

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE—April 2011

Once upon a time, I adored the rumbles from duel exhausts that coincided with the audible “chirp” and puff of smoke from my rear tires. Then, gas was cheap! Really, really cheap! Things have changed. Really, really changed! The long-distance traveler who uses a vehicle known less for economy than VRRROOMMM, faces a serious cash flow problem when he stops at a gas pump. Those of us traveling to Florida for the annual CHVA National Tour will be crying the blues when we start placing credit cards into the dispensing edifices erected by the likes of BP, Shell and Exxon.

In the vernacular of certain rural US localities, Florida is a “far cry” down the road, but this time distance is a factor less because of the time en route than for the price of gasoline. That bugaboo has already scotched the enthusiasm of many who had originally planned to enjoy the 2011 National Tour. That is too bad because Dolly Hebert has a super week lined up for us. Anyone who has taken part in the mini-tours she and Harry have set up and guided across several sections of California will tell you that Dolly knows how to package fun and put it on wheels.

More on the subject of National Tours: Dick Klaas and his band of merry Texans will soon introduce a few details about the 2012 outing. Once the dates look solid, Dick will begin providing information to the CHVA website and the AEV magazine so that folks can start making plans. The time period for that tour will be early fall of 2012. My understanding is that Dick has friends in the Texas oil industry, so gas prices should not be an issue. Meanwhile, back in the land of Truman and Twain, Ray Council has almost locked in the route for our 2013 National Tour. He has investigated many sites for our viewing pleasure along the upper half of the Mississippi River. That tour will also operate in the early fall, probably September. Again, once the sites are selected and routes have been tested by the planners, exact dates for 2012 and 2013 tours will be announced.

One final item about tours: we still need a volunteer to coordinate and plan our 2014 outing. Yes, the task of organizing one of these ventures may appear a bit daunting, but keep in mind that our “Moving Car Shows” are CHVA’s primary attraction. Also, we have a number of experienced leaders who can offer advice. (The club can provide a slightly outdated how-to guidebook for putting a tour together.) It is important that everyone understands how important tours are to the future of our club. National Tours are our best recruiting tool.

Other newsworthy items: Joe Kelman has assumed the Regional News, AEV position vacated by Dick Taylor. “Thank you,” Dick, for your lengthy tour of duty in this slot and “thank you,” Joe, for taking over this slot. A note to all our dedicated regional newsletter editors: put Joe on your mailing list. He will look through your offerings for material that Charley Smith may elect to use in AEV Magazine.

Remember the theme song from “Rawhide?” Move-em on, head'em out, Rawhide! My theme is: Wax'em up, air'em out, Old Iron! And, snap a photo of your car amid spring's flowers to share with the AEV and Website editors. BK