

“Devil’s Oven” Proves Too Hot for Some !!

Prineville, OR Members of the Northwest Vintage Speedster Club descended upon this sleepy central Oregon high desert community to spend their Memorial Day weekend “enduring” a myriad of surprises while driving their speedsters over a pre-set 200 mile course. The Portland based speedsters only club, affiliated with the MTFCA, but not limited to “Model T” type speedsters, had over forty-five cars in attendance from four western states. This was the first Endurance Run to feature a “Purse” of \$1000. Top prize was garnered by Art Reichlin of Mt. Vernon, in his new freshly prepared Buick Fast Four speedster. He happily carried away \$500 dollars to cover expenses, and a “new” overdrive, that gave him fits all weekend.

Several other new cars made their debut, including a 20’s era replica of a Buick 8 Indianapolis 500 racer. Dubbed the “Titanic,” the HUGE car made quite a splash on the group. Because, it was powered by a straight eight engine, it was disqualified from participating in the timed event, but was allowed to run last and just cover the route....TWICE....just kidding !! Also, fan favorites, Reed “Rattler” Olsen and his girl Carol “Friday” Olsen arrived from Montana sporting a new Model “T” speedster finishing out of the money but finished never the less. The TALL Montanans were seen grinning ear to ear at the end.

Tech inspection was held on Saturday afternoon, and was followed by a BBQ with live music at a local park. Registration took place there as well, and each driver/participant received a large box of “goodies” that are useful in the garage. Remaining unclaimed boxes were auctioned off with some wild bidding. A large “Street Rod” gathering occurred simultaneously, in Prineville, and offered a lot to look at during the day. All gatherings for food during the weekend were shared with this group as well. Street Rods and speedsters were seen cruising the “Main Drag” all weekend long.

The weather could not have been nicer for Sunday’s big event. Organizer’s planned to have speedsters going on different loops, during the day, so that no one would follow each other. Each loop was approximately 50 miles long and returned to the same location so that each participant had to punch in and out on a time card reader. Another unique feature was to go to designated stores along the route, buy something, and use your receipt as

proof of hitting that check point. Receipts were submitted with the time card at the conclusion of the event. Unusual rock formations and beautiful winding country roads offered a variety of things to look at. A “very rough” road on loop “D” proved to be the reason we call them endurance runs. Comments were heard that it was too rough, and car destroying, while others said that this is why we do these runs. Challenging terrain meets man/woman and machine. Either the terrain wins, or the machine wins. 2nd place went to a driver and navigator from California, also in a “new” car only a tenth of second behind Art Reichlin. Gary and Di Hofer won 3rd place in the 999 car from Touchet. 4th and 5th were won by two cars from Oregon. All received some share of the remaining \$500 prize money.

Event Co-Chairman Jim Davis and Jack Stoll did a great job of taking drivers and navigators out of their comfort zones by trying something new. Time will tell what worked and did not as event organizers think of different ways to put speedster owners to the test. Long time speedster navigator and MTFCA board member Dixie Kroll, from Portland, was seen smiling despite losing her “Driver” and life’s partner Chuck to cancer last week. She was an inspiration for all!!

Chuck Kroll was missed, but certainly not forgotten. RIP !!