

# *Scenic Road Rallies LLC*

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Specializing in designing and conducting rural road rallies for the automobile enthusiast since 1979.

**23632 Gutzwiller Road  
Sunman, Indiana 47041  
Phone 812-623-5727 or FAX 812-623-5727**

On Saturday, March 27th, 2004, Dearborn County, Indiana was invaded by four wheelers from throughout the Tristate for the "Bonnell Breakdown" Scenic Road Rally. Teams driving vehicles ranging from the all time favorite Jeep, to the seldom seen Land Rover to a giant Ford F-350 with dummies participated in the event that is now just a fond memory. Twenty teams challenged the roads of Indiana that wound up and down treacherous hills (The Devils Staircase) through creek beds, over railroad tracks and through a neat little tunnel that became a focal point for photographs.

Before the rally began, a brief tech meeting was held to go over the ground rules of the day and address any specific concerns about the course. After the meeting the teams were lined up and released out of the gate at two minute intervals. The first fifteen miles of the 58 mile course were relatively easy with our first pit stop at the Guilford Covered Bridge Park, where the teams were able to drive over the historic covered bridge that was built in 1879.

After leaving the park, the course quickly revealed why it was designed for four wheel drive vehicles only. The teams began making their way up a road known locally as "The Devils Staircase". Laughter and screams of delight could be heard throughout the valley as the teams were thrilled about this rough and somewhat dangerous road. After the climbing expedition was completed, the teams made their way to the small tunnel which could only be accessed by crossing a stream bed. Talk about photographs! Sylvia Elloff had her navigator, Brooke Tackett jump out of their 1988 Jeep Wrangler in midstream to take pictures of the stream crossing. Next time, I think they'll bring hip waders!

After the traffic jam was cleared up at the tunnel, the real fun began. The teams drove into the heart of Bonnell and made the "real" stream crossings. At one point the water was between 12 and 18 inches deep! Talk about a wide eyed experience. By the end of the day, each team had the chance to make five stream crossings and challenge "The Devils Staircase" (Or what 10 year old Scott Glassmeyer referred to as "Death Hill".) at least two times. Some people drove up three times!





Some of the highlights included Kelly Krinn and Jim Berns receiving the long distance award for driving down from Fort Wayne in their 1996 Jeep Cherokee. Dave and Tom Warren had huge smiles as they crossed streams in their 1997 Mitsubishi Montero. Andy and Nick Schwegman, driving a 1998 Jeep Wrangler did their best to see if the vehicle could float by trying to take a short cut through the stream bed. Donna Gardner and Joel Maxwell, driving a 2002 Jeep Wrangler, enjoyed "The Devils Staircase" so much that they went up the hill two times in a row! Rich McConnell and Tom Keith, driving a 1979 Jeep CJ-5 could always be seen smiling and laughing during the drive. Ken and Chris Helfrich had so much fun that I think 16 year old Chris will be returning back in a couple of years with a rig of

his own to drive. Jarrod, Abbey and Olivia Alig and James Helmen were definitely the most adventuresome group, making the biggest splashes when entering the creek beds in their 1979 Jeep CJ-7. Robert Keller and Clint Knab gave their 2002 Nissan Xterra a serious workout on The Devils Staircase. Dale and Ginger Clifford drove a 1978 International Scout II from Shelbyville, Indiana. Sandy, Christy and Nicole Keller were one of two all female teams to compete in the rally. They were doing pretty good until Sandy driving a 2004 Jeep Cherokee, decided to do battle with a small tree and ended up loosing. She actually seemed proud that she received a hole in her front bumper from the skirmish! Don & Judy Meyer were driving a huge 2003 Ford F350 and amazingly went everywhere the small Jeep Wranglers went! Marc and Elizabeth Schlemmer broke in their new, shiny, 2004 Nissan Titan. I think they could have probably made a commercial for Nissan with their stream crossing adventure. Charles Neeley and Michael Babcock guided their 1995 Land Rover Discovery with ease up The Devils Staircase. Gary and Kathleen Snyder, also from Shelbyville, Indiana, drove a 1999 Jeep Cherokee. The Snyders have done several Jeep Jamborees but seemed to be impresses with the roads on this course! Paul and Robin Fulton were driving the most radical vehicle. They use their 1995 Jeep Cherokee with a lift kit, winch and bunches of offroad goodies for rock climbing on weekends and then use it for everyday transportation during the week! Mark, Karen and Emma Parks drove their 2000 Jeep Cherokee in from Columbus, Indiana to take a fourth place finish in the rally. Ronda, David and Scott Glassmeyer took a cool third place finish in their 2003 Jeep Cherokee. Jerry Short and Matt Miller had a very interesting day. Somehow Jerry found a 10" turtle under the front seat of his 1993 Jeep Wrangler and then managed to sink his Jeep up to the frame in a mud pit that wasn't even on the course! Good thing his buddy Andy Schwegman had a Ford tow rope to pull him out of the pit. Jerry took second place and left the turtle go in the park. Since Jerry makes for an interesting story, I think we'll invite him back next year. Ron & Teresa Wright, Anna Sargent and Tony Collins, driving a 2002 GMC Sierra took home first place for the 2004 Bonnell Breakdown four wheel drive road rally. This group of people were laughing when they pulled into East Central parking lot and were still laughing when they left Ludlow Park. I think they had a good time!

