

Auto History Relived In Museum Tour

On March 30th, sixteen cars met at the 71st Street McDonalds for breakfast and the Indy Auto Museum tour. After a brief driver's meeting Chuck Wills handed out forms for a membership drive contest (see the Open Road) and rally driving instructions. After just 4.7 miles we arrived at the Royce Automotive Collection on Coffman Road, and what a collection it is. Privately owned by one man, each of the 96 restored automobiles are licensed and regularly driven by him or his curator staff. We were allowed to browse up close and personal with all the cars, and the knowledgeable curator was on hand to answer all our questions.

It is an eclectic collection of American and European cars dating from 1910 through 1997. Everyone had their favorites, maybe their parent's car that they learned to drive in, or maybe their very own first car, or maybe the car they once let slip through their fingers. Here are just a few of the ones that drew lots of comments: Maxwell, Detroit Electric, Model T, Stanley Steamer, American LaFrance, Street Rod, Franklin, Pierce Arrow, '36 Ford Woody wagon, several Rolls Royces, LaSalle, a couple of Grahams, Crosley Roadster, Kaiser, Frazier, Ferrari, Studebakers, Cushman, Packards, Hudson, Jaguar XK120, 5 Cadillacs, Avanti, USA Jeep, Edsel, TR4, AMX, 300SEL, Jensen, Bricklin, DeLorean, Dale Earnhart's #3 NASCAR, Viper, Panoz, Carroll Shelby Mustang,..... and that's less than half of them!

These cars have all been restored to wonderful condition and to think that the street legal cars are all plated and regularly driven is a marvel.

After another drive of 19.8 miles on some very pretty roads around Eagle Creek Reservoir, we arrived at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. We were able to spend considerable time in that widely recognized automotive museum and take a minibus lap around the famed track. Of course the gift shops enticed some of us to purchase some great racing merchandise.

A quick 2.6 mile jaunt to Grindstone Charley's found us engaged in lively conversation and enjoying delicious food. Our special thanks to President Chuck Wills for a great four hours of automotive nostalgia. We all enjoyed the day and a chance to have a private showing of some historic automobiles.



A prototype for the Yellow Miata?
No, it's a 1912 Ford Model T.

Think You Know Indy? Then Picture This!

Get ready for rallying! On May 19th, it's the "Picture This! rally (formerly known as the "Chuck's Surprise Rally"). This is a rally like no other, thanks to the fertile and somewhat diabolical mind of Melissa Forbes. You will be given pictures of famous places around Indianapolis, and clues to find them, and then set free to find them by the most efficient means possible. The car with the lowest mileage that answers all the clues wins!

The Rally Masters suggest that you bring the following: a map of Indianapolis, a white pages phone book, and a cell phone (optional, but helpful). The map is critical (the Rally Masters have emphasized this!). Let Chuck or Melissa know if you don't have an Indy phone book and they'll find one for you.

The starting point will be at the Kroger Parking lot at 96th & Meridian St.. Meet at 2pm. The drivers meeting will start at 2:15, with the first car out at 2:30pm. The rally will finish up for dinner at Al Jennings house in Carmel. Al has been kind enough to offer his place for a pitch-in, and he's providing sandwiches and drinks! All cars are asked to bring a side dish of some kind.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

There will be a GPS only class. This will be run as a separate class, with separate instructions. It will be fun and challenging! If you acquired a GPS receiver over the winter, here's a chance to give it a work out, or to just bring yourself back up to speed on how it works, so bring it along!

Things you'll need, So don't forget:

- Indy Map
- Indy White Pages phone book
- Cell Phone
- GPS (if you have one, it's not required)
- Side dish for dinner

The entry fee is **\$6.00 per person** and payable the day of the rally. (Remember, this is for sandwiches and drinks afterwards.) Please, RSVP as soon as you can so we can give Al a head count. All RSVP's MUST be in by Wednesday, May 15th.

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