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Nutz Letter

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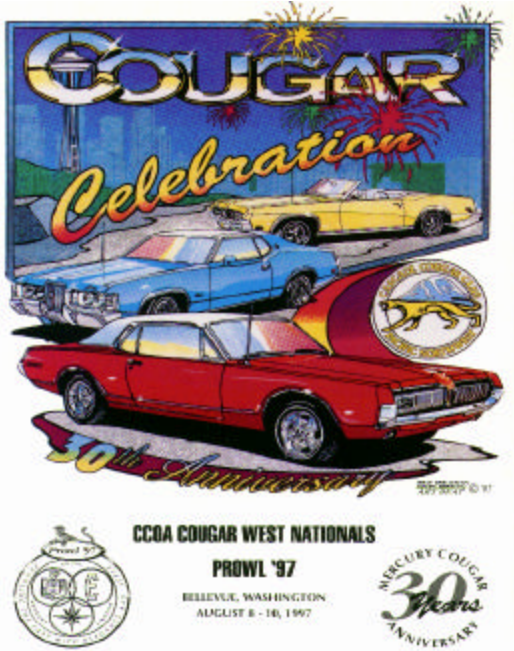
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Fordnutz Collector club is dedicated to the preservation of all collectable Ford and Mercury vehicles

1997 CCOA WEST NATIONALS AND CCC PROWL '97

Photos & Story by Scott Ferguson



Left, 30th Anniversary poster. Right, Cougars at the Peace Arch. I-r Patrick Ramsey's 73 XR-7 convt., Don & Connie Wicklund's 69 428 CJ convt., Tony Fisher's 68 XR-7. Left below, 3, 68 428 CJ GTE's. Right below, 5, 68 XR-7-G's

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There wasn't enough room for "Member's Vehicle Spotlight" in this issue, next time.
If you would like your vehicle spotlighted or if you would like to contribute to the Nutz letter give me a call or send it to me by mail or electronically.



For those of you that did not make it down to the CCOA West Nationals in Bellevue, Washington, sorry you missed a great party, but, here's some of what went on.

A group of us met at the Duty Free store at the Peace Arch crossing at noon on Friday, August the 8th, among the enthusiasts were my self, Patrick Ramsey with his 1973 XR-7 convertible, Don and Connie Wicklund with their 1969 Cougar convertible with a 428 CJ and Jim Megannety, who lives at Niagara Falls, Ontario and is the Vice President of the Great Lakes Cougar Club, in New York, as well as the Regional Director for the Cougar Club of America for Canada(he unfortunately was stuck driving a rented Chevy). We got into the lineup to exit the parking lot before 12:30 and managed to get out of there and into the border lineup by around 1:30. I had arranged to meet Tony Fisher (from Bellingham) and his 1968 XR-7 at the turn out directly before the US Customs building at around 1:00. Needless to say the schedule was out the window, I called Tony on his...

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cellular phone and told him we were in the lineup, but would be delayed and would he mind waiting. Tony is a die hard Cougar enthusiast, and would not mind a wait for an opportunity to help "the cause". "The cause", by the way was for me to get a photo of some Cougars with the Peace Arch in the background for the "Border to Border Run", which was part of the West Nationals (another group from San Diego, CA was going to take a photo from the Mexican border). Well Tony parked his car at the border and walked into Canada along the line of cars to "walk and talk" with us as we got closer to where we were going to take the picture. Getting permission to take the picture was another drawn out process that had to be cleared through government "red tape" on the American side, I had been trying to resolve the OK for this for more than two weeks, thank goodness the OK came on Wednesday the 6th of August, only two days before we were to take the photo. The ruling stated that we could not drive onto the grass to take the photo nor could we impede traffic. This was going to have to be a quick photo when the time arrived, and every one was quick to get into position. I took a number of photos, every one jumped back into our cars, Jim held a place back into the line for all of us and we were soon across the border and on our way to the big show.

After dealing with the traffic problems along I-5, we arrived at the Best Western Bellevue Inn some time after 6:00. There was a reception at the hotel and afterward some of us decided, mostly at the urging of Linda and Phil Humphrey (more Canucks that made the trip south, their 1968 XR-7 remained stranded at their cabin at Okanagan Lake), that a field trip was necessary to the local mall. Jim, Linda, Phil, Patrick and myself jumped into Patrick's convertible and played tourist at the mall, no-one seemed to find anything of great interest so we headed back. I had to be up early as I was one of the judges for Saturdays show. let me say one thing bad about the hotel, they didn't have any sun screen for sale there. It took about five or six hours to complete the judging on my assigned six Cougars, needless to say my new nick name was "LOBSTER BOY", after my custom bright red solar inflicted paint job on my skin. Jay Coleman came down for part of Saturday and looked over "Cougar One", which was on display. Jay owns the sixth Cougar to come off the line, and was very interested to see all of the same early options and features on "Cougar One" as are present on his car, including the smoothed welds that the first fifty or so Cougars had(they were all Mercury District Sales Office show cars). It was now time to get ready for the big banquet at the Petroleum Museum, let me tell you I was wishing that I could go shirtless to this event, except for the fact that some one would probably call Greenpeace reporting a beached whale and have me dragged out to sea. Dinner was great, afterward an award was given out to the owner of serial number 500211, who is the longest owner of a Cougar known. He bought his Cougar new in Massachusetts in 1966 putting over 519,000 miles on it, he even drove it to Bellevue, that's dedication. The honored speaker after dinner was C. Gayle Warnock who was in charge of the Public Relations Department for the release of the Cougar. Mr. Warnock had some very interesting and funny stories and I was honored to be able to stay later and talk to him and his lovely wife at length about his life and experiences with Ford. Mr. Warnock has a book out that talks about some of his more memorable experiences, if you are interested in purchasing his book, get a hold of me and I will pass on his information to you.

I was up early once again Sunday, at Bellevue Community College at just past 6:00 to help set up the Prowl show and then to park the cars that had been judged the day before and then park

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the cars for the Prowl. "Lobster Boy" was in a lot of pain this day let me tell you. I tried my very best to avoid any direct sunlight, but believe me when I say that didn't help much. More than 150 cars showed up for the Prowl, including Edsels, Lincolns, a Pantera, a 1968 GTE and a 1972 XR-7 convertible from Alberta, and a 1967 Cougar and a 1969 XR-7 with a 428 CJ, as well as the other cars previously mentioned, from BC., some of which won awards in their classes.

After the presentation of all the awards a bunch of us decided to head back toward the border together, I ended up at the home of Jerry and Ruby-Ann Kluge in Bellingham. Jerry has been adding on to his home since building the ultimate garage/shop. After the grand tour we enjoyed a lovely dinner prepared by Ruby and watched the video I recorded during the weekend(there would have been a lot more video without the sunburn, boy am I a whiner). Unfortunately I still had to go to work so I was off for home to drop off my stuff and go make some money to support my cars.