At the end of the rally we mentioned that we might put together another four wheel drive road rally this fall. However, after going over the schedule for this year, it appears that we'll have to hold off on the four wheel drive rally until next spring. We do have some good news though...the four wheel drive road rally next spring will probably have at least twelve streams for you to ford and one road that will be every bit as tough as the "Devils Staircase"! This rally will also take place in southeastern Indiana but on completely different roads than the "Bonnell Breakdown". Please see the rally schedule in the back of this newsletter.

## **GAS PRICES AND ENTRY FEES**

Over the past two months, gasoline prices have skyrocketed to a point where just about everyone is feeling the pain in their budgets. These higher fuel prices are having a ripple effect on everything from vegetable prices to the cost of having your trash collected each week. Depending on what you are driving, it now costs between \$20.00 and \$40.00 to fill your gas tank. Driving to and from a road rally, plus doing the rally itself, can easily burn up a tank of gas. We have heard quite a bit from people complaining about the cost of fuel, so in an effort to compensate for high fuel prices, **we have reduced the entry fee on all road rallies throughout the remainder of 2004, from the \$30.00 to \$15.00!** We know

this isn't a life altering change, but perhaps this will make a road rally more affordable for you and your family. Also, please note, new later starting times for most road rallies.

## COFFEE MUGS FOR SALE

At each of our road rallies, each team receives a complimentary coffee mug commemorating their participation in the rally. We currently have a small surplus of coffee mugs in stock from past road rallies. These high quality, custom made "Chislom Trail" coffee mugs have been produced specifically for Scenic Road Rallies with a production run of only 72 units per road rally. This is the first year we have offered these beautiful coffee mugs in five different colors, and they may become a highly sought after collectors item as the road rally series progresses. All mugs are \$10.00 each plus \$4.00 for shipping and handling. These mugs can also be purchased at each rally.

DATE	ROAD RALLY	FEATURED VEHICLE
3/27/04	"THE BONNELL BREAKDOWN	1988 Jeep Wrangler
4/24/04	"CAESAR'S CHALLENGE"	1970 AMC Trans Am Javelin
5/22/04	"THE RABBIT HASH DASH"	1936 Nash & 1950 Nash

## ROAD RALLIES FOR 2004 & 2005

### CAPTAIN MELDAHL'S MAZE

**JUNE 19, 2004**

This is a brand new route for 2004 and we think everyone will really enjoy the course we have put together. The route meanders through eastern Clermont and western Brown counties, **visiting one horse towns on two lane roads. We visit four covered bridges during the tour, one which was built in 1878! We'll also stop at the birthplace of Ulysses S. Grant**, the 18th president of the United States, before finishing at Captain Anthony Meldahl Dam where we'll have our picnic lunch on the banks of the beautiful Ohio River. Owners of muscle cars will definitely enjoy the roads we have chosen for this tour!

Approximate mileage: 85 miles. Will take 4-5 hours to complete. Three pit stops. Begins at the Showcase Cinemas parking lot in Milford, Ohio and ends at Captain Anthony Meldahl Dam along Route 52 on the Ohio River in Clermont County, Ohio. Take I-275 to the Milford Parkway Exit, Exit #59. Head west on Milford Parkway for approximately 1/2 mile and turn right at the first traffic light onto Rivers Edge Drive. Travel 3/10 of a mile to the Showcase Cinemas parking lot. Registration begins at 9:00 am. Please be in the parking lot by 9:45 am for instructions. Rally starts at 10:00 am sharp.

