

AMCRC Southwest Regional Meet

2013 Las Vegas AMC Reunion by Mark Ogulnick

The November 8 & 9, 2013 AMCRC regional meet can best be described as a huge success. Our AMC group set a new record for the number of rooms booked by any group in the history of the Railroad Pass casino. We set new records for the number of cars registered (65), the number of people attending the show and the number of states (9) and Canadian Provinces (2) represented. We also had more people stop and check out the show than ever before. I heard several foreign languages including Spanish, French and Russian.

The weekend started on Friday with a tour of the incredible Sunbelt Auto Collection in Las Vegas. The tour was very well attended and, by all accounts, everyone had a great time. After the tour it was back to Boulder City for our now famous FREE BBQ at Veteran's Memorial Park in Boulder City. We had the largest crowd we've ever had and, once again, Andy Ray did an absolutely phenomenal job planning the BBQ and serving as executive chef and host. Fortunately the weather was fantastic and everyone had plenty to eat and went back to Railroad Pass with full stomachs and big smiles. The last item on the Friday agenda was early registration in the banquet room of the hotel and a very interesting and informative presentation on by Dan Curtis of AZ AMC Parts and Restorations.

The weather on Saturday was perfect and it turned out to be a beautiful day. By the time the show opened, the show field was full of awesome cars and several parts vendors. We had quite a few "first-timers" which was great to see. In addition to cars from Nevada, Arizona and California, we had cars and AMC owners without cars from New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Colorado, Idaho and Indiana and one car each from the Canadian provinces of Ontario and British Columbia. Not bad for a regional show! The awards presentation and dinner followed the show and the day concluded with a fantastic presentation by our guest speaker, Rick Titus host of Driver's Talk Radio. We could not have had a better guest speaker. He is an accomplished automotive journalist and a racing champion. Following in the footsteps of his father, legendary racer and automotive journalist Jerry Titus, he served as team crew member in the early '70s and went on to capture 11 pro wins on the SCCA Endurance Road Racing circuit. His hands-on involvement with all makes of cars and trucks, including a stint as head of engineering at a leading automotive accessories manufacturer, led to an outstanding journalism career. His credits include over 350 articles or segments for Motor Trend (Technical Editor), Popular Mechanics (West Coast

Automotive Editor), TNN (NASCAR Editor), Mustang and Fast Fords (Engineering Editor), Road & Track Specials (Features Editor) and Sports Car Magazine (Technical Editor). He shared many interesting stories with us, answered many questions and also showed that he has a terrific sense of humor. It was the perfect way to cap off a perfect weekend.

Many thanks to Curt Thompson, Melissa Lucero, John Gronowski, Pat Mallory, R.P. Security and the outstanding staff at Railroad Pass. Last, but certainly not least, a huge thank you to SNAMC members Andy Ray, Raymond Hatcher, Larry Daum, Billy Hasbrouck, Bob and Gail Brandys, Bob Koehler, Dale Jones, Ron TeGantvoort and Wally TeGantvoort for their tremendous contributions in making the show a great success.