

Panhandle Council of Car Clubs raises awareness and money for the Panhandle Area

Ronnie "Tilly" Tillman, president of the Panhandle Council of Car Clubs, tells us they are made up of 18 Clubs and 4 officers in the Amarillo Area. Not all of them do an annual car show, but many of them do and use the money they raise for local non-profit organizations.

The first show of the year is the Make A Wish car show. It is the first weekend in March at the Amarillo Civic Center. This show is by far the largest show in the Panhandle area, averaging 300 – 400 cars. Over the last 35 years this show has raised an excess of 1 million dollars for the Make A Wish Foundation.

The Thunderbird Club raised over 61 Thousand dollars over the past seventeen years. The Texas Panhandle Mustang Club raised six thousand dollars for United Way, Faith City Missions, The Food Bank and the Rainbow room in just 2019. The Amarillo Area Corvette Club is one of the biggest member clubs in our area. They donate their money to the Junior ROTC, Snack Pak for kids and Amarillo EMS just to name a few. They also sponsor the annual Don W. Houghton Memorial Polk Street Cruise the first Saturday in August. This has become one of the premier attractions for motor enthusiasts in this part of the country. It brings a tremendous amount of revenue to the local economy. With help from their sponsors they have been able to keep it free to the public. They have car enthusiasts from Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and beyond come to Amarillo to visit and show off their vehicles. The Old School Car Club has their annual event at the Starlight Ranch, bringing together thousands of dollars for many Amarillo Charities. Many of the other clubs bring in thousands of dollars for the charity of their choice each year. To mention a few: Top of Texas Chevy Club, Top of Texas Trans Am Club, The Volkswagen clubs and the Texas Modelers Club.

Several of the Churches are doing shows to help raise money for different things they have at their church. We have retirement homes doing shows and using their money for different charities. The Route 66 car show raises money for 6th street Association and other non-profit organizations. The PCCC will step in and help the group that is doing a show when they are not a club member.

The PCCC supports cruise night the first Saturday of each month at Region 16 parking lot at Hillside and Bell. Each month a different club will host the night. On a good weather night we might have as many as 100 cars there. Cars start showing up around 4:00 pm and stay as late as 8:00 pm. This is a free event open to the public and we invite you to come look at the many variety of classic vehicles and visit with their owners.

We want to say a big thank you to all the car owners that enter their cars in the shows, without them there would not be any shows. Thank you to the vendors that set up at different shows and the many spectators that come out and support us.

Be sure to check out our website at www.panhandlecouncilofcarclubs.com it will tell you more about us and the different clubs and their contact information along with the events coming up.