

March 31, 2010 ~ Downingtown-Exton Community Courier

Motor Club Focuses On Cars And Community Service



By Francine Fulton

New members are welcome to join the Top Dead Center Motor Club, a club dedicated to the restoration and preservation of classic, antique, modified and custom cars, trucks and motorcycles. Club members also take part in projects to benefit the community. Members include (front, from left) Caryn Abdill, Joyce Wright, Gerry O'Fria, Joe O'Fria, (back) Terry Abdill, Jack Wright and Dan Bourdon.

While most car club members are very enthusiastic about working on and showing off their vehicles, members of the Top Dead Center Motor Club are also dedicated to community service by supporting local organizations through car shows and special cruise nights.

The club, now in its second year, consists of about 50 members from a variety of backgrounds who all share a love of cars, including classics, antiques and custom cars, along with trucks and motorcycles. Since it formed, the club has held several fundraisers.

"We did a Relay for Life car show last May. We're doing in again this year on May 22 at Downingtown West High School," said club president Joe O'Fria. "We also held a 'Drive Out Hunger' car show and food drive in conjunction with QVC to benefit the Chester County Food Bank." The event will be held again this year on Saturday, July 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the QVC Studio Park in West Chester.

Club members "adopted" a family at Christmastime and took part in the Upper Uwchlan Township Community Day. A future goal of the club is to establish a scholarship program for a local student who is pursuing a career in auto mechanics.

"We get together and have fun, but also to raise money for charity," O'Fria said.

Another effort by the club is its monthly Cruise Nights held at the Village Hardware Store in Guthriesville on the second Wednesday of the month, May through September, from 5 p.m. to dusk. Those who attend the events are asked to bring donations of CDs, personal hygiene products and other items that are sent to a local serviceman or woman who is serving overseas. The first Cruise Night for the year will take place on Wednesday, May 12.

"We get the (serviceperson's) family involved (in the Cruise Night)," explained club vice president Dan Bourdon. "The family of the soldier picks their favorite car in honor of their loved one. They get a plaque, and the car owner gets a plaque."

In addition to its charitable work, the club's members also enjoy taking part in area car shows and sharing ideas about their vehicles.

"We have a monthly 'tool time' when we meet at one person's house and spend a Saturday just working on that person's car," Bourdon said.

O'Fria noted that all are welcome to participate in club activities; having a specialized vehicle is not required. The club is also open to car owners of all types of vehicles. One member even owns a 1970 fire engine.

"The youngest member is 20 and the oldest members are in their 70s," O'Fria said, noting both men and women have joined the family-oriented club.

Club members, who pay a yearly membership fee, meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Tom Oates Chevrolet, located on Route 113 in Chester Springs. The next scheduled meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 6, and the guest speaker will be Mac Thomas who writes for "Cruising" magazine. Guests are welcome.

For more information on joining the club, interested readers may call O'Fria at 610-283-3137 or e-mail tdcmotorclub@gmail.com. More information is also available at www.tdcmotorclub.com. Club members are also seeking the names of local soldiers to benefit from their upcoming Cruise Nights. Names can be submitted to the club via e-mail.



Members of the Top Dead Center Motor Club own many different makes and models of cars, including (from left) a 2001 Firebird, a 1957 Chevy Belair, a 1954 Chevy sedan and a 1964 Chevy Impala.