

Hillclimb Report 2009

It was a long time in the making. After two years of thinking, researching, planning, cancellation due to rain, regrouping, researching for a new place, re-planning, the first Southwest Hillclimb finally came to be.

Contestants began to gather Friday afternoon November 14 in Mineola, Texas. They came from as far away as Victoria, Texas and Greenville, Tennessee. Thirteen of us met at East Texas Burger Company for supper Friday night, munching out on some of Texas's best burgers and official Texas fried catfish. Uhm mmm good. Plus we had plenty of tire kicking and Model A talk – some of it- true some of it – well, lets say stretched.

Saturday morning began with the usual. Blocking of the street, setting up tables and the electronic gizmo, running cable for 528 ft. and showing the newbies how to run and record times. So far so good and we are off for the first trial run. Oops the electronic gizmo doesn't work right. Thanks to our resident electronic guru, Ron Kelley, we corrected all the loose connections and tried again. Oops, another problem. This time we discovered that the sun was looking at the lasers the wrong way. Sometimes sun is not a good thing. That problem solved and now off to another start. This time everything worked right and everyone is having a good time.

Thirteen contestants in eleven different cars got their chance with at least three practice runs, at which time the decision was made to skip lunch and go for the real thing – official timed runs with each car/driver getting two shots at his or her best time.

Sarah Kelley in her awesome stock Tudor was the only lady to run. Bud Calicutt ran in his newly restored stock roadster. Ron Kelley, Nate Romminger and Marty Thompson took turns in a white AA truck, an almost finished speedster and Ron's rusty stock roadster pickup. Harris Lege made one run in his modified Fordor and broke a banjo housing which ended his running. Hard Luck Award goes out to Harris. Doc Fletcher ran in his vintage white speedster with a fantastic OHV engine. Willie Sanders ran in his pretty sunshine yellow flathead speedster. Ken Miller ran in his pretty yellow flathead speedster. Ken Parker ran the practice runs with his eleven year old granddaughter and car owner, Elizabeth, acting as navigator. In her words "that was awesome". The speedster is named the Miss E. Due to electrical problems the Miss E did not do too well in the official time runs.

Doc Fletcher took King of the Hill in the Historic and the Speedster OHV class. Marty Thompson took King in the Stock Class in the rusty rattley Roadster Pickup. Mike Kelley took King in the Modified OHV Class in the AA Truck. Nate Rominger took King in the Speedster Flathead Class as well as the overall KING OF THE HILL in the almost finished Speedster. Nate now has the bighead and will have to borrow a larger helmet for his next run.

And then there were the great people who did not compete on the course but assisted with the timekeeping, traffic control, tire chocker and signalman, recorder, setup and take down and all the other little chores that are required. Thanks to the Cedar Creek Model A Ford Club and the Autumn Trails Model A Ford Club for all this help. Special thanks to CCMAFC for the use of their web site – www.cedarcreekas.org.

The event was finished with a late lunch at the Ranchero Restaurant in Mineola with twenty five Model A'er gathered to reminisce and plan for the next event. Door prizes of two T Shirts were awarded to Marty and Ron and two one year subscriptions were given to a couple of newbies in the hobby, John Icenhower and Joe Creecy. Looking forward to next year and an even greater Southwest Hillclimb. Stay in touch Ya'll.

And before I sign off I want to give special thanks to two very great people who would not let me give up on this project. Bud Calicutt was always there with help, inspiration and encouragement and Nate Rominger with his youthful energy and enthusiasm. Thank you, guys.

Ken Parker

(Photos by Bob Beck of CCMAFC)

SOUTHWEST SPEEDSTER HILLCLIMB 2009				
TIMES AND SPEEDS		FINAL RECORDED RUNS		
Registration #	Driver Name	Car #	Best Time	Speed
STOCK				
9	Sarah Kelley	9	13.62	0
10	Bud Calicutt	10	15.16	0
8	Michael Kelley	91	11.5	0
MODIFIED				
12	Harris Lege	12		0
8	Ron Kelley	AA	12.71	0
14	Mike Kelley	AA	13.16	0
SPEEDSTER				
13	Marty Thompson	17	9.03	0
5	Doc Fletcher	5	10	0
2	Ken Parker	16	11.44	0
11	Ken Miller	11	10.18	0
4	Willie Sanders	4	10.56	0
1	Nate Rominger	17	8.81	0
HISTORIC				
6	Doc Fletcher	6	9.84	0