

2016 Adams County Tour (First Drive of the Season)

We have survived the winter months and it is now time to start the driving season.

Kurt Niemeyer, an author who writes the Cincy Motor sports Journal for Cincy Magazine organizes a driving tour every April for classic sports cars.

Kurt owns a TC and is also one of the early members of the South West Ohio T group (SWOT), here in Cincinnati.

The winter of 2015-16 was quite mild and there already has been a few weeks with the temperatures in the mid to upper 60's. This year the tour was scheduled for Sat. April 9th. I have been extremely busy in the shop this winter and was looking forward to escape to the first drive of the season.

My TF is not yet ready to drive so I had a choice of driving a very nice TD or the 53 Y-type. The TD was a relatively new acquisition and needed to be driven to sort it out. If the weather held I was thinking of driving the TD.

The first week of April was in the 60's but the forecast for weekend was nothing but dropping temps. The decision was made and the Y-type was the car to be used in questionable weather.

Friday's forecast mentioned that the overnight temps would get down to 27 degrees and the high temps for Saturday was only in the mid thirties.. The start of the tour was about thirty miles away all the way across town from the shop where the Y-type is stored. Unfortunately my house is part way towards the starting point. It only makes sense that I drive the Y-type to my house and leave for the start from my house the next morning.

I was up and out of the house at 7Am. to get the start at the right time.

What the weather forecast did not say was that it would snow overnight.



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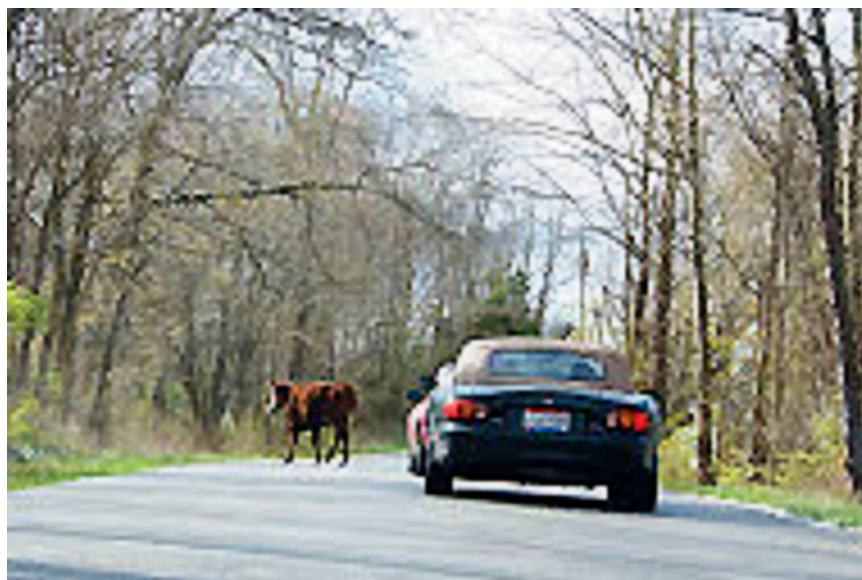
Driving a T car in the snow is another experience all together. During the 26 mile drive to the start I noticed that the mercury in the Moto Meter was not rising in the thermometer to indicate the temp. of the engine.



When I got to the start, I noticed that the snow on the bonnet and top of the car was still there. the engine and passenger compartments did not heat up enough to melt the snow. My attention then turned to the Moto Meter. That is when I discovered that the mercury was now visible at the very bottom of the edge of the Moto Meter. The longer that the car sat there without the engine running the engine would heat up and the mercury would rise. It wasn't that the Moto Meter was not working it was that it was so cold out the engine never got hot enough to register on the Moto Meter.

Because of the weather there were only about ten other cars that showed up. We were, by far, the oldest car at this event. The only other classic car was an older Volvo. As seen at the left in the above photo. All of the other cars were of the modern variety.

We all set off and toured through the twisty, rural landscape. Adams County has many interesting sights to experience along the way. Some things could be expected, but there were others that there would be no way to anticipate. There were multiple species of animals that were sighted wandering the roadways. There were chickens, ducks, pigs, and a couple of cows just wandering around the roadways.



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There are great roads , covered bridges, and Amish buggies that one needed to be aware of while driving through this rural county.

Adams county has a sizable Amish population. Our group stopped at the Miller family market for a snack break. We all pulled in the parking spaces and wandered off to investigate the market.



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I headed towards the bakery where they were making apple fritters about the size of a dinner plate. Once you tasted one of these you were hooked.

There was an Amish gentleman who was dipping the still warm fritters into an icing bath. If you should ever happen to be in the neighborhood, a stop for one, or more, of these fritters is mandatory.

The Y-type performed flawlessly, but by the time I got home I was chilled to the bone and I sat on my couch wrapped in a blanket for the rest of the night trying to get warm. I did not move from the couch all night.

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In conclusion;

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Even though the weather did not cooperate, The tour went off without a hitch. There were no breakdowns, no one wrecked their car, and nobody was harmed during in the process.

This kind of result can only be accomplished with good planning!

I have driven the T-type for thousands of miles but I have only had a limited amount of time behind the wheel in freezing weather. What I discovered was that the windshield which is hinged from the top and has a non-efficient seal that does not do the job of blocking the cold air from pouring in to the passenger compartment, is something that needs to be recond with. This is a welcomed situation during those sweltering hot summer days but I had not thought of the consequences of it in conjunction with this winter drive. It was like driving down the road with a window cracked open and it was blowing directly into your face and hands. ***Lesson learned!***

Now that we got the bad weather issue out of the way for this year, every other tour will have perfect weather; that's my story and I'm sticking with it.

The only breakdown problem that occurred was the failure of the display on my digital camera. I do not know how that happened but happen it did.

Thanks to the other participants who supplied some of the photos in this report.

The odometer now has the first two hundred and fifty miles registered for this driving season.

Thanks Kurt for another great drive.