

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.	

Duane & Joanne's 70 Cougar XR-7 Convertible



Left, Duane & Joanne's convertible taking in the view of the West End of Vancouver and the North Shore mountains. Right, the view from behind looking at the Planetarium.



Strange things happen with morning phone calls at work. Lotto BC has not phoned yet telling me my numbers are up, however, I did get a call March 3 last year informing me my house was on fire. Yeah right! A little smoke, a little grease on the stove or whatever how bad can it be? Hmm. Somehow the sight of 4 fire trucks, an inhalator, fire chief, police cars, neighbours, and mounds of spent O2 bottles on the lawn told a different story. The house was toast (so to speak) as was most of what was in it. But that is not the story for today. The second call was 5 days later on March 8 wishing me a happy birthday. Not much to celebrate as two days before the 8th the insurance company denied the claim on the house. So you think you have insurance, eh? We really should talk! Things just had to look up and they did with the third call at work. "Have I got a deal for you! The sister of a friend of my wife's has this car in storage and needs to move it out. Would we be interested?" A few questions later told us the car was a 1970 Cougar XR 7 convertible, original owner, stored for 3 years or so after having about \$7,000 spent bringing it up to tickety-boo shape. (Technical term we learned from Scott). We were told the price, re-negotiated of course over the phone, and voila, sight unseen Joanne bought me a birthday present! Our first clue on the value of the beast was when the tow truck driver offered us mega bucks before he set it on dollies for the trip to the shop. Having sat for 3 years we did the usual and drained all fluids including brake lines, purged the fuel tank and the cooling system several times, cleaned the carb, and replaced the thermostat and battery. A touch of the key and it fired in less than three strokes (another tech tip we heard Scott was good at) (Editors note, that's three **lonnnnggg** strokes) and drove it to Air-Care where it sailed through. But not before receiving the now familiar curious looks from the under 20 crowd and the appreciation of the over 40's. The rest of the year was rather normal, as I'm sure you all can relate to. We spoke to lawyers, rebuilt the house, changed jobs, became grand parents to a beautiful baby girl, my father passed away just before Christmas, and the car... oh yes, the car which is the reason for this write up; was offered a feature roll in the movie "Perfect Little Angel". Joanne can now relate to what a hoot it is to have your car (and your wife) on a movie set for the nicest 6 weeks of last summer. The Cougar was cleaned and polished then covered with some Vaseline like substance and looked young again. Joanne brought out her shorts sandals and tank top, and looked terrific, as always. I understand by the smiles and the stories that both had the time of their lives being pampered, photographed, and hustled by the movie industry. I can only guess of course, because we missed the showing on TV and never did see the movie. We did however, buy the stunt doubles for both cars damaged during the shooting. Another 1970 Cougar convertible and a 1970 Malibu SS with one really cool 350 engine. We kept the engine and Crager mags, then sold the Malibu for parts. The other Cougar sits in our back yard and I guess, will become a parts car. Buying the car provided us some balance to an interesting year. Owning the car offered us the chance as well, to join the Fordnutz club and meet some great folks. As for the call from Lotto BC... well we're still waiting!

Story and photos by Duane and Joanne Riordan