

Sun Country Model T Club's Eighth Annual *Speedster Endurance Run and Lowland Tour*

By Joe Fellin

Located near Pinetop in the beautiful White Mountains of eastern Arizona, the Hon-Dah Resort and Casino was home base for the Eighth Annual Speedster Endurance Run sponsored by the Sun Country Model T Club of Phoenix, Arizona. The 7,000 foot altitude of the White Mountain Apache Reservation presented an additional challenge to the Speedsters. Check in was May 17, 2003 with the run scheduled for the following day. Thirteen entrants registered with an additional six vehicles participating in the Lowland Tour. Attendees arrived from Arizona, California, New Mexico and Colorado.

The overall tour was clocked at 174 miles. Starting at Hon-Dah ("welcome to my home" in Apache), the vehicles proceeded southerly through the stately Ponderosa pine forest (largest stand in the world) towards White River and then on to the Fort Apache Visitors Center where Checkpoint 1 was located. After a twenty minute stop with snacks, the run continued on westerly towards Route 60 and then northwards on 60 to Show Low. Checkpoint 2 was located at the Show Low City Park. After a forty five minute lunch break, the third leg of the trip directed vehicles on Route 260 westerly towards Heber and then northerly on Route 277 towards Snowflake. Just outside of town, Checkpoint 3, which was billed as a "mystery" checkpoint, was located at the beautiful, new Temple for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.



Above: Driver and navigator teams gather for a photo before the run

Below: Starting lineup for the Endurance Run



After a short break the speedsters continued south via secondary roads through Show Low, Lakeside, Pinetop and back to Checkpoint 4 at Hon-Dah. The first car arrived at the finish point around 3:00 PM. Ten vehicles completed the run with three dropping out en route for various mechanical difficulties.

In addition to the Endurance Run, a Lowland Tour was conducted which included six vehicles. This route followed the Endurance Run from Start to Checkpoint 2 at Show Low.

Following the Run, an awards meeting was held to announce the winners as follows:

- 1st Place—Howard & Doryne Genrich, Long Beach, CA
- Second Place—Ed & Karen Archer, Hayward, California
- Third Place—Bill & Cheryl Shumate, Tempe, Arizona

Criteria for winning was based on how close the individual vehicles matched the established "bogie" time for the run. For each minute slower than bogie time, one point was applied. For each minute faster than bogie, two points were applied. The entrant with the fewest point, i.e., closest to bogie time, was declared the winner. The intent of this method of calculation was to ensure the event was an endurance run and not a race.

In addition to the winner awards, special awards were presented for longest distance traveled (Paul Walker & Dennis Lambert, Golden, Colorado), hard luck trophies (Jeff & Julie Davis, Ed & Dolores Stolsinski, Bob Hayne & daughter-in-law Fran) and a special award to Ed & Karen Archer for driving their Speedster 800 miles from Hayward, California. Special note is also made of the fact that Ruth Martin celebrated her 89th birthday by driving her 1930 Model A in the event.

This event was the eighth consecutive endurance run sponsored by the Sun Country Model T Club. All previous runs were in various locations within the state of Arizona. The series was originally established by the late Bill Godard and, to honor the originator, the first place trophy is named the Bill Godard Trophy.



Above: Starting lineup of the Lowland Tour led by George and Ann Tunnell

Below: Ed and Karen Archer drove their speedster 800 miles from Hayward, California



At the conclusion of the awards ceremony, a closing banquet was held jointly with the opening banquet of the Arizona White Mountains MTFCA National Tour hosted by the Tucson Touring T's of Tucson, Arizona

Thanks are due to Steve and Claudia Linney for their tireless efforts in co-chairing the event. Special thanks are also due to George Tunnell as Route Master, Terry Loftus for creating the awards over and above the first place trophy and the many club members who contributed their efforts to making this event a great success. □