

Chehalem Mountain Climb & Garage Tour

The tour was held after an early morning rain shower probably scared off a few participants. As it was, we had 6 speedsters and one Detroit Iron and nary a drop of rain. We had a leisurely drive up and over Chehalem Mountain with a stop at Bald Peak State Park. The roads were smooth and curvy and the views of the valleys on each side of the Mountain were fabulous.

We descended into Newberg and visited the car collection of NWVS member Ken Austin. Ken learned sand casting techniques in college in the early 50's and is still using those skills to manufacture specialty car parts including a number of high performance intake manifolds for flathead V8's. He gave us brief demonstration of pattern making and preparation of a sand mold. It gave us a better appreciation of the time and effort that goes into making one off parts from scratch.

Ken's collection consists of about 5 trucks and 15 cars all of which have been restored to perfection in Ken's shop. The collection includes an impressive Mack Bulldog logging truck with a full load of logs, a beautiful 1907 Ford Model S roadster, a '62 Corvette, several Model T's, including a spiffy '15 Speedster with a Rajo head, a '32 Gilmore sprint car with a B block and '28 Olds head, a '32 Model B roadster in pristine totally stock condition, the '39 Ford 4 door phaeton that was the Queens car in the 1939 Rose Festival, an early Thunderbird, an Austin Healy, a Jag XKE, an MG TC , a '28 Chevy and maybe a half dozen or more that any of us would be proud to own. Truly a magnificent collection of notable cars.

Ken's very large shop area is one we would all like to have. It is filled with all the modern machine tools, including CNC milling machines, lathes and even a state of the art paint booth. It has virtually any equipment needed to fully restore the vehicles in the collection.

We then had lunch at Izzy's and adjourned for the trip home. I'm sure all participants will agree that it was a fun day with good roads, good company, good food and a look at a great collection. A special thanks to Ken for sharing his passion for some very special vehicles.

Beryl Brown took 165 digital photos of the tour which can be seen on her website at <http://www.emeraldoriginals.com/NWVSpeedsters/>