



Welcome, Race Fans
April 7, 2010

Welcome, Eric Jones



Eric Jones



- Born: Flint, MI (1945)
- Part-time Villages Resident (Hadley)
- Married to Peggy (2 daughters, 1 son)
- Attended Mott College, Flint
- Career: GM-Buick City (30 yrs.)
- Retired – 1994
- Hobbies – Marathons
 - Competed in 50+
 - Boston Marathon – 12 times
- Greatest Racing Achievement
 - Had a lot of fun!
 - Did achieve runner-up position in a bracket race at Central Michigan
- Went to first drag race – 1959
- First competed - 1962
- These days...
 - ...”just an old guy playing with toys!!!

Eric's Current Main Toy



- 1994 Rear Engine Dragster (1750 lbs.)
- 225 Inch wheelbase
- Rack & pinion steering
- Front tires – Mickey Thompson 22x2.5x17
- Rear tires – Mickey Thompson 33.5x16.5x16
- Rear end – Ford 9 inch (4:10 gear ratio)
- Transmission – Chevy Powerglide (1:80 gear set)
- Engine - 555 cu. in. (about 775 hp), aluminum heads & intake
- Carburetor – 1400 CFM, single 4 barrel
- ¼ mile = under 8 seconds, 175 mph
- ⅛ mile = under 5 seconds, 137 mph

Eric's "Other Toy"



1931 Ford Street Rod

Eric in the news...

A Flint did not have enough homes for the workers who came to work at Buick during its rapid early expansion, so the workers built shacks near the factories.

Mystery of dragster adds spice

On the cruisin' scene:
 • A guy drove a rail dragster down S. Saginaw Street during the "Back to the Bricks" cruise Aug. 20, and organizers don't know who it was.
 Call or e-mail if you know his secret identity. Inquiring cruisers want to know (the engine sounded great).
 • Cruise nights have tried some new ideas to drum up interest.
 On Sundays at Lefty's Steakhouse near Owosso, awards include one voted by left-handed people and one chosen by right-handed people.

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Here's another idea: The Davison cruise holds a drawing each week for car exhibitors, and the winner Friday night was to get the choice of an engine hoist or an engine stand. This not-chosen item will be a prize this Friday.

The Shop's/Magic's cruise Tuesday will give away an engine hoist in a driver's drawing.

Are there fewer cars at shows and cruises this year? Some have said participation is down and have various theories to explain it.

I think the main reason is weather. It's been hot and muggy, and it's not as much fun to go to a cruise or show when it's 95 degrees and you're on a parking lot.

Look at the Davison cruise, which has been drawing good numbers. The buildings in downtown Davison supply shade, so it's not quite so hot.

Numbers at the Flushing cruise have been good this year, too, and that one goes later into the evening than some other cruises.

Gas prices might be playing some role.

I suspect this is more of an issue with distant events than local cruises.

The spike in gas prices might cost you an extra 50 cents or a buck to drive to a cruise in the area, and I don't think that's enough to make most cruisers stay home.

But if you were planning a trip to, say, St. Ignace, depending on how good your mileage is, an extra 50 cents per gallon of gas will easily add up to 10 or 20 bucks.

I don't think that's enough to influence a lot of people, but it might affect some.

Are there too many car events?

This could be part of the reason participation seems down at some local cruises. If there are four or five cruises on the same night in this area, that will affect how many cars show up to each one.

A drag racer drove up and down S. Saginaw Street during the recent "Back to the Bricks" cruise in downtown Flint. Who was it?

But this happens every year and tends to sort itself out, as smaller cruises are canceled or die off from lack of participation.

There are a lot of car shows — The Journal's twice-weekly Wheels Calendar has been full for months, so often there are several the same day.

There are lots of car events, but certainly no many.

Flint Journal, 9/4/2005

More of Eric in the news...



Eric Jones – Big Trouble!



Eric Jones – Hitting the Downtown Bricks



Another shot on the bricks



Eric and his 2010 Pit Crew



Eric Jones and his new pit crew!