

US Route 6 Classic Car Tour 2012

Written by David Darby

Wednesday, 05 September 2012 15:26

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Davenport, Iowa – September 2012 – Classic car and hot rod owners, get your motor running and head out on the highway.

Highway 6, that is. Over the weekend of September 7th – 9th, the Iowa division of the US Route 6 Tourist Association is teaming up with Fourth Wall Films to sponsor a classic car ride across Iowa along old Route 6. The trip will be included in a shoot for an upcoming documentary film about the scenic and historic attractions along US Route 6 in Iowa.

The ride begins from the east in Davenport, Iowa, with drivers meeting at 10 AM on Friday the 7th at the corner of 2nd and Iowa streets in Davenport. Drivers are invited to join for all or part of the cruise as they travel west along Route 6, stopping at various localities. Lodging, with special Route 6 tour rates to be announced.

Those wishing to join for the western half of the cruise can either meet Friday night at the drive in, or Saturday morning for breakfast at the Mid Town (Old Maytag) Cafe in Newton, Iowa from 8:30 to 9:30 AM, with cars leaving the square at 9:30 AM.

The itinerary is still being developed but will include stops at:

Friday:

- Choice of The Wilton Candy Kitchen, world's oldest ice cream soda fountain - Wilton or brunch at the delicious Hill of Beans Bistro in Durant.
- Happy Hour at the Ladora Bank Bistro - Ladora.
- Dinner at the Carnforth Inn – Victor
- Valle Drive-In, Iowa's oldest drive-in movie theater - Newton. (Drivers from the western half are welcome to join us for the movie as well.)

Saturday:

- Breakfast at the Mid Town Café – Newton

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- Tony's Classic Cars, T-Bird restoration HQ – Des Moines.
- Bonnie & Clyde historical site, and Drew's Chocolates - Dexter.
- Bonnie & Clyde bank robbery site - Stuart
- Lunch at the Menlo Café – Menlo
- Jesse James Train robbery site – Adair
- Dinner at the Wiota Steakhouse – Wiota

Sunday

- Breakfast at the Weather Vane Café - Anita
- Lunch at George's Chili King - Des Moines

Fourth Wall Films is also interested in classic cars willing to be “camera cars” to help set up film shots along the way. Drivers interested in the trip or film may contact Iowa Route 6 Executive director Dave Darby at (563) 499-8211, or through email at dwdarby@aol.com.

Additional Information about the Movie and the Iowa Route 6 Tourist Association

Tentatively called “River to River: Iowa’s Forgotten Highway 6,” the Route 6 film’s mission is to educate the public about the history and original route of Highway 6, and to increase awareness, traffic, and commerce in the towns along its path.

“We want to encourage people to leave the interstate and head out on the old two lane highway, to leave the rat race of today’s world and to stop and smell the roses,” says Iowa Route 6 Tourist Association Executive Director David Darby. “Not only is it more enjoyable, but it benefits the local economy.”

Darby, as director of the non-profit organization, is working to encourage state and local government to place historical signage designating Route 6 roads; preserve historical buildings, bridges, and alignments along Route 6; and to encourage co-operation of communities along the highway to hold festivals, concerts, car shows, and more to boost tourism and traffic to local businesses. Recently, Historic Route 6 markers were placed on the 29 mile stretch between Davenport and Wilton Iowa.

A firm believer in buying local, Darby says “When you go to a chain restaurant, the experience is soon forgotten. But when you go to a mom and pop establishment, you can make friends, capture some history, and take with you memories that last a lifetime while the money stays within the community.”

Fourth Wall Films, out of Moline, IL, is owned by award-winning documentary filmmakers Tammy and Kelly Rundle. Having received acclaim for their previous films, including “Villisca: Living with a Mystery,” “Lost Nation: the loway,” and “Country School: One Room, One Nation,” “River To River Road” is slated to be released in late 2013.

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The movie is the first step however; once the film is complete, Darby plans on publishing a book he's authored called "From River to River: Your Guide to the Original Highway 6" to further encourage drivers to use Route 6 over the interstate for their travels.

"In such an impersonal world, it is a joy to take off on an adventure along the heartland of America, and breathe in exactly what America was built on," Darby says. "Instead of a flat, straight pair of lanes interrupted by only green signs and overpasses, the rolling fields and curving roads undulate under your wheels in between the small towns that are filled with friendly people."

David W. Darby,
Executive Director
Iowa Route 6 Tourist Association
dwdarby@aol.com
2004 Belle Ave.
Davenport, Iowa 52803
Phone:(563) 499-8211