

Tire Tracks



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Remembering Gateway

A few years ago the Club sponsored a mid-summer tour that created some very pleasant memories. The destination was an unfinished resort in the Uncompaghre Plateau of southwestern Colorado. Only one member had ever seen it, but he insisted that the tour would be great, and spirits were high in anticipation of seeing the personal car collection of John and Maureen Hendricks. He's the founder of the Discovery Channels. Their collection is too large for a single public presentation, so they created a Resort and car museum, at Gateway, Colorado, through which it can be rotated.

After an early departure the caravan headed northward onto the Indian lands, skirting Monument Valley and stopped in Cortez, CO, for lunch and pit stops. From there we zigzagged northward following the Colorado/Utah border, passing over Gypsum Gap at 6,100 feet, then down to the Dolores River. There we entered Gateway Canyon, as pretty a forty miles of canyon scenery as you could ever imagine, with vistas changing at every turn, and always, the sparkle of the clear mountain stream.

The town of Gateway was, what else, small ... very small. But the Gateway Resort, set on the banks of the Dolores River, was a treasure. The rooms were unique in design and comfortably furnished in a rustic theme. The next surprise was the dining room which offered true gourmet meals at moderate prices. And, after a good night's rest we were admitted to the third surprise ... the museum.

The museum's staging and seemed to make every car glow. roadster in a mellow yellow finish honor was held by the 1954 that had reappeared mysteriously destroyed by GM. The Hendricks' Auction for a record-setting price.



special lighting against a black background. My personal favorite was a "37 Terraplane with art deco trim features. The place of Oldsmobile concept car, one of two built, at auction, after it had been reportedly bought this treasure at the Barrett-Jackson



GATEWAY (CONTINUED)

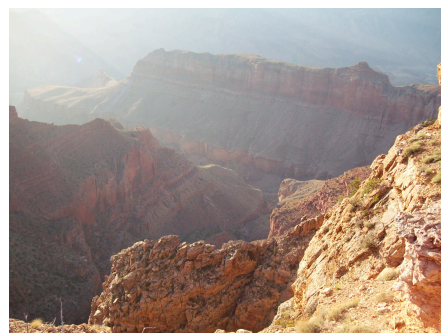


Some of us spent the entire day in the museum. Others also enjoyed daytrips into the nearby wilderness areas. Then there was another great dinner and more rest in our glorious luxury beds, before returning home. -----

Now, the good news is ... Al Moss is arranging a repeat visit plus a second car collection in Grand Junction, Colorado, and more sight-seeing. The second car collection tour will be the personal collection of Tammy Allen, who is also well known as a high bidder at prestigious car auctions.

Al is developing this trip as a four-day, three night outing. The first stop will be Monticello, Utah, a pleasant little town just a ways north of Monument Valley. A first night party will be held there. The second day includes travel to Grand Junction, Colorado, for the Tammy Allen Collection tour, then a short drive to Gateway for the second stop. The third day includes the Hendricks collection in the Museum, and travel to Chinle, Arizona, the third stop. The final day may include a car tour of Canyon DeChelly, and return to Sedona.

Be at the February 8 membership meeting for more details. As usual, Al will ask for early signups, and reimbursement for the lodging and admissions costs before departure.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy Valentines Day Everyone! Yes, it's February already and in a couple of weeks it will be Valentines Day. Seemed like a nice greeting to start this column with.

I feel like our club year is off to a good start. As I mentioned last month, we have good trips, tours and meetings planned. Our first General Meeting was well attended and those in attendance learned some good tips about caring (maintenance, not affection) for our cars. Our speaker (a car enthusiasts, that's why he's in the business he's in) liked our club so well that he decided to become a member. I bet you all have friends that would enjoy our club. Invite them to a meeting. Watch us grow.

Our membership renewal dues were due the first of the year. I am happy to say that almost all members have renewed. I have seen the list of those who haven't. They are all enthusiasts and I'm confident that they just overlooked sending in their renewal, not decided to not renew. After all, who could resist being in our club?

