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SEE PAGE 16 FOR MORE INFO.



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EVENTS INTO JUNE 2024 Read Us Online at: www.oldcarsandmotorsports.com ISSUE 4.2024

HOT ROD POWER TOUR WEST

By Amanda Curtsinger

Hey y'all, me again, writing about my adventure on the Hot Rod Power Tour West excursion on December 15th-17th, 2023. This hasn't happened on the west coast in about 3 decades! Wow! Glad it made a come back! 3 tracks in 3 days-Irwindale, Ca, The Strip at Las Vegas Speedway in Las Vegas, Nv & Pomona, Ca.



My husband and I went back and forth on whether we wanted to go or not. After all, it was happening a week before Christmas and announced kind of last minute compar. And didnt book our hotels until about a week beforehand. Talk about anxiety! Haha! ed to other car events. We decided to go, about 3 weeks before it was happening

December 15th, 2023 rolls around and away we go! We live in the Central Valley, so had to get up nice and early to get over to the 1st drag strip, Irwindale. Irwindale is a 1/8th mile strip in southern Ca. When we arrived we headed over to the check in to get our credentials. The wait was not too bad. Took in the sights of all the beautiful cars & trucks & they had a band playing live on the stage that didn't sound half bad.

Once we were done checking in, we moved over to the VIP section to hang out with our GasRatz friends. Ste-

ve Dulcich came over and talked a bit about our race on Hot Rod Garage show, HRG Day (Out on MotorTrend channel now). That was a fun day too! The meet & greet for Irwindale was with David Freiburger & Steve Dulcich, but Freiburger was sick and didn't make it to Irwindale. We talked with Lucky Costa & Alex Taylor for a bit and then walked around and checked out a lot of the beautiful vehicles there and watched some drag racing and the burn out course. There was so much tire smoke in the air!

Then I decided to go to tech to have my car checked out to participate in the drag racing. And what was nice about the tech for Hot Rod Power Tour West was, you didn't have to tech at any of the other tracks. You were good to go for the entire excursion as long as you had your wristband on. Right on!

Next up, I asked one of my friends, if he wanted to race against me. He agreed, so we headed for the drag strip line. Waited in line for quite awhile. Finally, it was our turn! So exciting! We had been hearing they didn't prep the track, so other racers were not getting grip and was kind of slippery. So I did not go full throttle as I didn't want to spin out. I know I was not very quick and did not win. I only went down the track once. I personally prefer 1/4 mile tracks. Still had fun and can say that I raced at Irwindale drag strip!

Then after the day was done at Irwindale, we went to dinner with our friends and then retreated to our hotel.

➡ Story continues on Page 11

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- 4/5 Rollin Relics Cruise Night Porterville
- 4/6 Hot Rod Heaven Car Show at Methodist Church Visalia
- 4/6 Cars on K Tulare
- 4/13 Small Town Cruizer Cruise Night Tulare
- 4/13 The Visalia Car Show by Pharoahs of Visalia 805-286-2448
- 4/13 The Water Tower Car show Clovis
- 4/20 Kingsburg Car Show Kingsburg 559-897-1111
- 4/21 Cherry Auctions Auto Swap Fresno
- 4/26-28 Western Street Rod Nationals Bakersfield nsra-usa.com
- 4/26-28 Madera VW Spring fling Madera
- 4/27 Karr Club Cruise Night @Der Weinerschnitzel Hanford

MAY 2024

- 5/4 Mariposa Butterfly Festival Car Show 818-588-6396
- 5/4 Famoso Swap o Rama Swap Meet 844-346-4876
- 5/4 MT Valley Community Church Car Show 559-246-7513
- 5/4 Glad Tidings Church Car Show Hanford, CA 559-584-8565
- 5/11 Warbird / Wings / Wheels 9 Car Show Paso Robles 805-238-9317
- 5/11 Rollin Relics car show Porterville
- 5/11 Jefferson Car Show Clovis
- 5/11 Oakhurst Yosemite Hot Rods Auto Show 559-285-9243
- 5/18 Old Town Motorama Clovis, CA 559-825-6808
- 5/18 Visalia Lion's Club Downtown Show Visalia CA VisaliaBreakfastLions.org
- 5/24 Summer Slam Car and Bike Show Visalia 559-380-5633
- 5/25 Visalia Airport Wings and Wheels Car Show

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- 5/24-26 Cruisin Nationals Santa Maria, CA
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JUNE 2024

- 6/1 The Classic at Pismo Beach
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- 6/1 Caruthers Lions Car show Caruthers 559-859-1554
- 6/7-9/ The American Graffiti Car Show Modesto 209-447-5962
- 6/8 Carnegie Museum Classic Car Show Hanford 559-585-7526
- 6/8 Small Town Cruizer Cruise Night Tulare
- 6/15 Monterey Rock & Rod Festival montereyrockrod.com
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Date changes do happen for many reasons. To confirm the event you are heading for we recommend checking with the event sponsor via email, website, or telephone.

