

Cool



TIMES

Volume 9, Number 1

Official Publication of the *Georgia Cool Cruisers*

January 2021



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TIME TO RENEW?

Please send \$30 (\$40 for USPS mail Newsletter) to:
Georgia Cool Cruisers
P.O. Box 942291
Atlanta, GA 31141



"Cool" Club Lunch & Meeting

Sunday, January 10th

1:00 pm



BARBECUE

5260 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
Peachtree Corners, GA 30071

See page 11 for more info

www.GeorgiaCoolCruisers.org

Find us on:
 facebook®



HAPPY 2021!

Welcome New Members

David Hughes

Mike Dickinson

Contact Info:

Club Founder / President

Rick Ellis

404-732-6842

RNE680@mindspring.com

Volunteer Coordinator

Dennis Behnken

770-900-3025

BehnkenD@bellsouth.net

Charity Coordinator

Karen O'Neal

770-331-4344

KarenhOneal@yahoo.com

Mailing Address:

Georgia Cool Cruisers

P. O. Box 942291

Atlanta, GA 31141

Toys for Tots Cruise-in Winners



BEST CLASSIC:

***Jack Gilleland, 1939 Chevrolet truck Rat Rod**

BEST MODERN:

Nick Stambo, 2020 Chevrolet Camaro SS

TOP 20:

Richard Touch, 1936 Nash Ambassador

Dave Ewert, 1967 Dodge Coronet convertible

Scott Sicchitano, 1967 Pontiac Firebird

***Art Coates, 1964 Ford Galaxie 500XL convertible**

Joel Rutledge, 1968 Plymouth GTX

***Pam Dinger, 1973 Dodge Charger SE**

Larry Dodson, 1967 Chevrolet Corvette

***Rob Kaufman, 1966 Cadillac DeVille**

***Larry Navarre, 1946 Ford pick-up**

***Greg Rogers, WWII Mercedes Battle Benz**

***Maria & Jeff Friedman, 1987 Porsche 911**

***Kevin Cunningham, 1966 Ford Mustang**

Dante Dimemechi, 1936 Plymouth Coupe

***Joel Quartarone, 2004 Ford Thunderbird**

"Mopar George" Geras, 1964 Plymouth Valiant

***Andy Sarratt, 1965 Chevrolet Corvette**

***Sammy McDaniel, 1952 Ford F-100**

Bill Davis, 1964 Chevrolet Corvette

Joe Fotschky, 1969 Oldsmobile Hurst/Olds

***Theresa Leach, 1966 Ford Mustang**

Host's Award ('Cue's Pick):

***Bob Allen, 1933 Ford Victoria**

Santa's Pick:

John Homonek, 1959 Austin Healey "Bugeye" Sprite

Toys for Tots Pick (USMC's Finest):

Norman Malone, 1956 Ford Thunderbird

Club Award (Coolest Cruiser):

Michelle & John Nott, 1998 Lincoln Continental

*** Denotes GCC Club Member**

2021 Club Shows & Events



"Cool" Club Lunch & Meeting

Sunday, January 10th
1:00 pm

'Cue Barbecue

5260 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
Peachtree Corners, GA 30071

NOT a Show or Cruise-in,
Just a Social Event, Lunch
& Club Meeting.

*But you are ALWAYS welcome to
bring your favorite "Hot Rod!"
Please let us know if you are planning
to attend, so 'Cue will
have an idea how to set up tables.*



"I'm SICK of Winter"

Sweetheart Cruise-in

Saturday, February 13th
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

'Cue Barbecue

5260 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
Peachtree Corners, GA 30071
Fundraiser to Fight Breast Cancer.

Cool Cars & Rescues

Sunday, April 11th
Noon - 4:00 pm

Decatur Estate Antiques

2272 Lawrenceville Highway
Decatur, GA 30033

Fundraiser for Lifeline Animal Project

"Cool" Club Store: Jackets & Polos

Show your Club "Colors" with PRIDE!

- Our popular fleece lined medium weight jacket with a fold away hood: **\$90**, add \$5 for 2X & larger, available in Royal/Charcoal, Navy/Charcoal & Black/Charcoal.
- Water resistant jacket, also featuring a fold-away hood, available in multiple colors, **\$70** (add \$5 for 2X and up). Both jackets feature left chest logo and full back embroidery.
- Custom Embroidered polo shirts in a variety of colors, Short Sleeve or Long Sleeve, men's & ladies cuts, **\$35**, add \$5 for 2X and larger.

(Cash, Checks, Credit Cards & PayPal)

These items are made to order. Contact

*Rick to place your order (404-732-6842 or
RNE680@mindspring.com).*



Medium
Weight
Jacket

Windbreaker
With Hood

Jacket Back
Design





2020 in Review: **A Very Weird Year for All, But We Did Okay!**

Calling 2020 a “Weird year” is probably the understatement of a lifetime! We have NOTHING to compare 2020 to but most of us managed to survive it. Our Club took some hits but it managed to survive in pretty decent shape, too.

