

GoF West Gazette

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CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Greetings to all of you GoF'ers!

I just want to bring you up to date on what is happening with the GoF west, inc. organization, the GoF West Steering Committee, and what the future will bring for future GoF West events.

I hope you have read the latest GoF West Gazette and are excited about what is in store for you at the 2018 event to be held at Lake Tahoe. Tom Doyle and Andy Killian have been working hard with the Reno British Car Club to bring you what is shaping up to be a really good event with many added attractions. If you haven't read the Gazette, you can find it at our web site at GoFwest.org. Please be sure to register soon for this event and register at the hotel. The web site has the registration form and all of the instructions about how to register on line.

You, as an individual, may not realize how hard it has become over the past several years to find clubs or people that would like to host a GoF West event. And you may have been in the background and not paid attention to the details of the event and have the idea that these really super events just happen by magic. Well, nothing could be further from the truth.

I'm sure that you know that the administrative activities of GoF West, Inc., are overseen by a Steering Committee (SC). This committee meets, either in person or via a teleconference, usually 3-4 times each year. The main activity of the committee is to make certain that there is an event planned for the

next year or two, and that there are people (or clubs) that are willing and able to conduct the event. In years past, it was a relatively easy job to find a club that was willing to take on such a task. In recent years, however, due to the demise or downsizing of many of the MG clubs, it has become harder to find such a club or group of people. If you take a good look at some of the events held over the past 8-10 years, you will find that they were organized by members of the Steering Committee, with help solicited from local clubs or individuals. That is where we find ourselves today; no club has stepped up to the plate saying they would be willing to host the next event or two.

Another dilemma that is a direct result of not having a volunteer club is deciding where the next event or two should be held. The Steering Committee has these never ending discussions: "We did one up there only two years ago, so we should have the next one down here.", or "Should we find a club first and let them pick the venue, or should we pick a venue, then find a club in that area that would be willing to do it?" or "We can't do it there in June or July; it will be too hot!!" You can see that choosing where to have the next event or two has not been an easy decision unless a club or a group of people step up to the plate.

Several years ago, it was suggested that the areas or venues for a GoF west event be done on a rotational basis. That is, next year should be in area A, the following year in area B, etc., for 3-4-5 years, then return to area A. This idea was resurrected this

past fall, and the Steering Committee has decided to do just that. Andy Killian volunteered to divide the Western US and Canada into 5 different areas by taking into account the number of clubs in any given area, the number of times an event had been held in that area, and the probability of venues (hotels or resorts) that could handle our group. The result of that division of areas is shown in the attached image. This division of areas was then approved and adopted by the SC.

We then voted on where we should go for the 2019 and 2020 events and settled on Area 1 for 2019, and Area 4 for 2020. We have also decided that the event should return to the Southern California area every three years, because of the large population of GoF West participants, so 2021 should see the event somewhere in that area.

It is hoped that the next SC will continue this rotational idea and will then choose areas 2, 3, or 5 for 2022, 2023, etc.

In addition to doing the above, the SC has elected to use a company by the name of Helmes-Briscoe to canvas a specific area selected by the SC for potential venues where an event can be held. Helmes-Briscoe (HB) is the world's largest event planner, and has a data base of hotels and resorts that shows all of the salient details that one needs to know to be able to select a venue for the event. Once a field is narrowed to 2-3 specific venues, HB will do the final negotiations and make the final arrangements. This takes a huge burden off the minds of a Chair of the next event.

Now you might ask: "Well, who is going to put on the event now that you have chosen the venue?" That is a good question, and the answer is easy: YOU will!! Making the event happen is the responsibility of the Steering Committee, so, until we find clubs or individuals to make it happen, it will be up to the SC to divide the tasks. Each member of the SC will be asked to make certain that the major functions happen, either by taking on that responsibility themselves, or by finding volunteers to do so. As an exam-

ple, at many of the GoF west events over the past 8-10 years, Mike Campbell or myself chaired the event, but found volunteers THROUGHOUT the GoF West empire that were willing to help in specific areas. That worked out well, and there is no reason why that can't happen again. By doing this, we will not be asking any individual to plan the event, to find a venue for the event, or to negotiate with the hotel, etc. We certainly hope we can find local people that can plan a rally route, but most of the other activities can be planned without being on site to do so. If we, the SC, take on the responsibility of seeking the venue, using Helmes-Briscoe to finalize the details with the hotel, and do the overall planning of the event, then we believe that this will work and we can continue to have this event for many years to come.

We have already asked HB to show us what is available in Area 1 for 2019, concentrating on venues in the higher elevations, and in Area 4 for 2020, concentrating in the Boise, ID, area since we have not been in that area before. As of this date, it looks like Flagstaff, AZ, might be the selected venue for 2019, and we have yet to hear back for HB about 2020.

That's where we are right now. We sure would like to have volunteers to chair the events, but, in lieu of that, we really do need volunteers to help with such activities as the hospitality suite, the display of arts and crafts, the selection of meals from a given menu, etc. These are tasks that are not too difficult to do, and can be overseen by a member of the SC. So, PLEASE, give us a small amount of your time so we can continue to have this magnificent event for many years to come.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the Steering Committee about the above approach, we sure would like to hear them. You can send any comments to me at emgeeguy@aol.com or to any of the other SC members.

Looking forward to seeing you at Lake Tahoe in September!!

Larry Long, Chairman, GoF West, Inc.



Note: Please add New Mexico to Area 1 and Wyoming to Area 4.