



# How It All Began

In the fall of 2009, Bill Hill was challenged as to why Cassville couldn't or didn't have cruise-ins. So Bill sought and received approval from then Mayor Tracey Holley and started the planning of a cruise-in around The Square in Cassville which was held that fall. Then, during the summer of 2010, Bill Hill had the vision to start monthly gatherings in Cassville during the summer months. Car enthusiasts met at the TrueValue parking lot on the corner of Hwy 37 and First Street in Cassville. Bill and Keith Rathbun parked cars, ran the concession stand and music stand, and pretty much did everything that needed to be done. The cruise-ins were host to around 15-20 cars. Shirley Fletcher and her group as well as others came to provide live music. Mainly due to the lack of shade, a new place for the cruise-ins was being sought.

About the same time, a small group of car lovers started getting together at Tom Young's business, Laminated Panels, once a month for sharing of ideas and just to talk about cars. This group included: Tom Young, Bud Lowe, Troy Lowe, Mike Lowe, Bill Hill, Keith Rathbun, Larry Daniels, Wayne Hendrix, Johnnie Hendrix and Floyd Beck. This small group birthed the Cassville Country Cruisers Car Club. Club members participated in the 2010 Cassville Christmas parade under this name. The club had \$152.00 to carry forward from 2010 cruise-in concession sales. The group sought and received permission from Jerry Watley, founder of the Barry County Museum, to hold cruise-ins in the museum parking lot.

## 2011

The first officers for the club were announced on March 8, 2011: President – Larry Daniels; Vice-President – Tom Young; Secretary – Troy Lowe; and Treasurer – Bill Hill. Keith Rathbun and Johnnie Hendrix volunteered to be activities coordinators. The club members voted to change the name of the club to the Cassville Cruisers and adopted a logo. The club began meeting at Papa Vito's in Cassville on the Tuesday night before the second Saturday of each month. Monthly cruise-ins were to be held the second Saturday of the summer months at the Barry County Museum. This relationship proved beneficial to both the club and the museum. Club membership dues were \$20.00 per family for year ending in December. Also, the club was registered with the Secretary of State of MO so that a checking account could be opened. At the May meeting, by-laws were adopted by the club members. The club held its first Poker Run kicking off May's cruise-in. Club apparel was made available for purchase to members. Also, it was emphasized that the club should not be just to "meet and do business" but should be for cruising and sharing and swapping car info and stories. Cruise-in signs were ordered and the need for a club roster was apparent due to growing membership numbers. Floyd Beck won the club's first 50/50 drawing at the September meeting. Plans were made for the club to participate in the Chili Cook-off with Keith Rathbun led the club to first place in showmanship and tenth in taste. 12 cars participated in the "fall colors" cruise over to Anderson. We had a great turnout for our first ever Christmas Party at Lowe's Station where toys were collected for local charities. The club also voted to purchase a sound system from Bill Hill and elected officers for 2012.

## 2012

Officers for the year were: President – Troy Lowe; Vice-President – Wayne Hendrix; Secretary – Johnnie Hendrix; and Treasurer – Laurie Spinks. A survey was taken of members and they overwhelmingly wanted more cruises and trips, along with door prizes at the meetings, building a website, a roster of club members, adding a bereavement/sunshine contact person and a historian, finding a tangible benefit for members, and possibly start a swap meet or car show. A calendar of 2012 events was prepared by the officers and published. A review of 2012 showed a total of 89 members, seven cruises taken, averaged over 60 cars at cruise-ins, averaged 38 members at monthly meetings, added the following “helping the community” events: visited Red Rose Nursing Home and Missouri Veteran’s Home and held a car wash for widows, supported Friday Squared and the Chili Cook Off sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and participated, supported with our presence a Barry County Senior Citizens event and the Stone’s Prairie annual picnic. Car members attended several car shows with multiple trophy winners and participated in area Christmas parades. Cruise-ins for the year included: a music night, ladies night, watermelon feed, and a veterans’ recognition. Local businesses that supported the club financially were Freedom Bank and Security Bank, and Shumaker Tire donated a set of tires to be raffled by the club and Tomblin’s Jewelry donated gift certificates during the year. Each member was given a car plaque for their cars. Margie Aeverman was appointed as our “Sunshine Lady.” The club placed an ad in the Ozark Car Events. The Christmas Party held at the Sho-Me Plaza where toys were donated to OACAC to distribute and officers for 2013 were elected. Also at the December meeting, club members voted to support the following: give a scholarship to an automotive student from Scott Regional Technology Center in Monett who is continuing in the automotive field; give to Compasses Hospice; give toys and money to five families who suffered a catastrophic fire in Wheaton; and to give groceries to a family from the Barry County Sheriff’s staff who suffered a debilitating injury.

