

KAUAI CLASSIC CAR CLUB

FOUNDED: 1991

MEMBERS: 50

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In 1990, friends Harvey Maeda and Richard Aki (pictured, from left) watched the Kamehameha Day Parade in Lihue and wondered how they could enter their classic cars in it. Their answer was to launch the Kauai Classic Car Club the following year.

Aki has been the group's president and Maeda its event coordinator from the beginning. In addition to parades, members participate in a big Father's Day show at Kukui Grove Center and numerous smaller shows at venues ranging from the Lihue Walmart parking lot to the remote Pacific Missile Range Facility at Barking Sands on the west side.

In Kauai's typical laid-back style, the club has no regular meetings, and the only requirement to join is to have a car—any make, any model—that's at least 30 years old. "Our club's oldest car is a 1916 Buick," says

Maeda, a retired maintenance superintendent for the Air Force and Hawaii Air National Guard. "Many of our members have cars from the 1920s. If we see great old cars on the street, we find the owners and ask if they want to join the club."

Maeda owns eight cars: a 1925 Ford Model T, a 1931 Ford Model A, a 1932 Ford Model B, a 1955 Chevy Bel Air hardtop, a 1957 Chevy Bel Air hardtop, a 1957 Corvette, a 1966 Corvette 427 coupe, and a 1969 Camaro Z/28 RS Cross Ram—one of just 126 that were manufactured.

"When I was 15, my dad bought me my first car, a new 1960 Chevy Impala," Maeda says. "I drove it for three years, and after that I've owned at least one classic car. It doesn't matter if you're a teenager or a grandparent—old cars are lots of fun to play with."



GELSTON DWIGHT

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