Our next General Meeting will be Tuesday, February 8th, at 7:00 P.M. at the library. See you there!

David Lombardi



MYTH vs. REALITY

THE MYTH It's safe to talk on a cell phone while driving, as long as it's hands-free.

THE REALITY Crash risk is four times higher when drivers use a cell phone - handheld or hands-free. A study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety showed no difference in the number of accidents in the months before and after hands-free laws were enacted in two states and the District of Columbia. Talking on a phone of any kind has the same effect: distraction.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

How many times I have I proclaimed, "everybody who makes it through the month of February alive, disregarding failed attempts at suicide, should receive the Medal of Valor!"?. I base this judgement on many Iowa winters ... hopeless, helpless despair. And, even in Paradise, i.e. Sedona, we can't keep a smiling face, every day. Not without some help. What can we do? I'm glad you asked!

Here are 10 ways to help yourself while awaiting the first signs of Spring: (1 Read a good book (2 Listen to some good music (3 Talk with a good friend (4 Order a dessert (5 Take a long nap (6 Sit in a sunny spot (7 Feed the birds (8 Plan a Spring garden (9 Have a short visit with one grandchild (10 Get the hell out of town!

The astute reader will have noted an increasing level of desperation in the above. Good luck, all! See you in Scottsdale? Make it Cabo?

RLB

UNDER THE SHADE TREE

...AN HONEST PACK OF LIES

Well, Bud had finished his story about the leaning stacks of blocks and two-bys and gone inside for fresh beers. When he came out we sipped and sat and stared past each other for awhile. Then he started up again, "Did I ever tell you about changing that motor?" Without waiting for me to answer he plunged in.

"Changin' out the motor was really easy. I went to Nate's junkyard and he had just the right one and he dropped it off with his wrecker. My daddy had left his chain hoist hangin' in the garage on a double pipe, and it was out 'n in. No sweat!

I double checked all of the important connections, set it up with oil and water in the radiator and all. And I hit the starter. Click,grunt! Click,Grunt! Nothing! The motor was froze solid. So it was back to Nate's for some fresh ideas."

"Did you ever meet Nate? He was a little guy, kinda old with glasses and squinty eyes, but the thing you noticed was that you couldn't see no spot on his whole body that wasn't coated with black car grease. I swear! Well, I told him the motor wouldn't crank and he said 'come with me'. He took me back in a kinda building, dark as a cave, no windows and just long narrow aisles lined with bins full of, well, you couldn't see what. He reached into some bin and came up with a heavy chain which he handed to me, and said, 'We'll pull it!'"

I met him back at home and we hitched up the car and headed down the road where I lived. It was a straight stretch about two or three blocks long, just graded dirt and hardly nobody lived on it, so we headed for one end and turned around. Nate says,"Pop the clutch!", and he took

it up to about 10 miles, so I popped it, and nothin happened. I just rode him down to real slow, with the wheels locked. I was thinking, 'I'm just gonna have to bust this bronco.'"

"Nate says, 'Try again!', so we did, faster this time. Same thing, wheels locked, rode him down, and nothin'! Again, faster, same thing! Finally he says,"This time'll do it", and we took off again, but this time I held back until we was almost down to the end of the road and up to about 40. I thought to myself, 'This is it!'. and I popped it. Bang!!! My gut just about blew out my mouth.I was sure we had ruined the motor, but then I realized that something was happening. I was hearing the sweet sound of that old flat-headed, cast-iron, valve-slapping, gas guzzlin' GM excuse for an engine! Nate stopped, unhitched and drove off with a wave."

"My legs was feelin real shaky when I got out of the car and started breathin again, then I looked down the road. There was a double line of furrows from one end of the road to the other It looked just like a piece of the Oregon Trail, I swear. But the important thing was that my beautiful blue '41 Pontiac was back on the road and that was all I cared."

I said, "Yeah. I can sure see that!"



CLUB NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOURS AND EVENTS

There was a good showing of members to attend the RM Auctions, in Scottsdale. As usual, there was plenty of ogling the beautiful array of classic cars. There were five high-end car auctions in the Valley of the Sun. They were still calculating the total sales as of 1/30/11, but over \$157 million were already reported. The sales nearly matched the record, \$163 million, set in 2007.

