Mass Cruisers Auto Club

November 2026



THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR ANOTHER GREAT SEASON OF BASS PRO SHOPS CRUISING

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Celebrating 35 Years of Cruisin'
Volume 35 Issue 11

We're on the Web
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2026 Monthly Business meetings are held in the Bass Pro Shops Conservation Room on the 3rd Tues. 6:30 PM

Contact us by snail mail:
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Our Major Cruise Sponsors

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Editor's Musing

By John Buchanan EDITORIAL



Every now and then with the passing of someone in our hobby who we frequently see at events and even occasionally stop and chat with, the loss can only be fully appreciated and recognized when the collective of our hobby comes together with a memorial car show as happened on Sunday October 25 for Keith Bonner. Keith was a close and long time friend of the "Carfather" Phil Hall the Rhode Island cruise and carshow DJ event organizer who pulled together on short notice an unforgetable tribute for Keith's family, his wife Robyn and two sons Bryce & Brett. Keith was not just an active participant at area weekend car shows and weekly cruise nights like our own Bass Pro Shops cruises at Patriot Place in Foxboro, he was also an important, often unsung, contirbutor to the success of these events by using his photography and postings on Facebook and Instagram.
This tribute event started me to think about that aspect of our hobby. What are the key elements of a successful cruise or car show in today's environment? I'm a product of the mid 1950's and early 1960's, the so called "Happy Days" era that was popularized on T.V. and in flilms like "American Graffiti". Back then, our cruising pastime was viewed more like a step away from hooliganism by many merchants and parents. Today, with a more receptive community combined with the internet's social media platforms, wireless communications and digital photography for everyman, our hobby has grown into a seven-day week of possibilities aloowing us to enjoy our collector cars during the short spring-thru-fall New England cruising season. But, without the unscripted participation of enthusiast car owners like Keith, who with their camera and an keen eye for capturing the moment that can keep everyone excited about participating in an American phenomena that began following World War. It continues to be a growing tradition among subsequent generations of auto enthusiasts. Witness the hundreds of callector car owners that showed up Sunday morning on short notice and waiting in line for an hour or more in their cars to drive into the show fields behind the Beef Barn Restaurant in North Smitfield, R.I. to pay homage to Keith and his family. These enthusiasts included many of the regular photo hobbyists like myself that were immediately posting videos and photos on social media so that everyone that couldn't attend would be able to share in this tribute to Keith. Rest in Peace!

RIGHT: *Robyn Bonner with her two sons Bryce & Brett pose with Keith;s iconic 1951 Custom Chevy & Chrysler Crossfire.*
BELOW: *Keith at our October 15 Bass Pro Shops cruise taking pictures and answering questions about the Blue Flame 6 engine.*











October 1 Cruise Winner 1970 Plymouth Barracuda

by John Buchanan



Patriot Place Operations Director Dan Murray made the first of two our October 1 Vintage Motorsports cruiser award plaque selections to David Clement's 1968 Plymouth Slant Back Barracuda sporting 1970/71 Sublime Green color from a 3-year restoration 29 years ago. Also changed back then was replacing the original 340 V8 with a 360 V8 & 4 speed Hurst shifter and clocking over 100,000 miles since then. As anyone who has brought back one of these muscle-era cars, preferring to enjoy driving them rather than showing them, updating and keeping them running is of prime importance, particularly when you have more than one hobby car in the garage. Dave is a repeat Vintage Motorsports winner with his Factory Five Speedstar Roadster that was selected at our August 2024 Bass Pro Shops Cruise. That build project with his son will be followed up this winter for a transmission upgrade project for the Barracuda with a 5 speed Tremec tranny his son gave him for Father's Day, "And The Beat Goes On". Congratulations Dave, you've hit a home ru n in this hobby being able to share your passion with your son.