We had to shut down and cancel shows from April through June, and had to reschedule and re-locate others. We “cautiously” started back on July 4th at ‘Cue Barbecue, with a variety of COVID safety precautions in place. We had extremely good participation, partially due to the fact that many were more than ready to get out, and partially due to the fact we had little competition. At one show, we had a participant come up from Florida and another from Alabama!

Donations were also quite good, as you can see below. Our biggest enemy on many show days was “Mother Nature,” with everything from snow to rain to Tropical Storms. Once again, we made the best of the situations and “kept on trucking!”

Our other major issue was lack of Club volunteers to help on show day. Some of our “veteran” volunteers made the decision to Shelter-In for health reasons. We managed to make everything work, with those dedicated few carrying the torch, show after show. Our thanks to those dedicated members that came out early and stayed late to make things work!

Our last two shows for the year drew capacity crowds and AMAZING donations to the event’s charity. We raised \$3,300 for local needy at our November show at Handy Ace Hardware, and collected 573 toys and \$3,067 at our Toys for Tots Cruise-in!

Looking forward to 2021, we really don’t know what will happen. There is a bright spot with the COVID vaccine being approved, but we will be taking it one step at a time and see what happens. We have several shows scheduled for 2021, and hope that they will happen as scheduled.

In a very TOUGH year, we did pretty well. We raised nearly \$23,000 to help some very good charities! Thanks again to all that helped make it possible!

Here is a recap of donations collected and the charity they benefited in 2020:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Location/Show</u>	<u>Amount raised:</u>	<u>Charity:</u>
January:	Sonic Cruise-in	\$ 350	NETworks Food Pantry
February:	‘Cue BBQ/Sweetheart Cruise-in	\$ 900	Breast Cancer
March:	Decatur Estate Antiques	\$2,000	LifeLine Animal Project
April – June:	<i>All shows canceled</i>		
July:	‘Cue BBQ/Red, White & ‘Cue	\$2,000	Furkids Animal Rescue
July:	Handy Ace Hardware/USO Benefit	\$1,755	USO Georgia
August:	Pink Pony/HP at the Pony	\$2,000	Furkids Animal Rescue
September:	SE Railway Museum	\$1,706	SE Railway Museum
October:	Pink Pony/Cars & Costumes	\$2,222	Breast Cancer
November:	Handy Ace Hardware	\$3,330	NETworks Food Pantry
December:	‘Cue BBQ/Toys for Tots Cruise-in	\$3,067	Toys for Tots
	+ 526 Toys & 47 Stocking Stuffers	\$5,375 (Estimated value)	
	TOTAL:	\$22,905	

CLUB NEWS & UPDATES

December Charity Collection

Our 13th Annual Toys for Tots Cruise-in was one of our best! We knew we had collected a LOT of TOYS and a BUNDLE of CASH, but when we got the total count from our Marines, we were *BLOWN AWAY!*

We collected a total of **526 toys and 47 "stocking stuffers"** PLUS **\$3,067** in cash donations!

Toys for Tots Thank You's

There is a long list of those that helped make our 2020 Toys for Tots event so successful.

Here are some of the ones that went "above & beyond" with their efforts:

- All our 2020 Event Sponsors
- Our host 'Cue BBQ and manager Bryan
- Karen O'Neal & our Auction Team
- Those that donated Auction Items (Year One, Karen O'Neal, Summit Racing, 'Cue BBQ & their suppliers, Mammoth Car Wash & others).
- Handy Ace Hardware (\$300+ in toy donations)
- Our Show Volunteers & our retired Marines
- Everyone that donated Toys or Cash

Thanks, Dr. Z!

Our THANKS to Alan "Dr. Z" Ziglin for renewing his annual Sponsorship. It really means a lot to us to have members that think so much of our Club to help us financially!

Membership Renewals

We sent out a BUNCH of Membership Renewal Notices after Christmas. We were WAY behind on doing this and have been relying on members to send in their renewals on their anniversary month.

This has not worked very well, so it was time to send out reminders. If you are due (or way PAST due), please drop us a check in the mail at our P.O. Box or pay via Paypal (link is on our website on the Membership page).

Thanks in advance for your renewals. This is one of the main ways we fund our Club!

Our Facebook Page

Don't forget our Facebook page. We use it to post our events, photos of our shows and the latest updates on Club activities.

What it is NOT for is to post events that are OUR Club events (*or events we are helping on*). There are several FB pages dedicated to posting car events and photos.

Please make sure you follow our FB page!

Keep Us Updated!

