

2006 DeLorean Wrap Up

*from the desk of Shannon Birdwell
circa January, 2007*



I wanted to give everyone a summary of 2006 DeLorean events. I think 2006 was a very good year for those of us in the Houston area. First of all, I wish to congratulate 3 DeLorean owners for their marriage in 2006: Robert Goodwin, Mark Axford and Robert Rooney. I don't know if their DeLoreans acted as a chick magnet for them in securing their spouse or not but I wish all of them a very happy married life.

In January there were about four DeLoreans that came to my house for a work day. It was a good time to get to meet some new people including Robert Rooney who had recently moved here from Las Vegas. He installed my door opening systems that I had gotten for Christmas.

April was a time for car shows. Bill attended one in Conroe and I attended the 2nd Annual Men's Met Car show. I got my first trophy for placing (3rd). The 3rd annual car show will be in late April.

In May several of us met in Humble at Darryl's Detail shop for a time of working on the cars and detailing cars. Chris North, Bill Ballard, Jay Steckfuss, Brandon Mims, Glen Lee and myself met together. I think this is the first time I found out about the "purple stuff" which really does make the cars look good. This stuff is good on the stainless, fascias and rubber products. I had never power washed my engine for fear of messing something up. Darryl took a wand, and as I watched and cringed, he power washed my engine. I had doubts about its ability to start again. But it did start and I had no problems. The engine looked better that it had ever looked since I've had it. I'm still gun shy about power washing my engine but at least I know it can be done. We met twice at Darryl's. Perhaps in the spring, before all the car shows start, we can meet there again.

June was the DCS car show in Chicago. This was a highlight for me during the summer as this was my first time there. I had never seen that many DeLoreans together.

Several times several of us met at Jay Streckfuss' place to work on the cars. This was a chance to get the cars on the lift and help each other out doing various things. I appreciate the willingness to share knowledge and work on each other's cars to make them better.

September 30 - October 1 was the All British Car Show in Round Rock. This had been attended by DeLorean owners in years past but I think DeLoreans had been scarce in the recent years. This year there were 10 DeLoreans that showed up. We had seven from Houston.



All-British Car Show, Round Rock, 10/1/2006

It took us a long time to reach Round Rock due to mechanical problems along the way. Bill Ballard and James Espey did an excellent job taking charge on this trip and helping to organize everything. We had a truck and trailer that really came in use as a couple of cars had problems along the way. It was funny to see the reaction of people every time we made a stop. Cars slowed down and people stopped to talk to us and take pictures. We definitely slowed traffic on the frontage road of the freeway in Austin.

This was the longest I had driven my car. I'd always been a little apprehensive about taking my car long distances but being with other DeLorean owners help take away a lot of the concerns. People always ask me what happens when I reach 88 mph. With Bill leading the way, I came close several times in finding out. I had never pushed my car to some of the speeds we went but I had no problems. Overall we had a good time together and it was a great getting to know everyone a little bit better.

In the fall, several of us met at the Cruise in on the north side of town on Spring Cypress.



Niftee-50tees Street Meet, 10/28/2006

This is a well attended event that has up to 300 old automobiles. All the cars are suppose to be older than 1979 but they always allowed the DeLoreans to come in. For the Halloween cruise in we had four DeLoreans there (*Ballard, Birdwell, Kidd, Mims*).

In early December was the Parade of Lights. This was my third time to be in this parade. We had six DeLoreans show up (*Ballard, Birdwell, Creason, Dartt, Kidd, North*).



Parade of Lights, 12/3/2006

The crowds really loved the DeLoreans and I constantly heard kids and adults shouting "Cool car", and "DeLorean" and "Back to the Future". I always look forward to this parade.

A couple of weeks ago we had a flea market run that started in Humble and went to Conroe.



Flea Market Run, 12/17/2006

We ended up with dinner at the Saltgrass.

Like most of you I've had fun with my car. I've spent a lot of time working on the car and I'm still working on it with a lot of the front end taken apart for repair and fixin' up.

For 2007 I hope to do more of the same plus additional things. Right now a website is being developed by a few of the members. We'll have a web presence soon and a place to post our pictures and to announce events plus other things. I want to have a general get together soon at a central location restaurant where we can eat and discuss what we'd like to do for 2007. There will be car shows and parades we can participate in. We've discussed doing a weekend getaway to Fredricksburg so I'd like for us to get together to firm up those plans. DMCH Open House is coming up in June. That promises to be a very good event. We're also planning a nice dinner around Valentines Day for everyone to come with their spouses or dates.

Have a very happy New Years and a blessed 2007.

Shannon