



America's Car Museum Preps Cool Cars for Winter Chill

The Drive Home road rally braces for intense weather as the vintage cars hit the road on a 2,400-mile cross-country journey from Dec. 27 to Jan. 8, 2016

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TACOMA, Wash. (Nov. 4, 2015) – America's Car Museum (ACM) is preparing three vintage cars for extreme winter weather expected on a 13-day road rally beginning late December called "The Drive Home." The cross-country trek will highlight America's love affair with the car, promote pride in the American automotive heritage and celebrate Detroit as the spiritual home of the American auto industry.

Three of the Museum's cars – a 1957 Chevrolet Nomad, 1961 Chrysler 300G and 1966 Ford Mustang – are being thoroughly recommissioned by the ACM Collections Department, which was tasked with ensuring that the cars could safely complete the 2,400-mile trip from Tacoma, Wash. to Detroit from Dec. 27 to Jan. 8, 2016.

"These cars previously received some form of restoration from their prior owners but then spent many years off the road," said ACM Collections Manager, Renee Crist. "So we took the planned route, terrain and the time of year into consideration when developing a comprehensive work plan for each vehicle, going as far as rebuilding the brakes, steering and suspension of the Nomad to ensure that we could safely make it to Detroit for the opening of the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS)."

The Museum employed two recent apprentices from the Hagerty Education Program at America's Car Museum (HEP) – an education initiative to provide young adults with hands-on experience in automotive restoration – to assist Crist in rebuilding or replacing all brake system components, wheel and axle bearings and steering parts, as well as checking electrical system components, suspension bushings and shocks.

"It's easy to forget just how far automotive technology and safety have come – for example our youngest car, the '66 Mustang, was sold in the first year of federally mandated safety standards. So despite minimal external changes from earlier Mustangs, it featured standard safety equipment including front and rear seat belts, emergency flashers and windshield washers," added Crist. "Taking this into consideration, each car was meticulously examined."

ACM is planning stops in major cities every day of The Drive Home and inviting car clubs and enthusiasts to join along the way. Destinations include: Portland and Bend, Ore.; Boise, Idaho; Salt Lake City, Utah; Lakewood, Colo.; Kansas City and St. Louis, Mo.; Bloomington and Chicago, Ill.; and a final celebration in Detroit in conjunction with the NAIAS.

"Renée and her team have done a terrific job in bringing these cars up to speed," said ACM CEO David Madeira. "With support from terrific sponsors including NAIAS, State Farm, Hagerty and Michelin we're able to share the stories of these incredible vehicles with people across the country

and able to promote HEP. The program trains young people to enter the preservation and restoration industry, which is severely in need of a new generation of skilled artisans.”

For more information on The Drive Home, visit americascarmuseum.org/TheDriveHome.

About The Drive Home

The Drive Home, a 2,400-mile road trip from Tacoma, Wash. to Detroit, Mich., celebrates an era when the “Motor City” was the automotive center of the world. America’s Car Museum (ACM) is touring the country in three stunning red vintage cars from the “Big 3” U.S. manufacturers: a 1957 Chevrolet Nomad, a 1961 Chrysler 300G and a 1966 Mustang. From December 27 to January 8, ACM will take on snow and ice during the 13-day pilgrimage back to the cars’ place of origin, making pit stops for auto-themed events and rallies along the way.

Destinations along The Drive Home include Tacoma, Wash.; Portland and Bend, Ore.; Boise, Idaho; Salt Lake City, Utah; Grand Junction and Lakewood, Colo.; Hays, Kan.; Kansas City and St. Louis, Mo.; Bloomington and Chicago, Ill.; and a final celebration in Detroit in conjunction with the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS). Sponsors for The Drive Home include NAIAS, State Farm, Michelin and Hagerty.

About LeMay – America’s Car Museum (americascarmuseum.org)

America’s Car Museum (ACM), named one of *USA Today’s* 10 Best Museums in Seattle and KING 5’s 2014 Best Museum in Western Washington, is an international destination where families and enthusiasts gather to celebrate America’s love affair with the automobile and how it shaped our society. The stunning, four-level, 165,000-sq.-ft. Tacoma, Wash., facility features 12 rotating exhibits, five annual Signature Events and serves as an educational center, hosting students of all ages. For more information on ACM, visit americascarmuseum.org.



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