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NEW ENGLAND'S LGBTQ MAGAZINE



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Camping Up Your Car

By John Axelrod

Many LGBTQ people enjoy accessorizing, but don't our cars deserve to make a statement too? It can be as simple as a rainbow air freshener, a colorful boa wrapped around a steering wheel, or a leopard-patterned seat cover. These are expressions of individuality, transforming old clunkers into snazzy, campy club cars.

One of our favorite around town club car is decoupage leopard wrapping paper on the side of one of a early '80s Brady Bunch-style station wagons. Another extravagant vehicle is packed full of '70s goodies; think disco balls and a disco light in the back window.




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Another lover of vehicular campiness has chosen specific stylish themes for four of his tomobiles. One of his '70s cars is decked out with old auto magazines, a vintage picnic basket, orange plastic traveling cups, and a round Panasonic radio that hangs on a chain from the rearview mirror. His jungle-themed car boasts leopard pillows, while another has flames on the sides and skulls in the back, modeled after a Hot Wheels toy. Other auto aficionados with classic cars choose to go meta, dis-

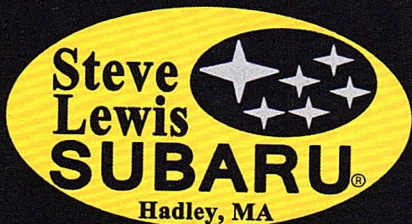


playing magazines that feature the same vehicle they drive in.

On one sunny Saturday in September, Saviortflair had the pleasure of seeing some of the campiest vehicles in our community at the Yankee Lambda Car Club's Provincetown Invitational Show and Parade. For those of you not familiar with this popular vintage car group, the Yankee chapter is part of Lambda Car Club International. Founded in 1981, LCCI now boasts over 2,200 members

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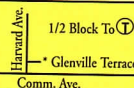
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Camping Up Your Car



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in 30 local chapters from coast to coast in the United States and Canada. Every member shares the same passion for all things automotive. The campiest car we laid eyes on at the show was a vintage '70s Cadillac complete with pink flamingos, longhorn hood ornament, and a delightfully tacky Crown Royal bottle-strewn bar in the back.

Another fun feature for lovers of all things camp was the passenger seated in the back of a late model Jaguar. You see, the Queen of England even took time out of her busy schedule to be chauffeured around town in this classic auto! This fun event really is one of the highlights

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of Provincetown's shoulder season, and what's more, there's no cost to see these vintage beauties or enjoy the afternoon parade in downtown, which spans the length of Commercial Street.

While the possibilities for auto accessories are endless, some go-to options are fuzzy dice, stuffed animals from the '50s, and Barbie and Ken dolls. These plastic playmates make fun fixtures on the most flamboyant cars. Attach them to the dashboard or let them hang out in the back window, and camp it up by pairing Ken-and-Ken or Barbie-and-Barbie



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Camping Up Your Car

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together. Take this decorating theme to the extreme with extra accessories – Barbie’s Dream House, showcasing two Kens, could make your back window an ultra-camp car feature!

If it’s not Barbie and Ken, you’ll often see hula girls and bobbleheads in these conspicuous vehicles. Swaying in her grass skirt to the car’s vibrations, the hula girl remains a firm favorite for camp on the go. She’s often seen alongside Catwoman, Batman and Robin,

Superwoman, and Wonder Woman bobbleheads. Indeed, the Rosie the Riveter bobblehead with her base proclaiming “We Can Do It!” can be seen in dyke-mobiles everywhere. However you do camp, there’s a style for your car.

Got a vehicle and a love for the flamboyant? Then turn up the Gloria Gaynor, let the hula girl do its thing, and cruise in ’70s style. Camp it up, enjoy! 🇺🇸


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