

The Rae'Cing Memorial Day Fun Run
A Breeze thru the Trees

Saturday, May 28, 2005 found speedsters gathering in Ukiah, California from Oregon, Washington, and California for the Rae'Cing Memorial Day Fun Run. The Hospitality Room opened at 10:00 am with goodies and registration. The car inspection started at 10 am and was led by Andy Clary and Chris Rich from the Redwood Empire Model T Club. After the inspections were completed, a short tour was led by Steve Nelson to Parducci Winery. There the club members enjoyed tasting wines and touring the winery. Several cars were full of wine as they returned to the motel.

Early Sunday morning, May 29, 30 speedsters lined up in the bowling alley's parking lot waiting anxiously for the green flag to drop. Steve Nelson gave the drivers their special instructions. After a moving rendition of the Star Spangled Banner by 12 year old Maddi Smith (Steve and Jeann's granddaughter from Grand Junction, Co), Maddi and the McEachern girls (Danielle and Becky) along with Mallory Nelson gave the order to start engines. When all the speedster were running, Steve waved the green flag. AND THEY WERE OFF !!!!

The drivers found a special treat at the donut stop at the Gualala Arts Center, and we don't mean just donuts. Artist Rex Burnett's collection of cut away auto drawings was on display. After taking time to view this special exhibit, the cars were off for the next leg of the Run. They found lunch waiting for them at the Anderson Valley Grange. After lunch the speedsters started the last leg of their journey. This leg took them though the Redwoods and ocean views. The Run concluded at the host Motel with Jacob Kicha, Gene Kicha's grandson handling the checkered flag. The trouble truck returned full with the only two cars that could not make it on their own.

The Elks Club of Ukiah was the site of the awards banquet. Steve and Jeann kept the suspense going by giving their thank yous and having the door prizes awarded. Steve announced the top ten winners, of course, starting with the tenth place first and working up. Third place trophy went to Frances and Reny Sanitago and second place was award to Dave Barker and Ted Kafer. The big prize went to Dave and Jill Howe. The Hard Luck Trophy went to Harry Gallaway.

Monday morning, the speedsters started out on the first extra day tour by winding their way to the Mendocino Coast with a stop in the town of Mendocino. There everyone got a chance to walk around the town and stretch their legs. Then it was back into the speedsters and off to the Point Cabrillo lighthouse. This lighthouse is one of the few that have been put back in service. As everyone was getting a little on the hungry side, it was off to Fort Bragg for lunch at the harbor. The speedsters returned to Ukiah by way of the Jackson State Forest. Everyone gathered at Steve and Jeann's room to review the day and have a snack.

The second day's tour saw the speedsters stopping at Fetzer Winery and Garden. There they wandered though the garden filled with flowers, trees, and edible plants. Next the speedster were winding their way up the Hopland Grade and down into Kelseyville. Since most of the stores were closed, this was a very short stop. From here, the speedsters went to Konocti Harbor Resort for lunch and views of Clear Lake. By now it was time to head for home, so the tour headed for the "friendly town of Lakeport " for ice cream and then traveled on home though Scott's Valley.

What a wonderful way to finish up the first Northwest Vintage Speedsters run in California.

