

Great American Car Race Blasts into Gallup

Written by Story and Photos By Tom Hartsock Sun Correspondent
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Following the Mother Road, Historic Route 66, the Great American Car Race blasted into the parking at Courthouse Square and some makeshift places on Aztec Avenue June 24 before the drivers and navigators ventured down to Sammy C's Rock 'n Sports Pub and Grille for some needed provisions after a long day on the road from Kirkwood, Missouri.

The group started with 117 old, but refurbished, classic vehicles that most of us have not laid eyes on in years. After an overnight stay in Gallup, the group will continue on to their destination, Santa Monica, California.

Along the way they will be raising funds to help in research and treatment of those afflicted with autism. About one in 62 infants born in America will contract this disorder. This group of car enthusiasts have raised several thousands of dollars to aid in this cause.

At 5 pm, the vehicles started rolling into the parking area and so did many of the locals, attracted naturally to these vehicles they grew up with, and some they had never seen.

"It's been seven or eight years since they have been in Gallup," said Mayor Jackie McKinney. "The quality of the vehicles and the people involved remains as high as ever. Their dedication to raising awareness and funds show solid support for this worthy cause. It's a great showing for the community. Props to the Chamber of Commerce Director Dave Hinkle in putting this all together. And to Sammy Chioda, a lifelong supporter of his hometown, for providing these contestants and followers a place to eat and enjoy the evening."

Spectators to the area were treated to a running monologue by a man known only as "Motormouth," as he described in detail every vehicle in this race, the drivers and the navigators, and background on everything he could think of. He was seldom quiet, which is what the audience wanted. He also mentioned the fundraising efforts of the group to help in the battle against Autism, described eloquently as "a mile at a time."

For more information on the Great American Car Race, visit [facebook.com/greatracerally](https://www.facebook.com/greatracerally) or greatrace.com.

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