Silver Anniversary—Tour Nebraska

Tour Nebraska—edition 2017 is moving along at an unprecedented pace. Currently we already have 232 entries with 2 1/2 months to go. Will this be our largest tour to date? We will soon know, but the coordinators say it definitely will be the best ever. Of course we say that every year, but for the 25th Tour—we are working to make it come true. Currently we have routes developed for both days. We are doing something a little different. On Saturday we will drive about 335 miles and our Sunday route will 35 miles shorter. We start at the Holtus Event Center in York each day - with coffee, other beverages and rolls. Saturday we travel 110 miles before our break, which will be in Superior. The break is sponsored by one of those great old time car clubs, the Pleasure Cruisers. In visiting with them, they talked about how they hosted a break on one of our very first tours. They are a great club with 100 members in South Central Nebraska and North Central Kansas.

Following the break, it is 115 miles to our lunch break at the South East Community College in Milford. We have an excellent local caterer lined up for lunch and inside seating will be available. Milford has good gas locations nearby as well.

After lunch we have 100 miles back to York. Our Saturday evening party is back at the Holtus Center with the costume theme being “the fifties”. We have a great music in Jim Casey and the Lightning Band. They may even have a new song written just for us.

So that is how Saturday goes—tune in for Sunday in our next newsletter in the meanwhile—here is our Saturday route—you can see Sunday on the website.

My 60 year kindergarten reunion is coming up, and I am worried about losing the 175 pounds I’ve gained since then.
Membership Meetings Planned

If you are reading this, most likely you are a NRCA member. We are an association and not a club with regular meetings, but do feel you should have an opportunity once a year to visit with us in person to express ideas, issues and concerns.

Three meetings have been planned for March to not only allow you to do that, but also to hear an update on what NRCA is involved in. You will hear about Tour Nebraska and our August event—"An Afternoon in Railroad Town". We will have updates on our scholarship program, vehicle titling, Grant Program and Legislation.

This is a two emphasis program. First is to inform current members and hear from you and second is to allow you to invite friends that may be interested in joining NRCA. Please understand this is not a sales meeting—we don't twist arms for new members—we will just present ourselves and let them decide. If what we do does not convince someone we are worth $15 a year we probably don't want them anyway.

So here is the schedule—all meetings will have the same presentations—go to any you want. All start at 1:00 and we will take about an hour—longer with your questions.

March 12—Mid Plains Tech School—North Platte
Tour of tech school automotive facilities

March 17—MPH Raceway—Hastings—with tour of Klatt Collection following if interested

March 27—Legends Patio Grill 6910 N. 102nd Circle Omaha—food and adult beverages available

We do need you to sign up—on line—an email meeting notice be sent soon—with a link to the event on our website—real easy to do.

Computer Lessons —

It has been about 3 years since NRCA went with the Wild Apricot system for membership management. It is a very powerful system and is uniquely created to fit the needs of an association like NRCA. It is, however, only powerful if you use it. This motivate you into traveling through our website. Many questions can be answered with a couple of clicks of the mouse and few key strokes.

One of the features of our website is that it has a "public" and a "member" side. We use the public side to inform non members who we are and to encourage them to join us. We don’t include specific information that is reserved for members. So, you will not find the list of motels rooms reserved for Tour Nebraska on the "public" side for instance. You have to get into the member side—which we call "Just for Members".

That seems to be the "brick wall" for many as they have difficulty getting there. And we get calls that I can’t find this or that—not that we don’t like hearing from you but calls take your time as well as ours—when moving up the learning curve just a little will save us both that time.

So, here is what you need to do. Call up our website nrca.wildapricot.org. Seems everyone can get this far. Next at the bottom left if will say "log in" and you need to put in your email address and a password.

Let’s talk about email addresses for a moment. This system uses your email address to identify you—member numbers are not used anymore. That is the reason we have discontinued membership cards—they really were not used for anything and took time and money to produce and mail. If you have more than one email address, in order to get in you need to use the one your newsletter is sent to you with.

Next is the dreaded password. If you joined on line, the system will have assigned you one. If you sent your membership application in by mail—we will assign—"membership" as your password. If you are a long time member we assigned that password when converting to this system.

So—next we are guessing that you don’t know your password—try using membership and if that doesn’t work—click on “forgot password” and set one up you will remember.

Once you are "logged In" — You can click on “Just For Members" and another menu of items will pop up. One for example is Tour Participant Information. You can get the latest information here on the Tour—things we just share with members.
These business help support NRCA. We think you will find they are great to do business with as well. Check them out on our web site for more information.
This spot could be yours for only $150 per year starting January 1st. That price includes a page on our website outlining and promoting your business—limited to members only and must be approved by our board.
Drive It Award—The Rainforths

This past December, Doug Snow, area representative and board member from Hastings presented a Drive It award to Bonny and Randy Rainforth. It is a very fitting award as these folks do a lot of the “heavy lifting” in the Tri City Street Rods Club and especially with the annual car show held in Grand Island.

