

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Sikeston Drag Strip Missouri

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Labor Day '07 weekend proved to be an exciting and pleasant time for Pontiac lovers from throughout the Midwest. Fabulous Firebirds hosted "Trail of Tears Rendezvous," an All Pontiac Car Show and Drag Race at Sikeston Drag Strip. The weather was very nice and the events began as scheduled. Ron Cooper was in charge of the car show where there were several vintage cars participating. In the five categories there were three awards places and everyone received a participation trophy. There was also a Best of Show where each participant voted for their favorite car. Harold Miller of Perryville, Missouri won this trophy. As each of the car winners were announced, they were lined up to take their turn down the track to strut their stuff. This parade of fancy vintage cars was exciting to watch.

The drag racing began at 12:30. Of course, by this time everyone was hyped up and ready to show their

Second Annual

TRAIL OF TEARS Pontiac Rendezvous



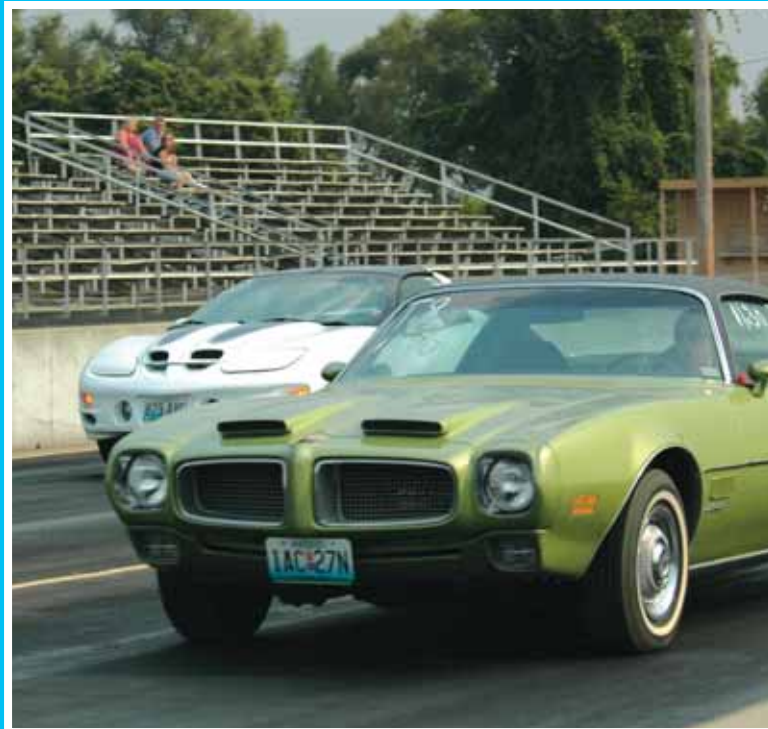
The Wilhite's of Derby, Kansas brought their "Heavy Metal" Pontiacs- '58 and '59 for everyone to enjoy.

stuff. Time trials began and by three o'clock everyone had worked the bugs out and were ready to drag race. Pretty soon the smoke and the alcohol and gas fumes were filling up the starting line where everyone was having fun. The crowd was excited when the Fast Four lined up. Duane Ray of Cleveland, Missouri was first, Scott Barton of Sullivan, Missouri was second and Jim Davis of Fredericktown, Missouri was Third. In the Quick Eight, the cars and drivers tried their best to make sure their car would be crowned the top of the quick eight. Duane Ray of Cleveland, Missouri was first, Jim Davis of Fredericktown, Missouri was second, and Dave Wadlow of Mattoon, Illinois came in third. There was also the Super-pro class where Danny Estep of Royalton, Illinois was first, Dale Kelso of Murphysboro, Illinois was second, and Scott Barton of Sullivan, Missouri was third. Pro class was won by Ron Beach, Sr. of Sparta, Illinois, second went to Sharon Wilhite of Derby, Kansas, and Jeff Nichols of Lesterville, Missouri came in third. ET Class was won by

This run might just be to see who does the dishes for the next two weeks in the Tom and Sharon Wilhite household. This husband and wife team are true ambassadors of the Pontiac racing sport.

No shortage of Firebirds at this event! And, there were “early ‘Birds” everywhere.

