

Mountain Fun Speedster Run

23rd Annual NWVS Club Labor Day Run

Sept 3-4, 2005

40 Speedsters and 6 lowland cars participated in the Labor Day weekend speedster Endurance run hosted by the Spokane area members of the Northwest Vintage Speedster Club. Of the 40 registered speedsters, 33 completed the 208 mile fast paced run that included approximately 50 miles of good mountain dirt roads in the beautiful mountains of northern Idaho. In fact, the run went into three different states – Washington, Idaho, and very briefly, into Montana on top of Thompson Pass between Pritchard, ID and Thompson Falls, MT. Several lakes and rivers were adjacent to much of the route so the beautiful scenery was non-stop from start to finish. One of the unique features of the run was the scarcity of gas stations, so everyone was warned ahead of time to stop whenever they could, and in the end, no one ran out of fuel. There were only three gas stations other than in Coeur D' Alene on the entire route. Four speedsters were hauled in on the trouble trailers, 3 having broken down on Thompson Pass with a broken wishbone, a blown rod, and a blown head gasket. Another T broke down on 4th of July Pass with a blown rear end, and owner Charles Reichlin walked away with the highly coveted hard-luck trophy handmade by Kerry Thew.

The winning time for the 208-mile route was 5 hrs – 58 minutes for an average speed of 34.86 mph. Chuck & Linda Jo Oakland came in 1st with a time some 38 minutes behind the pace car and an average speed of 31.5 mph. Ted Alkier and Keith Matteson came in 2nd about 5 minutes earlier but a missed checkpoint kept them from coming in 1st place. 3rd place went to Jim & Patti Cunningham some 48 minutes behind the pace car but a missed checkpoint also kept them from placing higher. The trophies were artful master pieces and will surely find permanent resting places in their respective homes.

The lowland tour traveled 180 miles and everyone made it without any breakdowns. Portions of the route had speedsters going different routes with a later reversal of maps for half the cars so everyone ended up with the same total mileage.

The Saturday evening event saw the majority of the participants taking a 50-mile tour around Hauser and Newman Lakes and then heading out to the Rockin B Ranch for an evening of western style comedy, a chuck wagon dinner, and live 50's and 60's era western music with a stage show. It was a fun evening that everyone really enjoyed.