## 2013

Officers for the year were: President – Troy Lowe; Vice-President – Wayne Hendrix; Secretary – Barbara Androsiglio, and Treasurer – Janice Allen. Again the year was started with a survey of the membership. The replies included: more cookouts; more road trips, maybe overnight; some sort of community service project such as helping the elderly with cars; add a photographer and/or newsletter; small window decal for cars; get more young people involved; have a tech night; use name tags; and pick a “car of the month” and put picture in newspaper. The Cassville Cruisers car club was growing. Club meetings continued to be held at Papa Vito’s, however the club is quickly outgrowing the facility. A review of 2013 showed 91 family unit members with an average attendance at club meetings of 53, members participated in ten cruises, averaged 89 cars at the cruise-ins, visited Red Rose and Missouri Veteran’s Home again, held a car wash for widows, supported Stone’s Prairie Picnic, and help promote the Eagle Rock car show, members attended several car shows with multiple trophy winners, and participated in area Christmas parades. County-wide attention was drawn to the club through the posting of pictures in local publications of the monthly “Eddie Award” winner: the best of the bunch car award from each cruise-in. Once again this year, cruise-ins for the year included a music night, ladies night, watermelon feed, and veterans’ recognition, plus Freedom Bank sponsored a special booth and awarded some door prizes at one cruise-in. Car club stickers were given to each member. Car club apparel was seen all around the county and beyond. Club members voted to continue with the scholarship started last year, however it will be separate from the Christmas charities and will be presented in the spring of each year. The first scholarship was awarded in the spring to Dillon Fear to attend Linn State Technical College. The club also presented the MO-PAR Club from NW AR with a plaque thanking them for their support of our cruise-ins. Larry Daniels donated a car related quilt that brought in extra money for the club. Freedom Bank and Security Bank were again club sponsors, and Tomblin’s Jewelry donated gift certificates throughout the year in addition to making the name plates for the Eddie Award trophy. The December meeting was the Christmas Party held at the Sho-Me Plaza where toys were donated to the Barry County Sheriff’s angel tree project.

## 2014

Officers for the year were: President – Carmine Androsiglio; Vice-President – Keith Rathbun, Secretary – Barbara Androsiglio, and Treasurer – Donna Studivan.

## 2015

Officers for the year were: President – Wayne Hendrix; Vice-President – Troy Lowe; Secretary – Heidi Fisher, and Treasurer – Larry Daniels.

## 2016

Officers for the year were: President – Carmine Androsiglio; Vice-President – Jim Craig; Secretary – Michelle Wise, and Treasurer – Larry Daniels.

## 2017

Officers for the year were: President – Rick Fisher; Vice-President – Brenda Wallis; Secretary – Heidi Fisher, and Treasurer – Peggy Sue Kitching.

## 2018

Officers for the year were: President – Larry Daniels; Vice-President – Rick Fisher; Secretary – Lea Hill, and Treasurer – Cinda Woolridge.

## 2019

Officers for the year were: President – Bob Kitching; Vice-President – Melva Willman; Secretary – Lea Hill, and Treasurer – Cinda Woolridge.

## 2020

Officers for the year were: President – Larry Daniels; Vice-President – Troy Lowe; Secretary – Patti Daniels, and Treasurer – Cinda Woolridge.