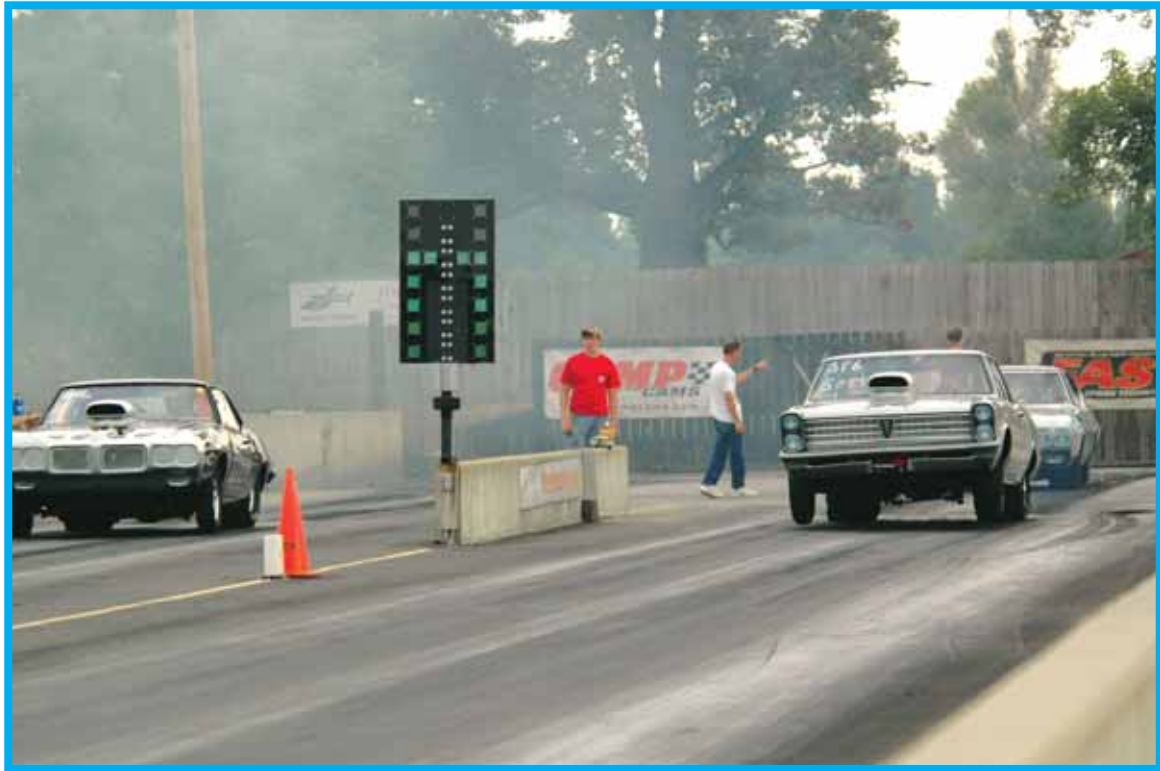
Whatever the final outcome of this run, it gets the earlier Firebird lovers blood a-pumpin’ to see a high-tech ‘Bird paying its dues to an early ‘Bird.



Daniel Pharris of Sikeston, Missouri, and Jeff Wallace of Mattoon, Illinois was second.

There was also a trophy class where drivers only ran their street cars. These were people who usually didn't race, but are just learning. The winner of the Trophy Class was Brian Jones of East Prairie, Missouri. After all the racing was done, over \$6,500 was given out in cash and prizes.

We had four teenagers



You can just feel the torque as Scott Barton of Sullivan, Missouri puts the twist on his gorgeous '65 Tempest.





Looking for some good Pontiac racing action? Just follow the car in front of you! Staging lanes were busy as anxious Pontiac racers went for the gold in over \$6,500 in cash and prizes.

in our family that took their turns down the track for the first time. Kat Steele, Brianna Denman, Ryan Steele, and James Tripp all of Fredericktown, Missouri had their day in the spotlight. Lora Cooper of Fredericktown, Missouri also raced a G5 Pontiac. Although none of these young



The pits– always a “show-within-a-show”... and never a dull moment either, as seen here in some serious scrambling around this beautiful silver Firebird.

Jeff Redhage of Sullivan, MO is always looking for a chance to “exercise” his ‘74 SD.



people won, it was an experience that will be with them forever. Kelsey Johnston and Chris McEuen, both of Fredericktown were Brianna Denman's pit crew.

This year a special treat was a 2007 G5 Pontiac that was raffled off as a way to give back to the racers through "Draw." Draw is an organization where drag racers who are injured through racing can get help. Cecil Whitaker of Dexter, Missouri was the lucky recipient.

Drag racing is a safe way to learn how to handle a car, and is a family and friend sport. It is amazing that very little drinking, bad language, and bad sportsmanship is at these events. A Third Outlaw Pontiac Racer's Association and Fabulous Firebird's Trail of Tears Rendezvous Drag Race is already in the works. This next year the race will be held Labor Day 2008. Until then we will have all the memories of this year's race. Brylon Denman, 10, of Fredericktown, Missouri summed it up when she stood near the starting line just before we left for home and said, "I just love the smell of the track". Who knows, we may just have another Ashley Force coming up.

Then it was time to go home. Trophies won and trailers loaded, a long weekend of fun was over. See ya next Labor Day!



Thirty ice-cold watermelons went fast!



WINNERS, WINNERS EVERYWHERE!

Second only to Linda Vaughn for trackside poise, was 10-year old Granddaughter of host Larry Cooper, Brylon Denman, who handled the chores of presenting the MANY trophies and awards to all the winners of the Second Annual Labor Day "Trail of Tears Pontiac Rendezvous".



From the many photos of the winners, and the number of trophies, young Brylon had quite a job, and did it very well.







CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE
PONTIAC LOVERS
WHO MADE THIS
SUCH A
GREAT EVENT!



LABOR DAY WEEKEND
Sikeston Drag Strip
Missouri

Event sponsor Larry
Cooper's "Fabulous
Firebird" was on dis-
play... this isn't your ordi-
nary 'Bird anymore.

