

Car show evokes memories of good times

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cars — and speed.

The guys used to meet in the back of Skippers, which used to be located at the beach.

"They were guys who wanted to go racing," Allegretta said, recalling the days when the teens headed to a drag strip in Dover, N.Y.

"Speed isn't a factor anymore," laughed Bondi. "Now, we're older."

In the mid-1960s, the group disbanded as its members went off to college, got married and entered the workforce.

"It was kind of the end of an era," Allegretta remembered.

But Allegretta and Bondi saw no reason to let go of the fun times of their youth.

Twenty years after members went their separate ways, Bondi, who owns a 1959 Pontiac, and Allegretta, who owns a 1957 Chevrolet, and several other original members of The Coachmen began getting together again to share their enthusiasm for the cars of their youth.

Allegretta said by limiting the gathering to "a couple of hours, your wife didn't complain too much."

These days, The Coachmen meet once a month and participate in weekly "Cruise Nights" on Wednesdays throughout the summer.

Bondi joked he didn't wear a DA hairstyle when he was young because he "didn't have much hair," but he still had a cool car and still has the passion for the muscle cars of his youth.

So while songs like "Runaround Sue," "Then You Can Tell Me Goodbye," "Since I Fell For You," "Higher and Higher" and "Over the Rainbow" will dredge up past memories, Bondi and Allegretta will be making new memories on Aug. 22.

"We just hang out with our cars," Allegretta said. "The cars are part of American history. It's part of our youth."