

Cars, Coffee & Camaraderie

Written by Karen V. Contino



Car enthusiasts peruse the eclectic mix of automobiles at a recent Cars and Coffee Orlando event.

Gary Merideth of Gotha discovered his passion for cars be

“Car appreciation was pretty much bred into me,” he said. “My first time at Sebring International Racewa

An avid car enthusiast, Gary is an active member of the Porsche Club of America and Sports Car Club o

Following the concept of a hugely successful car-based gathering that originated in California, Gary four

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“Most car events are a long affair,” Gary said. “Saturday morning, you get up and bring your lawn chair,

As a State Farm insurance agent, Gary also has gained inspiration from his clientele.

“A lot of my clients have special-interest kinds of cars that never leave the garage,” he said. “I wanted to

Cars and Coffee Orlando’s continued popularity has everything to do with its simple objective to be Cent

“It’s just a bunch of guys and gals who like cars and assemble at the coffee house to look at cars and talk

There are a number of people who like to just polish their car and take it out. For those people, this is a

“It’s just a great gathering of all kinds of people and all kinds of cars,” added Raddy Schatte of Winderm

“I specifically designed the club to not have any rules or trophies,” Gary said. “Just come, have a cup of

“The way it’s set up is great,” said Don Wright, a Conway resident who drives a white BMW. “There are

Cars and Coffee Orlando is not just for “the guys,” according to Gary, who usually pulls up in his dark-gr

“My wife and I load it up on Saturday morning and off we go,” Bert said. “My wife enjoys it as much as I

“I just love going and talking to the guys about their cars,” said Anne DeVillano, Bert’s wife of almost 49

The monthly gathering also provides its attendees the perfect opportunity to catch up with each other and

“Not all of it is exclusively car stuff,” Gary said. “Friends talk about spiritual things, health issues, family s

“It’s not just the cars, it’s the people,” Bert said, quoting a popular phrase from the Porsche Club of Ame

The mutual excitement for the group’s future is a common thread.

“We are waiting for someone to bring something we haven’t seen out of their garage,” Raddy said. “Som