Place enough time to cancel everything that they supply the club with that is needed to run the cruise. This was a good example as to why the starting date was pushed back from the very beginning of the month. Sure we can get lucky with the weather, where it's sunny and warm but more often than not it's what we witnessed a few weeks back. So a month from now look forward to a glowing review about our first cruise night of the season.

If you did not attend the April 13th garage tours set up by John Buchanan you missed a great time. One of the stops was at Big Wheel Recovery garage owned by Bob Fouquette. The equipment and knowledge that Bob has is remarkable. After spending some time at that garage looking at some of the newest recovery equipment in the business we drove a few miles to Bob's house to see his personal car collection. When we were done there we had a short drive to see Mike Camara's car collection. Since Mike sold his business he started investing in muscle cars and amassed a very nice selection of cars. The day ended with lunch at the Star Drive In. I'm sure John will cover these stops in more detail so I will leave that to him. Thanks John.

The month of May will also be a busy month with our cruise nights, some more scheduled garage tours and an ice cream run, so plan on attending these outings. Look for emails detailing these monthly club events. One thing I will spend some time to talk about is the May 4th car show at Seekonk Speedway. The club has organized and run this show for quite a few years. It's always been an enjoyable day where the clubs only responsibilities are to park the show cars and judge them for the 11 awards that will be given out. There is very limited setup required by the club and cleanup following the show is handled by the Seekonk Speedway staff. It is also a great event for spectators attending where they not only get to see a great early season car show, there is an auto parts flea market going on and Sunday's opening season race teams doing their final testing and tuning on the track which are fun to watch. Then, following that, there is the ever popular 100 foot drags on the track by car show participants. If you have yet to sign up to help please email me so you can be added to the list. More info will be emailed to the members who have signed up so keep an eye for this emailing. Hope to see you at one of the upcoming events.





When it comes down to cancelling a scheduled cruise due to weather, it never fails, someone will show up at the cruise only to be disappointed when they arrive to find themselves alone in the cruise parking lots. I try to show up in the early-afternoon to meet anyone showing up when forecasted bad weather has not yet hit the area and give them one of our annual 20 page cruise booklets along with the bad news.



The April 18 cruise was typical where the cold rainy weather didn't hit us in the morning when the cancellation call had to be made. Last year I met a couple who drove down from sunny Vermont in the morning to attend the Bass Pro Shops Cruise for the first time only to be greeted with the disappointing news it was cancelled due to forecasted afternoon rain. Although disappointed at having driven that long distance in their classic car, thankfully the husband had a Plan B in mind all along; do some shopping in the Bass Pro Shops, visit the Patriots Hall of Fame and enjoy a late lunch at one of the Patriot Place restaurants, still a great road trip.

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36th Annual Ty-Rods Auto Swap Meet at Stafford Springs By John Buchanan

Sunday April 7 turned out to be a sunny day following crappy weather on Saturday when I make my annual trip to the Ty-Rods annual swap meet at the Speedway in Stafford Springs, CT. Still it wasn't a full house as there were enough empty spaces up top surrounding the track and in the wet track infield to indicate the Saturday rain had an impact as it did last year. Still, I go to see if there is something new and hard to find that will catch my attention enough to buy, nothing heavy or difficult to handle in my old age. In fact I brought a folding chair with me for the first time to set up strategically next to the Ty-Rods event shirt stand where I

could take rest breaks. I did find a vendor selling his stash of duplicate hot rod album covers to help finance his '36 Ford build project and I was able to get a mint 1975 Merle Haggard "KEEP MOVIN ON" album, shown pictured to the right with Merle hang-

ing on the running board of his 1931 Ford Model A Convertible Coupe. This will be added to my workshop wall art collection. It's easy-tocarry finds like this that keep me coming back every year. Many of the vendors I talked to though were pretty discouraged by the year's weekend weather. I think we can all agree with that sentiment. Next year has to be better.

NOT FOR SALE was the 1934 sweet Plymouth pickup truck a vendor was using to attract former old classic truck owners like me.





