Classic Car Event Cruises Through Bend

by K_Guice

Classic car collectors and admirers alike can rev up their weekend at the 21st Annual Flashback Cruz.

August 3-6, over 300 vintage vehicles, 1974 and older, will roll into Bend for the open class event.

â€œThis is our seventh open class,â€• said Joan Spongberg, chairperson for the Flashback Cruz. â€œWe used to just have Chevys, but then their friends got upset,â€• she laughed.

(Top) 2005 Winner. Remaining 3 photos courtesy of TraditionalMountaineering.org

Car enthusiasts come from all over to show their cars off in the popular Bend event. â€œWe have a lot coming from Washington, all over Oregon, California, one in Arizona, Montana and Idaho,â€• Spongberg said.

The entry fee is $45 for the four-day event, but free to spectators who are invited to come out to see the beautiful cars.

Thursday, the Cruz will feature its famous Scavenger-Poker Fun Run. â€œItâ€™s a lot of fun,â€• said Gayle Najera, a Flashback Cruz participant.

â€œYou have to get five different cards from different stores and when you get all five cards you get a full hand.â€• The winning poker hand wins $200 in cash.

On Friday, the cars roll into the parking lot of Baxterâ€™s S & S Auto Parts/Auto Value Stores for a pre-Show nâ€™ Shine. From there the participants will be escorted by the police though town to Drake Park for a registration party.

â€œThe public is invited to come down, see the cars and we will have music from the Cascade Horizon Band,â€• Spongberg said.

On Saturday, the cars will be featured at a Show nâ€™ Shine in Drake Park on the grass. â€œThis is great for the whole family,â€• she said. The public can take in the sites, enjoy great eats and kick back and relax to a little retro-musical entertainment.

Food will be provided by two non-profits. â€œThe Mount Bachelor Rotary and the Salvation Army are going to be cooking the burgers down there with the help of volunteers from Jakeâ€™s Diner,â€• Spongberg. All of the proceeds benefit their respective charities.

There will also be a silent auction and raffles benefiting charity. â€œA portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit Habitat for Humanities for the second First Ladiesâ€™ House,â€• Spongberg said.

â€œIn addition, the First Ladies built this play house and that is going to be in Drake Park as well and they are going to be raffling that off,â€• she said.

Money raised from the Flashback Cruz also goes back into the community. â€œWe pay $10 per car to parks and recreations,â€• she said. â€œLast, year we paid $4500 and we do everything we can to leave it cleaner than when we got there.â€•

At 3:30 p.m. hundreds of trophies will be handed out and one will drive home with the biggest trophy of all. â€œThe best of show gets the coveted items; a seven-foot-trophy and featured on next years t-shirts, posters and dash plaques.â€•

The day wraps up with the much anticipated Flashback Cruz around downtown Bend from 7 to 9 p.m. â€œThe cars will travel Franklin to Bond, to Lava, over to Oregon, down Wall and around we go,â€• she said. â€œItâ€™s fun! We see lots of our friends and neighbors.â€•

Sunday, participants line up at 9:30 a.m. in the South Riverfront parking lot for a final Flashback Cruz up to Mt. Bachelor to participate in the Car Olympics and lunch. The Car Olympics is all free to spectators.

Bend Weekly Newslink: www.centraloregonclassicchevyclub.com/cruzpage.htm

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