

LIFESTYLE

Ocean City Cruise is a mecca for hot-rodders

Print E-mail +1 0 Tweet Like 94 Pin it 3



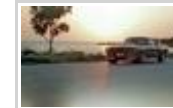
OTHER RECENT ARTICLES



Project Car Hell, Muscle-Car Clone Edition: Studebaker Super Lark or AMC SC/Rambler?



Mazda Tribute recalled for same fix as Ford Escape



Shelby GT500 'Eleanor' movie replica hits the roads in Greece :Car created for *Gone in 60 Seconds* remake



Porsche may develop a Panamera wagon: Autoweek TV



Lotus Exige S V6 hits the U.K.



A parking lot full of cars in attendance for the Ocean City Cruise on the East coast.



By: Jan Tegler on 7/18/2012

Ocean City, Md., one of the mid-Atlantic's largest seaside resorts, is a 10-mile-long strip of beach lined with hotels, restaurants, condominiums, nightclubs, beach homes and a renowned boardwalk. Each year, vacationers from around the region flock to the shore between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

But a week prior to Memorial Day, the city belongs to hot-rodders as thousands descend on the resort for Cruisin' Ocean City (COC). This year marked the 22nd-annual event; it was first staged in 1991. Growth has been exponential, and today, organizers tout the gathering as one of the biggest of its kind.

"Cruisin' Ocean City is simply one of the top-five automotive aftermarket citywide events in the nation," says Peter J. Duhart, national sponsorship director for Ocean City, Md., special events. "It's a kickoff for the East Coast summer cruising season and magnet for hot-rodders from 20 states."

To see Coastal Highway on the event's biggest weekend day is to believe it. Literally thousands of T-buckets, pro-street rods, rat rods, zany one-offs and muscle cars of every description jam the 146-block stretch that bisects the barrier island from the Ocean City inlet at its southern end north to the Maryland/Delaware state line. It's a riot of color and noise replete with burnouts, boasting and the kind of "see and be seen" car-guy fun that is cruising.

The gravity of COC is concentrated at the inlet beachfront parking area. At a quarter-mile long and 1,000 feet

Related Articles

[The Packard Resurrection Project: Time to get serious](#)

[White Whales at the 2012 Woodward Dream Cruise](#)

[Woodward Dream Cruise Walkabout](#)

[Split Camaro showcases 'quality' for State Farm agents](#)

[How I Came Around to Cruisin'](#)

[Al Capone's Cadillac V8 set for auction](#)

[Drag Kings: Chevrolet Camaro ZL1, Ford Mustang Shelby GT500 hit the drag strip](#)

[2013 Shelby GT350 tops out at 624 hp](#)

[Hot rod legend Alex Xydias turns 90](#)

[Rat Rod vs. Lamborghini Aventador](#)

[2013 Ford Mustang Shelby GT500 dyno video shows 609 hp at the wheels](#)

[Listen up: 10 cars with the best engine sounds](#)

Better Credit Scores Fuel Possibilities

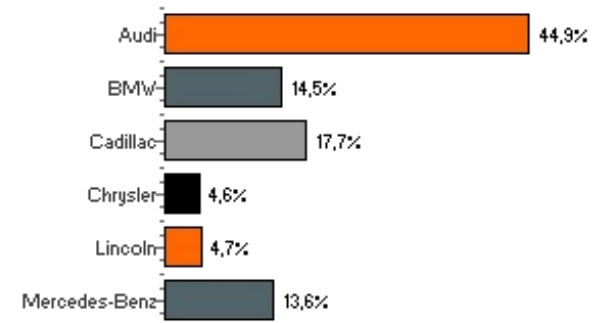
See Your Credit Score + What's Affecting It.

Start Here

With enrollment in freecreditscore.com™

POLL OF THE WEEK

Which of these luxury carmakers is building the most tasteful cars?



wide, the lot overflows each day with hundreds of pre-1978 rods.

Major sponsors present awards daily, but the show is largely informal, tailor-made for cruising, showing and socializing.

Duhart estimates 2012 attendance at just less than 70,000, with 3,500 cars registered as participants and another 2,000 to 2,500 that come on their own.

His description of COC as a “fluid” event is spot-on. Hot rods parade down the city's three-mile boardwalk (more than 760 cars at once), congregate in every available hotel, restaurant or coffee shop parking lot and fill the Ocean City Convention Center's large parking areas. The inlet and the convention center host an array of vendors and sponsors, and a live collector-car auction is held at the convention center.

“Things are always in motion, and every night at 5 p.m. when the show at the inlet ends, folks flow out onto Coastal Highway,” Duhart said.

“It looks like the Woodward Dream Cruise of the East Coast.”

Spectators with cameras and video cameras line the sidewalks and hotel balconies to capture the action of this super cruise, while others stroll among the examples of shiny sheetmetal.

We saw everything from Ford Model T delivery trucks to a replica of the 1973 Ford XB Falcon coupe police interceptor from the movie *Mad Max*.

A companion event to COC, the 15th-annual Endless Summer Cruisin' Ocean City, takes place Oct. 4-7.

For more information on the events, visit www.specialeventpro.com.

*Get more car news, reviews and opinion every day: Sign up to have the **Autoweek Daily Drive** delivered right to your inbox.*

Filed Under:

posting



Add a comment...

 Facebook social plugin

AUTOWEEK WEBSITE

[Car News](#)
[Racing](#)
[Car Reviews](#)
[Collecting](#)

[Green Cars](#)
[Teen Driving Report](#)
[Gear Store](#)
[Register](#)

SUBSCRIBE

[Subscribe](#)
[Digital Newsletters](#)
[Your Account](#)
[RSS Feed](#)

MULTIMEDIA

[Car Videos](#)

INSIDE

[Press](#)
[Media Kit](#)
[Reprints](#)

MEDIA PARTNERS

[shopautoweek.com](#)
[Automotive News](#)
[SPEED](#)



2012 Traverse



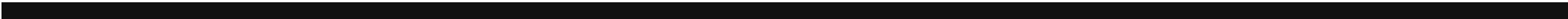
[LEARN MORE](#)

[Your Magazine Subscription »](#)

[Privacy Policy and Terms of Use](#) | [Contact Customer Service](#) | [Send a News Tip](#)

AUTOWEEK

All Content © 2012 [Crain Communications, Inc.](#)



Follow Autoweek:

