

Classic cars

cruise to the coast

Seaside's annual Muscle and Chrome Car Show includes live music, treasure hunt, awards

By KATHERINE LACAZE
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Twenty-five years ago, Kathy and Mike Sasso waved goodbye to their wedding guests while Ray Sheldon, Kathy's father, drove the newly-weds away in his butternut-yellow 1969 Ford Galaxy 500 Convertible.

Nearly two decades later, the Sassos, who live in Olney, purchased the car from Sheldon and have since entered it in various regional parades and events, including Astoria Regatta. At last year's Seaside Muscle and Chrome Car Show, Mike Sasso took his father-in-law's place as chauffeur to convey his daughter Nikkole, Miss North Coast's Outstanding Teen, and other title-holders during the traditional Downtown Cruise.

That spirit — one of interests merging and passing among generations — is expressed at the annual Seaside car show, taking place Friday and Saturday, June 16 and 17.

Because the event, organized by the Seaside Downtown Development Association each June, features show-quality vehicles from 1960 to 1978, and factory performance vehicles from 1979 to 2017, the atmosphere creates an intense mingling of multiple generations, executive director Sarah Dailey said.

"You'll have the grandson there with his Audi, and the dad with his Mustang from high school that's fixed up, and then the grandpa with the classic," she said, "and that's so fun to see."



PHOTO BY JEFF TER HAR

The annual Seaside Muscle and Chrome Car Show, which takes place Friday and Saturday this year, features show-quality vehicles from 1960 to 1978 and factory performance vehicles from 1979 to the current year.

'A LOT OF LOVE'

For the Sassos, their Ford Galaxy will always be the car Kathy's father liked, "the one he went out and looked for," the one he found "that was in good enough condition to bring back to life," and the one "me and my wife took off in after we got married," Mike Sasso said.

Many owners have similarly significant relationships with their cars.

"A lot of them have a long history with their vehicle," Dailey said. "They put a lot of love and effort into them."

Cheri Knobler, of Hayden, Idaho, got her 2002 Ford Thunderbird as a present from her husband, Jon, three years ago for their 44th wedding anniversary. Cheri Knobler's parents owned several Thunderbirds when she was growing up, and she's always had a preference for that style of car.

Cheri Knobler light-heartedly

recounted how, in the early stages of dating, she "broke up with (Jon) for guys who I thought had better cars," including Mustangs and a '57 Thunderbird. When she got her own Thunderbird — produced as part of Ford's eleventh-generation retro-styled series made from 2002 to 2005 — the family joked that her husband was now safe from any more break-ups.

The Knoblers will show their T-bird — Cheri Knobler's daily driver "when the snow is gone until the next snow arrives," she said — at Muscle and Chrome this year. Not only will it be the couple's first time at the Seaside event, it will be the vehicle's first time in a show.

"We thought it would be cool this year to come to Seaside, because we had never been for that kind of a show," she said.

At this point, they aren't as interest-

ed in winning trophies or the competitive aspect. "It's really more now the destination and the people when we go to these events," she said.

They also enjoy sharing information about their car with others, and putting it on display.

"We must like that to some degree, or we wouldn't have it," Knobler joked, adding that interested spectators in her hometown frequently stop her when she's out and about. "We must, somewhere down deep, want to be noticed."

CAR SHOW HAPPENINGS

Muscle and Chrome takes place in downtown Seaside, along Broadway Street and connecting streets. The public is invited to view cars for free at the Show and Shine 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. There also will be live music, with

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