

Cruisin' News

March 2026



Dates to Know

Cruisin' The Coast 2026

October 4-11

Open to vehicles 1989 and older

Early bird registration \$75

Open until midnight, August 15, 2026

INCLUDES:

- 1 Participant t-shirt
- Confirmation Card for Early Bird Cash Drawing (20 cards @ \$500 each)

On-site registration \$100

October 5-10, 2026

(Will not include t-shirt or confirmation card)

If you are concerned that you won't be able to Autocross or be in the Parade without your registration, don't fear. Showing your confirmation card is all you need. We will also provide those events with a roster of registered cruisers if you don't have your confirmation card. We are trying to make the experience better and more efficient for us all and we appreciate your cooperation.

www.cruisinthe coast.com • 1-228-385-3847

To book rooms, visit www.gulfcoast.org or call MS Gulf Coast Hotel Reservations at 888-388-1006.

Hello Cruisers:

Can you believe Cruisin' The Coast is celebrating our 30th Anniversary this year? What a great ride it has been so far!

If you weren't here for CTC 2025, you missed a great time. And if you were here, we appreciate you attending and enjoying the fantastic music, incredible food and awesome vehicles on our gorgeous Mississippi Gulf Coast. As you've probably heard by now, it was a record-breaking year with 10,334 registered vehicles from 41 states, Australia, Canada, England and Germany. We even had 1,484 registered participants enjoy our event for the first time. Cruisin' The Coast 2025 was certainly one for the record books and we couldn't have done it without all of you!

We returned Cruise Central to Jones Park in the beautiful Gulfport Small Craft Harbor and from most of the feedback we've received, you enjoyed the venue. There were some hiccups, mainly due to the rain in the area on the first weekend, but thanks to the hard work of the City of Gulfport grounds crew, those obstacles were overcome with a lot of mulch. We are thankful to those city workers!

Jones Park proved to be a great venue with plenty of parking for registered vehicles and spectators. We hope you took advantage of the Coast Transit Authority shuttles that ran along Jones Park Drive, as well as from the CTA Parking Garage. According to CTA data, more than 9,000 riders used their trolleys during the week at Jones Park.

Our legion of Host Car Club Volunteers, along with our Cruisin' Krewe community volunteers, certainly worked hard in 2025 so you could have a great time. As a matter of fact, 544 volunteers gave 10,177 documented hours of their time to help, host and provide hospitality to all our visitors. We know you all appreciate their hard work as much as we do!

And now, we are deep into working on some great ideas to celebrate our 30th Anniversary. Look for upcoming details on the OFFICIAL CTC Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as the July Newsletter.

For the third straight year we are proud to announce Mississippi Gulf Fresh Seafood will be our presenting sponsor! And yes, they will be providing free Mississippi Gulf Fresh Seafood samples at Cruise Central, so don't miss out.

I'd also like to thank all of our sponsors. They provide the fuel that makes CTC run and we couldn't do this event without them. There are too many to name individually, but I encourage you to go to our website, www.cruisinthe coast.com, look them up and click on their link. And while you're on our website, if you haven't, register your 1989 or older vehicle for our event. Or you can complete and mail in the enclosed form. Either way, get registered and start your plans now! That Early Bird registration deadline is August 15, so don't delay!

See you down the road,

Woody

Sherwood R. "Woody" Bailey, Jr.
Vice Chairman & Executive Director



The 30th Anniversary celebration of Cruisin' The Coast is starting to come together. All of the fun and excitement you've come to expect from CTC will still be in store, but we are looking to kick things up a notch in 2026.

The Cruisin' The Coast Board of Directors has decided to throw in some extra cash to our registered participants as part of the celebration. So we're going to give away \$30,000 in prize money instead of the normal \$20,000. We usually pick 10 early bird registration cards (those who pre-register before August 15 receive a confirmation card in the mail) and 30 stamping card entries for \$500 each. This year, we're going to draw 20 early birds and 40 stamping cards from the barrel for a total of \$30K. So be sure to get your card stamped at the designated venues to be eligible for the drawings on the last Sunday of CTC. You don't have to be present to win.

