

Hot Rod Power Tour Kicks Off in Sterling Heights

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

The 2012 version of the Hot Rod Power Tour kicked off in the metro area last week and the proverbial good time was had by all.

Hundreds of cars, including many from out-of-state, turned out at the GM Heritage Center in Sterling Heights for the kick-off event. Hot Rod magazine is the sponsor of the annual cross-country road tour.

Overall, this year's Power Tour is trekking from Detroit to Dallas. Its first three days were in the Detroit area and included stops along 9 Mile Road in Ferndale to mimic the Woodward Dream Cruise, as well as a stop on Black Lake at the GM Proving Ground in Milford.

Said organizer Chris Pokorski from the Detroit Convention Bureau, "that was decided by General Motors and Hot Rod magazine, last year they hosted our Long Haulers event and it was very well received by those that participated.

"It was just the logical choice to return this year.

"The order for today is we're here at the GM Heritage collection from 9-11 a.m. Later this afternoon we'll be in the city of Ferndale where the Woodward Dream Cruise began (in 1995). We figured we wanted to give everyone a taste of Woodward and entice them to come back in late August and experience the full-blown thing itself."

Pokorski added that it was a simple coincidence that the Hot Rod Power Tour overlapped with the Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix on Belle Isle – both events were in town over the same weekend.

This meant that the Power Tour was able to have its car owners park at a special car corral on Free-Prix Friday, on June 1, and enjoy the IndyCar racing with the rest of the fans attending the first day of action there.

Last Saturday put the cruisers at the GM Milford Proving Ground, so between the GM Heritage Center in Sterling Heights, 9 Mile Road in Ferndale and the IndyCar racing on Belle Isle, out of towners,

especially, got a measure of what the Motor City has to offer in terms of chrome, exhaust and squealing tires, which is the spoken language of the car cruiser world.

As far as Milford went, "Participants and vendors will be directed to Black Lake, where they'll park and all the vendors will be on display. They usually have dyno testing and the vendors have giveaways," Pokorski said.

Over on 9 Mile Road in Ferndale, one couple enjoying themselves was Tom and Deb Bradfield from rural Logansport, Ind. They brought up their 2008 Pontiac Solstice – tricked out with a Corvette LS 3 engine in it, and every time Deb revved the very loud engine, car guys came running from up and down 9 Mile Road to see what the fuss was about. Which, one supposes, is exactly the point when it



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

Rob Harris shows off the Viper engine in his 1951 Buick Eight.

comes to car cruising.

The tour also visited downtown Mt. Clemens and Warren City Hall before departing for the week-long run to Dallas.

Score it as a victory for cruising, though, and another good event that the Convention Bureau said it was going to want to bring back in the future.

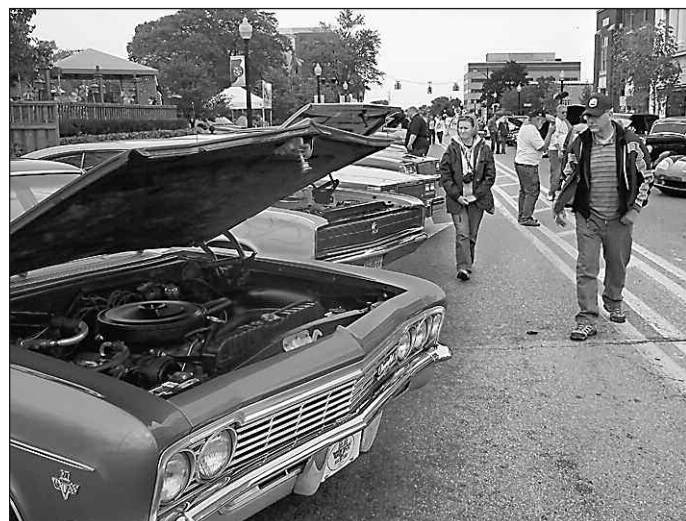


PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

The Hot Rod Power Tour parked along 9 Mile Road in Ferndale.



