

Extreme Fun II

The 2006 Rae'Cing Memorial Day Fun Run started with a damp Saturday that ranged from almost dry to some real good rain. Not the best of environments for speedsters but the drivers and navigators of 26 cars showed their stuff and braved the elements.

Saturday was our rain gear test day. After registration and some goodies provided by Tammie Reichlin and Jill Howie, we set off for a trip to the Arlington Airport to see some of Dave Howie's and friends toys. Antique biplanes, slow race winning T tractor, and a beautifully restored Austin Healey that Dave recently finished. Hmm, BBQ is ready so off to the Ellis home and museum (anything that clean can't be called a shop or garage). The Ellis family and friends had prepared a fine lunch for us that included hot burgers, dogs, and beans with salads and chips on the side. The hot coffee was a major hit as well. The enduring participants were finding that even the best of rain gear didn't really keep you dry and warm. After enjoying the meal we had the opportunity to look over Dave and Elaine's collection of some remarkable cars. We then toured back to Mount Vernon where it almost dried out for a while in the evening. The trouble truck brought one car back that was blowing fuses after the ammeter started filling with water. Jim Patterson had it all squared away for Sunday though.

Sunday morning was more light rain. 25 cars lined up (one driver let common sense interfere). We held the drivers meeting under cover as Charles explained our Chinese fire drill and navigator sprint for the start. Everyone got in their cars. Then the driver gets out, runs around the car twice and then the navigator can sprint for the map box to grab a map packet. Once the driver and navigator were back in and ready they could take off. It was a hoot.

Heading south, the rain increased and one car took an early exit opting for dry, warmth, and a car with a roof and wipers. Almost all the way to lunch, we had the only break down of the day but Tim Cliney did it well with a broken crankshaft in his T speedster. He was cheating anyway having a roof and heater in his car. The rest of us arrived at lunch outside of Carnation and found it under cover which was a significant relief. A big fire would have been real nice but the hot soup, sandwiches, salad, chips, and coffee went over really big. Hot food really helped with the chill. The return back north continued wet to drenching and wasn't a lot warmer but drivers and navigators endured in the finest tradition. Most of the way back, the rain finally tapered off and stopped. Not that we dried out mind you – my whites and jeans were still wet the next morning. Hot showers and baths were the high on the agenda after taking the checkered flag and greeting our friends as they finished.

Finally warmed up, we had the banquet. Good food, great company, and lots of BS (defined as Best Stories by Mary McConnell). With food done, thanks were given to the many that helped make the weekend happen. Patti Cunningham proposed a well received toast to the navigators for their duties under duress on the run and Mary McConnell offered one to the drivers for their efforts in trying conditions. Ben McConnell then presented a special award from the MTFCA for the best MTFCA chapter web site. John Black graciously accepted and acknowledged those who had begun the effort years ago as well as the assistance he has had in the donation of photos and other materials for the site. John described the heavy volume of traffic that the site gets and how it serves the club and hobby. John has been doing a superb job with the web site and is a major asset for our club. He deserves our congratulations and continued support.

Then it was time for the trophies - Tim Cliney received his "It Broke" trophy, Gary Ellingson received a special trophy for enduring the most for the weekend. His trip to Mount Vernon included an accident where his camper left the truck and landed partially on the front of his speedster. The camper was wiped out and Gary and Sandy returned home to repair the speedster before they could even begin the run. They did good. Then the placement results were announced – Frances & Michael Santiago finished 3rd, Gary & Cynthia Rowe in 2nd, and Jim and Patti Cunningham took 1st place with the trophy and flag.

Monday morning Charles Reichlin led a "brunch run" tour to Concrete for those who hadn't had quite enough. It was even dry! A nice tour up the back roads to warm food with good friends. As we were

finishing our meal, Charles offered to put on an Extreme Fun II – Rerun in late July or August when we could be assured of dry weather. This would be done tour style rather than competition. He'll work out the details and make an announcement when he has it finalized.

This run may go down as one of the worst for weather conditions but it demonstrated the wonderful camaraderie and spirit of the participants who are dedicated to making the best of things to have a good time with their friends and the speedsters. Those of us who helped put this together want to give a major round of applause and thanks to all the participants for their attitude and support that helped us all have a good time in spite of the weather. We look forward to many more of these with all of you.

Remember - Shiny side up and keep smiling.