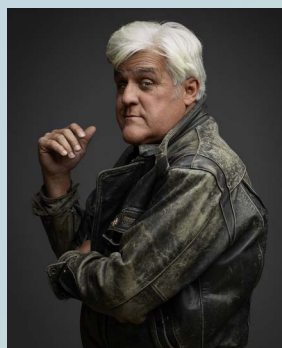
We are also going to have a drawing for those who participate in our Economic Impact Study. Every five years, a local research group conducts a study of the impact CTC has on the local and state economy. You will have a questionnaire in your packet and we would appreciate you filling it out. The results determine the dollar impact of CTC. The 2021 study found that CTC generated more than \$30 million to the local and state economy. The completed questionnaires will be placed in a drum and one lucky winner will get a cool \$1,000.

We know you've come to enjoy the great live entertainment during the week of CTC and we're going to take it to another level with some bands we think you're really going to enjoy. Details are in the works, and we'll release more info as it becomes available on our Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as the July Newsletter.

We can tell you that a certain "car guy" who used to have a late-night talk show will be coming back to Biloxi in celebration of Cruisin' The Coast's 30th anniversary. Yep, Jay Leno will be performing at the Beau Rivage on Saturday, Oct. 10. Tickets can be purchased at the Beau Rivage Theatre Box Office, by phone at 1-888-567-6667, or online at www.beaurivage.com

We also know that Earl Tom and those cool cats at ET Motorgear are creating some awesome CTC merchandise to celebrate our 30th Anniversary. Did you see those awesome hoodies and sweatshirts they were offering during Christmas on their website etmotorgear.com? You can expect some special anniversary items. But you better shop early at the ET Motorgear trailers set up at CTC events for the **ONLY OFFICIALLY LICENSED CTC merchandise**.

There are several other exciting things we are working on, but we'll fill you in on that in the July Newsletter, and be sure to check out the official CTC social media pages and our website, cruisinthecoast.com, for updates.



Early registration ends August 15

Cruisin' The Coast Early Bird registration closes at midnight on August 15. And remember, registration is open to vehicles 1989 and older.

Early registration (\$75) gets you one free Participant t-shirt, two Swap Meet tickets and a goody bag of stuff. A confirmation card you'll use to get all this will be mailed to you. The confirmation card also gets you one of 20 opportunities to walk away with \$500. The shirt is our way of saying thanks and tells everyone that you're part of the best car show in the country. And of course, there is a considerable price break, too; if you have to register onsite once CTC 2026 kicks off, it will cost you \$100, with no shirt or card.

You can register using the form provided with this newsletter. You can also register online at www.cruisinthecoast.com and even find a printable form there. You can complete the enclosed form and mail it in with your payment, or, you can complete the process online. Remember, we only accept VISA or MasterCard. Either way, go to our website, and click on the "Register Now" tab. If you've already registered, please pass the enclosed form to a friend!

If you have questions, or if you're not sure if you've already registered, call us at 228-385-3847, or email us at cruisinthecoast@cruisinthecoast.com. We are in the office Monday thru Friday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., CST.

We Get Questions

Q: I had to walk a long ways to get to Barksdale Pavilion at Cruise Central?

A: We are sorry if you did make the hike to registration, but Coast Transit Authority provides a FREE transportation trolley that runs along Jones Park Drive with several designated pick-up and drop-off locations to make it convenient from spectator parking and registered vehicle parking at Cruise Central. The CTA Parking Garage also provides a trolley that runs across Highway 90 into Jones Park.

Q: How do I get registered?

