

Hi Boyz and Girls,

The 15th Annual Father’s Day Car Cruise is now in the rear view mirror. It was a nice day that for the first time ended, even with a dinner stop, before the sun went down. We had 18 cars and 36 guests on the cruise. It was not too hot, and we traveled about 158 miles on mostly flat roads around the Woodland, Sacramento, and Dixon area.

We met at the Starbucks across from the Target store on Admiral Callaghan Lane at 7:15 am, and after passing out the goodie-bags and opening statements, we were on our way to the first stop. To save time, we held doing the poker walk/run car pulls at our 1st, 3rd, and last stops. As in past cruises, the cards used during the poker walk/run had trivia questions from the year 1991 (Nick’s birth year) on them. If you pulled a Jack, Queen, King, or Ace, and answer the trivia question that pertained to people, places, or events, you won a prize from the “pull a prize” bag. The questions were more current, so more guests were able to answer them this year, and all but 2 questions were left unanswered at the dinner stop.

Our first stop was at my best friend’s, Allen and Deb Whittington’s Garage (barn) in Vacaville. We stopped here on a prior cruise, but he had acquired a few more vehicles to look at and there was some interest in the pin ball machines in his office. The doughnuts were a nice treat as well. Allen helped me plan the cruise this year, and I truly appreciate his companionship and input on getting this drive off and running. My bad hip certainly limited my mobility, so it was a little more difficult getting around.

As in past car cruises, this one was not without car issues. Our dear friends, Larry and Bonnie Collin’s Impala decided to have electrical problems. It would run one minute, then not the next. They thought it was going to be ok upon leaving Allen’s place, but barely made it onto Hwy 505. A number of gests held back for support, but in the end, Larry had the car towed home. But if you know Larry and Bonnie, this was not going to faze them. They jumped into Bonnie’s car and met us at the AG Museum. They are such troopers.

Our second stop was the Aerospace Museum in McClellan. The air field in the back was not very large, so it was easy to walk through and view the aircraft on site in a short period of time. A number of guests took part in the simulators overseen by experienced pilots that assisted you during this experience. The flight simulators were $10 for 20 minutes, and all that participated had a great time. No one crashed that I know of, but Nick decided to land without his running gear down. (The pilot said it was his fault, but I knew who was behind he controls).

The 3rd stop was the Agriculture Museum in Woodland. This was also our lunch stop, provided by Jersey Mikes. We were to be seated outside in the courtyard, but due to a faulty pop up, we ate inside instead. By this time, it was getting warm outside. After lunch, we had 2 docents that helped guide our groups through the many tractors displayed in the museum. We also had one of the old machines started which was pretty cool. Prior to our leaving the museum, I had a little raffle giveaway for some lucky winners. Prior to leaving, had to jumpstart one car, but luckily, that was an easy fix.

The final stop was dinner in Dixon at La Cocina Mexican Restaurant. It was a Taco style Mexican buffet meal with all the fixin’s. Very good food, with ice tea, water, beer or mixed drinks available for purchase.

The winners this year for the Poker walk/run were: Kari Donham, 1st place ($140), Bob Wilkie 2nd place ($70), and John Donham 3rd place ($35). My lovely wife went home with the worst hand (bag of stuff). She actually wants some of the stuff in the bag.

I want to give a huge Thank You to Mark, Laura and Anji for helping with the Poker walk/run again this year. They keep it flowing and make it look effortless. But it is a project, and you do it so well. I could not have done it without your help. And again, thank you Allen for assisting me this year. It is always a pleasure hanging out with you. We are never lost for words and lively conversation when we get together, and amazingly agree on most subjects

Most importantly, thanks to all of you for joining me on the 2024 cruise. I hope everyone had a great time. This was the most challenging of my cruises that I have put together. It takes a lot of time, planning and organizing the route, the food venues, gas stops, pee breaks, you name it.

I received an email from Adolph. If any of you have pictures of the cruise, please forward them to Adolph so he can include them in the website. I saw quite a few pictures, so I know we have a lot of great shots and memories.

Thank you Bob Wilkie for the kind remarks at the restaurant regarding the cruise. It is a lot of work, but the reason I keep doing them is because of the response and enthusiasm from the guests when it is all over. I appreciate everyone that traveled with me again this year. Based on that response, it looks like I will be starting to plan the cruise for next year. So get ready for more driving along some back roads and new destinations we have not been to. As always, if any of you have ideas of places to visit and cruise to, send those ideas to me. This is as much my cruise as it is yours, so your input is most welcome.

Everyone stay safe and keep on cruizin.

Greg