

# Southwestern Sunshine

The only real hitch was a good number of drivers getting “driving awards” from some less-than-happy members of the Utah State Patrol

by Colin Comer



Photos: www.mensartscouncil.com

*This year's challenging new route; keep your cell phone handy*

Like many participants, I approached the 16th Annual Copperstate 1000 Road Rallye with a certain degree of trepidation. For weeks prior, the organizers had sent strongly worded warnings about long days and challenging roads and offered full refunds to those worried about their car's or their own ability to finish the route. This marked my third Copperstate journey, and I had never before received these kind warnings. However, my significant other and fearless co-driver Jennifer and I

The Copperstate 1000 folks are to be commended for putting on this event, with first-class accommodations, meals, and the camaraderie of some enthusiastic car owners, including the unprecedented 48 SCMer's who participated this year. I look forward to running it for the fourth time in 2007, and highly recommend it to anybody looking for a long-distance rally through the best roads the Southwest has to offer. ♦

somehow concluded that we were prepared. So we packed up the 427 Cobra, sans top but equipped with marginally efficient side curtains, and headed west to Arizona for the rally, which took place April 22–26.

This year's route took us north from Phoenix, through Page, continued north to Utah through Bryce Canyon, on to the red rocks of Moab, south through Monument Valley, back into Arizona through Flagstaff, Sedona, Saguaro Lake, and ended up in Scottsdale. All told, a little over 1,200 miles. The route was spectacular, with challenging roads and breathtaking scenery nearly every step of the way. Co-chairman and SCMer John Leshinski III is credited with creating the challenging route and reportedly drove it four times in the scouting and planning stages. The pre-rally warnings were based on three of the four days being well over 300 miles each. In spite of stern warnings about proper vehicle preparation, our AAA tow trucks and intrepid rally mechanics were kept busy with numerous vehicles that either failed to proceed or, in some cases, failed to stop proceeding. I am happy to report that our car finished the route without mechanical disappointment of any sort. The only real hitch of the event was a good number of drivers getting “driving awards” from some less-than-happy members of the Utah State Patrol.

Grand Marshal for this year's event was finish-protector mogul and SCMer Barry Meguiar, who not only kept us entertained but finished the route in style in his 1932 Duesenberg Judkins coupe. And, I might add, did a fine job of detailing it at every single stop.

Along with the stunning landscape came 77 stunning cars entered in the event, and an eclectic group at that. Ranging from the obscure such as SCMer Scott McPherson's 1954 Kaiser Darrin to ultra exotics such as SCMer Jim Spiro's magnificent Ferrari 330TR/LM S/N 0808, it was truly a car show on wheels. Fellow SCM scribe Carl Bomstead somehow convinced wife Christine to travel with him in his 1968 Italia roadster, even during a loosely arranged Ford-powered-only high-speed segment, which I will claim no knowledge of.

There is something very satisfying about seeing prime machinery being driven as intended. It is also interesting to see that people's idea of the ultimate rally car is often the same. As evidence, this year's event had no less than five 356 Porsches, three 275/GTB Ferraris, four M-B 300 SLs, five 365 GTB/4 Ferrari Daytonas, and eight 1965–67 Corvettes.

## DETAILS

**Plan ahead:** April 2007

**Location:** Arizona and Utah

**Eligibility:** pre-1973 sports, racing, and GT cars

**More:** [www.mensartscouncil.com/cs](http://www.mensartscouncil.com/cs)



*Comer and co-driver Jennifer Bennett escape from Wisconsin to drive 1,000 top-down miles*