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▶ Story continued from Front Page **HOT ROD POWER TOUR WEST**



Woke up the next morning, very early I might add, and made the trek to the 2nd track, The Strip at Las Vegas Speedway with our car group. 1st stop was for gas and to meet up with more of our car group. Hot Rod added 2 optional Poker Chip stops to collect poker chips to redeem for prizes at Pomona drag strip, the 3rd and final track of the route.

2nd stop was at Eddie's World. After we got our poker chips and shopped around inside the store (lots of road-trip goodies!), we were back on the road to Vegas! We did not follow the route because it was an extra 100 miles or so out of the way. Rebels, I tell ya. Ha!

Made it to Vegas and checked out the Autocross. Pretty neat to watch! Maybe someday I'll participate in it. Then we parked and hung out with our friends and walked around looking at all the neat cars & trucks.

They opened up the drag strip for racing, so I grabbed some of my friends and got in line. Saw Freiburger in the Crusher Camaro and Steve Dulcich was over there with him too. I tried to go up against some friends, but it didn't work out. I ended up getting paired up with some 11 second trucks. Haha. We all know how that went. I went down the track twice. Just to say I raced at the Vegas drag strip. What a rush! Still had a blast even though I didn't win.

Afterwards, we watched some friends race down the strip too. Felt like the day was in fast forward. Mike Cotten & David Newbern were there for the meet and greets, but we completely forgot and didn't get to say hi. Oh well, next time. Headed to dinner with our friends & then to our hotel.

Next morning, up bright and early. But not early enough, so we were trying to catch up to our group of car friends. But had some cell reception issues and didn't know one of our car friends had broken down an hour or so back. Said they were ok and would catch up to us soon. We waited around and dragged our feet, taking pictures along the way. We stopped at the world's largest thermometer and the alien jerky place, in Baker, Ca. Pretty neat if you've never been.

We all ended up meeting up at the 2nd Poker Chip stop, Peggy Sue's Diner in Yermo, Ca. Got our poker chip and grabbed some breakfast. The rest of our group finally caught up to us and ate some breakfast too. If you are ever in that area, Peggy Sue's Diner has delicious food. Off we go!

Headed to Pomona Drag strip for the 3rd and final track and meet up. Pomona was hoppin'! Seemed like a lot more cars & trucks were there. Turned in a couple of our poker chips for some prizes (75th Anniversary Hot Rod hat & pin). The meet & greets were Lucky Costa & Alex Taylor this time. Hung out in the VIP section with our friends then watched some racing up in the stands and then decided to get in line to race. Tried to go up against my friends but didn't work out again.

1st race was against a late model Dodge Charger with a 392. His engine was bigger than mine, so I had to be sure to time the Pro Tree just right. And anyone that knows me, knows that I hate Pro Trees. I did pretty decent and it was a

close race. The Charger won by .579 of a second. Almost had him!

2nd race was against an early 90s Chevy Corvette. We both did really well on the Pro Tree. Got towards the end of the track and I noticed I was catching up to him (wasn't too far behind, we were close to side by side). I mashed down the rest of my throttle and won the race! Yes! What a rush!! Such a close race!

Was on my way back to the parking lot and could hear a little boy yelling "Girl Power, Girl Power!" Over and over. What a feeling! Went and hung out with our friends for a short time and then said our goodbyes until next time... Officially, a Long Hauler!

If they do the Hot Rod Power Tour West again, I would highly recommend you go. It's nice having a big car event in



your backyard (so to speak). Go on an adventure, live a little. We are not promised tomorrow, so I hope you live your life and do all the things you want to do, before your time is up. See y'all on the road!



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22nd Annual Car Show

Veterans Park
Porterville, CA

Saturday, May 11th, 2024 • 9am - 3pm

Registration • 8am - 10am

Trophies • Raffles • 50/50

Pre-register: \$30 donation

\$35 Day of Event

Proceeds benefit

Porterville Youth Activities & Community Projects

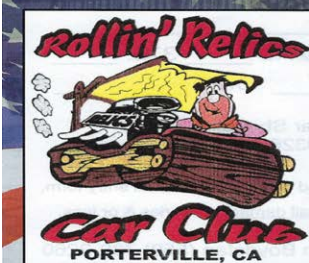
Join us at Pizza Factory (on Henderson Ave.)

for a pre-show cruise night.

May 10th at 6 pm

No music please • Show is Rain or Shine

Spectators Free



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MAY 11, 2024
 HOURS: 7 AM - 4 PM
 MUSEUM BUILDINGS OPEN AT 10 AM
SWAP MEET

Paso Robles, Ca

ESTRELLA WARBIRDS MUSEUM - 4251 DRY CREEK ROAD - PASO ROBLES - 805-286-5566 - WWW.EWARBIRDS.ORG
 Proceeds support Estrella Warbirds Museum, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Tax ID#77-0324714