ERLE HAGGARD KEEP MOVIN'ON

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Three Garage Tour Saturday—#I Big Wheel Towing By John Buchanan



We started another Garage Tour Saturday for 2024 at Bob Fouquette's Big Wheel Towing & Recovery operations in East Freetown, a 2024 sponsor for our Bass Pro Shops cruises. It's been 13 years since club members have had an opportunity to tour Bob's Towing as well as his main garage housing a personal collection of rare collector and muscle cars. As the complexity of today's vehicle collision scenes has change with vehicle EV batteries creating hazards, unthinkable 10 years ago, for today's tow operators, traffic accident scene fire and police details, Bob's operation has become an instrumental resource for training and certification for tow companies around the country. An example of one of the changes on his property was building a concrete containment area to store damaged EV vehicles until the batteries are fully discharged, typically 30 days. It is required for fire containment should the Lithium batteries explode and burn. But we were here to see the fleet of tow and recovery vehicles that range from his original 1953 F800, formerly owned by Sunbeam Bread sporting its original yellow color scheme that Bob continues to use for his entire fleet which includes ramp trucks, hydraulic wreckers, cranes, Landoll tractor and trailer units, large off-road track vehicles,

Bob and one of his heavy tow operators (R)

detail each of the vehicles used in Big

Wheel Towing & Recovery's operation.

boats, a hovercraft, and front-end loaders. Standout among the impressive equipment garaged at his East Freetown yard are three five-axle Peterbilt and Kenworth units fitted with Jerrdan 50 & 80ton rotators, all 1 million dollar machines that can handle any heavy lift project. We amazed by the scope and capability Big Wheel Towing provides for Southeastern Massachusetts which also includes used truck sales, repair and painting services.



Big Wheel owner Bob Fouquette (R) is presented with our club's host Thank You plaque,

One of the two five-axle Peterbilt's fitted with 50-Ton Jerridan Rotators





Cruisin' at the speed of fun Bob Fouquette's Garage Tour #2

Continued from Page 5

Following the Big Wheel Towing & Recovery operation tour, we cruised on over to Bob Fouquette's home where we were given a personalized tour of his car collection that ranged from a 1946 Carryall Suburban used in their early TV antenna business to a replica Bob built of the famous 1957 Chevrolet 150 "Black Widpw" Nalley Chevrolet #47 which reside in a custom built two-story eleven stall garage. The ground floor garage consists of a large 6-door two-car deep open storage area where 10 of his favorite rides are parked.. Because he does have more that 10 favorite rides, another three were

parked inside the adjacent 6th detailing area of the garage. The second floor is a large open area finished in 50's era style and is used primarily as a classroom for the many on-site certification classes Bob conducts each month for tow operators. Thank you Bob for you time and courtesy.









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Mike Camara's Garage Tour #3

By John Buchanan

We took the scenic roads less traveled to Lakeville for our final "Garage Tour Saturday" to Mike Camara's garage to see his growing collection of American V8 muscle cars, Thunderbirds, Mustangs, Corvettes, MOPAR Dodge & Plymouth & various other GM badged makes from, Chevrolet, Oldsmobile and Pontiac. With the exception of the Corvettes of which there were 7 examples from 1955 to a 2024 C8. It's as if Mike's collecting a favorite from each Marque, the '55 Chevy Bel Air resto-rod pictured below, 1969 Camaro SS, 1970 Chevelle SS, 1966 Nova SS resto-rod —which was my unexpected favorite– 1966 Oldsmobile 442, 1966 Pontiac GTO. Then there is that replica 1965 Backdraft RT4 Cobra 427 parked next o a replica 1967 GT 500 Mustang. Mike's bottom line rule is they had to be V8 powered, beautifully finished and drivable which is another one of his passions, driving his cars in the summer, besides driving golf balls in Florida. All are standard shift except for the replica Mustang GT 500 which he plans to keep as the resident Cape Cod summer driver. Thanks Mike for allowing us the opportunity to hold back drooling all over your awesome muscle car collection.



Cruisin' at the speed of fun



EARLY V8 CLUB 52nd ANNUAL SPRING TUNEUP

by John Buchanan

Always billed as a rain or shine event, those early morning and even late morning showers didn't put a damper on the flea market vendors show car owners and shoppers on the hunt for rare or scare parts at the Early Ford V8 Club of New England's 52nd Annual Swap Meet & Car Show at the Fitchburg Airport. Come prepared the flyer said; button up your jacket, put on those L.L. Bean Maine booties, don't forget the gloves to keep your fingers warm in case it's too cold and on the chance you may have to go slogging up and down the aisles Well, everything was going great until 10 AM, lots of show cars and swap meet vendors when rain drops started to fall and the drop-tops started to leave and vendors with paper offerings started to pack stuff away. Also, the late morning rain kept me from wandering over to the Fitchburg Pilots Association's 3rd Annual Wings & Wheels fly/drive in event adjacent to the Swap Meet. Still, this is my favorite last-Sunday-in-April event which will either be a spring 60 mile dust-off cruise in my show car in nice weather or a photo/parts hunting expedition in the pickup truck with a foul weather forecast. It was a road trip this morning in the pickup truck. Enjoy the pics: *continued on Page* 9





manuals, tools & other stuff.







