

Nutz Letter

Fordnutz Cougar club is dedicated to the preservation of all Cougars and "Orphan" Ford and Mercury Vehicles

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Please send your articles for the Nutz Letter C/O the club address.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: December 15th, 2004

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Fordnutz is affiliated with the Cougar Club of America and the Ford Car Club Council of BC.



Robert and Darlene's 1969 Cougar XR-7 Rocky Mountain Insurance Special with the Rocky Mountains as a back drop.

By Purp-ular Demand
Robert and Darlene Nowland's Rocky Mountain Special 69 Cougar XR-7

Story and photos by Robert Nowland.

I have been interested in Cougars for some time and liked the sequential tail lights. My first Cougar was a 70 XR-7 that continues to wait for my attention. My interest extended to the internet and the Yahoo Classic Cougar group where I would offer what ever help I could from my mechanical background. One time there was a thread about purple 69 Cougars, and how Ray Harwood had saved one from the crusher. I found out

that there were two of these purple cars in Kamloops where I live. I made connection with Harold Wagner who had one of these cars that had been painted white, and arranged to look at it because of my interest in Cougars. It was February 1, 2003 when I took my digital camera and shot a bunch of pictures, but didn't really have a close look at the car. About March 17, 2003 I got a call from Harold who asked if I was interested in buying this white 69 XR-7. The answer

to that was simple and with a price tag of \$4000.00 it was quite affordable. On March 20, 2003 the car was driven to my house, but there were a couple of problems; it would start in any gear, there were no dash lights and the tilt away wheel and rim blow horn were not working. In the first couple of weeks I fixed the neutral start switch and removed the scotch clip from the wiring. Found that the aftermarket radio was the cause of the blown fuse for the dash lights and figured how to correctly adjust the tilt away wheel when the wiring was all in place.

On August 10, 2003 I drove my car to Vancouver for the Fordnutz Claw In. The interest in this special Canadian car came from the stories and with purple paint showing through. They had been ordered by Universal Sales and Service in Calgary for the Rocky Mountain Life Insurance Company,

(Feature Feline continued on page 2)



The white interior sure stands out next to the purple exterior paint.

(Feature Feline continued from page 1)

and everyone said it should be returned to the factory purple. These XR-7 two door hard top Rocky Mountain Life cars were ordered with special paint, 351 4V, white vinyl roof, engine heater, select-shift transmission, WSW E 78x14 tires, sports console, power steering, power disk package that included tilt away steering wheel, combination AM radio 8 track stereo sonic tape system, tinted glass complete, deluxe seat and front shoulder belts, heavy duty battery, door edge guards, wire wheel covers, front bumper guards all with a suggested retail price of \$5285.70. These cars can be identified by the 9F93M5xxxxx, blank color code, FA trim and the A6xxxx DSO.

Over winter the rim blow horn was replaced. On March 15, 2004 I started a major cleanup. My work regularly takes me away from home during the week, which only left weekends to get all the work

done. My target was to have the car ready for Claw In 2004. I pulled the fenders and front lights and grill, removed the engine and cleaned it up, installed a new timing gear set, cleaned the engine bay and reinstalled the engine. Next the big task of removing the flaking white paint. This was done using a razor blade which proved both fast and damaging, this damage had to be repaired before painting. The process of painting was done in my carport and the schedule was so tight, had I not painted it one Saturday evening instead of Sunday morning it would not have been ready for the show. The car rolled out of my carport August 2, 2004 for a short drive before the long drive to Vancouver the following weekend. I was still missing the wheel well trim and rocker panel chrome.

Upon my return from Claw In and talking about the paint with others, I decided to wet sand and power polish my car to improve the shine before going to the International Mustang meet in Calgary September 4. I knew Jan was bring her red Rocky Mountain Life car from Saskatoon and had hoped to see more Cougars as well. During the show I got a lead on a purple parts car which I found east of Calgary. After the show I headed to Cold Lake to see another purple parts car, then Stettler to Tom's latest found white RML car, back to Calgary and a visit with Universal, then Medicine Hat to visit Marvin and his calypso coral RML car before returning home through Calgary and another visit with Universal. Sunday I was off to Kelowna field of dreams with some real good leads to Rocky Mountain Life salesmen and a previous owner. In just over a week I covered 2500 miles (4022 Km) in my purple Cougar. I am actively following leads on the Rocky Mountain Life Insurance Company and their purple Cougars. With help from Ray and following other leads we know of 8 cars still running today. There are 3 in BC, 2 in Alberta, 1 in Saskatoon, 1 in Winnipeg and 1 in New Brunswick. If anyone has any information on other purple Cougars I would like to hear from you.



The 351 Windsor 4V that powers this cat's claws