October 1 Cruise Winner 1950 Oldsmobile 88 Resto Rod

CONTINUED FROM ***Page 4***

Our second Vintage Motorsports Cruise Winner at the October 1 cruise is a well-executed California built 1950 Oldsmobile 88 Business Coupe Resto Mod that was selected by our front entrance crew which has an eye on all the cars and trucks driving into every cruise, so they know when something special comes through the gate. Norman Shurtleff from Wareham, MA, a frequent Bass Pro participant, has one with his '50 Olds. He bought this Olds five years ago when he was looking for a 1955 Chevy Resto Mod but was doing the search for one with an Art Morrison chassis. That's when he came across pictures of this sharp looking maroon/root beer painted 1950 Olds 88 on Craigslist. It had been sitting idle in a Northern California barn for 5 years. The original owner had built it 15 years earlier when he was living in San Diego but then moved to Northern California on 40 acres with a dirt road access that even proved a challenge for the transport carrier when trying to get the car out for shipment back East.

Under the custom modified hood sits a Chevy Performance crate ZZ570/620 V8 topped with an 8-stack Hilborn EFI fuel injection system. Inside the complimentary colored leather interior cabin that's fitted with BMW 6-way power heated leather seats and custom center console is the 5-speed Tremec tranny shifter. Although the Ford 9-inch rear isn't visible, those 19-inch HRE Performance forged aluminum wheels shod with TOYO PROXES R888R 275/35ZR19 inch racing radial tires with Wilwood 6-piston front & 4-piston rear disc brake stopping power are.

Although Norm has yet to meet up with our other long-time Bass Pro cruise regular and early 1950's era multi-Olds owner Vic Barboza, we're going to make sure they are in contact with one another.













October 1 Bass Pro Shops Cruise

by John Buchanan



Our Bass Pro Cruises are finally experiencing some great weather into October for our final two cruises of 2026. In addtion to being able to double up awarding our Vintage Motorsports cruiser awards at this time of year due to the weather and event conflict cancellations. We are also happy to see the 2027 Oliver Ames High School "IRON TIGERS" (FIRST ROBOTICS Competition Robotics Team 4176) back with us again displaying and demonstrating their custom-built pneumatic T-Shirt cannon that they use to launch rolled up Rox merch into the Campanelli Stadium stands at Brockton Rox home baseball games.

The Rebels & Rods out of Plymouth and the Cape Cod Classics Car Clubs were the featured clubs.

And in the dare-to-be-different category from the typical cruise show cars that regularly attend on any given Thursday, I was more that thrilled to see a vintage 1950's Evinrude Big-Twin powered era home-built hydroplane being trailered into the cruise by a well patina'd 1960's Chevy pickup truck. It brought back memories of the weekend hydroplane races on Norton Reservoir as well as my own experience almost flipping one on a turn of the Bungay River in Attleboro.



Oliver Ames High School IRON TIGERS Robotics Team demonstrates their pneumatic 4-barrel T-shirt cannon









Vintage hydraplane



Attleboro Hebron Food Pantry



4th Annual Friends of Borderland Car Show

by John Buchanan



Although it was the 4th Annual Friends of Borderland Car Show, this was the 2nd year our Mass Cruisers Auto Club helped fellow club member Dale Thistle, also a member of the Friends Board of Directors, with their annual fund raising event that helps with preservation of the Ames estate mansion nestled within the 1,843 acre Borderland State Park that is listed in the National Registry of Historical Places as the Borderland Historical District. Club members set up the show field layout on Friday, handle the show day registration, parking, 50-50, and judging for the Friends. We experienced perfect autumn weather for the Saturday October 10 show, a very sunny 60 degree day and over 250 registered show cars in addition to our own club member's cars, came through a much improved Borderland exit road off Massapoag Ave. in North Easton. In the end Dale presented 12 superlative award trophies to cars and trucks in addition to trophy & cash awards for Best Paint, Best Engine, Best Open Car, Best Closed Car, Best Muscle Car and Best in Show, There was new trophy awards for best motorcycle and a staff pick added this year. In all, it was an enjoyable show with the only complaints I heard were about the long line & wait at the lone food truck.