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Unlike many New England Swap Meet venues, Fitchburg Airport's 376 acres has plenty of additional room where the vendor Swap Meet, Car Show and spectator parking are situated around the former North-South runway adjacent to the airport operations. Getting there early in the morning assures Show Car owners a spot on the runway's tarmac surface while the Swap Meet and spectator parking are in the grassy fields surrounding the former runway. Walking the aisles up and down the old runway and seeing cars, trucks and whatever you'll never see at your local cruise night or car show.





Support Our Advertisers





 $\sqrt{\text{BOLD}}$ are confirmed for 2024; GREYED cruises were from 2023

Monday:

√5/20 Acushnet: Legendary Street Rods @Tuttle VFW, 28 Roosevelt St., 4–7 pm √ Bellingham: Bellingham VFW 7272; 940 S. Main St. (Rte. 126) 4-9 PM

- Bridgewater: PCMC Cruise @ Mass Motor Vault; 1221 Bedford St. 3-7 PM
- √ Burlington: ; 240 Middlesex Tpke & Rte.62, 5 PM

Framingham: LaCantina Parking Lot at 920 Waverly St., 5 PM – Dusk √5/27 Phillipston: N. Quabbin Cruisers @ Red Hill Farm, 455 Highland Ave. 4:30 √5/13 Whitman: SSCC Whitman VFW, 95 Essex St. 3:30 PM–Dusk √5/7 Bristol;, RI: Bristol VFW Cruise, 850 Hope St.; 4 PM weather permitting √ Chepachet, RI; Higher Std, CC @ Hill's Tavern, 417 Putnam Pike; 6-9 pm

√5/13 Coventry, RI; DAI Restore monthly cruise, 15 Ctr of New Eng., Blvd; 5 pm Woonsocket, RI: Ye Olde Fish & Chips, 25 S. Main St. 5–9pm

Tuesday:

Auburn: Tuttle Post 279 American Legion, 88 Bancroft St.; 5 PM to close 15/7 Billerica: Road Rebels Cruise at Billerica Elks Pavilion; 14 Webb Rd. 5-8 PM

- Canton: Canton Classic Car Club Cruise Rite Aid Plaza,4 Washington St; 5-8 √ Devens: Clear Path for Vets Cars & Coffee, 84 Antietem St.., 8:30–9:30 AM √5/7 Sandwich: Sham Rods @ Sandwich H.S., 365 Quaker Mtg. Rd. 5 PM
- Saugus: Fuddruckers parking lot, 900 Broadway (US Rte. 1N) 5-8 PM 15/28 Upton: Cruisin'at the V.F.W, Post 5594, 15 Milford St. (Rte. 140); 5-8 PM

Valpole: E.C.C.C. Static Cruise at DD, 995 Old Post Rd. (off Rte. 1), 4-6 PM √5/7 Westport: Bristol County C. C. @ White's, 66 State Rd. 1st Tues. of mo. 4 PM

Woburn: Lord Hobo Brewery, 5 Draper St. monthly. 6 PM–Whenever
✓ Greenville/Smithfield, RI: A&W Rte.44 (I-295 Exit 7); 4-9PM (Bruce P.)
✓ 5/21 N. Smithfield, RI: Beef Barn Restaurant, 200 Industrial Dr.. 4 PM
✓ 5/14 Pawtucket, RI: Slater Park, Armistice Blvd. or Rte. 1A 5-Dusk
✓ 5/14 Warwick, RI: Oakland Beach Cruise Night, Rte. 1A, 4-8pm \$2 entry
Westerly, RI: Misquamicut Beach, 257 Atlantic Ave. 5:30 PM–dusk

Wednesday:

Athol: N. Quabbin Cruisers @ Market Bskt, 147 Tower Rd. (Rte. 2A), 4–8 PM $\sqrt{5/1}$ Chelmsford: Drum Hill Burger King, Rte. 3 Exit 32, 5 PM til dusk $\sqrt{5/1}$ Danvers: Cruising the Tree, <u>NEW</u> 75 Sylvan St. (Rte. 128 Exit 24). 5 pm $\sqrt{5/1}$ E. Freetown: Downshifters @ VFW, 89 Middleboro Rd.; 4–8 PM $\sqrt{5/1}$ E. Taunton: Star Drive-In, 205 Myricks St. (Rte. 79–Rte.140 x 16); 4–9 PM $\sqrt{5/1}$ Hanover: Silver Lake C.C. @ Shaw's Market, 35 Columbia Rd. (Rte.53) 2PM $\sqrt{5/1}$ Hopedale: Hopedale Pizza Market, 1 Menfi Way @ the airport; 5PM

Milford: PINZ Bowling, 1st WED. MO. JeepUp 110 s. Main St, Rte. 140 5-8PM V5/8 N. Attleboro: N.A. Elks, 52 Bulfinch St. 5 pm—Dusk: every other Wed. 5/8, 5/22, 6/5, 6/19, 7/3, 7/17, 7/31, 814, 8/28, 9/11, 9/25, 10/9

√ N. Attleboro: Sta. Nation, 1505 S. Washington 6-10 pm: every other Wed.
√5/1 Taunton: The Pines @ The Lafayette Club, 18 Lakeview Ave., 4-8pm
√ N. Scituate, RI: Fredrickson Farms, 985 Chopmist Rd.(Rte 102) (Bruce P.)
√ Lincoln, RI: East Coast Finest Unicorn Ink, 100 Higginson Ave., 6-9pm



2024 MAY CRUIZN season

May is when most of the New England Cruise venues have started their cruise nights <u>But, be sure to confirm these posted cruise venues start dates before hitting the road.</u> Email your CRUIZN updates to <u>usibh@comcast.net</u>

Still CRUIZN at the Speed of Fun



Thursday:

- ✓ Brockton: W.O.T. Cruise at Brewster Ambulance, 1555 Main St.; 4-Dusk 5/9, 5/23, 6/8, 6/20, 7/18, 8/1, 8/15, 8/29, 9/28, 10/12 Dartmouth: Dartmouth VEW Post 9059, 144 Cross Rd.4—7PM
- ✓ Foxboro: Bass Pro Shops, 1 Bass Pro PI. (U.S. Rte. 1) (Bruce P) 4:30 PM 5/2, 5/16, 6/13, 6/27, 7/11, 7/25, 8/8, 8/22, 9/5, 9/19, 10,3, 10/17 Milford: CraftRoots Brewing Summer Cruise; 4 Industrial Rd.. 6–8 PM

North Dighton: Jessie's Diner, 2035 Winthrop St.(Rte. 44);4–7:30 PM North Reading: Kitty's Restaurant, 123 Main St.(Rte. 28);4 pm -Dark

√ Shrewsbury: Hebert Candy Mansion, 575 Hartford Pike/Rte. 20 5 PM
√5/2 Sturbridge: Cruise Burger King, 374 Main St. (US Rte. 20) 4 PM
√5/2 Taunton: Bike Nite @ The Pines, Lafayette Club, 18 Lakeview Ave. 4-pm

E. Providence RI:Field House Pub Bi-Wkly Car-Bike Meet 305 Lyon Ave 6–9 Portsmouth, RI: Flo's Clamcakes & Cars, 324 Park Ave. Island Park; 3 pm

Friday:

Auburn: Auburn/Webster Elks #2118, 754 Southbridge St. (Rte. 12) 5 PM 5/3 Berkley: American Legion All Wheels Cruise Night, 80 Myricks St. 4–10 PM 5/3 Brimfield: Pioneer Valley Cruise Night, Auction Acres, 35 Main St. 4–8 PM Canton: Trinity Episcopal Church, 1 Blue Hill River Rd. 5 PM

 √5/3 East Weymouth: Food Truck Friday, 75 Middle St. (Town Hall) 5-8 PM Gardner: Polish/Amer. Club, 171 Kendall Pond Rd. (off Rte. 2A), 5–11 PM
√5/3 Halifax: Walmart, 295 Plymouth St. (Rte. 106 at Rte. 58), 5–Dark
√6/7 Lancaster: Kimball Farm, 1543 Lunenburg Rd. (Rte. 70) 5-9 PM
√5/3 Mattapolset: Shipyard Park, 12 Water St., 1st & 3rd Fri., 5–9 PM
5/3, 5/17, 6/7, 6/21, 7/5, 7/26, 8/2, 8/16, 9/6, 9/20

 $\sqrt{5/27}$ Rowley: Todd Farm Auto Swap Meet & Car Show, 275 Main St.: <u>4th Fri.</u> 3 PM $\sqrt{5/31}$ Westport, VFW Cruise; 843 State Rd. (U.S. Rte.6) Last Fri. Monthly 5 PM $\sqrt{5/5}$ Cumberland, RI: MacDonald's;100 Mendon Rd. Rte. 122, 6 PM (Bruce P.)