WARBIRDS WINGS & WHEELS 15 AND NATIONAL MOTORFEST

The 15th annual Warbirds, Wings & Wheels is back! And this year we're excited for the first-time collaboration between Estrella Warbirds Museum and Stier Events LLC which will include National Motor Fest! Two legendary events come together for a bigger, better event full of every car class imaginable on display. Plus, you can find all local Police and Fire agencies from the area, and every branch of the military all displaying their vehicles for you and the kids to get an up-close and look! You can also find plenty of airplanes, helicopters, jets, tanks and more. New this year will be a mobile Dyno on site where you can see car owners prove their power in a live demonstration of just how much horsepower their rides produce. With a dozen food trucks from around the central coast and beyond, craft vendors selling merchandise, products, and services, you will be sure to find several hours' worth of great food, gifts, and entertainment. The North County Cloud Clippers will be back flying their beautiful remote-controlled aircraft. The Throttle Merchants return with six or seven of their nostalgic front engine dragsters with fire up times during the day (bring your earplugs). We will have bounce houses, inflatable carnival style games, face painting, and plenty more for the kids. Kids under 12 and active-duty military are free entry. Tickets include full access to the Estrella Warbirds Museum and the Woodland Auto Display. This is a full day of family fun, food, and fast cars that you won't want to miss!

For tickets, vehicle registration, vendor applications, and sponsorship opportunities, please visit <https://www.ewarbirds.org/index.html>

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May 18th 2024

Check-In at 6am - 9am | Corner of Willis & Main

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11 categories & Top 10

Peoples' Choice | Best in Show | Hot Rod | Historic (prior to 1950) | Vintage (1951-1975) | Modern Car (1976-present) | Import Europe | Import Asian | Muscle Car | Sports Car | Truck

Before May 19th **\$30**

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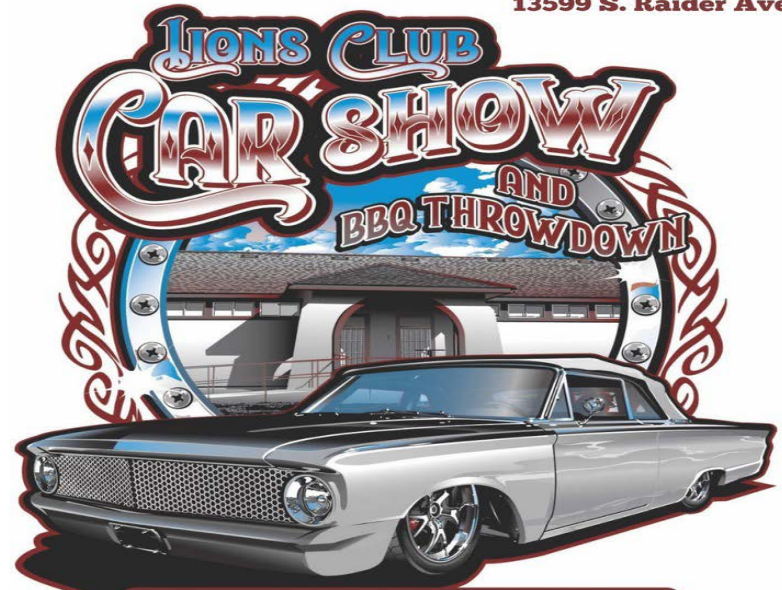
montereyrockrod.com

Proceeds Benefit Gateway Center of Monterey County, Inc., a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit

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The Car Vuky Never Got To Drive

By Dave Wolin

I think everyone knows the story of Bill Vukovich, Fresno native, considered by many to be the greatest driver of his generation, With multiple midget championships and two Indy 500 wins (1953 – 1954), he was the only driver to lead the most laps in three Indy 500's.

While leading the 1955 race, he was tragically killed in a

multi car crash on lap 57.

More to this story, Vukovich, long time driver for Superior oil company heir Howard Keck, was scheduled to drive this unusual Quinn Epperly built streamliner, a unique design with an aerodynamic body, unlike the open wheel cars of the day. Unfortunately, the car wasn't finished and Vukovich accepted an offer to drive the Lindsey Hopkins Kurtis 500.

Keck was so disturbed by Vukovich's death in the race that he shelved finishing the car and it lay dormant in storage for many years. Keck turned his interests to philanthropy, funding the Keck School of Medicine at USC, numerous other university projects at Claremont College, University of Nevada, Reno and the renowned Keck Telescope in Hawaii. Keck also owned a Kentucky Derby race winner

Recently a car collector found the car, commissioned some race car constructors to finish it and it's now on tour at various concours events.

So, never raced, this car still remains an icon of Indy 500 and Vukovich history.

Dave Wolin - The Vukovich family, legendary in the Central Valley has been beset by tragedy. I never got to know Bill, but considered his son Bill II a friend. A great driver with 158 starts in USAC / CART racing including 12 at Indy, he recently passed away. His son, Bull III, was Indy rookie of the year in 1988 and the first third generation driver to compete in the Indy 500. He was killed while testing at Mesa Marin in 1990.

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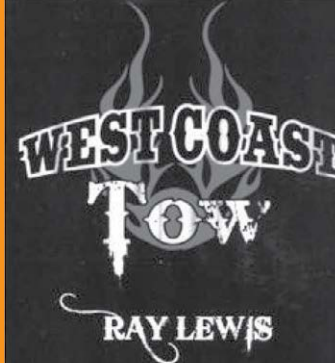
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