



## 2017 GREAT RACE

### Following ARC Along the Way!



#### Leaving Arizona DAY 1

It is Monday morning June 19th. While most are still in bed, four hearty souls are heading east out of Maricopa County, AZ, heading for the start of the Great Race in Jacksonville, Florida. The race team this year will be two rookies with high ambitions, with close friends as their support team right by their side. It will take a couple of long days on the road to pull the 1936 Packard across the country in the new 24 foot custom trailer pulled behind a new Ford pick up.

The driver in the 2017 Great Race will be Stu Searing, a friend to many ARC Members and a participant in several of our ARC events. Navigator duties will be handled by the very capable Gary Mazak, ARC member and the Chairman of the 2018 SCW CAR SHOW. They have spent the last few months working on the car getting it ready for the 2500 mile journey it will embark on once they get to Jacksonville. Besides car preparations, an event like this takes enormous teamwork between the driver and the navigator. The Great Race is NOT all about speed. It is mostly an endurance test of mankind and machine. Both must perform well!

Here is what a typical day can look like (but there are no typical days). Most race days start between 7 and 8 AM. Each team (car) draws a number the previous day to establish the next days starting order. Let's say you draw number "31," and the starting time was 7:00AM. Cars leave the starting point each morning and are in one minute intervals. You would start the race at 7:31AM.

During the Great Race you cannot use any maps, any navigation equipment, GPS, or your cell phone...Nope! One half hour before your starting time (7:31AM), the navigator will receive the "Course Instructions" for the day. (7:01AM) Quickly he will try to figure out where you are going and get a plan for the day. IT IS NOT EASY! You know where you are going to have lunch and where you are going to spend the night. You have NO IDEA how you will get there. You will follow the very crude and sometimes cruel *Course Instructions*. Along the way you will encounter 3 to 8 check points. The key is making it to the check points at the precise time that has been electronically calculated for a perfect time score. Each time you pass a check point you start a new race! A normal day is 8-10 hours!

Assisting Stu and Gary will be Great Race veterans Tom and Suzanne (Sparky) Jones. They have helped many others make their way across the continent. They will also be crewing for friends Tim and Marlene Mangan. Be sure to follow our team along as they leave Jacksonville on Saturday morning and hopefully arrive in Traverse City, Michigan nine days later.

If you do not want to receive a daily briefing please let me know. Herb Clark  
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