

# Orchard Beach Car Show to help create Police Memorial Museum

by Jon Minners

Strap on your seatbelts and get ready for a thrill ride of a lifetime as Eastcoast Classic Car Association presents the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Orchard Beach Car Show.

Considered to be the largest one-day classic car show on the east coast, the anticipated event will take place on Sunday, September 24, with a similar, yet unique cause.

As is always the case, the Orchard Beach Car Show will benefit the New York City Patrolman's Benevolent Association, but unlike in year's past when the event's proceeds went to help the Widows' and Children's Fund supporting the families of officers who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, this year's extravaganza will help fund the National Law Enforcement Officer's Museum to be built in Washington, D.C., honoring all officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

"This has been an annual cause since we first hosted the show at Orchard Beach three weeks after 9-11 to raise money for the PBA," said John Monsolino, vice-president, who runs the show with Joe Caldwell, the originator of the event.

Caldwell of Highway Patrol Unit 1 was on patrol along the FDR Drive when the World Trade Center was attacked on 9/11. "Everything is about the cause," Caldwell stated in the past. "It's all worth it knowing that we are making a difference for these families. It's using the cars to get everyone together to raise as much money as possible to help the families - that's all I care about right now."

This year, the PBA asked that the money go to a different cause, honoring officers in a very unique matter. "It's going to be really nice; like the Vietnam Memorial Wall," said Monsolino. "We



(Above, l-r) Joe Caldwell, car show founder, with this year's main guest, Will Castro of Unique Whips, and the show's vice-president John Monsolino, advertising this year's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Orchard Beach Car Show event for this weekend, September 24.

were more than happy to help. Whatever the PBA needs; that's what this event is about. We're here to honor our heroes."

Monsolino states that September 11, 2001 will be remembered when two helicopters fly over spectators at the show during a special moment of silence.

Also, when the event kicks off at 8 a.m., the Praetorian Enforcement Motorcycle Club, will host a motorcycle run to the World Trade Center and back, paying homage to the victims and heroes of that day before displaying their bikes for the public to see.

Over 1,000 bikes are expected to be taking part in this year's show, as well as the police escorted memorial run. In addition, 1,000 to 1,500 classic cars will

be showcased during the day along with trucks and tricked out cars most often seen on shows like Pimp My Ride.

"Everyone's tastes will be satisfied at this year's Orchard Beach Car Show," assured Monsolino. "A lot of the older crowd will be on hand to see some of the cars they would bring to the old drive-in movies. We have young kids even getting into the older muscle cars and there are those who love to see all the different tricked out cars with the fish tanks in the back and the X Box consoles. There is really something for everyone."

That includes celebrities, of which many are expected to be on hand. Will Castro, president of Unique AutoSports, along with Reme and the entire

staff will be in attendance displaying a selection of celebrity vehicles. The business, which does for cars, what Orange County Choppers does for motorcycles, has worked on cars for Yankee greats Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield, along with R&B legend Pattie LaBelle and Hip Hop star Ja Rule. The company, which has its own show on the Speed Channel, recently completed a car for NBA all-star LeBron James. Unique AutoSports with Speed TV will be filming the event for an upcoming Unique Whips program.

Cast members from the upcoming sixth season of The Sopranos will be on hand at the show along with The New Mix 102.7 FM, among others that will be announced all the way up until the event on September 24 (a rain date has been scheduled for Sunday, October 1).

The car show will be held until 5 p.m. in the parking lot of Orchard Beach. The entrance fee is \$20 per vehicle to register in the show, which includes two passengers. Each additional passenger and spectators/walk-ins will have to pay \$10 per person. Motorcyclists pay \$25 to take part in the show and Memorial Run. Children under 12 get in for free.

"We encourage everyone to come out and enjoy a nice day out with the family," said Monsolino. "Not only does the event support a worthy cause, but there is nothing like seeing all these cars in the beautiful open space and water of Orchard Beach serving as the backdrop."

For more information about the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Orchard Beach Car Show, including a list of sponsors that includes Sisto Funeral Home, The Lobster House, F & J Pine Restaurant and the Knights of Columbus, among many others, go to [www.orchardbeachcarshow.com](http://www.orchardbeachcarshow.com).