

SCMC Rides The Mississippi River!

By Tom Gentry

The SCMC Mississippi River Run was a great success featuring great weather, wonderful people, a very scenic road and beautiful cars. We followed the Great River Road from Dubuque, IA to LaCrosse, WI. We even made it into some lucky couples wedding videos!



(We met at the former Carriage Factory, now a Brew-pub and grill.)

Cathy and I arrived at the Dubuque Holiday Inn parking lot a little before the 10 am start. It was a beautiful fall morning and we met some SCMC folks out kicking tires and talking about past events and the day ahead. It's always fun to meet up with old friends and meet new ones and this was no exception.



(Cathy and I arrived at the Holiday Inn.)

By the time the whole group was there, we had five Cobras, one Lightning, and even a Honda. Thanks, Lew, for proving that not being able to bring your Cobra is no excuse. We rolled out of town with a minimum of confusion and once we got into the wide-open spaces we just thundered through the Iowa and Wisconsin countryside.



(If you follow me that close one more time, I'm going to.....)

We planned a very loose schedule, so we were able to stop and admire the views of the hills and limestone bluffs whenever we could find enough room to park. People who think the Midwest is flat just haven't been around the northern part of the Mississippi.



(Mother Nature was in full Fall glory.)

At one point everyone followed yours truly on a wrong turn which took us through a tiny town where the local church was hosting a wedding. As we rumbled by we saw cameras and camcorders turning to follow our passage. The road I picked came to a dead end at the river and we had to go back. Once again, all eyes and cameras were on the SCMC parade, as onlookers shouted "Light 'em up!". Hopefully the fun of that moment will obscure my lack of navigation skills.



(Eating together as a "family" is an SCMC tradition.)

We all stopped for lunch at a wonderful local restaurant along the way. Once again I was impressed with the way SCMC folks can just pick up conversations as if we were next door neighbors. I think it says a lot about the SCMC and members when I say, the hardest part about running this tour was

getting people back in the cars after every stop. Everyone was having such a good time talking and looking at each other's cars, they didn't want to get back in. Follow along with the next few photos...



(Check out the Mississippi River in the background.)



(Brian was calling to get directions because he was lost while Dave Stuart checks out his Snake.)



(The SCMC has its share of cruises and we open our events to everyone.)



(Nice panoramic view with the river in the background.)



(Would we be the SCMC if we didn't stop and take breaks?)



(The colors on the river were changing and you could see the reflections of the rainbow colored leaves in the water.)



(We had a great time and we look forward to this year's Fall event! We hope to have a bigger crowd the next time around.)

As I headed south, towards home, on the Great River Road I saw a line of Corvettes headed north, and I couldn't help but wonder if they were having as much fun as us. Don't miss the next one, October 2, 2004.

Hope you enjoyed the coverage!



(Tom Gentry and Edith Stuart)