

# '50s Fest & Car Cruise concludes

9/16/2010 3:33 AM

WAYNESBURG - Close to 200 classic cars, trucks and motorcycles traveled to downtown Waynesburg for the ninth annual '50s Fest & Car Cruise Sept. 11, filling High Street as well as several side streets and parking lots.

The event, hosted by Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful and sponsored in part by Hot Rod's House of Bar-B-Que and WANB Radio, offered numerous activities reminiscent of the 1950s along with the car show. Kids of all ages enjoyed contests in bubble gum blowing, doing the limbo, spinning hula hoops and twisting to Chubby Checker's classic "Twist."

"A tremendous thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's '50s Fest & Car Cruise such a huge success," said Doug Wilson, chairman of the '50s Fest Committee and DJ for WANB. "We had beautiful weather and close to 200 gorgeous hot rods, street rods, classic cars, trucks and motorcycles on display. It also was one of the best-attended '50s festivals by spectators ever."

The car cruise featured exhibitors from Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, with several vehicles and their owners traveling more than 150 miles to be there. The registrant who traveled farthest was Buddy Draper from Fairfield, Ind., who drove his 1985 pick-up 600 miles to downtown Waynesburg. Another registrant drove 310 miles from Stevens, Pa.

Door prize winners were drawn every half hour throughout the day. Nancy DiCio of Washington won the 50/50 raffle drawing for a prize of \$423 cash.

The event also featured a special Saturday edition of WANB's oldies show, Greene County Gold, broadcast live from the courthouse steps. Classic movies were shown at the historic Waynesburg Theater, children's activities were provided by Greene Community Church and hot dogs and shaved ice were sold by street vendors. Hot Rod's House of Bar-B-Que also provided curbside service of its entire menu with the aid of Waynesburg University Athletic Training students earning funds for a mission trip.

Many of the downtown shops were open for business throughout the festival, offering in-store specials and discounts.

The '50s Fest also featured an appearance by the king of rock 'n roll, Elvis Presley, as portrayed by comedian Randy Riggle.

There were no registration or admission fees. Funds were raised through sponsorship, the 50/50 raffle and sales of '50s Fest T-shirts. Proceeds from the 2010 event will enable Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful to complete plans for the festival and cruise next year.

"We've already begun planning for next year's 10th annual event, so mark the calendar for Sept. 10, 2011, because next year's cruise will be here before you know it," Wilson said.

Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful is a nonprofit, Main Street program that operates in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center. Funded by the state Department of Community and Economic Development, Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful represents a community endeavor to preserve and revitalize historic downtown Waynesburg and raise awareness of the educational, cultural and historical opportunities, as well as the convenience of shopping, associated with the town. Copyright Observer Publishing Co.