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

2012 Hot Rod Power Tour cruisers turn into the driveway of the GM Heritage Center in Sterling Hts.

Stage 3 to Host D-Day Themed Mixer Function

Stage 3 Productions, Inc. on Van Dyke Ave. in Warren will be hosting a Morning Member Mingle, on behalf of Automation Alley, on the morning of June 6.

On this date, the 68th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied invasion of Normandy, Stage 3 will be honoring Detroit's wartime manufacturing history with a display of authentic World War II-era vehicles provided by the Arsenal of Democracy Museum.

The event is open to Automation Alley members only. The cost is \$10 with pre-registration or \$20 at the door. Pre-registration closes at the end of June 4.

'Wire to Wire' Writer To Give Warren Talk

The Warren Public Library and the Michigan Notable Authors Tour proudly present an evening with the author of the popular novel, "Wire to Wire."

Author Scott Sparling will give a booktalk in the Warren Civic Center Conference Room on Wednesday, June 6, at 7 p.m. A book signing will be hosted following the talk and copies of "Wire to Wire" will be available for purchase.

Visitors are asked to register in advance at 586-574-4564.

"Wire to Wire" is set in Northern Michigan in the late 1970s, it's described as a story of trains, glue, money and love – with love being the most dangerous, says a promotional note about the book.

The Warren Civic Center Library is located on the east side of Van Dyke between 12 and 13 Mile Roads in downtown Warren.

FEW Women's Luncheon Offered a Busy Program

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

The Great Lakes Chapter of Federally Employed Women (FEW) held a lunch and learn session at Juliano's restaurant on Van Dyke in Warren recently and the club caught up on current events.

Generally, the big news from FEW is that the organization will be hosting a major training session for its national membership at the GM RenCen in July and much of the discussion at the luncheon centered around this pending educational activity.

Most of the Great Lakes/FEW women work at TACOM at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren and they gather occasionally to network and learn.

The luncheon meeting was busy enough that they actually hosted two different keynote

speakers including Sue Webster and Mary Ellen Welsh.

Webster is the national president of Federally Employed Women, serving her second term as the leader of this 4,000-plus-member organization.

And Welsh is a 20-year veteran of the human resources business as well as the owner of HR Consultants, Inc.

"I'm so happy to be here to welcome our national president, Sue Webster," said Jane Gable, chapter president, Great Lakes FEW.

"Sue joined the Hoosier Hills chapter back in 1992 and she's very good at motivating and helping us train and to get excited about the new things in queue."

Meanwhile, Webster began her federal government career as a GS-2.

She served from 1995 to 2007 in the Public Affairs Office in-



Attending the FEW (Federally Employed Women) luncheon at Juliano's restaurant in Warren are, from left, Sue Webster (national chair), Marcia McDaniels (TACOM), and Jane Carter (TACOM).

cluding serving as the Public Affairs Officer/Corporate Communications Officer for the U.S. Navy assigned to the Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Ind. Her present position is that of Administrative technical specialist in the Business Operations Excellence Division, Mission Sup-

port Services Dept., at Crane.

"I want to thank you for what you do for the federal government – we were at TACOM yesterday, Marcia McDaniels took us there and we met with her Chief of Staff and he's a very supportive man, you all know him. He's very dedicated to training and teamwork."

Summer Gas Goes on Sale

Ozone monitoring will return to eight counties in Southeast Michigan as extra measures are implemented to lower smog levels in the area.

Effective on June 1, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties must sell or dispense only gas that does not exceed 7.0 pounds per square inch (PSI) vapor pressure.

Note that the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is charged with enforcing ozone protection measures in accordance with Michigan's Motor Fuel Quality Act, Public Act 44 of 1984.

This program was introduced in 1996, and increases fuel efficiency by using gasoline that is slower to evaporate, benefiting Michigan's consumers.

"The eight counties selling the summer-formula gasoline will prevent over 28 tons of smog-causing compounds from being released into the atmosphere per day," said Craig VanBuren, MDARD's Director of Motor Fuels Quality and Weights and Measures programs.

To prevent gasoline from being sold that violates the Act, MDARD inspectors conduct on-site gas station testing from June 1 to Sept. 15.

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