



Home News Living Sports Opinions Special Sections Photos & Videos Obituaries Advertising Classifieds Contact Us Your News Monday, June 28, 2010

Archives > Living > Features

Print | E-mail | Comment (No comments posted.) | Text Size

## Third time's a charm for car cruise

By SARA CASTELLANOS & CADDIE NATH  
The Aurora Sentinel

Published: Thursday, June 24, 2010 1:10 PM MDT

Share |

**AURORA** | Ray and Carol Frank call their vibrant turquoise '55 Pontiac "Frankenstein," because they spent 12 years restoring the car, using parts from other Pontiacs.

"We poked around a lot of graveyards bringing back body parts," said Aurora resident Ray Frank. "On Mother's Day of 2003 we held our breath and turned the key for the first time, and Frankenstein sat up on the table, got off and walked!"

The Franks joined thousands of other classic car owners and enthusiasts on Saturday, June 19, to show off their resurrected Pontiac at the third annual Cruzin' Havana car show.

The event has become increasingly popular since it originally launched in 2008 by members of the Havana Business Improvement District.

The BID is dedicated to attracting and retaining businesses along a six-mile stretch of Havana Street that runs from East Sixth Avenue to East Hampden Avenue. Since dozens of car dealerships line both sides of Havana Street, the BID board of directors thought it would be appropriate to sponsor an event that would attract car enthusiasts.

"We wanted to do an event that would involve a lot of our businesses on the street, as well as bring people to the street to see what else is here," said Mel Caldwell, a member of the Havana BID board of directors.

About 10,000 people attended this year's event, up from about 8,000 people who showed up in 2009, she said.

Although the Havana BID also sponsors events such as golf tournaments, restaurant tours and chocolate tastings, the Cruzin' Havana car show is the most-popular attraction, Caldwell said.

"It's huge, we get such a positive response," she said.

For the Franks, the best part of the afternoon was getting to meet their neighbors and fellow car lovers.

"The people have a lot of things in common," Carol Frank said. "A lot of them are our age because at the end these were cars they had when they were in high school. It's the people that we enjoy talking to."

The Franks bought their Pontiac because it reminded them of the car Ray drove when they were sweethearts in high school. They're not alone. For many people, the classic hot rods featured at the Cruzin' Havana car show bring back fond memories of their teenage years in the 1950s and 60s, said Dick Thompson, vice president of the Old Car Council of Colorado. The event is a way for them to share the hobby with younger generations, he said.

The show was also an opportunity for local Marine reservists to raise money and awareness for their own project, Toys for Tots, one of several charitable organizations that benefited from the event on Saturday.

Toys for Tots collects toys and donations year-round to give to children at Christmas who would not have otherwise received gifts. About \$300 and close to 100 toys were donated to the cause during the car show, said to Gunnery Sgt. Victor Escobar, the Toys for Tots coordinator for the Denver metro area.

Local Marine officials also raised awareness for the charity by featuring a few classic vehicles of their own: a seven-ton amphibious truck and a Humvee.

"A lot of people are drawn to the seven-ton and the Humvee. You don't get to see something like that often, so they come over and start asking questions, you know. We tell them how Toys for Tots goes and all of a sudden they're inspired to help out," said Cpl. Justin Mason, a Marine reservist.

About 3,000 classic cars ranging from 40 to 80 years old were on display at various locations along the six-mile stretch of Havana Street.

Car enthusiasts joined forces to show off their valuable automobiles, most of which were refurbished but retained a



There were a variety of cars that participated, old and new, during the Cruzin' Havana car show and poker run June 19 at Gibby's. (Gabriel Christus/The Aurora Sentinel)



Visit [zip2save.com](http://zip2save.com) for all your favorite circulars & coupons!

Circulars Coupons Deals

[zip2save.com](http://zip2save.com)

SEARCH our archives

CLICK HERE!

Advertisement

Click Here

Click Here

DO YOU NEED HELP STARTING OR GROWING YOUR BUSINESS? Click Here For FREE or Low Cost Seminars

large percentage of their authenticity.

Bill Kemp, a former Aurora resident, brought his treasured 1968, cherry-red Cadillac to the car show, which he attended for the third year in a row. This particular show was more enjoyable than others he's been a part of, he says, because of the wide assortment of vehicles featured.

"You see all the stuff you don't see at other car shows," said Kemp, now a Thornton resident who puts a mere 1,000 miles on his Cadillac a year. "You go to regular car shows and you see Mustangs and Camaros, and then you see more Mustangs and more Camaros. Pretty soon, you just get tired of seeing the same old thing all the time."

The cars range from models built in the early 1930s to the late 1970s, Kemp said after a brief scan of the many classic cars parked at the former city offices, the festival's central site.

"You get into the '80s and there's not much interest in cars," he said. "They started looking all alike."

Some exceptionally rare vehicles garnered more attention than others, such as Denver resident Ed Linville's 1948 Willys Overland Jeepster. He bought the car in 2006, refurbished the exterior but kept all of the original interior. Only 19,000 Willys Overland Jeepsters were made, he said.

"I have a lot of fun with it, it's a real attention-getter," he said. Although it shows 59,000 miles on the odometer, Linville says it's too beloved to drive around much.

"This is definitely a Sunday driver."

[« Previous Article](#)

Jay-Z leads nominees at music-filled BET Awards

### Reader Comments

The following are comments from the readers. In no way do they represent the view of aurorasentinel.com.

You must register with a valid email to post comments. Only your Member ID will be posted with the comments.

#### Registered users sign in here:

\*Member ID:

\*Password:

Remember login?  
(requires cookies)

Forgot Your Password?

#### Become a Registered User

**Do not use usernames or passwords from your financial accounts!**

Note: Fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are required!

\*Create a Member ID:

\*Choose a password:

\*Re-enter password:

\*E-mail Address:

\*Year of Birth:

(children under 13 cannot register)

\*First Name:

\*Last Name:

\*Zip Code:

[Return to: Features](#) < | [Home](#) < | [Top of Page](#) ^

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [RSS](#)

Copyright © 2010 Aurora Sentinel. All rights reserved.  
Unauthorized reproduction is prohibited.

**GMC SUMMER EVENT**  
DON'T MISS OUT ON THE BEST SELECTION

**SUSS**

1-2-Click for Terms

**0% APR**  
FOR 72 MONTHS\*  
FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS

OR **\$5,000**  
CASH BACK

ON MOST REMAINING 2010 SIERRA MODELS



**Suss Buick Pontiac GMC**

No Dealer Handling Charges

**Aurora Sentinel**  
14305 E. Alameda Ave.  
2nd Floor  
Aurora, CO 80012  
P: (303) 750-7555  
F: (303) 750-7699

Powered by TownNews.com

Web  " border="0" />