Bonny serves as treasurer and is responsible for and handles the registration duties for the car show. She has been described as a “gitterdone” person to this writer.

Randy has served as President of the club for a number of years and was instrumental in presenting and promoting the club’s sponsorship of an NRCA scholarship. We are very pleased to have presented this scholarship in Tri City’s name for the past 3 years and Randy has said he sees no reason they would not continue.

Bonny without doubt comes from car people—her dad is Jim Berck who is well known for his unusual and quick builds. One of which now sits in their garage and the Rainforths drive on Tour Nebraska almost every year. It’s a 1949 Cadillac limo and they are already signed up for this year. The license plate appropriately reads “RD HOG” Bonny also has her high school car that she got at age 16, a 1968 Pontiac Firebird.

It is our honor to recognize the hard work of Bonny and Randy (AKA “Clyde”)

Legislative

In our last newsletter we did a preliminary article on the upcoming session of the Nebraska Unicameral. As of this newsletter we are roughly 1/3 the way through the 90 day session. In the first 10 days 667 bills were introduced. In our opinion this is down somewhat and may be due to the large number of freshman Senators that have not had enough time to be contacted about issues.

NRCA does look at each bill by title—highlighting those that we feel may be of interest to the well being of our hobby and our members interest. Fortunately we did not see much, however one bill, LB 277 introduced by Senator Hughes was further reviewed. This bill dealt with abandoned vehicles and early on we heard rumors that if passed it would allow for removal of vehicles stored outside on your property.

A quick look at the “statement of intent” on the bill showed that current provisions for abandoned vehicles were specified for public property and lb 275 would add “private”. Another look at the statutes defining an abandoned vehicle gave cause for concern. So, we did two things—we contacted the Senator for clarification and we activated our member email system. In less than an hour we had a tool in the hands of members with email that could have sent a message to the Senator—a potential 1,000.

However the Senator responded quickly and assured that his intent was only to allow a property owner to remove vehicles somebody else had abandoned on their property—and that a land owner could keep as many vehicles as local ordinances allowed.

We quickly recalled our request for member emails—this was considered an excellent “Fire Drill” and good example of how we can react if needed.
NRCA was organized by special interest car owners when it appeared legislation introduced in the Nebraska Unicameral would threaten our hobby. We realized that this could be a continuing threat and there was a need to have an association that would not only react to these emergencies, but also work to build goodwill and work proactively to enact favorable legislation. That was 29 years ago — the need and mission of NRCA has not changed. Only the price of failure not to be involved has changed and when you consider what you have to lose, belonging to NRCA is the best value around today!

I want to extend my welcome to many of you who are reading our newsletter for the first time. Our event “Tour Nebraska” was created to attract members and has been successful at that for 25 years. At the time of our first Tour, membership, if my memory is any good, was about 400. Today we are more than 4 times that in members. We have always said every member is important—and that continues to be the case today.

So, if you have joined because you have to be a member to go on Tour Nebraska, our challenge in the next year is to show you the value of NRCA membership—we want to keep you. We will use all means of communication to let you know about what we are able to do as an association that you would find difficult to do as an individual. We want you to recognize that your $15 membership is a great value.

So, starting now I want to let you know about our current activity in the sponsorship of scholarships for students going to tech school in an automotive curriculum. Any funds we raise generally goes to support this program. The proceeds from our Tour DVD support this program for instance—so buy a $12 DVD. Our scholarships are for $1,000 and the NRCA board has voted to fund up to 8 this year! We are accepting applications until March 15. But, we have not stopped there. We are working with the Central Nebraska NAPA stores who will fund an additional 2 scholarships. We also hope to be fortunate to add another to funded by the Tri City Street Rods Club.

And, we are not done yet—we also make presentations at the tech schools where they have a 2 year program. We encourage students to buckle down and become the best technician they can—in become a valuable asset for their potential employer. We let them know they have an opportunity for a rewarding, high paying career—if they will perform. We encourage them to apply for our scholarships—those that will succeed — we very much want to help.

Just one of many reasons membership in NRCA is so much more than Tour Nebraska. There is much more on our website nrca.wildapricot.org too. So, I hope to meet you someday—meanwhile you can probably find me out on the road driving—go NRCA!

Don’t let your membership lapse -your dues support the work of the association. When you get a dues notice please respond—we would hate to suspend your membership!

Cruising—
Thoughts
Gary Hedman—NRCA President

Driving today to keep driving tomorrow