

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.

“This is our seventh open class,” said Joan Spongberg, chairperson for the Flashback Cruz. “We used to just have Chevys, but then their friends got upset,” 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. “We have a lot coming from Washington, all over Oregon, California, one in Arizona, Montana and Idaho,” 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. "It's a lot of fun," said Gayle Najera, a Flashback Cruz participant.

"You have to get five different cards from different stores and when you get all five cards you get a full hand." The winning poker hand wins \$200 in cash.

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

“The public is invited to come down, see the cars and we will have music from the Cascade Horizon Band,” Spongberg said.

On Saturday, the cars will be featured at a Show n’ Shine in Drake Park on the grass. “This is great for the whole family,” 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. “The Mount Bachelor Rotary and the Salvation Army are going to be cooking the burgers down there with the help of volunteers from Jake’s Diner,” Spongberg. All of the proceeds benefit their respective charities.

There will also be a silent auction and raffles benefiting charity. “A portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit Habitat for Humanities for the second First Ladies’ House,” Spongberg said.

“In 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,” she said.

Money raised from the Flashback Cruz also goes back into the community. “We pay \$10 per car to parks and recreations,” she said. “Last, year we paid \$4500 and we do everything we can to leave it cleaner than when we got there.”

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

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

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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