



From left: Larry Barnes of Alba with his 1961 Oldsmobile Super 88 John D'Agostino custom bubble top; Darrell Slabaugh of Yantis with his modified 1956 Chevy pickup; and Curt Magee with his 1968 Buick LeSabre

Motorheads Unite for Nostalgia

LOVE THINGS THAT GO “VROOM VROOM?” IF SO, YOU ARE OF LIKE mind with the members of the Lake Country Classics Car Club of Northeast Texas. They celebrate all cars and trucks but especially those of the vintage, classic, muscle and street rod varieties. The club was formed in 2010, and it's been motoring along at a fast clip since.

Several members recently gathered to discuss why they love classic cars.

“The cars today don't have nearly the character,” club member Larry Barnes said. “Cars today all look alike, and they're all made of plastic. The old cars—we grew up with them.”

Another member, Curt Magee, chimed in, “That's just what I was going to say.” He then added wistfully, “We went out on our first dates in these cars. These were our high school cars.”

Barnes echoed that sentiment: “The nostalgia of the old classic cars is just something we really enjoy.”

You don't have to own a classic car to join the club. You just need to like them. LCCCC regular meetings are on the third Monday of each month at the Red Dome Smokehouse in Quitman. The club's many activities include lots of chrome, good times and charitable works.

LCCCC members share an interest in cars, but they also have a strong focus on community, service projects and economic development, said Darrell Slabaugh, the club's treasurer and webmaster. They support local businesses by attending openings and open houses. They participate in many local parades, and they visit nursing homes. Club members also travel together to car shows and other events throughout Northeast Texas. LCCCC also hosts a “drive-in” event on the fourth Thursday each month March–September at the Quitman Dairy Queen, where they present a people's choice award to a cruiser. Additionally, club members have rallied to raise money for a local



A sea of people and classic cars at the 2015 Lake Country Classics Car Show in Mineola



food pantry, volunteer fire departments and Toys for Tots.

The club also awards an annual scholarship. “We try to find someone interested in automotive or something affiliated with cars, and they can either go to a four-year school or a technical school,” Slabaugh said. Almost every year since its inception, LCCCC has produced a car show to help fund the scholarships. “We made the decision right up front that we were going to put on a quality show,” said Barnes, a charter club member and chairman of the show. “We were going to give high-quality awards. We were going to give high-quality door prizes. And our people would be well-trained. Therefore, our show has developed a strong reputation.”

Over the years, that reputation for quality boosted attendance until the show outgrew its original home at Jim Hogg City Park in Quitman. In 2015, LCCCC moved the show to the Mineola Civic Center, and 318 cars were entered. According to

club members, that was a record-breaking size for car shows in the region—a record they believe still stands.

A car show of more than 300 participants takes an extraordinary amount of training and resources, though. So, for 2018, the 30-member club will host a smaller show back at Jim Hogg City Park. It’s scheduled for Saturday, October 20, and limited to 100 preregistered classic cars (models from 1988 and older).

Once again, LCCCC will focus on producing a quality show that will draw entrants from far and wide. To do that, they secured several corporate sponsorships and reached out to various civic organizations that will sell refreshments as fundraising activities for their own clubs. There will be live music and a live radio broadcast. Club members will not compete in the show. But, unable to completely exclude themselves from the fun, they may compete against each other in a sideshow where visitors can vote on their favorite member cars.



Happy
Independence
Day

As for the other cars in the show, they'll be judged by class by trained LCCCC members who will grade on interior, exterior and engine quality. The fee to enter a car is \$30 and comes with a free commemorative T-shirt and door prize.

"You will see cars in our show worth anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000 to over \$100,000," Barnes said.

"It's a family opportunity," Slabaugh said, adding that classic car shows are where a community of like-minded people gather, build strong friendships, and have fun and good conversations. "People will stop you and say, 'I had one just like that,' or even 'My granddad had one just like that!' It's a great conversation piece for people who enjoy the same thing."

The event is free to the public, and, as further encouragement to stop by the show, Magee offered a promise to those who attend: "We will try to put a smile on their faces for them. We want everybody to come out, have a good time and be happy."



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Power Tip

Except for fans that are designed for continuous operation, turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes of cooking or bathing.



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Annual dues: \$25 for family membership

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Safety on the Farm

FARMING IS AMONG THE MOST DANGEROUS OCCUPATIONS FOR SEVERAL REASONS, including potential encounters with electrical hazards. Before taking to the fields, Wood County Electric Cooperative urges farmworkers to be aware of overhead power lines and to keep equipment and extensions far away from them.

Share this information with your families and workers to keep them safe from electrical accidents.

Start each morning by planning your day's work. Know what jobs will happen near power lines and have a plan to keep assigned workers safe.

Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions at all times. Use a spotter when moving tall equipment and loads.

Use care when raising augers or grain truck beds. It can be difficult to estimate distance, and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines.

Always lower equipment extensions, portable augers and elevators to their lowest possible level, under 14 feet, before moving or transporting them. Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight and other conditions can cause you to lose control of equipment and make contact with power lines.

Be aware of increased height on larger modern tractors with higher antennas.

Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property height have sagged over time, call Wood County EC to repair them.

Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.

Be careful not to raise any equipment, such as ladders or poles, into power lines. Remember, nonmetallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay, will conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.

Use qualified electricians for work on farm electrical systems.

If you are on equipment that contacts a power line, do not exit the equipment. If you step off the equipment, you could receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until cooperative workers have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit the vehicle. If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together to prevent current flow through your body, which could be deadly.

Wood County Electric Cooperative

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Monday, First Methodist Church, *Van*

Tuesday, Family Dollar, *Mount Vernon*

Wednesday, City National Bank, *Hawkins*

Thursday, Brookshire's, *Winnsboro*

Friday, Economy Drug, *Grand Saline*