

■ EVENT

Classic cars of all stripes fill the town

By Gail Reynolds
For the News-Leader

BRANSON — Join a classic auto trip down memory lane this weekend at the seventh annual Cruisin' Branson Lights festival.

The Daily Show and Shine portion of the event runs through Sunday at Branson USA, formerly Mutton Hollow Park.

While you're experiencing the premier classic car competitions (36 classes in 18 categories), says Jerry Titus, event director, don't miss meeting Candy Clark and Bo Hopkins, stars of the George Lucas hit movie "American Graffiti" or Norm Grabowski, creator of the Ed Burns' "Kookie Mobile" of hit TV

series "77 Sunset Strip" fame.

The event also features nightly entertainment and a Midnight Cruise on Saturday.

With 1,000-plus rods, customs and classics at the event, Titus says spectators will see exotic paint jobs, chopped tops, tuck and roll interiors, full chrome motors and more. Plus, watch some professional bodywork in action as two-time National Hall of Fame customizer Elden Titus chops the top on a 1950 Mercury Coupe.

"American Graffiti's" Clark will be meeting and greeting participants and spectators. She says fans of classic cars are fans of the popular movie as well.



Cruisin' Branson Lights

Candy Clark of "American Graffiti" fame will appear.

"The popularity (of 'American Graffiti') keeps growing over the years and people who collect and restore cars — well, it's not unusual that they have watched the film over 100 times. I love having been part of that and love sharing it," Clark says.

"We (Clark and Hopkins) have done a couple of these shows now and have seen, literally, all of the cars that appeared in that film," Clark says.

Want to go?

- **What:** The seventh annual Cruisin' Branson Lights — America's Kooliest Traffic Jam
- **When:** Show hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday
- **Where:** The Daily Show & Shine is at Branson USA amusement park, Missouri 376 and 76
- **Cost:** \$6 for adults today and Saturday, free on Sunday; free all weekend for children

younger than 12

■ **Information:** 847-3098

EVENING EVENTS

- Show at Branson USA Theatre — 7 p.m. today
- Show at Starlite Theatre — 8 p.m. Saturday
- The Midnight Cruise — begins at Branson USA amusement park at midnight Saturday and travels to Gretna Road (roads close at 11:30 p.m.)

Saturday's "Midnight Cruise" on Missouri 76 is an event highlight, Titus says. Last year's parade, with many Branson entertainers on board the rods, had 70,000 spectators.

Jennifer Wilson will lead this year's cruise from the back seat of a flame-trimmed blue sedan created by Grabowski.

"I've been there since they started," says Grabowski, 68, of the car show. "I love it; it's great," continues the retired actor and design-

er who resides in Arkansas.

Cruisin' Branson Lights is an open show for any year, make or model vehicle, says Titus, "with entries being accepted at the gate and during show hours, with no entry fee.

"Watch for everything here," he says, "Best Cruisin' Mustang, custom, Corvette, PT Cruiser, muscle car, truck, street rod, antique, Volkswagen, GM, Ford, race car, automotive vendor, motorcycle and on and on."

Classic cars of all stripes fill the town
(Branson USA)

Clipped By:
kevinperjurer
Jan 13, 2026