If you change your email address, phone number or home address, please let us know. We usually have several emails bounce back every time we send out a Club-wide mailing. If you get your newsletter via USPS, we would still like to have your email address, so we can send you the latest updates.

Trailer Organizing & Wash Party



Before we get 2021 events started, we *desperately* need to do some organizing work on our Club trailer!

We need to install some shelving in it so we can find things we need on show day, PLUS a set place for the boxes, speakers, tables and such. This will be a BIG help in finding them at the NEXT show!

It looks like a pair of 4' tall wire shelving units will fit our needs, and should be pretty easy to install and secure.

The trailer also needs a good exterior wash, and maybe some paint on parts of it.

If you can give us a hand one weekend afternoon, please let Rick know.

In Our Prayers . . .

Please continue to put "**Falcon Fred**" **Hartley** in your prayers.

He is home recovering from his recent surgery, but will start Chemo treatments as soon as he is strong enough.

If you know someone in our Club that needs our prayers, please let us know.



The "Collector Car Community" Answered the Call to Help! **Our Toys for Tots Cruise-in was AMAZING**

Everyone loves "Toys for Tots" and Mother Nature is no exception! We had a bright, sunny day for our 13th Annual Toys for Tots Cruise-in. It was cold, though, we think Santa would have been right at home.

We were concerned that a change in venue might affect attendance but we had nothing to worry about. We registered over 86 cars and had lots of spectators. The Marines were excited to collect toys as participants arrived and we filled over 16 collection boxes. Cue BBQ stayed busy all day, as did our volunteer crew. The Corvette Club and the North Georgia Mopar Club showed up in force to support our show.

It was a fun day that included silent and outcry auctions organized by Karen O'Neal and "outcried" by Roger Broderson and Rick Ellis. 2019 "A-Team" Volunteer Rookie of the Year Caitlin McDaniel presided over t-shirt distribution and sales. Theresa Leach, Amber Behnken and Sharon Ellis headed up registration, while our parking gurus did a "rack 'em, pack 'em and stack 'em" to find room for all the show cars.

Thanks to 'Cue's enthusiastic support, our show raised \$3,067 and donated 573 toys, which will help make Christmas very happy for some very deserving kids. Heartfelt thanks to Cue, our amazing sponsors, Club volunteers, participants and spectators for a hugely successful Toys for Tots.

See page 2 for all the show winners.



Our "AMAZING" Show Total: 573 Toys & \$3,067 in Cash!

More Photos from Our **Toys for Tots Cruise-in**



And More from **Toys for Tots Cruise-in**



Our "Cool" Holiday Party

Our annual Holiday party looked like it was going to be another victim of the 2020 pandemic, since our normal gathering place closed due to pandemic losses. We still wanted to have a get-together for those people who were comfortable with a small gathering.

Karen & Steve O'Neal stepped in and offered their home for a Holiday potluck and it was fabulous! Karen is the "hostess with the mostest," her Holiday decorating is legendary and the O'Neals have the perfect home for entertaining, with lots of space for food and folks.

We gathered 15 club members on Saturday, December 12th and everyone brought a dish to share. We also had our annual Holiday ornament exchange and Rick gave out the annual A-Team awards. Party-goers also had the option to visit with the foster kitties and tour the O'Neal garage. We wrapped up the leftovers and festivities before the rain came in, sending everyone out with full stomachs and full hearts.

Rick presented the year-end awards recognizing our top Sponsors and the 2020 "A-Team" members.

Our two top Sponsors: **Denny Williams Motor Sports** (Dennis Williams) and **Don Brock**.

Our "A-Team" Members:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ♦ Steve & Karen O'Neal | ♦ Larry Vaitkus | ♦ Sharon Ellis |
| ♦ Larry Navarre | ♦ Jack Gilleland | ♦ Dennis & Amber Behnken |
| ♦ Joe & Theresa Leach | ♦ David Wade | ♦ Don Brock |
| ♦ Allan Roth | ♦ Franco Ossman | |

If you were not present to receive your "A-Team" plaque, we will have them at the January 10th Club Lunch & Meeting and the February 13th Sweetheart Cruise-in, both to be held at 'Cue Barbecue in Peachtree Corners.



Karen presented
Rick & the Club
with a Raffle Ticket
Tumbler, making
our drawing a lot
more "professional"
looking!
Thanks, Karen!