ABOVE: The impressive Ames Mansion provides a great backdrop for this 1911 Model T Runabout

BELOW: The 50-50 & trophy award presentations



Oliver Ames High School; "IRON TIGERS": Robotics Team were demonstrating their robots





Mass Cruisers members' show cars & trucks provide an early morning lineup to greet arriving registered vehicles.

October 15 Cruise Winner 1979 Continental MARK V

by John Buchanan



The featured Plymouth, MA Rebels & Rods Car Club members were asked to select their favorite cruise night car from the more than 1,100 that cruised to Patriot Place for our final 2026 season October 15 “Trick or Treat” Cruise. They selected a rare 1979 Givenchy Designer Series Continental Mark V coupe owned by the well-known Rhode Island cruise night organizer & D.J. Phil Hall, a.k.a. “THE CAR FATHER” to receive the Vintage Motorsports recognition plaque. Phil bought this fairly well-preserved Florida car four years ago and only had to replace the sun cracked dash panel. The Lincoln Motor Division of Ford had commissioned four top fashion design houses, Bill Blass, Cartier, Emillio Pucci and Hubert de Givenchy to put their signature touches to the 1977-1979 Continental Mark V coupes. The original re-paint and Givenchy designed color-keyed upholstery and deep pile carpeting in Phil’s Mark V were well preserved. 1979 was also the last year for these full-sized American personal luxury land yachts due to the oil crises and fuel economy pressures and with car buyers shifting toward smaller more practical vehicles. Congratulations to Phil who refers to his Continenal Mark V Givenchy as “MY SEXY LAND













October 15 Cruise Winner 1964 Chevelle Malibu

CONTINUED FROM ***Page 8***

Our second October 15 Vintage Motorsports cruiser award plaque selection was for Ryan Roach's highly customized performance 1964 Chevelle Malibu muscle car. The car, originally built at the Roadster Shop in California, that Ryan purchased at Auction is planned to be one of the future Punch 4 Parkinson's raffle cars used for his unique charity. Although, I think after driving it around its future as a raffle car may be quite a while off. Ryan didn't have to many details to pass along so I'll focus more on his Punch 4 Parkinson's charity because we have a couple of club members that are living with this disease. Ryan, who is a professional boxing manager, was inspired by his uncle, boxing trainer great Freddie Roach and civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, both Parkinson's sufferers. Ryan's uncle, who had been battling the disease for three decades, reached out inviting Jesse to train with him. When Jesse first came, he could barely climb the steps to the boxing ring. After 10 days of training, Jesse wanted to race him. Seeing the therapeutic benefits of these non-combative boxing workouts, Ryan launched Punch 4 Parkinson's (P4P) where trainers create specialized immersive programs using non-combat boxing training exercises. They are also using them for those who are fighting Multiple Sclerosis. In addition to building muscle strength and endurance to combat the decline the disease causes it also improves hand-eye coordination and movement according to information provided on his www.punch4parkinsons.org website. We've seen Ryan bring one of his many raffle cars to our Bass Pro Shops cruises in the past to help promote the charity's unique fundraising model of raffling giveaway cars like the 1964 Chevelle Malibu. This is the first time one had been selected for a Vintage Motorsports cruiser award.













October 15 Bass Pro Shops "Trunk or Treat"Cruise



by John Buchanan

Our final cruise of 2026 is the "Trunk or Treat" Cruise which, thanks to perfect weather, turned out to be our largest attended cr uise with over 1,100 show cars coming through the main entrance at Lot 16 where the Foxboough Food Pantry and our front entrance team was set up collecting your doantions. Patriot Place traffic control had to shut down the show car entrance and divert traffic to the overflow lots shortly after 5 PM. There was also a huge number of costumed parents and children competing for the best boy, girl, man & woman prizes which included Bass Pro Shops gift cards. It is a festive and much anticipated fun time that goes well beyond sunset which happens at 6:03 PM. this time of year. Of course, many cars go all out with animated Halloween characters while others keep it simple with a bowl filled with treats for the little goblins that scoot about filling their stash bags. No matter how many times I fill the bowl out front of my car, it doesn't take long before the cuppard is bare and is need of a refill, like driving cross-country in a gas guuzzling btg block V8 without an overdrive tranny. The winner of this year's best decorated cruise vehicle award went to Glen & Sophie Arenburg's 2015 Sublime Green Dodge "HELLEN the HELLCAT".

