Mossy Creek Cruzers Car Club

NEWSLETTER
October 2026
Volume 168
Editor: Rick Elder

Ramblin' On (things you need to know)

NEXT CRUISE IN – Friday, October 9th.

NEXT CAR SHOW – "Fill the Truck with Toys" on Saturday, October 10, 9:00 to 3:30 pm at Bush Beans. The entrance fee is a new unwrapped toy.

FINAL CRUISE IN – Friday, October 30th (Trunk & Treat).

NEXT CLUB MEETING – Tuesday, November 3 at Shoney's in Dandridge, TN. All members are welcome to attend. 2027 Officers and Board of Directors will be elected. The meeting starts at 6:30. Come earlier to eat.

Letter from the President

Cruzers,

Whatever your interests are regarding car club activities, we hope you will enjoy being in the club. We are open to suggestions from everyone about ways to make our club more enjoyable to be a member. We are planning activities throughout the year and want a feeling of camaraderie with other members that motivates you to suggest activities that you would like to see happen. Car clubs are a great place to meet interesting people who do not get bored with all the "car talk". They actually enjoy hearing about the new carburetor that you installed to keep the car from bogging down and the body work that has been done to your car to make it customized and the new paint job.

Also, the talk about all the events we plan for the club. Suggestions about places to go and things to do will be appreciated. We have a person that is over setting up places to go, things to see and of course, places to eat. So, if you have suggestions, just see Bobby Estes and he will take care of those suggestions.

Several other committees need to be appointed so if you are interested in certain things, let us know. We need a chaplain to start our meetings with a prayer and to send cards to the sick and owners to the deceased.

It just doesn't get any better than this!!

Keep Cruisin'
Pat Dukes,
President
865-363-5891

Meeting Minutes – October 6

Submitted by Mary Moore

The meeting was opened by President Pat Dukes with 18 members and 1 guest present.
The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a prayer...

Bob Lathum gave the treasurer's report with a balance at the end of September of $12,719.36. He also discussed the organizations/charities that would be receiving donations from the club proceeds this year. They are mainly the same as in previous years, as follows:

- 10 Fire Departments mostly in Jefferson County and 1 Rescue Squad.
- 1 fire Department in Cocke County (Del Rio VFD) as some businesses in Cocke County have supported the club with ads this year and we have members in that county.
- The criminal Justice Class at JCHS.
- Isaih 117 House.
- Appalachian Ministries of the Smokies (AMOS).
- Stepping Out.
- Scottish Rite.

Pete Balzano made a motion to accept these charities for this year's donations. The motion was seconded by Phil Gibson. The motion passed. The amounts to be determined after our next car show.

Pete brought up this month, we need to nominate officers for next year. He nominated Pat Dukes to be President. Pat accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations for President. John Moody nominated Bobby Estes for Vice President. This was seconded by Chris. There were no other nominations for Vice President. Bobby accepted the nomination. John Moody nominated Mary Moore for Secretary. This was seconded by Norm. There were no other nominations for Secretary. Mary accepted the nomination. Kim Swendson nominated Bob Latham for Treasurer. This was seconded by Bobby Estes. There were no other nominations for Treasurer. Bob accepted the nomination. As the nominations were uncontested there will not be a written ballot. The nominees will be elected at our November meeting and take office in January of 2027.

The Board of Directors for 2027 also needs to be nominated this Month. Nominations were as follows: Bobby Estes nominated John Moody. Pete Balzano nominated Mike Wright. John Moody nominated Rick Elder. John Moody nominated Pete Balzano. There were no other nominations. As the nominations were uncontested there will not be a written ballot. The nominees will be elected at our November meeting and take office in January of 2027.

All Operating Committee Leaders will be appointed in January. Our Chaplain position is still unfilled.

The Car Show is a Bush Beans on Saturday, October 10. Workers should be there about 7:00 – 7:30 AM for set-up.

Jackie Baland will not be here. Bob Latham said Linda and Michelle would be there to help Sherry with the silent auction. Kim and Mike will do registration. Pat and Mary 50/50 tickets. Envelopes Norm and Steve. T shirts Tom S and Phil G. Bobby will do memberships. Rick Anderson will do the Mossy Awards.

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Meeting Minutes – October 6 *(continued from page 2)*

Presents will be given at registration. Students will take store them in the trailer. Kim is going to make cookies for cookie walk. Students may run the walks. Brooklyn will have a coin to raffle and her candy cane sleds to sell. Maybe sell some cookies. Two food trucks are coming: 1 Hot Dog and 1 Other Sandwiches.

