

Good Times at WestWorld

Goodguys 11th Southwest Nationals



Photos: Randall Bohl Photography
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For the last eleven years, the Goodguys Rod & Custom Association has closed their annual event season in the Valley of the Sun, at WestWorld in Scottsdale. The 11th Southwest Nationals was the biggest one yet, drawing over 2,600 1972-and-earlier rods, customs, muscle cars and tricked-out trucks. Given the state of the American economy, it speaks volumes that more cars than ever attended the event and more people flowed through the ticket gates than the 2007 Southwest Nationals. Goodguys has long contended that classic American automobiles make people very happy and serve as a wonderful distraction in troubled times. Given this year's turnout, those sentiments rang true tenfold.

More than just a car show, the Goodguys Southwest Nationals offers a variety of auto-themed activities. The entire grass polo field of WestWorld is filled to the brim with candy colored rods and customs, while the paved upper paddock is a blend of cars and vendor exhibits. Every square inch of the massive Barrett-Jackson auction tent was occupied by retail parts and services vendors, but also housed a cool model car show offering youngsters a chance to show their wares. The back rim of the polo field was a treasure hunter's playground, where a swap meet with over 500 vendors offered everything from rusted out Model A hulks to record albums, and old drag racing mags to wheels, frame rails and even dogs and cats made from automotive parts.

To top it all off, Goodguys displayed the 2008 "Terrific 12" award winners, who came in from all over the US. The Goodguys Street Machine of the Year, the Street Rod of the Year (belonging to Joe Schott of Phoenix), Muscle Car of the Year, Trucks of the Year and many more "Of the Year" winners were all displayed in one giant row, marking the first time in history that all twelve major seasonal award winners were assembled and displayed together as a group (see *Arizona Driver*, November/December 2008). And out of all the Goodguys events, it happened here. The cars attracted onlookers like ants to a sugar hill.

While the Plains States and upper Midwesterners were still trying to wipe the frost from the pumpkin, all those in attendance at the Goodguys Southwest Nationals were scrambling for sunblock as the mercury reached 90 perfect degrees. "There's a good reason why everyone wants to come to Arizona this time of year," grinned Goodguys Event Director Harry Daviess. "I mean, look around," he said as he glanced over the polo field sparkling with a thousands different colors. "Who wouldn't want to be here?"

GOODGUYS 2009 EVENT SCHEDULE

The Goodguys Rod & Custom Association, the largest rod and custom association in the world with over 70,000 members, will stage twenty-two events in 2009. The event lineup features eighteen national events for rods, customs, classics and muscle cars through 1972 vintage as well as four "Get-Together's" in California which welcome all years, makes and models of specialty vehicles. The Goodguys 2009 event season kicks off March 14-15 with the 3rd Meguiar's Orange County Get-Together at the OC Fair & Expo Center in Costa Mesa CA. The season will again wrap up in Scottsdale AZ with the season-ending 12th Southwest Nationals at WestWorld, November 20-22.

Vintage drag racing is on the national schedule, as is the popular Street Challenge Autocross, which will be held at eleven of the 22 events including new courses at the Del Mar Fairgrounds and Pleasanton Fairgrounds Summer Get-Together in California.

2009 GOODGUYS EVENT HIGHLIGHTS IN OUR REGION

March 14-15 - Costa Mesa CA - OC Fair & Event Center
 3rd ORANGE COUNTY GET-TOGETHER

March 28-29 - Pleasanton CA - Pleasanton Fairgrounds
 27th ALL AMERICAN GET-TOGETHER

April 3-4-5 - Del Mar CA - Del Mar Fairgrounds
 9th DEL MAR NATIONALS

May 30-31 - Pleasanton CA - Pleasanton Fairgrounds
 16th SUMMER GET-TOGETHER

June 5-6-7 - Loveland CO - The Ranch, Larimer County Fairgrounds
 12th DUPONT COLORADO NATIONALS

November 14-15 - Pleasanton CA - Pleasanton Fairgrounds
 20th AUTUMN GET-TOGETHER

November 20-21-22 - Scottsdale AZ - WestWorld of Scottsdale
 12th SOUTHWEST NATIONALS
 Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars and Trucks through 1972.
 Vendors, Swap Meet and Car Corral.

Founded in 1983 by Gary Meadors, Goodguys is the world's largest association specializing in street rod, custom car, classic and muscle car events. For the complete 2009 schedule of Goodguys rod, custom and muscle car events nationwide, call 925-838-9876, or visit www.good-guys.com. ■