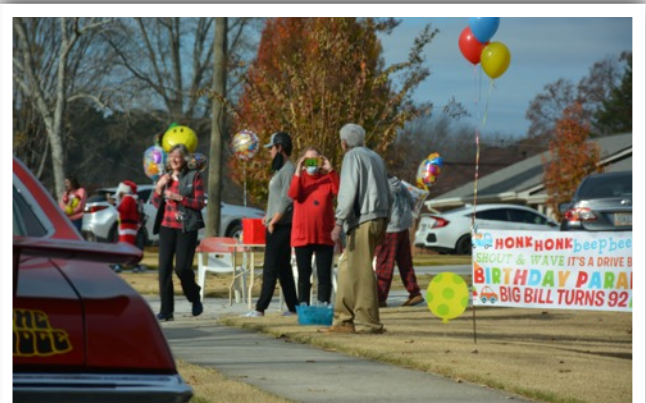


“Big Bill’s” 92nd Birthday Drive-by Car Show

As a well known Car Club, we get requests from time to time to help on various events. Sometimes we can't help, but sometimes we can and do. When we received a call from Beth Gomes in Lilburn asking us to provide some “Cool” cars for her Dad's 92nd birthday, we jumped in. We put the word out to our members on our email list and also on several Facebook pages.

The parade took place on Saturday, December 12th at 10 am. The weather forecast was questionable, but as it turned out, the rain waited until after the event ended. The parade consisted of around 30 show cars and about the same number of friends and relatives decorated (non-show) cars. We even had Santa in a red Jeep in the parade!

We met at a nearby school, and with the help of two Lilburn Police officers, we paraded by Big Bill's house. Bill was brought out as we started, making this a TOTAL surprise to him! Quite a few of their neighbors were out to cheer us on! **A VERY FUN SATURDAY! MORNING!** Thanks to all the Club members that participated!



"Cool" Club Lunch & Meeting



CLUB LUNCH & MEETING
Sunday, January 10th
1:00 pm
'CUE BARBECUE
5260 Peachtree Industrial Blvd
Peachtree Corners, GA 30071

We have a lot of Shows and Cruise-ins, but few Club meetings. We thought January would be a great time to hold one, complete with some tasty barbecue! Our friend Bryan, manager at the Peachtree Corners 'Cue, will have a large family table or two set up for us on Sunday, January 10th. We will gather around 1:00 pm for lunch, then we will have a very informal Club meeting, where you will have a chance to voice your thoughts on our 2021 plans, or anything else Club related.

We will be ordering off their regular menu, which can be found online at CueBarbecue.com. They feature Smoked Pork, Barbecue Chicken, Smoked Beef, Homemade Sausage and a variety of "Made from Scratch" sides.

'Cue has pretty much become our "Home Base" recently, with them hosting three shows in 2020, and will host our annual "I'm SICK of Winter" Sweetheart Cruise-in on Saturday, February 13th. We appreciate their support of our Club and their enthusiasm for hosting car shows!

Please let us know if you are planning on coming, so they will know in advance how many tables to reserve for us. RSVP to Rick at RNE680@Mindspring.com or 404-732-6842 (voice or text). **We are looking forward to seeing YOU there!**

Help Us Plan for 2021! Your Opinion Counts!

We are sincerely hoping for a return to "normal" for the USA in 2021 so that our Shows, Cruise-ins and various Club events (along with all of our everyday functions) can resume to normal also. We have two shows and a Club meeting already planned, but if we are going to do our "normal" schedule, we need to start getting some dates filled.

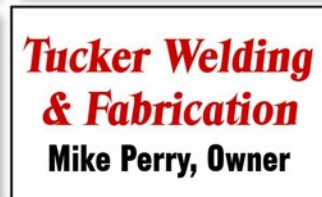
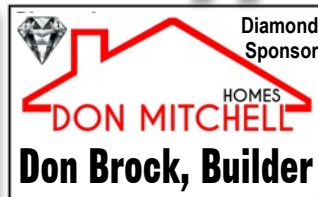
We are very fortunate to have a variety of great venues that would like to host us. Among those are Handy Ace Hardware, Briscoe Park in Snellville (who has contacted us about a Spring show), the Pink Pony, Hayes Automotive in Baldwin, the Southeast Railway Museum, Sonic Drive-ins and 'Cue Barbecue. 'Cue is anxious to host our Toys for Tots Cruise-in again in '21! We will also see if the Gwinnett Public Safety Festival at Coolray Field will come back this year.

We also have the option of exploring other venues and are looking for your suggestions. Please do some recon on any venue to make sure they would like to host and have the necessary amenities (available parking, food, restroom facilities, power source).

The other thing we **MUST HAVE** is **EVENT VOLUNTEERS**, someone to pull the Club trailer to the events and **SPONSORS**! Without these, our events will be few and far between! Please volunteer to help us! It is **NOT** hard work, but we cannot set-up and run a show with just 3 or 4 members doing everything! If you want to continue our regular activities, please call Rick **NOW** and be a part of the 2021 "A-Team."



Our Sponsors & Supporters



Please Support our Sponsors and Charities
Some of the Charities We Support



www.GeorgiaCoolCruisers.org