

**Barrett-Jackson Trip**  
**By Tom Kenney**

Being retired and writing a column in the newspaper has its perks. As a member of the press, you get invited to events like the recent Barrett-Jackson Car Auction in Scottsdale AZ [Jan. 12-19, 2014].

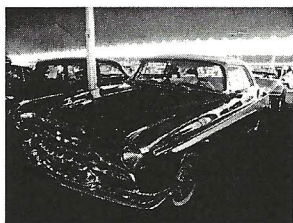
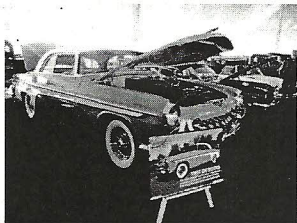
Talk about good timing, the flight from Baltimore departed before the chill and snow set in. No coats were needed in Scottsdale AZ until after sundown, and then only a windbreaker was needed.

The reserved tickets to the auction were waiting for us. There was a new auction building and more cars under tents than ever before.

Walking from "end to end" was like going on a half marathon. Besides the cars, there was a little of everything to see. Just a few feet into the first tent were free Mustang tee shirts for anyone taking the survey being offered. There were food vendors everywhere! You couldn't go hungry.

Early the next morning everyone's favorite auction personality, Amy Lassiter, was busy selling "automobilia" on stage. The item up for bid was a Chrysler Airflo pedal car. Outside the tents you could take Ford and General Motors cars for a spin.

Next on the list was the search for DeSotos for auction. It took several miles and multiple tents to search for them, but they were all found!



While on the car search, we stopped to hear Craig Jackson describe the new building and the first ever bull-riding contest for attendees' entertainment.

Also new this year was a shopping spa "Ladies Lounge"... something extra--just for the gals!



A short distance away was the RM auction. One of the featured cars, a 1958 Ferrari, sold for \$8,800,000.00!

TV personality, Wayne Carini, was present, and was selling his 1962 Jaguar Mark 2. It sold for \$88,000.00.

A bidder's pass was needed to sit in on the

auction to be held later in the evening. What a thrill to be present just to view these magnificent automobiles.

Then it was back to Barrett-Jackson for some prime time sales. The place was mobbed. That's when they offer the fantasy bid cars. You could watch the presenters filming the cars in the staging areas.

The next day a detour was made to check out the cars being sold at the Russo and Steel auction. The scale was a bit smaller and the car selection was varied. There were a few DeSotos being offered at this auction too.

Then it was back to Barrett-Jackson to be personally greeted by our three favorite salesmen.

Just then, one of the DeSotos was crossing the block and hammered sold for \$26,000.00

The next stop was to the sky lounge where bidders can enjoy the auction and fine food and drink.

Later in the day we made a stop at the Gooding & Co auction held at the Fashion Mall. One of the featured attractions was the very first Air Stream trailer. It was small but packed with period-correct camping items.

The next day we met up with John & Lois Krupinski for a two night stay in their desert home. We joined them for a trip to a weekly old car event at the Pavilion shopping mall. Then it was on to the Hyatt Gainey Ranch for the Lemay Museum Gala Reception. Mckee Hagerty presented a donation to foster youth involvement in the old car hobby, with scholarships and special youth programs.

The next day was devoted to tourist attractions starting with the apache trail and a trip to Tortilla Flat. We got off the beaten path on a one-lane dirt road circling around the mountains, for spectacular vistas. No cell phone coverage here!

We then headed to the Ray Copper mines and a chance to watch the 24-hour a day operations. As luck would have it, a worker was present to explain the complexities of mining copper.

On our final day, before flying back to the frigid east coast, we wandered about the Desert Botanical Gardens and the Chihuly glass exhibit.

We plan on returning for auction week next year... maybe staying a bit longer to take in all that Scottsdale and Phoenix has to offer.

