

Goodguys Gold



**GOODGUYS 18TH SOUTHWEST NATIONALS
WESTWORLD / SCOTTSDALE
NOVEMBER 20-22 2015**

Photos and highlights by Joe Sage



There are a lot of awards given out at the Goodguys Rod & Custom Association Southwest Nationals, held in November at West-World in north Scottsdale. That's not because this is one of those everybody-gets-a-trophy deals. It's because everything that shows up—over 3,000 hot rods, customs, classics, muscle cars and trucks—brings a big dose of wonderful, backed up by years of hard work and the immense pride of accomplishment. We'd like to show you each and every beautiful machine that was there, but —what you really need to do is be there for that. Do it. Everyone has a great time, as will you.

We counted 100 different awards presented during the Goodguys 18th Southwest Nationals —the coveted Top 12, Special Awards including Muscle Machine of the Year, Autocrosser of the Year, Builder's Choice Top 10 Hot Rods, and widely and whimsically categorized General Awards.

WINNERS ROW: A centerpiece of Goodguys is the Top 12 Winners Row—the Champions Area. Shown at right are eight of those twelve (photos left/right, top to bottom):

- 2015 MUSCLE CAR OF THE YEAR**
1969 Chevy Camaro....Dennis Albaugh, Ankeny IA
- 2015 HOT ROD OF THE YEAR**
1933 Ford 3 WindowKeith Hill, Bixby OK
- 2015 CUSTOM ROD OF THE YEAR**
1956 Plymouth Belvedere
.....Gil & Janet Losi, Murrietta CA
- 2015 TRUCK OF THE YEAR (EARLY)**
1940 Ford Pickup ...Robert Anderson, Savannah GA
- 2015 TRUCK OF THE YEAR (LATE)**
1962 Dodge Pickup.....Tim Molzen, Sioux City IA
- 2015 CUSTOM OF THE YEAR**
1956 Lincoln Continental
.....David Hoekstra, Roswell NM
- 2015 STREET ROD D'ELEGANCE**
1935 Ford Coupe
.....Randy Marston, Nanoose Bay BC
- 2015 AUTOCROSSER OF THE YEAR**
1972 Chevrolet 65.603
.....Danny Popp, Cincinnati OH

The other four Top 12 Winners not shown here are Muscle Machine of the Year, Street Machine of the Year, Street Rod of the Year and America's Most Beautiful Street Rod.

DUEL IN THE DESERT: As for that Autocrosser of the Year award, Lingenfelter Performance Engineering driver Danny Popp wrapped up a highly successful 2015 race season in his Lingenfelter-powered Corvette by winning this title at the

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Goodguys Southwest Nationals 2015 Duel in the Desert in Scottsdale. Raised in a racing family, Popp was born to Autocross, soloing at SCCA Autocross events at the tender age of 16. This win marks his second title, having also won in 2013.

GENERAL AWARDS: Many favorites at Goodguys are subjective and whimsical in nature, including these four (shown at right, top to bottom):

GAZETTE PICK and WAY COOL AWARD
Coach Built Custom Cab Over Engine (COE)
Mark & Tanya Stead, Blenheim, New Zealand

AMERICAN THUNDER AWARD
1964 Dodge 440Terry Toth, Tucson AZ

WONDERFUL WOODYE
1938 Ford Woody
.....John & Darlene Lintz, Lake Havasu AZ

PERIOD PERFECT
1956 Ford.....Christian Filz, Phoenix AZ

The dual-trophied bright green coach built COE from New Zealand drew quite a crowd, with plenty of questions. "Never a Ford, Chevy, International or anything else," owner Mark Stead explained to persistent guessers, this one-off was built by Stead's Big Shed Customs. He is proud to mention that this was the first Kiwi vehicle to ever appear in the Snap-on "Tech Toys" calendar (for 2015). The truck—nicknamed "Empty Pockets"—is about a month into its one-year US visa, so watch for it on the show circuit nationwide.

Other awards included such accolades as Best Wide Whites, Chopped and Dropped, Homebuilt Heaven, Suede & Chrome, Ya Gotta Drive 'em Pick, a few Goodguys staff picks, and the most subjective of all: Wildcard Just 'Cause It's Neat.

FROM FAR AND WIDE: Of the 100 awards presented, 45 were won by Arizonans. Others went to proud owners from neighboring states—California, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado—as well as everywhere from Texas to Michigan to British Columbia. The Long Distance Award went to John Stinn of North Vancouver BC, who drove here in his 1951 Chevy via a 2389-mile route.

NEXT: Goodguys will again both open and close their calendar here, from the 7th Spring Nationals March 4-6 to the 19th Southwest Nationals November 18-20, both at WestWorld in Scottsdale, bookending their busy 20-event 2016 season. For more information, visit www.good-guys.com. ■

