

CELEBRATING THE CARS OF OUR LIVES 8-28-2023

Sentimental stories abound during the Villa Capri Cruisers' 10th annual Charity Car Show at Nay Aug Park.

BY ROBERT TOMKAVAGE
STAFF WRITER

SCRANTON — More than four decades after Matt Salvia first laid eyes on a 1972 Plymouth Road Runner, the South Abington Twp. man finally made the purchase.

Salvia, 70, showed off his Limelight green muscle car Sunday afternoon during the Villa Capri Cruisers' 10th annual Charity Car Show at Nay Aug Park.

The Pocono Mountain Street Rods Association member bought the vehicle about eight years ago, fulfilling his teenage dream.

"I've liked the body style since I was 17 when I saw it in the showroom," Salvia said. "It took that long for me to get it."

Salvia's Road Runner was among about 250 vehicles on Nay Aug's grounds — from a 1932 Chevy to a brand-new Corvette, and everything in between, said Dave Thomas, secretary of the Villa Capri Cruisers.

"We're expanding a little bit every year and the people

enjoy it," Thomas said.

A couple of choppers even took part in the festivities.

"We had guys with motorcycles pull in and check it all out," Thomas said. "People looked at their bikes while they were looking at people's cars."

Thomas enjoys seeing many familiar faces throughout the park each year.

"I probably know more than half the people here — they're very loyal followers of the show," he said.

The 22-year member of the Villa Capri Cruisers Car Club gained an appreciation for vehicles many years earlier.

"When I was young — 14 or 15 — my cousins would say, 'Dave, get me a half-inch wrench and hand it down to me,'" said Thomas, 68. "It tied me right in."

John Michaely showcased the pace car used in the 70th Indianapolis 500 in 1986 during the show. The vehicle holds special meaning for the Scranton resident.

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JAKE DANNA STEVENS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bill Abda, left, of Newton Twp., owner of a 1986 Corvette, talks with Lou Pittack of Dunmore on Sunday during the Villa Capri Cruisers' 10th annual Charity Car Show at Nay Aug Park in Scranton.



ROBERT TOMKAVAGE / STAFF PHOTO

Matt Salvia, 70, of South Abington Twp., with his 1972 Limelight Plymouth Road Runner.



ROBERT TOMKAVAGE / STAFF PHOTO

Charles Martin, 81, of Clarks Summit, with his 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air.

CARS: Annual show summons memories, helps baby pantry

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“My brother-in-law’s brother purchased it in Illinois,” said Michaely, 80. “He passed away and I used to take him to his cancer treatments, and we used to go to car shows together.”

Clarks Summit resident Charles Martin displayed his 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air, which the 81-year-old is trying to sell.

Martin maintains fond memories of the vehicle he purchased 18 years ago.

“If you look (at it) and pic-

ture a hot summer day ... it’s cute,” Martin said. “That’s why I bought it.”

In addition to bringing car enthusiasts together, the event also raised money for moms in need.

A \$5 donation from each show car will benefit St. Joseph’s Baby & Children’s Pantry in Dunmore — a much-needed boost for the facility, said Tamara Hall, director of maternity and family services at St. Joseph’s Center.

The pantry serves about 350 families each month

throughout Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wayne and Wyoming counties, Hall said.

“We transport orders to Carbondale and various other sites because transportation is a barrier for our families and we’re low on supplies, specifically larger-size diapers,” she said. “Anything we (receive) is going to be a huge help to assist families in our local communities.”

Contact the writer:

rtomkavage@timeshamrock.com; 570-348-9131; @rtomkavage on Twitter.