# THE RIPLEY COUNTY RUN

**JULY 3, 2004**

Our "Ripley County Run" tour is without a doubt one of our prettiest routes, especially for owners of convertibles. This tour meanders alongside lazy stream beds and under cathedral like tree canopies that beckons the back roads traveler to stop and smell the sweet essence of summer. This is our shortest road tour and is an excellent choice for the beginner road ralliest who wants to test the waters so to speak. **We cross well over a dozen bridges** on the course with two of notable mention. **One is an old stone bridge with four arches!** A rarity in our books. **The other is a covered bridge built in 1885 that is nearly 176 feet long.** This bridge rumbles with history as you drive over its ancient floor. We also pass through the wonderful little town of Friendship, Indiana, and on its outskirts we will see the sprawling grounds of the National Muzzle Loaders Association. We end the tour at Versailles State Park where we have a beautiful, rustic stone picnic shelter reserved for lunch and sharing stories about our journey. There is a \$4.00 entrance fee to the park; \$5.00 for out of state residents.

Approximate length: 40 miles. Will take about 2 hours to complete. One pit stop. Begins at South Dearborn High School parking lot in Aurora, Indiana and ends at Versailles State Park, Ripley County, Indiana. Take I-275 to the Lawrenceburg, Indiana exit. Turn left on U.S. Route 50. Travel approximately 6 miles and turn right onto State Route 350. Travel 1.3 miles and turn right into South Dearborn High School parking lot. Registration begins at 11:00 am. Please be in the parking lot by 11:45 am for instructions. Rally starts at 12:00 noon sharp. All times are Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

# THE BUNKER HILL TRAIL

**AUGUST 14, 2004**

Folks, this is the queen mother of all of our road rallies. We began this course back in 1979 for the Tri-State AMX Club and over the years it has expanded into one of our craziest courses yet! We guarantee that within 10 minutes of starting the rally, you'll be wondering if you are lost or the other 99 teams are lost! This is a fantastic drive through three Ohio and two Indiana counties with one rest stop along the way. After flattening out the hills and straightening out the curves in this route, we'll end up at Hueston Woods State Park in a relaxing, shaded picnic area where you can eat lunch and share stories of the route with fellow road warriors.

Approximate length: 65 miles. Will take 3-4 hours to complete. One pit stop. Begins at Sam's Club Warehouse parking lot, Monfort Heights, Ohio, and ends at Hueston Woods State Park, Preble County, Ohio. Take I-74 to the North Bend Road Exit, Exit # 14. Turn north onto North Bend Road, travel 200 feet and turn left into Sam's Club. Registration begins at 11:00 am. Please be in the parking lot by 11:45 am for instructions. Rally starts at 12:00 noon sharp.

# 2ND ANNUAL RAMBLER ROAD RALLY

**AUGUST 28, 2004**

This free road rally is sponsored by the Ohio American Motors Classics car club and is open to only Rambler, AMC and Jeep vehicles produced from 1958-1988. If you own a vehicle that fits these specifications, please come out and join us for a very unique road rally. This route is patterned after the **Caesar's Challenge** road rally which is a stunning road tour of eastern Warren County, where **we cross the scenic Little Miami River nine times!** We also visit a **huge covered bridge**, and an **abandoned dynamite factory which has a striking resemblance to a stage set for a Hollywood horror movie.** We'll make several **jaw dropping drives into the scenic Little Miami River valley throughout the day.** This route features three rest areas along the way before ending at beautiful Caesar's Creek State Park where we have a picnic shelter reserved for lunch and the inevitable tradition of bench racing. Bring your family out for this slick road rally and enjoy a relaxing drive in the beautiful Ohio countryside.

Approximate length: 66 miles. Will take 3-4 hours to complete. The rally begins at Kings Mill High School parking lot near Kings Island and ends at Caesar's Creek State Park in Warren County, Ohio. Take I-71 to the Kings Mills Exit, Exit # 25. Turn east onto Kings Mill Road. Travel about 1/2 mile to the second traffic light. Turn right onto Columbia Road and then left into Kings Mill High School parking lot. Registration begins at 11:00 am. Please be in the parking lot by 11:45 am for instructions. Rally starts at 12:00 noon sharp.

# THE GUBSER MILL CLASSIC

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2004**

The Gubser Mill Classic Scenic Road Rally is another new addition to our road tours this year. This route features the best views and nicest rural roads that Campbell and Pendleton Counties have to offer. **We'll drive for miles on twisting, turning lanes before visiting the berg of Gubser Mill** in the hills of rural Kentucky. Then we'll be off again on one of the wildest drives we've ever put together before finishing at Kincaid Lake State Park where we have a picnic shelter reserved for lunch and relaxation. **This tour really will prove who is "King of the Road".**

Approximate length: 67 miles. Will take 3-4 hours to complete. One pit stop. Begins at The Great Escape Theater parking lot in Wilder, Kentucky and ends at Kincaid Lake State Park, Pendleton County, Kentucky. Take I-275 to the Route 9, AA Highway Exit in northern Kentucky, Exit # 77. Turn right off of the exit ramp and travel 5/10 of a mile. Turn right onto Town Drive. Turn right again and then turn left into The Great Escape Theater parking lot. Registration begins at 11:00 am. Please be in the parking lot by 11:45 am for instructions. Rally starts at 12:00 noon sharp.

