

NEWSLETTER



April 2016

Greetings,

Spring, which seemed questionable only a week ago, has finally arrived. After a winter hiatus in Florida, we have returned along with the rest of the snowbirds to our home in Michigan, and are eagerly anticipating and preparing for the summer's events. In fact, I spent some serious time in the garage today getting our cars ready for the driving season.

Before you know it, it will be time for the 2016 Promo Tour, aka the "Friendship" Tour. Tour chair Rhonda Rau and her committee are working to finalize plans for the tour in June. Routes have been determined, and will feature scenic back roads instead of expressways. The tour will begin Friday morning with a breakfast buffet sponsored by Security First Credit Union at the IINN on the corner of Saginaw Street and Hemphill Road in Flint. Overnight stops will include Ypsilanti, Port Huron, East Tawas, Grayling, and West Branch. The traditional "donut stop," sponsored by Hagerty Insurance, will greet us each morning. Along the way, there will be door prizes, police escorts, auto museums, a beach party, lunch hosted by a couple of communities, and a special car show on the grounds of Camp Grayling for our men and women in uniform. Birch Run, our last overnight stop, will host the 'End of the Road' luncheon on Wednesday, June 16. This year, instead of the six large envelopes, (one for each day), you will receive a spiral bound tour booklet compiled by committee member Ralph Messer in your registration packet that will contain information about daily routes, activities, emergency numbers, and a list of participants that will also serve as a cherished memento of your tour experience.

Based on current registrations, we expect a record number of participants this year with over two hundred collector cars from all over the state of Michigan, and as far away as Tennessee. There's still time to join the tour. It's easy. Visit our website at www.backtothebricks.org, click on the events tab, then on the tour tab. You can register online via PayPal TM, or download the form and send it by mail. Information about hotels is also available on the BttB's link. There are several options at each of the overnight stops in the event "host" hotels are already booked.

Cars were built to drive, not hide in a garage afraid of a little rain. Avoid the late fee. Register today to join the fun and friendship. You will be glad you did.

CORDially,
Al Hatch, Board Chair and Founder
Back to the Bricks, Inc.

P.S. Another blast from the past. Our neighbors in Florida shared this memory. Growing up in Boston and accustomed to public transit, Janet had never driven a car, let alone a stick shift. Shortly after they were married in the early sixties, John surprised his young bride with a car of her own, a used VW from the late 50's. The learning curve that followed was both frustrating and amusing as Janet practiced letting the clutch out slowly to avoid whiplash, giving the engine just the right amount of gas, and stopping on an incline. Feeling brave, the novice driver merrily drove around the city in her "new" car until it mysteriously coasted to a stop. With no cell phone back then to summon her husband or call for assistance, she hailed a passerby who asked her if she was sure she had gas in the tank, to which she replied, "Gas? I don't even know where the tank is!" When the gentlemen opened the trunk which on a VW was in the front of the car to see if there was any gas in the tank, the first words out of her mouth were "Where is the motor? The motor is gone." Her adoring husband had never told her that she needed to put gas in the car or how to accomplish that feat. Ah, first time driving stories are great!