



From left; Susie Collette, Bob Collette, Larry Belau, Becky Belau, Mike Gray, Mela Forsythe and Dave Forsythe of the Rogue Mustangs and Classic Fords Club.

Local Mustang club makes sure downtown cruise is a smooth one

By Patti Richter
of the Daily Courier

Some of the nicest Ford Mustangs in the Rogue Valley will not be taking part in the "Back to the '50s" cruise on Saturday evening.

Their owners have more important plans that night — directing the cruise.

"It's more fun to watch anyway," said Larry Belau of Ruch. "I get to see all the cars!"

The Rogue Mustangs and Classic Fords have been helping the cruise run smoothly for the last five years when they took it over from the Rogue Valley Classic Chevy Club. "They couldn't do both the car show and the cruise," said Dave Forsythe, a club member who organizes the cruise. "We offered to take over and direct traffic."

"This is our club's big thing to do for the community."

Forsythe said about 25 club members are stationed on different corners and intersections.

They do the staging, help get the cars into the street and show car owners where to go to let their engines cool off.

With 550 cars in the cruise, cool down areas are a necessity.

Conversations between club members would often get side-tracked reminiscing about past cruises and the fun they have had over the years.

The Rogue Ford Mustangs and Classic Cars is open to all Mustang owners and those who have classic Fords up to 1973.

Members range from serious restorers to those who are hobbyists or just fans.

There are about 60 families in the club and the members have more than 150 cars.

Many of the club members

Rogue Mustangs and Classic Fords will be working, not cruising, Saturday night

have been friends for more than 20 years.

That's one reason the club made an exception to let Belau and his wife, Becky, into the club — even though they drive Dodge Darts. "We're the token Dodges," Larry Belau said with a laugh. "We don't discriminate!"

"This lets everyone else in the cruise have fun without having to worry about all the little things. We do the worrying for them."

Bob Collette
Rogue Mustangs and Classic Fords

For Mela Forsythe, helping out at the cruise every year is a lot like attending a reunion. She gets to see the same people and catch up with what has been going on with their lives.

"It seems like everyone who comes to the show is very nice but that's who car people are," she said. "And we get all the water we want and a T-shirt. What more could you ask for?"

Medford resident Mike Gray volunteers at the cruise because he wants to help out his club. "It's a lot of fun. Besides, someone needs to be there to make sure things go smooth," he said,

adding that his wife, Bobbie, helps out as well. "And you get the best view!"

Missing the Grants Pass cruise is just fine with Bob and Susie Collette, who live in Central Point.

There are probably two cruises in the state and surrounding areas each week, he said. And they got to many of those.

"This lets everyone else in the cruise have fun without having to worry about all the little things," Bob Collette said. "We do the worrying for them."

Reach reporter Patti Richter at 474-3723 or prichter@thedailycourier.com

Back to the '50s T-shirts can be bought at the event or online

This year's Back to the '50s T-shirts will be available this week. Shirts are available in multiple colors, but quantities will be limited.

You may purchase the shirts directly from the Grants Pass Towne Center office at 220 S.E. H Street in downtown Grants Pass and through various locations throughout Back to the '50s Week.

You can also order a shirt at www.grantspasstownecenter.org/

In addition, the 5th Annual Poker Run will be held this from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday.

Local diners Jimmy G's Classic Drive In, Rick's Corvette Bar & Grill, Dairy Queen South, Sonic and an extra "stop" at Bob Drake's on Northwest Hawthorne — are part of the event.

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