



Car enthusiasts had a broad variety of vehicles to look at.



Richard Greene poses with his first-place trophy next to his 1970 Mercury Cyclone Spoiler



Douglas Smith's 1954 Hudson Hornet took five years to restore. "It's a fun car to drive," Smith said.

Coffee & CARS

Show honoring Steven Hawk features rare and unique rides

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WARE – Steven Hawk has always been a “car guy,” and despite a near-fatal car accident 20 years ago, he hasn’t lost his love for horsepower.

This past Saturday was the 3rd Annual Coffee and Cars show, organized by close family friends of the “Hawkman,” Frank and Ann Marie Sapowsky, held in the parking lot of the McDonald’s on West Street.

There were 40 cars and trucks of all makes and models entered in this free show, which offered prizes to the top three vehicles, McDonald’s Top Pick, and the Cool Ride award.

Hawk said the friendship between him and the Sapowskys formed when Frank drove by him in his hot rod, then stopped to say hello.

“From a simple friendship started a great bond,” Hawk said. “Coffee and Cars brings us together like family.”

Coffee and Cars also brings in a variety of unique and hard-to-find cars, including Sunderland resident Douglas Smith’s 1954 Hudson Hornet.

This was the last year Hudson made the step-down body style, which excelled on the dirt racing track due to a low center of gravity, Smith said.

On May 1, 1954, Hudson merged with Nash Rambler to form American Motor Corporation, and the Hornet continued under the AMC name for a few more years.

Smith said the Hornet rode lower to the ground than most cars of its era and it dominated Grand National Division racing.

This particular Hornet was purchased by Smith in 2008, following his retirement from the University of Massachusetts.

This hard-to-find car needed serious restoration; in fact, it took five years to put back together and get running.

Everything has been restored or rebuilt, with Smith completing most of the work on his own.

“It’s a fun car to drive, I take it out frequently...particularly this time of year,” he said.

Like Hawk, Smith has always loved cars and currently owns six cars in “various states of reconstruction,” including a Studebaker, a 1957 Rambler Rebel, a Woodill Wildfire, a 1951 Muntz Jet and a 1941 Crosley Hotshot.

Smith said he collects any of the independent sports performance car brands made in the United States during the 1950s, outside of the “Big 3,” car manufacturers.

Each one of his cars his unique, with the Wildfire being the first fiberglass bodied sports car made in production. The Jet is a very rare car, Smith said, and the Hotshot was the first sports car built post-World War II.

Another unusual car found at Coffee and Cars was a 1970 Mercury Cyclone Spoiler, painted Competition Green.

Owned by Richard Greene of Belchertown since 1971, this car has all numbers correct and was one of less than 500 cars made.



Cheryl Joubert gets ready to drive off in the orange Dodge Challenger that one McDonald’s Top Pick.

Greene is the second owner of the car, having purchased it from the original owner when they sold it to go to Vietnam.

Greene has kept the car in immaculate condition, and the like-new paint job was actually re-finished 30 years ago.

This is the fifth car show Greene has entered his Cyclone Spoiler in, and he has taken home a trophy each time, including Best in Show and Best Paint.

Coffee and Cars was no exception, with Greene taking first place. He credits the car’s success to its rarity.

“It’s so unusual,” he said, and not something regularly seen at car shows.

Winners for the day include: first place, Greene; second place, Douglas Smith; third place, Ricky Hawk; and McDonald’s Top Pick, Cheryl Joubert.

The most significant trophy awarded at Coffee and Cars, was handed to Hawkman himself, who clinched the title of Cool Ride.

Hawk, who is a quadriplegic, said this car show is more than just a fun event, it’s a way to gather people together and embrace life, something he does in full every day.



Steven Hawk, known by many as “Hawkman,” poses with the winners of the 3rd Annual Coffee and Cars show held each year in his honor in the parking lot of McDonald’s in Ware. Shown from left are Hawk; third place winner, Ricky Hawk; first place winner, Richard Greene of Belchertown; McDonald’s Top Pick winner, Cheryl Joubert; and second place winner, Douglas Smith of Sunderland.



This truck’s cool black paint job was perfectly paired with red-tinted windows.



(Turley Publications Photos by Paula Ouimette)

Red-hot decals make this Chevrolet stand out.



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