On Thursday, February 17th, we will meet on the road in back of the Sedona Medical Center and depart at 10:30 for a brief drive to Lake Montezuma where we will enjoy a nice brunch at Crickets Restaurant. Please sign up at the February 8th meeting, or contact Al Moss, so he can make reservations.

The St. Patrick's Day parade, in Sedona, will be on Saturday, March 5th. Please sign up at the February meeting if you plan to participate.

The (extended) Grand Junction / Gateway Tour will depart on May 16th and return on May 19th. An added attraction: chance to view the ambulance that transported JFK on that fateful day in 1963 ... just bought for the Tammy Allen collection.

PROGRAM

Our speaker for the February 8th meeting will be Sedona's Fire Chief, Nazih Hazime. He will tell us the inside scoop on the Sedona Fire Department and give us some insight on the equipment that makes up SFD's fleet.

LITTER LIFTERS

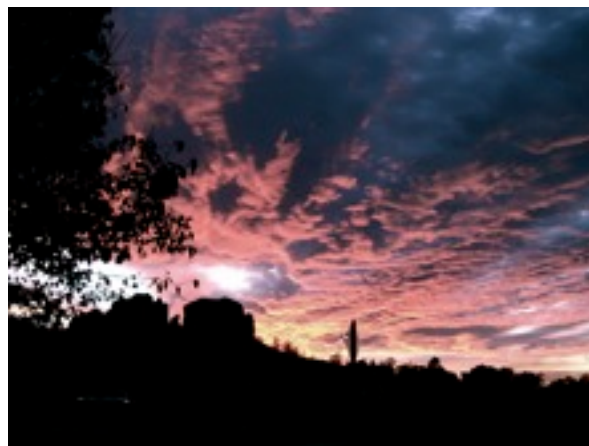
On March 12th Bob Van Steenburgh and his crew of volunteers will gather at the parking lot at Red Rock High School, at 8:00 AM, and proceed from there to their assigned stretch of Hwy 89A, to pick up and bag the accumulated litter. See Bob to sign up at the February and March meetings.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Two of our members will celebrate birthdays in February. They are: Loraine Cousins and Chris Gruneberg. Lon and Margi Walters will celebrate their wedding anniversary in February. Congratulations, and best wishes from all.

NEW MEMBERS

Two new couples have become members in the past month. They are: Dan and Joann Otts, and Luke and Diane Lukich. Please greet them at the next meeting and welcome them to membership.



OFFICERS AND BOARD

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TOURS & EVENTS

AL MOSS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

RALPH BLANKENSHIP

Upcoming Events, Tours and Meetings

February general meeting: Tuesday, 2/8/2011, 7 PM, Sedona Library.

February Tour: Thursday, 2/17/2011, Brunch at Crickets, details to come.

March general meeting: Tuesday, 3/8/2011, 7 PM, Sedona Library.

March Event: Saturday, 3/5/2011, St Pat's Parade, details to come.

March Tour: Friday, 3/18/2011, Full Moon Dinner, the Asylum in Jerome. details to come.

April general meeting: Tuesday, 4/12/2011, 7 PM, Sedona Library.

April Tour: Saturday, 4/2/2011, Hogs n Heat, Barbecue n Beer, Rock Springs, details to come.

April Event: Saturday, 4/30/2011, Car display at Basha's, details to come.

May general meeting: Tuesday, 5/10/2011, 7 PM, Sedona Library.

May Event: Saturday, 5/8/2011, Mothers' Day Brunch, Junipine

May Tour: Tuesday thru Thursday, 5/17, 18, 19/2011, Gateway and Grand Junction, CO.,
Details to come.

June Event: Tuesday, 6/14/2011, The Annual Picnic, details to come.

Summer Hiatus, 6/14/2011 to Saturday, 8/20,2011.

TIRE TRACKS

Sedona Car Club

Sedona Region AACA

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