



FREEDOM ROAD RALLY

“the classic car enthusiast’s
DREAM VACATION”

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Ivo and Brenda Rally Czech-style

We just couldn’t get enough of our Freedom Road Rally experience this past June. So, being Tatra automobile enthusiasts, we decided to attend the annual Tatra Rally on Sept. 3-5 which was held at Stredni Becva in the Czech Republic (CZ). The impressive roster of entries ranged from tiny 2-passenger 1923 T11 coupes to a humongous 8-passenger, 8-wheeled 1985 T-813 heavy duty truck, and everything in between. The Rally tour wound its way through picturesque villages to the Tatra Manufacturing Plant and museum in Koprivnice, where each car was required to



Tatra Rally tour starting line in our 1932 Tatra T54/30

run a timed route through a coned course in the Plant’s parking lot before driving back to Stredni Becva.

Needless to say, the one day it rained throughout our visit from Sept. 2-14 was during the Rally tour. Trying to master the idiosyncrasies of our 1932 Tatra T54/30 right-hand-drive automobile, with 4-speed crash box on the floor, in a downpour, while attempting to control a sizable windshield leak with a teeny handkerchief certainly enhanced our respect for vintage (or “veteran” as they are called in CZ) automobiles. Fortunately, the tour provided an excellent opportunity to evaluate the condition of the motor and transmission. It was ultimately decided to leave the car in the hands of a Tatra expert friend who will make the necessary repairs and adjustments. If all goes well, the car will be shipped to the States next spring.

Following the Rally, we began a tour of the Czech Republic’s breathtaking countryside throughout Bohemia and Moravia. We have to admit that driving a new VW Golf rental car after our Rally experience was a bit of an adjustment; but the narrow, winding roads lined with either trees or deep ditches made it a necessity. We visited the quaint towns of Telc and then Cesky Krumlov which carried you back to mediaeval times. As luck would have it, we arrived at the same time as the 92-car MSA Euroclassic Rally was pulling in for a sightseeing stop in Cesky Krumlov. The array of vintage European sports cars was mouth watering. The 8-day Euroclassic started in Nurburgring before touring through Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria and Italy, to finish at the island of Lindau on Lake Constance on the German/Swiss border. You could call it the European version of the Freedom Road Rally. Earlier, two of the cars had serious accidents which rendered them totaled, but all occupants were okay.



Euroclassic entrants arriving at Cesky Krumlov

As we continued our CZ tour, we visited four car museums, and were disappointed to learn that the Czech National Technical Museum was closed for expansion work. By paddle boat, we viewed historic sites from the Vltava River, which partially encircles the center of the capital city of Prague. We explored Prague castle which houses the country’s presidential and other government offices, and witnessed the noon changing of guards; visited Petrin Tower, a miniature replica of the Eiffel Tower built in 1896, from which there is an excellent view of the city; and climbed 287 steps to St. Vit’s Cathedral tower. The Prague zoo was fascinating. Continued on pg. 2

We especially enjoyed watching the big cats being fed near us on their side of the glass enclosure; and were entertained as we observed the behavior of a gorilla family.

Going thru security at the Prague airport on our return home was quite an experience. Upon check-in, we were informed that “the computer picked us both for a thorough security check in Zurich.” O boy, what a joy! But, the important thing was that the 100+ pounds of hard-to-get Tatra car parts we had so painstakingly acquired through our contacts, then carefully packed amongst our luggage, made it through without a hitch. And THAT was what the whole trip was about anyway—right?


A view of the city from Prague Castle.—>

Great story guys, hoping to see the new Tatra running the FRR in 2011.—ed.



Director's Chairs

The director's chairs were a big hit with the participants on the 2010 Indiana-Illinois Rally. Many people expressed an interest in acquiring a second chair. We have been checking prices. We can send you a complete Telescope Brand chair, with FRR logo for \$149, shipping included.



Two Great Tours for 2011

This year FRR participants will have their choice of two different events. The Finger Lakes tour will take place on the traditional June dates. In September, FRR will return to Michigan. Michigan has been at the center of much of America's great automotive heritage and boasts many of the finest car museums in the world. Surrounded by four of the Great Lakes, Michigan also has the world's longest freshwater coastline, providing many scenic drives. We are anticipating two great tours, both featuring picturesque scenery, interesting stops and of course some of the greatest car enthusiasts you could ever hope to travel with. *Note*- The Finger Lakes tour will not cross the Canadian border. Participants who wish to visit the Canadian side of Niagara Falls either before or after the tour should be aware that valid passports are needed.

2011 Calendar of Events

June 5-10 New York—Finger Lakes Tour This scenic region is dotted with beautiful inland lakes and hillside vineyards. Quiet villages offer unique shopping and cozy restaurants. The tour will begin and end at Niagara Falls, New York.

Sept. 18-23 Michigan Tour Miles of freshwater coastline along lakes the size of oceans and more car museums per capita than any other state.

Oct. 6 - Annual Cookout Hershey, Pennsylvania Fall AACA Meet, Green Field Spaces GDH16-20, 5:00 PM. rain or shine.

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to all the following folks:

January	
3	Chris Dorsey
6	Maureen Bardsley
13	Susan Leak
25	Linda Hochstetler
27	Bob VanBuskirk
30	Rick Glisson
February	
1	Carol Helfer
4	Adriane Glisson
6	Sharon-Ann Scott
8	Jerry Fatkin
11	Bob Russell
17	Ken Schaffer
25	Ed Johnson
March	
18	John Norris