# THE HAUNTED TUNNEL

OCTOBER 8, 2004

The Haunted Tunnel Scenic Road Rally is our best and biggest road rally of the year. We put quite a bit of time and effort into this tour to show you some of the fascinating sights that Indiana has to offer. Some of the highlights include: Visits to **four covered bridges**. One of these bridges is the **longest covered bridge in Indiana and one of the longest in the United States**. It measures 434 feet in length! Over 100 feet longer than a football field! **Several spectacular ridge views** are included, one known as "Devils Backbone". Two State parks (Brown County and Spring Mill) are on our list as well as a state fish hatchery. We'll cruise by a **two acre sink hole** which has gobbled up a local road and also check out a rock quarry which supplied the stone for the **Empire State Building**. We'll pass through a dozen little towns that time has forgotten and visit a railroad tunnel that no one can forget! This tunnel was built during the 1850's and is over 1/4 of a mile long. Local legend has it that in the 1800's a man was beheaded and his body was hidden in the tunnel. To this day local residents report sightings of a man walking in the tunnel carrying his head!

This is a really great road rally and therefore, it is designed a little differently from the rest of our tours. This tour begins and ends at Brown County State Park, by Nashville, Indiana. Due to heavy traffic volume in the area on weekends during the autumn, this tour will run on a Friday. The lodge at the park is already booked for that Thursday, Friday and Saturday, so you will have to get a motel two miles away in Nashville, Indiana or fifteen miles away in Columbus, Indiana. The motels in Nashville will cost about twice as much as the ones in Columbus. This rally is approximately 181 miles long, so plan on bringing a picnic lunch with you or stopping for lunch in one of the larger towns we'll be passing through. When you get back to the park at the end of the day, we'll have dinner waiting for you which will be barbecue ribs and soft drinks. Please see the price sheet to sign up for the dinner. We have a fantastic two story picnic shelter reserved which can accommodate up to 200 people. If it happens to be a typical cool October day, no problem! Our shelter has four fire places to keep us warm while we eat and tell stories of the ghost in the tunnel! Plan on making this a mini vacation. On Saturday you can spend the day visiting the small tourist shops in Nashville, Indiana or go horseback riding in the park. This is a fantastic area of Indiana to spend the weekend. We hope you can make it!

Approximate length: 181 miles. Will take 8-9 hours to complete. Five pit stops. Begins and ends at the Lower Shelter House parking lot in Brown County State Park, near Nashville, Indiana. Take State Route 46, fifteen miles west of Columbus, Indiana. Turn left into the park entrance. Follow the signs to the Lower Shelter House/Saddle Barn parking lot. Registration begins at 6:00 am. Please be in the parking lot by 6:45 am for instructions. Rally starts at 7:00 am sharp. All times are Eastern Daylight Saving Time. There is a \$4.00 gate fee at both state parks, \$5.00 for out of state residents.

# **BRIDGES & BROOKS**

**OCTOBER 23, 2004**

Our last road rally of the year will prove to be our most scenic rally. We'll follow the Laughery Creek valley in southeastern Indiana and view some of the spectacular fall foliage that Indiana is renowned for. We have driven hundreds of miles looking for the best roads in Indiana and we believe we have found the perfect combination. Some of the highlights include; finding what is known locally as the "Lost Bridge", a visit to the Triple Whipple bridge, driving over a stone bridge with four arches and driving over a covered bridge built in 1885. There is a \$4.00 entrance fee to Versailles State Park, our final destination, \$5.00 for out of state residents. Since this is only a week away from one of our favorite holidays...Halloween, please feel free to dress up in costume. We will be handing out a special prize to the best team costume!

Approximate length: 60 miles. Will take about 3 hours to complete. One pit stop. Begins at South Dearborn High School parking lot in Aurora, Indiana and ends at Versailles State park, Ripley County, Indiana. Take I-275 to the Lawrenceburg, Indiana Exit. Turn left onto U.S. Route 50. Travel approximately 6 miles and turn right onto State Route 350. Travel 1.3 miles and turn right into South Dearborn High School. Registration begins at 11:00 am. Please be in the parking lot by 11:45 am for instructions. Rally starts at 12:00 noon sharp. All times are Eastern Daylight Saving Time.