



LONE STAR ROD & KUSTOM ROUND UP

The Kontinentals Serve Up a Texas-Sized Weekender

BY ROB FORTIER

If you're the lazy type of person who enjoys the kind of event where you just simply show up, break out the lawn chairs, chill for a few hours, then split, you might want to skip this particular feature—it's not for the fidgets. The Lone Star Rod & Kustom Round Up is a real man's (and woman's!) event, one with many different faces and personalities. During the day, it's about real hot rods and customs; after-hours, it's about the Austin nightlife, the various bands that played throughout the weekend.

When I first heard about the three-day get-together last year, I had high aspirations of a totally unique event. Once mid-April had rolled around and I successfully made my first trek to Austin, Texas, my predictions were right on the money. First off, the city of Austin itself has a lot to offer, especially if you're into really good food, great nightspots, antiques, and all kinds of music. So, in a way, one might think it would be an easy task to organize an event in such an atmosphere—well, yes and no. Putting on a first-time gig anywhere is not an easy task, but the Kontinentals (a South Austin-based car club made up of traditional folk) did a killer job scheduling and pulling off all the various "to-dos" throughout the weekend.

We rolled into town late Thursday afternoon, which left us time to check into the Hotel San Jose, directly across the street from the Continental Club—that's like booking a room for Homer Simpson right next door to any Winchell's! Actually, the club was the center of attraction for the evening and after hours goings on, making things quite convenient. With the car show not until Saturday, that left the following morning open for us to do a little sight-



Things kicked off (and revolved around for the weekend) at The Continental Club on Congress in Austin. With our headquarters at Hotel San Jose directly across the street, convenience was the word of the weekend. Club owner Steve Wertheimer (who was also responsible along with other Kontinentals club members in hosting the entire event) kept the joint hopping with activities (David Perry to the left of *Jalopy Journal* honcho Ryan Cochran in the Rex Rod shirt) had a final signing for his book and print show at the neighboring Gallery 1313.



On Friday, we were able to do a little sight-seeing, and in doing so, ran across Roadhouse Relics (512-442-NEON) where we came across all this cool stuff. While some of the signage and artifacts are genuine, the majority are recreations. From brilliant neons to detailed carnival-style paintings, they do it all.



Before the show commenced Saturday, Mike Young (also a member of the Continentals) hosted a breakfast cruise at his Hula Hut restaurant on the shores of beautiful Lake Austin. The atmosphere was great, the food even better, and to top it all off, it was complimentary!



The day at House Park was well spent—a little warm, but well spent nonetheless! The perimeter was lined with vendors and a stage for the acts performing throughout the day, while the center was filled with some class rods and customs, as you can see.



"Bumpstops? You don't need no stinkin' bumpstops! How else are you going to drag the glasspacks over speed bumps?" James King's Houston-based '60 Impala ragtop wore a nice patina on the exterior, but featured a cherry chassis beneath, as is being admired here.

seeing around Austin, ultimately spending all of our lunch money on antiques and collectibles. In doing so, we also stumbled across Roadhouse Relics, a local specialist in "new-old" neon and signage (see photos). Proprietor Todd Sanders has literally made an art out of recreating and restoring vintage signs and has set up a mini museum of his work. Fortunately, we didn't have enough room in our bags (nor did we want to risk broken neon tubes), but we did get Todd's card and can foresee something of his hanging in our places in the very near future.

That evening at the Continental Club, Chadd Thomas and The Crazy Kings filled the air with a heavy dosage of hot rod rockabilly, while Linda Lou, the "Well-Dressed Welderess," had an autograph session with her first-annual pin-up girl calendar. Next door at Gallery 1313, David Perry had a farewell book and print signing from his Hot Rod and Pin-Ups series at the upstairs gallery. Later on, The Horton Bros., Marti Brom (who belted out a mean song), and Wayne Hancock rounded out the evening lineup. Suffice it to say, it was not an early evening by any means, but the fact that the car show didn't



Texas is known for a lot of things, hot cars included. Lone Star natives Jimmy Vaughan and John Chisenhall (son of Vintage Air proprietor Jack Chisenhall) are both fans of fine American steel, Jimmy opting to cruise out in his smooth Fleetline while John made the show in his CRM-cover gracing El Camino.



Mafia-style customs? Why not? Eric Inkian's Conti wore a fresh purple flake job with candy gold scallops by Robert Rolling with striping by Frank Palmer. A month later in Paso Robles, Eric was initiated into the Beatniks, having to strut around in a lovely polyester two-piece—we hear he's kept the dress for "other" occasions!



Shoebbox Fords have to be not just one of the coolest '50s-era cars but one of the most reasonably priced for someone thinking of getting into the hobby. John Watkins' '49 Tudor is a prime example how a lot of attention to detail can achieve a lot.



The Continentals had some slick trophies fashioned out of old bumpers, and even provided one to be given away courtesy of CUSTOM RODDER. Of all the fine machines there, it came down to Dennis McPhail's super-clean '52 Chevy, and despite what some people thought, the case of Captain Morgan had nothing to do with our decision!

start until 11 a.m. lent itself quite nicely to a long night.

For those early-morning risers, Mike Young's Hula Hut, located right on the shores of scenic Lake Austin, hosted a breakfast cruise from 9-10 a.m. We caught the tail end of it, and a good thing we did, otherwise we would not have known what great food and atmosphere the joint is known for. Afterwards, it was straight to House Park

Stadium, a '40s-esque football field where the outdoor car show was being staged. By noon, the place was full of cool cars (and by saying that, we mean "all" cool cars unique to the flavor of the event), a variety of vendors, some great live music featuring the likes of The Derailers, The Blazers, and The Paladins, and, of course, the incredible edible eats Texas is famous for. By six, the place wound down,



Saturday night, we headed over to Stubb's BBQ to catch The Reverend Horton Heat, then beelined straight over to The Continental for a late set by The Paladins. Gotta say it was one fun-filled, nonstop weekend. Thanks, guys—we'll see you next year!

and as you might guess, the action was headed back to the good-old Continental.

Fortunately, the Lone Star promotional crew hooked up with Stubb's BBQ joint in downtown Austin, who just happened to be hosting a show with The Reverend Horton Heat that same evening, so a weekend pass got participants in that show, as well. Those wanting to stick close to Round Up central were treated to an evening with The Bellfuries, Nick Curran, and an encore performance by The Paladins (which we were able to catch after the show at Stubb's!).

Now, while we had a plane to catch late-a.m. on Sunday, we missed out on a complimentary breakfast at the Club sponsored by Jo's Coffee (right next to the San Jose—how convenient!) and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. Following that, a cruise to Ski Shores rounded out the Round Up itinerary. If it isn't obvious by now, we had a killer time—we'll be back next year for sure! Hats off to the Continentals for pulling off a fantastic event, especially considering this was their first stab at an elaborate gig. For more info, check out www.kontinentals.com. In the meantime, check out the photos...