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## Tri-County Cruisers hold winning car show at Chiefland Farmers Flea Market



Rhonda and Dan Parks of Jasper brought their boiled peanuts to the event to sell.

### Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Oct. 22, 2018 at 10:08 a.m.

CHIEFLAND -- The Tri-County Cruisers completed another very successful car show at the Chiefland Farmers Flea Market on Saturday (Oct. 20).

This 1932 Studebaker Champion is owned by Ted Rockentine of Floral City. He is a member of the Citrus County Geezers Hot Rod Non-Club.



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**This 1959 Cadillac had an exact replica model sitting on its roof.**

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**This 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air captures the theme of its era with a tray on it, just like the days of Steak 'n' Shake in St. Petersburg, when that was a drive-in rendezvous point.**

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**This modified 1948 Jeep Willys Overland Sedan Delivery Vehicle is marked to be providing moonshine materials. George Robb of Bell owns this beauty that has a 302 Ford V-8 to power it, rather than the stock four-cylinder or six-cylinder.**

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**This 1963 Ford Cobra is complete with a cute stuffed-toy cobra.**

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## **Trophies!**

Several members of the Ocala Street Cruisers and members of other car clubs, as well as individual participants came to Chiefland Saturday to compete in the Tri-County Cruisers' Fall Car Show and Swap Meet at the Chiefland Farmers' Flea Market.

It was not only Ocala cars, trucks and other vehicles rolling into everyone's favorite flea market in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties, but there were representatives from other places as well.

Owners of all makes, models and years of vehicles found the environment welcoming, and it was another great day for the Chiefland Farmers' Flea Market and for the Tri-County Cruisers.

Cash prizes and trophies were awarded, including the 3-foot tall Best of Show trophy, and the 3-foot tall Sonny's Pick Award, which is from Sonny Griffeth of the Chiefland Farmers' Flea Market. Griffeth is a significant sponsor of the car shows at the Flea Market.

Several car show participants joined the other people in the Flea Market on Saturday as they explored and bought things -- including food and drinks. And there was buying and selling and swapping of items at the event too.

Meanwhile at the flea market, it was another great day for food, fun and deals galore from all four corners of that property. The flea market is an excellent place to shop for Weather King portable buildings as well.

The Haunted House of the Flea Market is open this coming weekend too. The

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Chiefland Police Department is running its haunted house at the former Central Florida Electric Cooperative warehouse property near Hardee's off of U.S. Highway 19, just south of the Flea Market.

The Tri-County Cruisers registered 43 vehicles, plus there were another half dozen vehicles' owners who just brought their machines to show, and not compete for trophies or cash.

Several people won door prizes and there was a 50-50 event too.

In addition to the great turnout from the Ocala Street Cruisers, the Citrus County Geezers Hot Rod Non-Club were well-represented.

In addition to the three main trophies --- the People's Choice; Sonny's Pick; and the Best of Show, there were 16 other trophies presented to winners of vehicles in other categories.

Saturday was another great day to be at the Flea Market, as were Friday and Sunday.

As for all of the local car shows and competitions, Tri-County Cruisers President T.J. McKechnie said the organizers put a lot of time into the events to make them succeed. Often, the leaders for these shows are the same people.

Volunteers put in hours to make the events work. President McKechnie stayed at the Flea Market until 8 p.m. the previous night as he and Dana Sheffield, another automotive enthusiast, put up temporary fencing around the show area.

On this same Saturday, McKechnie was going to be heading to the City of Fanning Springs for yet another car show after the one at the Flea Market.

This year, the Tri-County Cruisers are having four shows and they are helping with two other shows with other groups serving as the main hosts, he said.

All proceeds from the event on Saturday are designated to go to help veterans' groups, McKechnie said.