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# Campy, Classic Car Crowd

## 'BAWDY' YANKEE LAMBDA CAR CLUB CONVENES IN P'TOWN

The floats of Provincetown Carnival have come and gone, but prepare to see another colorful, elaborately costumed fleet come cruising down Commercial Street very soon.

The Yankee Chapter of Lambda Car Club International, the largest club for LGBTQ auto enthusiasts in North America, is hosting its annual invitational in P'town from September 13-15. It's a chance for car lovers to connect, compare bodies—from convertibles to coupés—and then shift gears, enjoying social events such as a banquet and awards ceremony.

Considering that the categories include "Best Decorated," you can rest assured that this is no ordinary, straight-lunkhead car show.

"We want costumes, we want flamboyance—we want to put on a show," says Carl Derry, president of Lambda's Yankee Chapter, which represents members all over New England. Derry says that the yearly Provincetown gathering always has a theme—this year's is an outdoorsy "Camp Tramp" motif—and embodies the lighthearted nature that makes Lambda a bit unique among car clubs.

Whereas other car clubs can feel "stuffy" and "fussy," Derry says that Yankee has a more "bawdy" sensibility that embraces double entendre. (Insert stick-shift joke here.)

"The gay car club is campy, whereas other car clubs are just about the car," says Derry, who stresses that attendees don't need to own a car to enjoy the



invitational—or be a member of Yankee. In fact, though he's had a passion for cars since he was a child and owns a collection of about 8,000 auto brochures, the chapter president—a Yankee member since 2001—doesn't even have an auto himself.

But he appreciates the opportunity to build friendships with other gay men who share his appreciation for car design and engineering; Yankee typically hosts at least one social event each month. Some are specifically car-related: say, visiting

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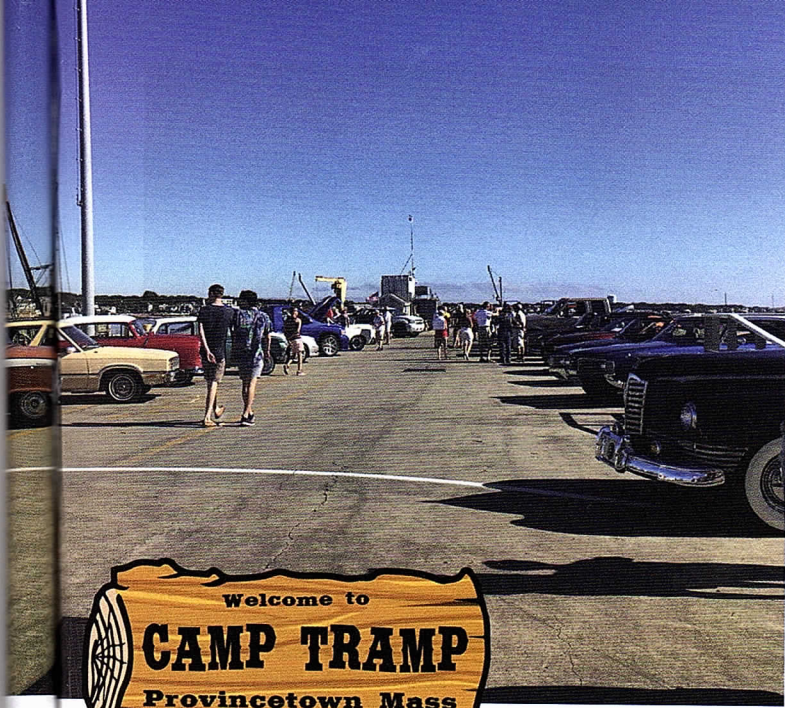
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the New England International Auto Show in Boston in January, or taking an October trip to the Newport Auto Museum in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. But the gatherings also include brewery tours, barbecues at members' homes, and other

non-auto-focused festivities. Yankee also participates in both Boston Pride and North Shore Pride.

Outings like these are a way for members, especially those who live in areas with smaller LGBTQ populations, to

simultaneously indulge a hobby and embrace their community.

"If you live in the South End of Boston, it's easy to be wrapped up in gay culture," says Derry, who lives in the more rural town of Pepperell, on the New Hampshire border. "In the suburbs, all your neighbors are straight."

While the social element is certainly a major draw to the club, visitors to the invitational will definitely see their share of seriously cool cars. This year's main car show, which typically includes about 60 autos—largely 1960s and 70s models—will be held at the parking lot of the Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown. Past shows have seen pretty impressive autos—from older machines like the Ford Motel T or a 1933 Auburn, to comparatively newer cars like a '70s Gremlin with a Levi's interior or a Hyundai Genesis Coupe retrofitted with gullwing doors.

Looking ahead, Derry says that next year's invitational will be

a particularly "special" one to acknowledge the Yankee Chapter's 25th anniversary. And in 2021, he adds, New England will host Lambda's Grand National Invitational for the very first time. Derry plans to take the events out of Provincetown for the Grand National, to find a setting that can better accommodate the 200 or so cars that are anticipated.

As for this year's invitational? Don't be shy about showing up, says Derry, whether you want to cheer the parade on Commercial Street, peek under some hoods at the Pilgrim Monument, or just steer your way to some new friendships—and laughs—with fellow car lovers.

"We like to have a sense of humor," says Derry. "That's what people love about it. It's a light-hearted car show." [x]

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