

British Euro Auto Tour (BEAT)

Greetings fellow club members. For those of you that have been at the last few meetings this may be old news, but for those that who haven't, this message is for you

The 2008 British Euro Auto Tour (BEAT) is coming up, April 19th and 20th to be exact. This is a great event that is in its 11th year.

For those of you that are not familiar with the trip please feel free to take a look at the website, www.beataz.com for photos of the previous years. Last year there were over 150 cars on the trip.

Basically, this is probably one of the largest group drives in the state. It starts from the Sheraton Crescent at I-17 and Dunlop early in the morning on Saturday, April 19th. From there we drive up the I-17 to Carefree Highway and head over to Wickenburg. In Wickenburg the local authorities have closed one of the streets for us to park on while we stop for a rest and enjoy the provided coffee and doughnuts.

From Wickenburg we are escorted out of town and head toward Bagdad (no, we aren't going to the middle east). We take the long way into Prescott where the police have closed Whiskey Road for us all to park. At this stop we are all free to enjoy the town and have a nice lunch on our own. Included in the registration package are several discount cards for local restaurants.

From Prescott we head up through the mountains to Jerome. If you haven't made this drive before than you are truly missing out on one of the most scenic drives in AZ. We stop in Cottonwood for an ice cream social and photo shoot with each driver and there car. Last year they gave out very nice commemorative frames to put the pictures in.

From Cottonwood we finish the days drive with a trip up to Flagstaff where our final stop is the Little America Inn, where there is a group rate arranged. We are all on our own for dinner, but if there are enough confirmed members going then I will be happy to make a group reservation at Black Bart's. Black Bart's is a great group dining experience. The wait staff is full of NAU drama students, who, in between serving the meal, also perform live musical numbers throughout the evening.

On Sunday morning there is a brunch at the hotel with a raffle drawing. There are always tons of prizes that have been donated by the local clubs. They also give out other awards as well.

For the trip home you are free to choose your own route. Most people take the scenic way down through Mormon Lake to Pine, but you are free to head down the I-17 if you need to be back quicker.

All of the registration material is available on the website, www.beataz.com

This is a very well organized trip and it has been a great time. I have done this event about 5 years now, and am looking forward to going back again. I hope that the BMW CCA can have a strong presence this year.

Adam Thaler