Upcoming events were discussed:

- October 17 Cruising the Crater Power-Tour to Middlesborough, KY. Meet at the Shell Station in Beane Station at 2 PM.
- October 30 Trunk or Treat at Big Lots.
- October 31 Car Show at Smokey Camp, Sevierville 9am – 2 pm. Off Hwy 416.
- November 7 Farmers Daughter Fun Run. Meet at Union Heights School on 160 at noon. $20.00 cash or check.
- December 8 - Mustang/F100 Club Christmas Party. Details to be determined.
- December 19 - Mossy Creek Christmas Party at Bob and Linda Latham's home in Rutledge.

Rick Anderson, our guest, thanked all the members for participating in the Mooresburg school car show. It was a success and they want to make it an annual event.

Bob Latham brought up the discussion of changing our cruise ins to the first and third Fridays of the month. Possibly increase membership. John Moody made a motion to change cruise ins to first and third Fridays next year. This was seconded by Rob and passed by majority of hands.

Chris D made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Chris G. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Chasing the Colors: Prime Fall Drives Are Here!

Clear your schedule—fall foliage in East Tennessee and the Great Smoky Mountains is hitting its stride! Recent rain and cooler temperatures saved the season, setting up prime leaf-peeping conditions across our local routes.

Where to catch the best views right now:

- High Peaks (5,000+ ft): Peak color is happening now around Kuwohi (Clingmans Dome), Newfound Gap, and Chimney Tops.
- Mid-Elevations (3,000–4,000 ft): Vibrant reds and golds will hit over the next few weeks—the ultimate sweet spot for cruising.
- Valleys & Foothills: Color will finish cascading down into the lower valley roads through late autumn.



Grab your keys and get out there for a last drive or two before winter sets in!

Nomination and Election Process

Summarized from our By-laws – Approved February 3, 2025

The Mossy Creek Cruzers Car Club establishes a structured annual process governed by Article Four of its by-laws to select its leadership, which includes four core Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and a Board of Directors.

Nomination Timeline and Criteria

- **Nomination Window:** Nominations for Officers and the Board of Directors take place among the membership present at the **October meeting**. Once this meeting concludes, nominations are officially closed.
- **Acceptance:** Nominees must accept the nomination before the end of the **October** meeting.
- **Publication:** Accepted nominations are published in the October newsletter so the broader membership can review candidate options prior to voting.
- **Board Composition Rules:**
  - The Board consists of an odd number of active members to prevent tie votes.
  - The Immediate Past President and the current President receive automatic appointments to the Board without needing an election.
  - Husbands and wives (or significant others) are prohibited from serving on the Board of Directors at the same time.

Voting and Election Process

- **Election Date:** The formal election takes place during the **November** meeting.
- **Voting Procedure:**
  - If only one person is nominated for an office, a simple show of hands is sufficient to accept the candidate.
  - If two or more members are nominated for a single position, voting is conducted via written secret ballot.
- **Tallying Results:** Ballots are counted by a designated three-person team comprising one Officer, one Board member, and one random member present at the meeting.
- **Outcome:** The nominee receiving the simple majority of votes wins the position, and the final results are published in the November newsletter.

Terms and Transition

- **Term Limits:** All Officers and Board Members serve one-year terms, and there are no term limits restricting how many terms a member can serve.
- **Assuming Office:** Newly elected leadership official assumes duties at the January meeting, serving through December.
- **Vacancies:** If an office becomes vacant mid-term, it is filled by nomination and vote at the next regular general meeting, with the newly elected officer completing the remainder of the original term.

Note that Operating Committee Leaders are appointed by the incoming President at the **January** meeting. They assume the position immediately.

Refrigerator Page

Print and Hang On Your Refrigerator for Reference

PUT THESE DATES ON *YOUR* CALENDAR!



Upcoming Events

Oct 9	**MCC Cruise In, 5:00 to 8:00 pm, Big Lots, Jefferson City**
Oct 10	**15th Annual "Fill the Truck with Toys" Car Show, Bush Beans (Ball Park), Dandridge, TN 9:00 am to 3:30 pm**
Oct 17	**POWER TOUR** to Cruisin' the Crater, Middlesboro KY. Meet at Shell Station on 25E in bean Station at 2:00 pm
Oct 30	**MCC Cruise In, *Trunk & Treat*, 5:00 to 8:00 pm, Big Lots, Jefferson City**
Nov 7	**POWER TOUR** to Farmer's Daughter, Chuckey, TN. Meet at Union Heights School on 160 at Noon
Dec 8	Mustang/F100 Club Christmas Party. Details coming!
Dec 19	MCC Christmas Party at Bob & Linda Latham's. Details coming.
2027	
Jan 15	Hamblen County Car Club's 13th Annual Winter Angel Expo, White Pine, TN (indoors), Noon to 6:00 pm
Jan 16	HCCC WAE - 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Jan 17	HCCC WAE - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Local Meetings

Get involved!
Everyone is welcome to attend and learn about these clubs:

- 1st Tuesday – **Mossy Creek Cruzers** – Shoney's, Dandridge, 6:30 pm
- 1st Thursday – **Hamblen County Car Club** – Davy Crocket Restaurant, Morristown, 7:00 pm
- 2nd Tuesday – **Lakeway Mustang Club** – Shoney's, Dandridge, 7:00 pm
- 5th Tuesday – **F-100 Club** – Shoney's Dandridge, 6:30 pm



Where Did the Summer Go?