Saturday:

√5/11 Brookline: Larz Anderson Cars & Coffee, 15 Newton St, 8:30–11:30 AM 5/11, 6/8, 7/20, 8/17, 9/7, 10/5

Falmouth: Falmouth Plaza, 11 Davis Straights.(Rte. 28) Not2Spec A.C. 8-9 15/4 Millis: Clicquot Cruise (Gold's Gym), 27 Milliston Rd. (Rte.109); 5 PM

Newburyport: Cars & Coff, McD's Port Plaza ,45 Story Ave.(Rte.113);7-10 AM S. Attleboro: MBTA S. Attle Train Station, 1315 Newport Ave.(Rte. 1A) 5PM

 $\sqrt{\mathbf{S}$. Dennis: Patriot Square, upper Lot, Rte. 6–Exit 9 (Rte. 134) 4:30 – Dusk

√5/4 Tyngsboro: Dream Diner Car Show, 385 Middlesex Rd. 8 AM −1 PM

5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 6/8, 6/22, 7/13, 7/20, 8/3, 8/10, 8/24, 9/21, 9/28 √5/4 Riverside RI: Crescent Park Carousel, 700 Bullocks Point Ave,4-8 pm

 $\sqrt{5/18}$ Smithfield RI: Classic Auto Cars & Coffee, 278 Douglas Pike; 8-11 am 3^{rd} Sat

Sunday:

√ Attleboro: Pleasant AutoCenter Cruise, 676 Pleasant St.(Rte. 123) 2-5PM 5/5, 5/26, 6/2, 6/16, 7/7, 7/21, 8/4, 8/18, 9/1, 9/15, 10/6, 10/27

✓ Devens: Clear Path for Veterans Cars & Coffee,84 Antietem St...3rd Sun. 8 AM √6/9 Falmouth: F.C.C.C. Monthly Cruise, Marine Park, Scranton Ave.;9 AM–2 PM 6/9, 7/14, 8/11 (no rain dates–Karen 508-364-0045)

Plymouth: East Bay Grill, 173 Water St. (Plymouth Waterfront) 7 - 10 AM Seekonk: Pep Boys, 217 Highland Ave. (US Rte. 6) White Wing C.C.; 4 PM

√5/5 Taunton: The Pines @ The Lafayette Club, 18 Lakeview Ave.:3-7PM

Wilmington: Kars N Koffee, As Good As It Gets, 25 Lowell St. 9am – 12 Newport RI: Audrain Museum Car & Coffee 8–10 AM register your car online 5/19, 10/20, 11/3, 11/10 (Sachuest 2^{ad} Beach); 5/26, 8/4 (Park Place–Portsmouth); 6/9 (Salve Regina); 6/16, 8/18 (Newport Mansions TBD); 6/23, 7/28, 8/25, 9/15 (Newport Polo); 7/7, 7/14, 7/24 (Gardner Sports); 5/5, 6/2, 8/11, 9/8, 9/22, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27 (Fort Adams); 10/5 (Easton's 1*Beach)

N. Prov., RI: Dulce Bunny Cars 'N Coffee; 1527 Smith St.; 10 AM last Sun's. Warren, RI: Laurens Restaurant; 601 Metacom Ave.; 4 PM—Dusk *bi-weekly* 5/5, 5/19, 6/2, 6/16, 6/30, 7/14, 7/28, 8/11, 8/25 (Toys for Tots), 9/8, 9/22

For more cruise listings, check out these websites: <u>https://massautoclubs.org/maynard-area-event-listing</u> <u>amsvs news and events</u> <u>Home | CruisinBruce.com</u> <u>https://www.newenglandautoshows.com/</u>

CAR SHOWS, SWAP MEETS & EVENTS

By John Buchanan

MAY and a bit BEYOND 2024 Car Shows & Events Page

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

We use <u>https://massautoclubs.org/maynard-area-event-listing</u> to build a localized list; use it for more listings beyond this are







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