



Founded 1957

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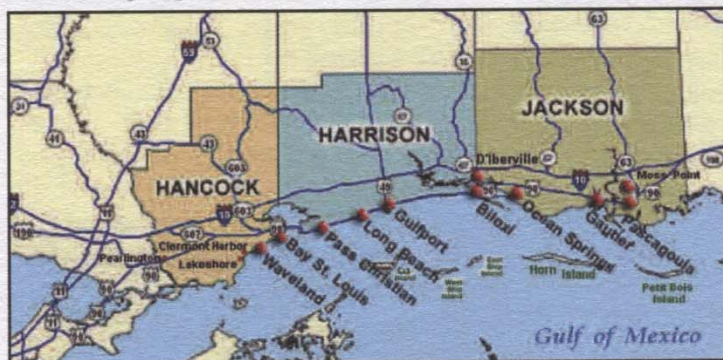


Matthew Nawn's 1949 P18 Special Deluxe club coupe
with Public Service Coordinated Transport No. 6



Cruisin' The Coast

On a fifty mile stretch of the Gulf Coast in Mississippi lies US Route 90 with the gleaming Gulf of Mexico in clear view. In 1996, some entrepreneurial car enthusiasts came up with the idea for "Cruisin' The Coast" (CTC) along this beautiful stretch of sand and surf. No fairground car show, this was to be a dynamic, rolling event along the coast from town to town with US 90 spanning the venues like a string of pearls.



The first event drew almost 1,000 vehicles. In the 22 years since, the show has expanded to a record high just short of 8,500 registrations including classic cars, hot rods, and muscle cars. In 2018, "America's Largest Block Party" received an award as the Best Car Show by *USA Today's* 10 Best Reader's Choice.

The event occupies a full week from



Sunday to Sunday in early October. This year's attendees were rewarded with gorgeous weather. And 1959 Plymouths



have not been without representation. Dick Koch, of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, first attended the event in 2002, driving *Charlene* his red Sport Fury, one of three '59 Plymouths he owns.

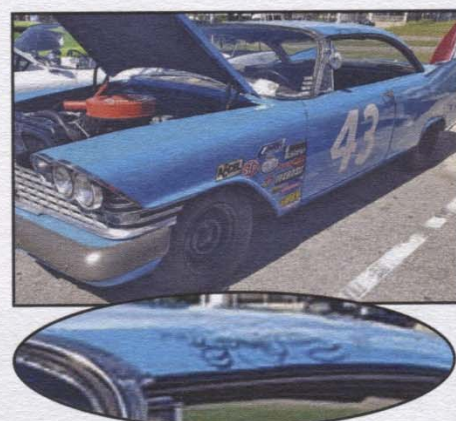
In 2014 he drove

his recently rebuilt white Belvedere convertible, *Bertha Irene*. (Dick's painstaking restoration is documented in the July-August, 2015, issue of the *PLYMOUTH BULLETIN*, #333. You can read all about it here: <http://bit.ly/BelvyResto>)

Sideline by some ignition trouble that year, he had to attend the venues in a rental car, but the convertible safely made it home under its own power. This year, with ignition problems behind him, Dick

trailed the car to Slidell, Louisiana, a thirty-minute drive to the westernmost venue in Bay St. Louis. From there he drove the Belvedere from venue to venue, getting his ticket stamped at each stop to make him eligible for a prize drawing. (Better luck next year, Dick.)

Charlie Poole, who happens to hail



from Slidell, acquired his 1959 Plymouth in 1999. In homage to Richard Petty, he painted the car in 2003 in Petty blue, adorned it with Number 43 and dropped in a 400 B-block V8 for "respectability." Charlie managed to meet up with Mr. Petty at a nearby venue to gain his rooftop signature.

Charlie's first visit to CTC was in 2001, and on many occasions since then he has registered and taken his '59. Charlie met up with Dick and his wife Yvonne this year in Bay St. Louis where they parked their cars together on display.



Yvonne Koch and the trailered '59



Dick and Yvonne Koch

Unfortunately, Charlie's '59 did not fare well this year. An electrical cooling system, installed to deal with constant overheating problems, proved too much of a draw on his alternator and he had to have the car towed back to Slidell.



Ernest Kelly's '59 Sport Fury

Yet another '59 Plymouth was in attendance! A chance encounter occurred in a parking lot at CTC Central in Gulfport. Ernest Kelly pulled in with his Sport Fury hardtop about the same time Dick arrived and blew his horn. They chatted amiably for a few minutes and Dick was able to snap a couple of pictures.



Dick Koch visits the one-time home of his grandparents where he spent part of his boyhood

Bay St. Louis holds special significance in the life of Dick Koch. He was born there and, along with his sister, was



Out and about with the Koch '59 Belvedere during Cruisin' The Coast, 2018

raised by his grandparents at 308 Carrol Avenue during WWII while his father was serving in the South Pacific and his mother was working in Texas. He and Yvonne had a chance to visit the old homestead during their trip, as well as catch up with family in New Orleans.

All good times must end, and soon it was time to trailer *Bertha Irene* back home to Palm Beach Gardens. Until next year!

—Dan Morton
1959 Tech Advisor
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*"For '59... If It's New,
Plymouth's Got It!"*



Until next year Bertha Irene is back on the trailer for the ride home to Palm Beach Gardens