Club Social Media

Web Site
www.mossycreekcruzers.org

Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/MossyCreekCruzers

About Mossy Creek Cruzers

Founded in 2012, the Mossy Creek Cruzers (MCC) car club consists of a group of car enthusiasts dedicated to helping with charities in Jefferson and surrounding counties, while supporting our passion for cars. It is our intent to share in the fellowship by raising funds through the events that we plan. Our events are family oriented. We are a 501(C) non-profit organization.

2025 Officers

President
Pat Dukes
865-363-5891
mossycreekcruzers@aol.com

Vice President
Doug Rodgers
904-802-8027
nascar02nut@gmail.com

Treasurer
Bob Latham
301-602-7498
bobgoespostal61@yahoo.com

Secretary
Mary Moore
mary947.mm@gmail.com

2026 Board of Directors

Mike Wright
865-806-5050
mikeyw59@gmail.com

Pete Balzano
423-312-3486
petebmountainman@aol.com

Rick Elder
423-231-1326
relder@micromfgsys.com

John Moody
727-215-1782
denisejohn@verizon.net

Pat Dukes
President

Operating Committee Leaders

Article Six of our by-laws' states: The members shall nominate and elect the following positions:

Car Show Director – Doug Rodgers
This individual organizes a committee to conduct any car shows sponsored by the Club. The position requires commitment to the club through promo on, advertisement, participant involvement, and public relations.

Communications Coordinator – Rick Elder
This individual shall be responsible for writing, editing, and maintaining a monthly newsletter for the Club and distributing it to members and other clubs. Position also includes publicity and maintains the club's website.

Membership Coordinator – Pat Dukes
This individual is responsible for promo ng membership, collecting dues, and working with the community as a Club representative. They must maintain a membership roster of all member types.

Chaplin – *Open*
This individual leads all meetings with a prayer. They check on members' health and family situations and send flowers/cards or appropriate condolences when required.

If you would like to volunteer to lead or work on a committee, please contact one of the people listed on the page.

The MCC Car Club Newsletter is an official publication of the Mossy Creek Cruzers Car Club. It is created and distributed electronically each month. All news articles, photographs, and items of interest are welcome for consideration for publication, but subject to editing. Submission deadlines are the date of the MCC monthly meeting. Members who do not have email may receive the newsletter by snail mail upon request.



Mossy Creek Cruzers
15th Annual Fill the Truck with Toys





Mossy Creek Cruzers
15th Annual Car Show
www.mossycreekcruzers.org

E-mail:
mossycreekcruzers@aol.com

Facebook.com/
MossyCreekCruzers

501(C)3





- FOOD • MUSIC •
- 50-50 •
- SILENT AUCTION •
- DOOR PRIZES •
- TROPHIES •
- ENVELOPE BOARD •
- CASH PRIZES •

Registration is a new, Unwrapped Toy

OPEN
CAR/TRUCK
JEEP
MOTORCYCLE
SHOW



SINCE 1908
BUSH'S BEST

Dash plaques for First 150 Entrants

FOR REGISTRATION PURPOSES ONLY

Bob Latham • 301-602-7498
Pat Dukes • 865-363-5891

Visitor Center

RAIN OR SHINE

LOCATION: 3901 US HWY 411 (Ballpark) • Dandridge, TN 37725

Saturday, October 10, 2026 • 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Bring with you or Mail registration to:
Mossy Creek Cruzers • 562 North Highway 92 • Jefferson City, TN 37760

Name: _____ **Date:** ___/___/2026
PLEASE PRINT

Address: _____ **City, State, Zip** _____

E-Mail: _____ **Phone:** (___) _____
AREA CODE

Club Affiliation:

Vehicle Year & Make _____ **Car** ☐ **Truck** ☐ **Jeep** ☐

SIGNATURE _____

Liability: Entrants, Participants and Spectators, by execution of this form, Release and Discharge the State of Tennessee, Jefferson County, and the City of Dandridge, Mossy Creek Cruzers, Bush's Visitor Center, the Sponsors, Promoters, or Assistants, their Officers, Directors, Employees, Agents, Servants, Members and Representatives, Property, and anyone else connected with the presentation of Bush's Visitor Center and Mossy Creek Cruzers Club Car Show from any and all known or unknown damages, injuries, losses, judgements, and/or claims from any cause whatsoever that may be suffered by an entrant or participant to his/her person or property.