

Smoky Lake Pumpkin Festival Run



Saturday, October 5th started cool, wet and grey. Nonetheless, four intrepid drivers rendezvoused before the crack of dawn at the A&W on Wye Road in Sherwood Park for the run to Smoky Lake for the **31st Great White North Pumpkin Weigh-Off and Fair**. Jonathan Smethurst and his Firebird led the group, with Matt McCarthy in his 'B', Dave Kraatz in his P1800S and Rolly Burton in his (red) Spit.



Heading out 8am we took a scenic drive through the counties of Strathcona, Lamont, and Smoky Lake. The weather was cool and drizzly. And, Rolly of course, had the top down. Arriving before 10 we took our spot on the main drag in Smoky Lake for the Show & Shine. There were 198 cars registered, a lot of Hot Rods and Detroit Iron. Cars were registered by type or decade. Jonathan registered for the 90s, the rest of us as "Imports".

After a pancake breakfast we wandered around town looking at the cars. There were some beauties including a '59 Vette. Of course there were also pumpkins. I wandered over (okay, took a bus) to the town arena to catch the weigh-off. There were probably over a thousand spectators watching them weigh gourds, squash and pumpkins, each one larger than before. The biggest were moved by forklift. The winner (heaviest) pumpkin was 1,474.5 pounds, about as much as Rolly's Spitfire!

At the end of the day they were going to drop the pumpkins on an old mini-van. Did not stick around to see. They also had a small Midway, Farmer's Market and Entertainment. Back at the Show & Shine all registered car owners voted on vehicles. The sun finally poked its head out, though it did not get any warmer. Two of our club members won 2nd prize in their respective groupings. Rolly, for his red Spitfire for Imports, and Jonathan for his red Firebird for the '90s. I don't know if Rolly ever won anything for his old yellow Spit, maybe now that the red Spit has now won, he will take a shine to it.

After the Awards we headed home. A nice run, even though the weather could have been nicer; at least it didn't rain when we were in Smoky Lake. And, I always wanted to see the Smoky Lake Pumpkin Weigh-Off.

David Kraatz