A: As a reminder, we do not take registrations over the phone. The easiest way to register your 1989 and older vehicle is to visit our website, www.cruisinthe coast.com, and click on the "Register Now" button and register online. We only accept VISA or MasterCard credit cards. If you do register online, please avoid using an iPhone or iPad because the screen settings are too small to show all of the information. Please use a laptop or desktop device to register. You can also use the enclosed registration form or download the registration form on the website and mail it to us with your VISA or MasterCard number, a check, or money order.

Q: I've already registered, why am I getting another form?

A: We've always included a registration form in our March newsletter, just in case you can't find the one that was in your registration package. If you've already registered, please pass the form to a friend. Remember, you can register online too. Visit www.cruisinthe coast.com.

Q: I can't remember if I've registered. What do I do?

A: That's an easy one. If you want to double check before registering, call us here in the office at 228-385-3847 and we'll check on that for you. We are in the office Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Remember, registration is open to vehicles 1989 and older.

Q: How do I purchase tickets for the Make-A-Wish vehicle?

A: You've got a few options. If you are registering a vehicle for CTC, you can purchase tickets at that time on your form. If you only want to purchase raffle tickets, you can find a form on our website, www.cruisinthe coast.com, under the Raffle Car tab. Simply complete the form and mail it to our office with payment. In either case, we'll complete the tickets and file the stubs, which we are not allowed to mail to you. Once CTC opens, you can swing by Cruise Central and purchase tickets in person.

Q: Why don't you just mail registration packages?

A: This is a frequent question we get and the simple answer is, it just isn't practical. We would have to back up our deadlines by a couple months to have shirts, programs, sponsor materials and the like printed and shipped here. The time, expense and manpower to mail thousands of packages would be overwhelming. And if you don't get your package in the mail... you'd expect another from us at Cruise Central. We know the lines are sometimes long and we appreciate your patience. Our volunteers work their hearts out to make it quick and friendly.

Q: Does it cost extra to bring friends and family members along with us in our registered vehicle?

A: NO! It doesn't matter how many people you have in your CTC registered vehicle. CTC registers vehicles, and not people, so legal, comfortable seating is the limit.

Harrison County offers RV spots, free hauler parking

The Harrison County Fairgrounds is offering deals to CTC cruisers. With more than 100 RV spots, the Fairgrounds is the perfect get-a-way setting to relax from a full day of Cruisin' fun.

RV sites have water and electricity and can be yours for just \$25 per day. There is a dump station on site, as well as tons of green space to enjoy with your family and friends. The Fairgrounds is conveniently located less than 30 minutes from the beach and Cruise Central.

In addition, the Fairgrounds is offering a FREE place to store tow trailers and car haulers during CTC. The grounds can house hundreds of trailers to make your stay even easier.

For more information call the Fairgrounds to get your RV space at (228) 832-8620. The physical address of the Fairgrounds is:

- 15321 County Farm Road
Gulfport, MS 39503

Night Cruise shirt remains popular with cruisers

The Cruisin' The Coast Night Cruise shirt, a product of our friends at ET Motorgear, continues to grow in popularity. And so does the competition to be on the shirt!

A part of CTC merchandise offerings for more than a decade, the Night Cruise threads feature your CTC registered vehicles in full, living color.

If you think your ride is ready for prime time, send a couple pictures of it to: customerservice@earltom.com. The designers at ET like to have a few different shots from which to choose. Remember to give them your contact information and details about the vehicle. You've got until July 15 to get that in. Make your car the star!

ET Motorgear is the exclusive event merchandiser for CTC. For more than 40 years, Earl Tom and the cool cats at ET have traveled across the country to bring you the absolute best in motorsports apparel and garage gear.

Don't Miss Your Chance To Drive Away In The CTC RAFFLE CAR

Drawing Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026

1967

Pontiac
GTO

400 CID V8
TH 400 Auto Transmission
Power Steering
Power Brakes
12-Bolt Rear End

- Ticket Prices: One for \$10, Three for \$25
- Drawing: Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026
- You do not have to be present to win!

All proceeds benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Cruisin' The Coast.



Make-A-Wish
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