As for the best costumed boy, girl, adult male & female costumed award winners, I'm pleading the 5th. But what a way to end the 2026 Bass Pro Shops Cruise at Patriot Place. Thank you all for making this the premier cruise to attend in all of New England.





Our club's costume judges Lorna Rabbitt & Diane Thornton with Emcee Patrick Touhey.



Glen & Sophie's 2015 "Hellen the Hellcat" selected as BEST DECORATED VEHICLE





A TRUCK or TREAT display above, larger than life characters below and treats everywhere

Oliver Ames H.S. "IRON ROBOTS" robotics team were on hand for the fun





2026 DAVE ELLARD'S HORSE FARM BBQ

BY Diane Thornton



No matter what any Mass Cruiser chose to do on this day, it would have had to be a perfect event because of the gorgeous day that was given to us. For those Mass Cruisers that made it out to Dave Ellard's horse farm in Taunton, MA the scenery and welcome was a step above what a usual cruise event might be. The invitation was emailed to all members in September with a reminder emailed out a bit before the date. Arriving to park our classic vehicles on lush green grass was the first signal that this cruise was a little different. Mark Magno helped park us all together and then directed us to explore the paddocks and the cookout! Our folding chairs came out, but none were needed as the tablecloths covered tables near the cookout area had plenty of chairs for us to sit as a club and enjoy the day. The cookout fare was plentiful and most importantly delicious! Deserts came out shortly after the main cooking. The three horses back in the paddocks were willing to visit with anyone who came by to say hello! It wasn't easy to pick a favorite horse, but I favored the brown and black with the deep, dark eyes. The orange and black 2019 Camaro parked with the cars, on the other hand, was an easy winner (in my book).

Dave and Jenn and many of their friends also created a memorial for their friend, Anthony Tudino who had passed away only a couple of weeks before. Anthony's car and pictures and mementos on display indicated he was a talented driver and will be missed.

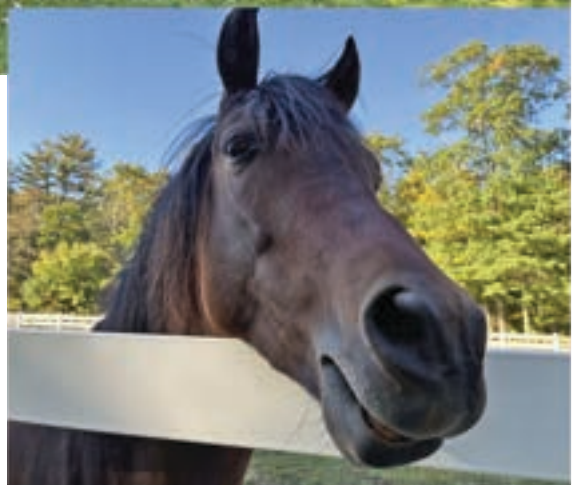
Dave and Jenn were the most welcoming hosts. Mark and Catherine were the most welcoming tour guides of the day. A wonderful venue shared with friends. I would like to express sincere gratitude to our hosts for inviting the Mass Cruisers. All of us in attendance had the nicest time! Thank you!













2026 FOOD PANTRY RESULTS

by John Griffin



As we close out the 2026 cruise season, I wanted to, on behalf of the Food Pantry Crew, express my gratitude and respect to our patrons this year. It was a challenging year to say the least. In addition to the normal weather issues and Patriot's home game, we had to contend with the World Cup schedule as well. In spite of all that we still managed to collect almost $30,000 in addition to your food donations for the five food pantries, Foxborough, Wrentham & Walpole Food Pantries, St. Anthony's in Stoughton and the Hebron Food Pantry in Attleboro that we support!! The 2nd check for $3, 881 each were delivered this month shortly after our October 15 cruise of the Food Pantries in time for the upcoming holiday season. All our supported pantries are members of the Boston Area Food Bank which allows them to purchase $20 equivalent food for every $1 donated that is needed to balance their fresh and refrigerated item offerings.
I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and a safe winter and we look forward to starting up again next April!













