

October 2014



1973

1973 Chevelle

I started writing this month's newsletter from the cab of a red 1965 Chevy Pickup. My friend Bob offered to chauffeur while I was navigator and we had the ultimate task of leading the 6th Annual Cruise for Troops. The job was actually pretty simple: follow the map and turn-by-turn directions, look for the turn signs that were placed the night before, and keep to the timeline with a steady pace. Oh yeah, and waive to the officers who let pass freely through EVERY controlled intersection we came to. You read that correctly. We had Sheriff's Deputies and Police Officers stationed at intersections.... for 60 miles.



Tons of bikes! By Michelle Koch

This cruise wasn't just any ride in the country, or even a simple show up and drive along event for me. It was the culmination of nearly a year's worth of planning and preparing. Late last fall, event chief Russ Hanes put a call out asking for help in making his annual cruise even better and it was then that I decided to go all in. Russ's plan was to expand his cruise to include more cars and include the motorcycle community, plus make the final stop more of a car show than just a parking lot and he needed more help. The two of us and Michelle Koch got together

and hashed out the structure for one of, if not, the largest public car cruise events in Minnesota.

Fast forward past the countless hours securing sponsors and donations, and we're back in our red truck looking at a couple trucks backed into a couple spots in the corner of a church parking lot. The guys were sitting on the tailgate with a couple beverages out and some snacks. It was



This is Bob's truck, and Loren. Photo: M. Koch



pretty obvious they were there to see our parade going past. Next year, we're going to try to plan our good "spectator zones" and promote them better. We all love getting those thumbs-ups when driving the old cars, and to see the faces when it's

magnified by a minutes-long procession of cars and bikes is absolutely amazing.



Over the road course, I kept in contact with the tail vehicle, as well as Russ who stayed at the base-Route 65 Classics. About halfway through the cruise, I called to see if there were many cars coming just for the show part of the day and Russ said the lot was already almost half full! Half full plus more than that out cruising meant it would be tight when we got in. Unfortunately, we left the parking plan up to someone who clearly didn't have a good handle on optimizing the existing space. This meant that the lot was full, way full. The space outside the gate was full, and the neighborhood outside Route 65 Classics was full. In fact, we had planned on 400 vehicles, and dreaming of 600. We had nearly 900 cars, trucks, and bikes registered!

The cruise was only half the event though. The show itself was like most car shows, but better. We had both Route 65 Bar and Grille and The MAXX Bar & Grille taking care of food and drinks, plus another novelty food vendor and a pair of Girl Scouts selling homemade cookies and milk. There was also live music from the rockabilly band The Holy Rocka Rollaz and a HUGE 150+ item silent auction with everything from garage and home goods, to food and entertainment, to sports items and tickets.



Cruise for Troops is an event which benefits Tribute To The Troops, a volunteer group dedicated to raising awareness of the sacrifices made by America's fallen heroes and their families. The money we raise is used in their Fallen Heroes' Children's Education Fund. 100% of the amount they receive is contributed into 529 accounts in the child's name in honor of their fallen hero, or directly to the child if enrolled in post-secondary education.

To honor their sacrifice, as well as embed the message and set the scene, we held a formal opening ceremony. We open with a color guard and live singing of our National Anthem, a then few words about why we're gathered there. We read every name of Minnesota's fallen troops since the 9/11 tragedy, and end with the playing of Taps. It was very moving, and drives home the cause. We took in almost \$20,000. This wasn't just for fun, we had a higher purpose. We're already talking about some changes for next year, both in planning and the event itself. It will happen again rain or shine, and all I can say for now is you don't want to miss it!



Shop tip: Magnets

Next time you're using a magnet to pick up something in your shop, cover it. If you're using your magnet to pick up extra shavings, think about how hard it is to get them all off. Putting a slip of paper or a baggie over the end of your magnet makes it a breeze to keep the end clean and with just a simple pull, all those shavings break free and drop into the garbage.



Metal shaving "spider"

Did you know.....?

- *Airbags kill one person for every 22 lives they save.
- *On average, you'll spend 2 weeks of your life waiting for the light to change.
- *There are over 1 Billion cars in use on earth. (You own at least 3 of them)
- *The average car has 30,000 parts. (Most of them called "jesus clips" or "that %#@# thing")
- *75% of all Rolls Royces produced are still on the road today. (Owners are too old to drive)
- *There are more cars than people in Los Angeles. (Car magazine projects most likely)
- *The Camaro was originally code named the XP-386 and called the Panther and Chaparall
- *The longest running nameplate in automotive history: the Chevrolet Suburban.
- *In the 60s, the Central Office Production Order (COPO) process was primarily used for configuring special fleet orders of mundane vehicles such as taxi cabs and delivery trucks.

October Meeting:



Saturday 18th - 9am

50 Greystone Avenue North, Suite A
Oakdale, MN 55128
(651) 264-1234

Bring your daily driver or hotrod
and let these guys work MAGIC
Coffee & Donuts, Mexican for lunch

**FRANKENSTEINERS
BALL #9**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 11TH 2014
AT THE ANOKA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**
COLORING CONTEST FOR THE KIDS - VENDORS - PIPE RAPPING
TROPHIES - DOOR PRIZES - FLAME THROWERS - MUSIC
LOWRIDER LIMBO - COSTUME CONTEST - AND STILL ONLY 5 BUCKS!
GATES OPEN AT 9AM
OPEN TO ALL CARS TRUCKS AND BIKES
ANOKA COUNTY FOOD SHELF WILL BE ON SITE AGAIN THIS YEAR SO PLEASE BRING A NON PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM TO DONATE
LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK OR FIND US AT WWW.FRANKENSTEINERS.COM FOR MORE INFO!