

Charles "Skippy" Stone holds up the new Whiskey City Cruisers T-shirt for this year, with the artwork designed by Nelson County High School art student Dakota Kirchner. Stone is pictured along with club members Ronnie "Smiley" Hibbs, Sherry Gritton Hagan, Teddy Collins and Kent Bischoff. Stone, Hibbs, Collins and Bischoff are all original members of the club, as was the late Paul Gritton, Hagan's father.

It grew from there, having small get-togethers to show off the Detroit muscle cars that were all the rage in the 1970s and before. By the time 1992 rolled around, they became official and welcomed in new members. The club has what is estimated to be about 3,000 members nowadays, but there isn't an official member list, no president, no secretary.

Several of the original members gathered last week at The Kentucky Standard office to share stories and browse through old photos, reminiscing about their years together.

They were also there to get a look at the Whiskey City Cruisers' new T-shirt for 2025, which features a coin-operated gumball machine with miniature cars in it, and a disembodied hand dropping a coin into the machine. Steven Campbell, a member of the club, did a rough sketch of it, but he needed help to see it through, so he contacted Dianna Williams, an art teacher at Nelson County High School. She then turned it over to one of her top students, Dakota Kirchner.

"I just took my idea to her, and this is what she came up with — she took it from there," Campbell said.

The club has regularly had T-shirts that they sold, but this one was different, with Kirchner creating a colorful scene that will catch the eye. Campbell said he wants proceeds from the sale of the T-shirts to go back to Kirchner, and gives her all the credit for coming up with the design.

Kirchner is looking forward to seeing her artwork on T-shirts at the regular Whiskey City Cruisers gatherings, such as their monthly meets at Buzick Lumber starting April 27, as well as at the monthly Fly-In/Drive-In Breakfasts at Samuels Field, starting the second Saturday in May.

Working off of Campbell's rough sketch, Kirchner said "from there, I was basically able to use my own creative freedom."

She said the cars in the T-shirt logo are some of her favorite ones, as well as ones modeled after those owned by members of the Cruisers.

"It's a really cool opportunity," Kirchner said. "And I think it's going to be cool to see that around."

She said designing the T-shirt was different than her usual artistic endeavors, such as a mural painting she has on one of the hallway walls at Nelson County High School. It gave her a chance to flex some different muscles in terms of what mediums she uses for her art, while also giving her an experience in delivering a commissioned artwork.

"It was the first commission-type experience for me," Kirchner said. "It was the first digital art kind of whole experience, making the design and digitalizing it, because I'm used to just pencil and paper-type art."

She said it opened her eyes to different possibilities of how to express herself, and made her think about trying new things in the future, including how to translate an idea into something visual.

Williams said it was encouraging to see Kirchner get the call for a commissioned work, and that her students are making more and more connections within the community as entities outside the school approach her with ideas.

"I think it's good for them, to see that they can actually do something with their artwork that they do in class," Williams said. "... It gives them a better idea of what they might want to do when they leave (the school). And they know that their artwork is always something they can fall back into, even if they don't go into college for it."

Campbell said the new Whiskey City Cruisers T-shirts featuring Kirchner's logo can be ordered through Choice Uniform in Bardstown. And the group figures they will be able to sell a lot of them at their upcoming gatherings.

"We used to sell a lot of hats and T-shirts," Hibbs said.

Collins said they never anticipated their group would grow as it did.

In the early years, they would gather at the old Sonic Drive-In at Kentucky Home Square, where the Pizza Hut is now located. They even had a stage built by the members that they could set up for the gatherings.

"We had 150 cars the first cruise," Collins said.

The fascination with the old muscle cars is still alive in the group, but many of the original members hate to see how the cars have changed nowadays compared steel and muscle of days gone by. Kent Bischoff said as cars evolved, they got more generic, as plastic, aluminum and fiberglass — and smaller engines — have replaced the steel.

"What we're driving now evolved over the last 20 years," Bischoff said. "Nobody's going to restore them."

Domestic Violence
Protections: HB
38 makes violating
a protective order
three times within
five years a Class D
felony, reinforcing the
state's commitment to
protecting victims of
domestic violence.

Accountability in Criminal Justice Institutions: HB 136 enhances reporting requirements for the Department of Corrections. Their annual report to the legislature must now include data on individuals released

from correctional institutions, including time served, gang affiliation, drug test results, educational attainment, and recidivism rates.

These are just a few examples of the progress we made this session. Every bill we passed was designed with one goal in mind: making Kentucky a safer, stronger, and more prosperous place to live, work, and raise a family.

In the meantime, I remain committed to keeping you informed and advocating for policies that reflect our values and priorities. While the next session will take place in a temporary chamber,

our work remains as important as ever. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the future.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Candy.Massaroni@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

Candy Massaroni
serves Nelson County in
the General Assembly
as the 50th District State
Representative.

Now, they owe the American people the truth. Even after what might be the worst week of his life, we look to Waltz to lead the way and level with the American people.

If he simply falls on his sword in hopes that it makes this scandal go away for Trump and others, he will betray the people he's sworn so many times to serve, protect and honor. If the nation's most elite lead-

ers are so deeply rooted in incompetence and entitlement that he could not steer them clear, if over the course of three short months they were able to break him so thoroughly that he acquiesced to this kind of breach, the nation and the world need to know.

For its part, the members of Congress who know and respect Waltz insist, now, that he come before them and tell the truth. The whole truth, sparing nobody — the truth they have little chance of getting from the other high-ranking participants in this

explosive breach, who are already lying and spinning their heads off so fast that the rapid-fire gush of press conferences, social media posts and official statements are already riddled with dozens of contradictions.

Certainly, those responsible and irresponsible should suffer for their lack of care. But even as that unfolds, Congress and the American people must demand that this dutiful soldier do his duty once more. Otherwise, this nation is in deeper peril than anyone can grasp right now.

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