

Remembering the Life of Bob Wilcox

Bob Wilcox,

My first riding experience with Bob was at the '97 Chevell~abration. This was the very first ACES show. Jeff Reed, Bill Margelos, Bob, and I had that made the trip. At first Bob wanted to caravan (one of his favorite words) to the show, but at the last minute he called me and said that the Chevelle was not running yet. He had just put the new engine in a couple days before and was thrashing to complete it for the trip. He told me to go on ahead and that he and Bill would catch up later. We all made it to the show without any problems and it was a nice, warm, dry day.

On Friday evening there was a cruise to go to (I believe it was John Andretti's Drive-in, about 20 miles away) and Bob was going to drive all of us. We were in the parking lot waiting to go and there was no Bob. Bob was running behind. Well, it was maybe twenty minutes later and Bob showed up. By then everyone had left on the cruise. Bob said, "NOT TO WORRY, we'll catch up to them on the road". We then jumped out on the highway and Bob immediately pushed it to the wood... 80, 100, 120 mph and the speedo was pegged, with no let up in sight. I had my camera with me and started taking pictures figuring, if something happened to us they could look at them and know what happened. I then noticed that steam was coming out from under the dash and the water temperature gauge was pegged at over 240 degrees. Again Bob said, "NOT TO WORRY". Steam was rolling out from under the hood and we HAD to stop! We opened the hood and found that the radiator hose had blown off the engine, along with all of the water. Bob again said, "NOT TO WORRY". He went to the trunk and got out two gallons of water. He then dumped the water straight into the radiator. I knew we were done because the engine was gonna split wide open. He slammed the hood and said "lets go!"

We started down the road again and BOB PUSHED IT BACK TO THE WOOD, up to a 100 mph plus. The gauge was still on 240, but he said, "the air would cool it down". It didn't cool down, so we got off the



highway and pulled into a gas station where Bob got the water hose and washed the hot engine off and then filled it up with more cold water. We finally made it to the cruise site but by then everyone had left. We did make it back the hotel and Bob said, "maybe we could go on another cruise on Saturday night". Luckily for us it rained the rest of the time there. That was my first ride with Bob...and a great first impression.

Tom Morris
MCC Board of Directors