

'Great Race' Road Rally Ends on a Hot Sunday at The Henry Ford

By Gerald Scott

The Great Race sure had a Great Finish.

That's because the 2012 Great Race, a road rally that began in Traverse City in late June, circled the Great Lakes region before a spectacular finish at The Henry Ford in Dearborn.

An estimated 7,000 people were on hand to greet the finishers on a hot, sultry Sunday afternoon of July 1.

The Great Race began June 23 in Traverse City and ended 9 days later in dramatic fashion, with each car crossing a finish line set up at the circle entrance of the Henry Ford Museum.

Jeff Stumb, director of the Great Race, had some observations.

"Today's the grand finish of the Great Race, we've been 2,300 miles, started in Traverse City, Mich., and it went up through Canada. We spent 3.5 days in Ontario, actually snuck into Quebec for a couple hours, back in the U.S. in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and here we are in Dearborn for the finish," Stumb said.

The Great Racers also spent a good half-day or more in downtown Ypsilanti where they were feted by the public, all prior to the grand ending.

"We started nine days ago in Traverse City with 91 cars, we've lost about a dozen along the way: two (drivers) got sick, one got in a crash, the others broke down and couldn't continue.

"So we had 79 cars that started today in Findlay, Ohio, and we ate lunch in Ypsilanti and they'll all cross the finish line at 3 p.m. (Sunday)."

Stumb further touted the eclectic mix of cars among those 91 original entries.

"We do have 1957 Chevrolets that you'd see at a nice car show, but we've got cars, rarely seen at any car show," he added.

"We've got a 1907 Renault, four 1916 Hudsons, we've got a 1916 Studebaker, an Indianapolis race car, a 1916 Packard Twin-Six that was at its birthplace in Warren, Ohio,



The winning team in the Great Race arrived at the finish line in Dearborn in a 1935 Ford coupe. Some 42 percent of all the cars competing in the 2012 Great Race were Ford vehicles.



Participants in the 2012 Great Race queue up to cross the finish line at The Henry Ford in Dearborn last week. They were racing the clock and not geography, the first finish-line crosser didn't necessarily win.

a couple days ago. We've got a 1917 Peerless. "Cars from the teens and '20s, it's not much more than riding a buckboard (with an engine).

"Which is why they get a handicap in this - it's much easier to do in a 1969 Camaro than it would be in a 1916 Hudson. Head to head, the



The scene as participants in the 2012 Great Race come to the end of their nine-day run.

older cars get a bit of a handicap (in scoring)."

That is to say, competitors race against the clock as much as each other, such that the first car across the finish line in Dearborn on July 1 was not the Grand Event Champion.

That designation went to a husband-and-wife driving team from Texas - Barry and Irene Jason, serving as driver and navigator and were the eventual 2012 winners. They won the overall race in their 1935 Ford sedan; in fact, some 42 percent of all entries were Ford vehicles, so one supposes that having the finish line at The Henry Ford was a natu-

ral for this particular race.

"They do have to cross the finish line to be the official winner," Stumb pointed out.

"It's a rally against the clock, we go out to measure the course, we set times between street signs so we can tell them what speed to go between the signs and map out the course that way.

"It's actually a race against the clock, the clock is perfect. Each car goes out and tries to match that as perfectly as they can, they're penalized 1 second for every second they are early, or late.

"The lowest score wins. You could start in 37th place (and

still win), the winner could be the first car, the 40th car or the 79th car (depending on its timing score)."

The Great Race is now in its 30th year, having started back in 1983, when they went from Los Angeles cross-country to the Indy 500.

The race starts these days in Traverse City because it's the hometown of Hagerty Insurance, a classic cruise car insurer and one of the title sponsors of the event. Note that the 2013 Great Race will kick off at the "Back to the 1950s" event in St. Paul, Minn., where an estimated 100,000 people will attend.

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2014 Impala Comes Loaded With Safety

DETROIT - The all-new 2014 Chevrolet Impala is the latest addition to Chevrolet's passenger car lineup and provides first-ever safety technologies for the global brand.

Unveiled earlier this year at the New York Auto Show, the Impala leads the full-size segment with 10 standard air bags and boasts numerous active safety systems.

While passive safety systems, such as air bags and seat belts, protect occupants in the event of a crash, active safety systems are designed to prevent a crash in the first place through the use of sounds, visual warnings and automated actions.

Here are the active safety features on the 2014 Impala designed to help drivers avoid crashes:

- Full-speed-range adaptive cruise control - Radar technology senses ahead and adjusts the Impala's speed from a complete stop to full acceleration. It is the first application in a Chevrolet.
- Collision mitigation braking - Another Chevy first: Radar technology detects a possible crash threat and alerts the driver.

- Forward collision alert - Camera technology detects a possible crash threat and alerts the driver visually and audibly, giving him or her time to stop and/or change course.

- Lane departure warning - A camera-based lane-detection system identifies traffic lane markings and provides audible alerts in cases of unintended lane changes.
- Side blind zone alert - Using radar sensors on both sides of the vehicle, the system "looks" for other vehicles in the blind zone areas of the Impala and indicates their presence with LED-lit symbols in the outside mirrors.

- Rear cross traffic alert - Based on the radar sensors of side blind zone alert, it warns the driver of vehicles in traffic when backing out of a parking spot - including angled parking. Visual and audible alerts are triggered if moving vehicles are detected.

- Rear vision camera with dynamic guidelines - With a display in the center stack in-

and a specially trained advisor is connected to the vehicle. If the driver requests help or can't answer, emergency responders are sent to the precise GPS location.

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- Hill hold/start assist - On hills, applies the brakes for about 1.5 seconds to prevent the car from rolling when the driver moves his or her foot from the brake to the accelerator pedal.

- The all-new Impala will arrive in Chevrolet showrooms in early 2013.

Family Fights Over Shelby's Body

DALLAS (AP) - The body of automobile designer Carroll Shelby could remain in a Dallas morgue for another month while his children and his wife fight in court.

A Dallas judge last week scheduled a July 26 trial to decide the claims made by both sides.

Shelby's three children say their father signed paperwork weeks before his May death giving them authority to cremate his remains and distribute them.

Shelby's last wife, Cleo, contends that paperwork was forged. She wants to decide what to do with his remains.

Judge Jim Jordan said last week he would decide at trial unless a settlement is reached beforehand.

Shelby, a Texas native who also lived in Los Angeles, was a champion race car driver who built powerful engines for Ford's Mustang and Chrysler's Viper.

He died earlier this year at the age of 89.