

CRUISE THE ROCKIES IV

Every event's name should be a good indication of what you'll be doing if you attend, one would hope. Some leave you guessing a bit, but for the most part it's people driving in from all over the country to congregate; taking time off from the daily grind of home life to spend time together, sharing their common love of the PT Cruiser. Cruise The Rockies is a little different in the fact that the name alone makes it very clear what you'll be doing: Cruising the Rockies. Now, some of you may have the wrong idea about this gathering. I've often heard some of you say that it didn't make sense to drive from so far away to attend an event where you would just be driving more. Where's the relaxation in that? Well, maybe my thoughts on it are different since this was my first time ever visiting the state of Colorado.

I'll start off making it as clear as possible for those who did not attend — you missed out! Cruise The Rockies had all of the elements that any good PT show has to offer. Naturally, you had your wide array of PTs, from the heavily modified to the untouched. Individuals and families alike from 26 states gathered together to browse over the assortment as they were treated to an exceptional Friday evening barbeque buffet provided by Flower Motors out of Montrose, while a live broadcast was being conducted on the spot by 94 KDX, Colorado Country.

If you were one to follow the crowd then you inevitably found yourself at the Cruiser Motorsports tent, quite possibly drooling over the amazing line of products they had packed and trailered all the way from California. And what PT event is complete without an appearance by Milwaukee, Oregon's own Mike Creevan? Career Cruiser Jim Ingram from Long Beach, CA was there as well, but without his notorious "One Hell of a PT" as it was in the shop receiving an artistic overhaul. Gotta give it up to Jim for still making the trek regardless just to spend some time with friends and make a few new ones too. Perhaps the most pleasing thought was the fact that Ron Duez, after his PT had been wrecked just prior to CTR4 by a hit-and-run, managed to attend the event by way of a PT loaned to him for free by Pro Chrysler out of Northglenn, CO. Now that's customer service!

First on the agenda for Saturday morning was the namesake of the event, the Cruise through the Rockies, beginning at the parking lot of Russell Stover's Chocolates in Montrose. Thanks

to a little help from the local law enforcement by way of traffic control, the gang all exited the town of Montrose to begin a drive of several hours that would take us through Ridgeway and the quaint little town of Ouray, which is the gateway to the mountain roads of the Rockies. I was fortunate enough to be in the lead car with Steve and Vickie Coder as we made our way along the cliffside roads that provided me with a stunning view of the mountainous terrain. Now naturally all who participate in this drive do so with extreme caution as some of the roads have you mere inches away from drops that went down for thousands of feet, and through areas where falling rocks are not rare occurrences. Call it "PT Survivor" if you will. My first exposure to an avalanche shed gave me a newfound respect for those who drive these lanes as part of their daily commute, seemingly tempting their own fate on the days when the weather

is less than favorable. Some of those who participated (mainly myself) weren't quite prepared for the thin air due to the higher elevation, but we were assured right from the get-go that the natives were sure to carry oxygen in their cars just in case any "flatlanders," as we were so affectionately called, needed a little assistance in the breathing department.

Our journey then led us into the historic town of Durango where everyone stopped to eat and sight-see a bit before gassing up to head back to Montrose. However, not all took the same route back. This portion of the drive took us into Telluride, which the locals will tell you is well on its way to becoming the next Aspen with its high-dollar real estate and shopping. The sun was shining and smiles were visibly present on the faces of the townspeople as they watched our PT parade come through their quiet little corner of Colorado. Several in our group even stopped for a while to enjoy the fine shopping and dining in Telluride. The town seemed to have a little bit of everything for everyone. Within a short walk of one another you could find fine Asian cuisine (Tellurice), a lovely little clock store (Tellurtime) and even a motorcycle shop (Helluride). Of course, it didn't end there but if you want more you'll just have to visit for yourself.

The planning and preparation that goes into Cruise The Rockies is both intense and thorough. The duties associated with the annual event are dealt out accordingly by the club that hosts it, the Colorado PT Cruiser Club. Vickie Coder and Jack Smith run this well-oiled machine with an efficiency that other



groups could benefit from. They, along with co-coordinating officers Neil and Anne Weekley, started putting the pieces together for next year's gala before this year's had even become a memory, all the while putting 110% into the event at hand. Credit must also be given to Retriever Air Freight out of Grand Junction for making sure that all of the goods for Cruise The Rockies made their way from Denver to Montrose, and right into those lovely goody bags that the registrants received. With beautifully designed window flags and t-shirts being proudly displayed, it's no wonder that the Colorado Cruiser Club is praised for its commitment to sending everyone home with a smile of satisfaction.

Every PT enthusiast gathering seems to have a cause greater than just getting together for a good time. Everyone genuinely gets into the spirit of giving back, which is what tends to set the PT community apart from other car clubs. The Colorado PT Cruiser Club puts a lot of emphasis on raising money for local charities, and only those charities that intend to use that money wisely. A 50/50 raffle was held during the weekend that raised money for three separate organizations. Money was donated to U.S. Troops Overseas – Operation Sweet Tooth, which is run through KKYK radio out of Montrose — and to the Homeless

Veterans Stand-down organization. Food also ended up being donated to the Jeffco Action Center for the underprivileged.

A weekend in Montrose, Colorado was, for me, just what the doctor ordered. The scenery and clean air are only second to the wonderful treatment I received from the Colorado PT Cruiser Club and everyone else that banded together to make the weekend a success. At just under 200 cars attending it may not have been the biggest event but it easily ranks right up there as one of the best, and with any luck at all it'll end up one of the biggest before long. The buzz has been around since Cruise The Rockies' inception, and it continues to grow. With its 4th year now behind it, Cruise The Rockies, much like the popularity of the PT itself, is showing no signs of slowing down. After all, the PT gatherings are in various locations for the purpose of bringing PT enthusiasts from all over together to appreciate the wonderful scenery that this great land of our has to offer, right? Well, Cruise The Rockies defines that purpose. So what are you waiting for? Start planning your trip now. As much as they do already, the staff of the Colorado PT Cruiser Club can't be expected to do everything for you, now can they?

— *By Dave Garcia, photo by member of the Colorado PT Cruiser Club* ○

CRUISE THE ROCKIES V—ANNIVERSARY EDITION

August 12th–14th, 2005

We're cruising back to where we started. We are doing a 5th Anniversary cruise on Saturday over the highest paved road in the United States... Trail Ridge Road

This year's Cruise The Rockies event will be based in the community of Longmont, Colorado, located just North of Denver and at the foot of the Colorado Rockies. Planned activities to include downtown show & shine, parade, night glo and show, barbeque in the park, and mutiple cruises on Trail Ridge Road, Peak to Peak Highway, Longs Peak and more. All of the information will be listed on the Colorado PT Cruiser Club web site at <http://co.ptcruiserclub.org/colorado>. Make plans now to attend one of the best cruiser events in the USA.