## Copperstate 1000 SCMerS

**Sidney Allen, Longview, TX**  
1967 Ferrari 275 GTB

**Gordon Apker, Scottsdale, AZ**  
1966 Ferrari 275 GTB

**Stanley Bauer, Beverly Hills, CA**  
1973 Porsche Carrera RS

**Nick Blackman, Darien, CT**  
1965 Chevrolet Corvette convertible

**Carl Bomstead, Palm Desert, CA**  
1968 Italia

**Bud Bourassa, Scottsdale, AZ**  
1954 Chevrolet Corvette

**John Breslow, Scottsdale, AZ**  
1953 Nardi-Peugeot

**Duncan Burdick, Colorado Springs, CO**  
1955 Triumph TR2

**Harley Cluxton, Paradise Valley, AZ**  
1967 Ferrari 330 GTC

**Colin Comer, River Hills, WI**  
1965 Shelby 427 Cobra

**Chris Cox, Chapel Hill, NC**  
1962 Ferrari 250 GTO

**Jimmy Dobbs, Paradise Valley, AZ**  
1966 Ferrari 500 Superfast

**Bennett Dorrance, Paradise Valley, AZ**  
1967 Ford GT40 Mark IV

**Patrick Feltes, Cave Creek, AZ**  
1965 Chevrolet Corvette

**Charles Goolsbee, Vail, CO**  
1971 Mercedes 280 SE 3.5 coupe

**Roger Higgins, Santa Ynez, CA**  
1952 Jaguar XK120 roadster

**Don Kaitz, Paradise Valley, AZ**  
1967 Chevrolet Corvette

**William Kilpatrick, Paradise Valley, AZ**  
1966 Chevrolet Corvette

**Bob Law, Reno, NV**  
1941 Ford Delivery Van

**John Leshinski, Phoenix, AZ**  
2003 Chevrolet Corvette Z-06

**John Leshinski, Scottsdale, AZ**  
1971 DeTomaso Pantera

**Michael Leventhal, Chicago, IL**  
1956 Porsche 356 Speedster

**Bill Levine, Beverly Hills, CA**  
1955 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing

**Bruce Lustman, Denver, CO**  
1960 Ferrari 250 SWB Spyder California

**Larry Macks, Owings Mills, MD**  
1965 Aston Martin Volante

**Sam Mann, Englewood, NJ**  
1951 Ferrari 212 cabriolet

**Michael Marix, Palm Desert, CA**  
1953 Allard J2X

**Richard Mattei, Shoreline, WA**  
1952 Jaguar XK120

**Scott McPherson, Tempe, AZ**  
1954 Kaiser Darin

**Barry Meguiar, Irvine, CA**  
1932 Duesenberg Judkins

**Bruce Meyer, Beverly Hills, CA**  
1958 Mercedes 300SL roadster

**Tuck Morse, Charleston, SC**  
1973 Porsche Carrera RS Touring

**Steve Norman, Edmonds, WA**  
1929 Bentley 4 1/2-Liter Martin Waller coupe open

**Gary Pace, Fort Worth, TX**  
1965 Ferrari 330 GT 2+2

**Robert Paltrow, Armonk, NY**  
1971 Ferrari Daytona Spyder

**Eric Poole, Scottsdale, AZ**  
1965 Porsche 356 SC coupe

**Douglas Prestine, Los Angeles, CA**  
1960 Porsche 356B roadster

**Ron Rader, Playa del Ray, CA**  
1967 Jaguar E-type FHC

**Rick Rome, Dallas, TX**  
1972 Ferrari 365 GTB4 Daytona

**Stephen Ross, Calgary, AB**  
1956 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing

**Kent Sokolow, Pasadena, CA**  
1954 Kurtis 500S

**Jim Spiro, New Orleans, LA**  
1962 Ferrari 330 TR/LM

**Jack Thomas, St. Louis, MO**  
1960 Aston Martin DB4 GT

**Bruce Troxell, Annandale, VA**  
1966 Chevrolet Corvette coupe

**Vincent Vento, Miami, FL**  
1969 Ferrari 365 GTB/4

**Jim Walters, Denver, CO**  
1967 Ferrari 330 GTC

**Dana Woudenberg, Carefree, AZ**  
1968 Ford Shelby GT500

**Ron Yagoda, Scottsdale, AZ**  
1973 Ferrari 365 GTB/4