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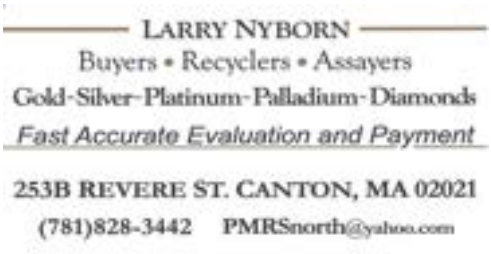


































November 2026 Car Shows & Events Page

NOV 1,,EVERYWHERE,,DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS AT 2AM,,,TURN THE CLOCKS BACK FOR AN XTRA HOUR
NOV 1,,MENDON,,,,BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH CAR SHOW,, CLOUGH SCHOOL,,10 NORTH AVE.,9 AM – 2 PM
NOV 1,,WHITMAN,,,LUG NUTS ANNUAL TOY DRIVE,, WHITMAN VFW,95 ESSEX ST.,10 AM
NOV 1,,HARRISVILLE, RI,,,GATHERING OF CLUBS @ WRIGHT'S RESTAURANT,,11:30 AM ON-RESERVED SEATING
NOV 1,,NEWPORT, RI,,,AUDRAIN TRUNK OR TREAT @ FORT ADAMS,,10 AM - NOON WWW.AUDRAINAUTOMUSEUM.ORG
NOV 6-8,,THOMPSON CT,,55TH AUTO/FLEA MARKET SWAP MEET AT SPEEDWAY, WWW.THOMPSONSPEEDWAY.COM
NOV 7,,DANVERS,,,DANVERS RECREATIONAL CARS & COFFEE,,90 FOREST ST.,9 AM
***NOV 7,,WALPOLE**,,,VETERANS DAY CAR SHOW,,NORFOLK AGGIE,,400 MAIN ST.,8 AM - NOON RAIN DATE 11/8
NOV 7,,PLYMOUTH,,,EAST BAY GRILLE PARKING LOT,,173 WATER ST.,,ANNUAL TOY DRIVE,,7-10 AM
NOV 23,,WEYMOUTH,,CHRISTMAS CARS AND TOY DRIVE,,610 MIDDLE ST,,8-10AM,, SANTA WILL BE THERE
NOV 28,,WALPOLE,,SANTA PARADE,,,STARTS AT WALPOLE H.S.,11 AM - NOON ALONG COMMON STREET.
DEC 6,,NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH,,SANTA PARADE THROUGH DOWNTOWN STARTS AT 3 PM
DEC 6,,TAUNTON,,CHRISTMAS PARADE,,239 BROADWAY (RTE. 138),,NOON START,, ENDS AT 15 SUMMER ST.

NEW RFID E-ZPass Sticker Transponder Trick

by John Buchanan

I had four of the battery powered E-ZPass transponders. I have three vehicles set up to move them from vehicle-to-vehicle but one of the four batterIES was dead. I knew which two were O.K. but I was down to one dead one and one good one that I couldn' sort out so I went to the Mass DOT service center in Auburn to determine which one was bad only to discover they eliminated the old battery style transponders for new RFID sticker style this past April. At first it seemed like a great idea, but then I realized that once it's stuck onto the windshield it's designed to break if removed. I wasn't too happy with that limitation, so it was off to Hobby Lobby to search for a transparent work-around. I found a bag of clear Acrylic KEYCHAINS for $3.49 + tax. Back home I stuck the RFID transponder on the keytag and stuck Velcro on the ends and discovered it matched the same Velcro attachment footprint for the old battery transpoders. I can now remove the new RFID unit from vehicle to vehicle like the old battery style. Hope this work-around idea helps.







ABOVE: OLD Battery style transponder
BELOW: NEW RFID Sticker transponder











