

2nd Annual ROA Southeastern Meet – Knoxville, TN

Our 2nd Annual Southeastern Meet was quite a memorable event. It was characterized by some beautiful cars, great people, perfect weather, and a little drama. I will start with the drama. On Wednesday 9/29/10, Steve Lariviere arrived from Michigan in his nice '68 Buick Wildcat only to



turn around and drive back. Turns out his wife was pregnant and was delivering early. His new son was born that night – Robert Vincent Lariviere. Mom and son are doing fine. The cars continued to roll into Knoxville on Thursday. We met that evening and planned our outing for Friday. At 9AM on Friday we assembled to cruise to the Muscle Car Museum and Outlet Mall in Pigeon Forge. This is about a 40 mile ride from the Hotel. I printed Mapquest instructions thinking this was the smart thing to do. It would have

been had I printed the directions to the correct Outlet Mall. I now know there is more than one in Pigeon Forge. Needless to say a few of us got separated from the others and there was a minor delay in getting everyone to Muscle Car Museum. More on this subject later as it turned



out to be an award winning mistake. After strolling through the museum, we headed back to the Outlet Mall and met up with the ladies. We had lunch at the Chop House which treated us very well. Later that evening we assembled back at the Hotel for some good old fashioned barbeque and handed out door prizes. In addition to a few of Gator's jokes we had each person who's name was drawn answer a trivia question about their Riv. With Randall Crain's

assistance, everyone got it right and walked away with some nice door prizes. It turns out Randall is a walking encyclopedia on Riviera factoids. Thanks go to Bill Mays for helping out at the last minute with some of the door prizes. We finished the evening mapping out our plan for the show on Saturday. Several folks retired to the Riviera garage under the hotel for some last minute tinkering and cleaning.





Saturday morning and it's the day of the show. The cars were staged for photos and then meticulously lined up. There were 20 in all shined up and looking good. Unfortunately we had one accident. Al Duhe got into a fender bender with his beautiful '71 Riv. We made the best of it. It was a perfect day weatherwise. In addition we had a couple of guest Rivs show up for the show. The Taber's showed up with their '96 and the Hamilton's came in their Red '66.



We assembled later that evening at the Holiday Inn for the awards Banquet and Ceremony. The meal and atmosphere was first class. Bill Mays was the featured speaker and eloquently described the story of how he and Dottie turned their lives around from hard times to success through perseverance and hard work. Then it was time for the awards (after another side splitter from Gator of course).

Award Winners:

Best of Show – Randall Crain 1999 Silver Arrow



Judges Choice – Al Duhe 1971 Boat tail



1963 – 1970 First Place: Milton Kaylor –Beige '63



Second Place: Eddie Gray in his '65

1971-1978 First Place: Richard Hill in his '71



1979 – 1993 First Place: Barbara Pilkinton in her '92



1995 – 1999 First Place: Dan Gunter in his '95



Custom Modified First Place: Ray Rapuano in his '64



Long Distance Award Winner: Jim Taylor



Navigator of the Year Award:
Larry Lovell

Winners Circle: Travis Holcomb, Larry Lovell, and Wayne Pilkenton



The evening concluded and everyone made their way back home. From the feedback I think everyone had a good time. Putting on an event such as this doesn't happen without a lot of hard work by a lot of folks. Thanks go to everyone who had a hand in making this a success. Keith Felderman for his energy and the tee shirts. Randall Crain for his logo design, awards, and most of all his voice of reason. Bill Mays, Bob Wanall, Mark Crittenden, and Bob Brumbaugh "the Florida coordinators" for the goodie bag and door prizes. Andy Anderson for helping with the awards. Gator Sedwick for the comic relief. My wife Marie for helping with food and last minute logistics. Bonnie Hall the Director of Sales at the Holiday Inn who provided us with a great venue for the meet. Most of all thanks go to the folks who attended the meet. Without whom we would not have a meet. You quickly learn that the only thing cooler than the Riviera's is the people who own them.

This was our second annual Southeastern ROA Meet and we are already in the exploratory stages for next year's event.

Larry Lovell

TN Regional Coordinator