

The 2017 Great Race: Georgians Bring Home the Wins

Story/Photos by Phillip Prichard, MSA

The 2017 Great Race started on Saturday, June 24 in Jacksonville, Florida enroute to Traverse City, Michigan. The cars made a lunch stop at the Redneck Gourmet in Newnan, GA on Sunday, June 25. Georgia was well represented by Team 66 - Jody Knowles (Tyronne, GA) & Beth Gentry (Newnan, GA); Team 65 - Olivia & Genna Gentry (Newnan, GA); and Team 31- Chad & Jennie Caldwell (Newnan, GA). 100+ Cars traveled through the Newnan Square with hundred of spectators on hand enroute to their next stop in Armuchee, GA.

The Great Race (formerly known as the Great American Race) is a classic rally for street-legal vintage automobiles at least 45 years old. Vehicles must use original factory parts, and modern navigational aids like GPS are prohibited. The Great Race is the world's premiere old car rally, and it has traveled many miles in its 34-year existence.

With \$150,000 up for grabs, the Great Race is a very competitive event, drawing participants from all around the United States, and several other countries. The Great Race is not a speed race, but a time,

speed, endurance rally. The vehicles, each with a driver and navigator, are given precise instructions each day that detail every move down to the second. They are scored at secret checkpoints along the way and are penalized one second for each second either early or late. As in golf, the lowest score wins.

The Hemmings Motor News Great Race presented by Hagerty traveled the historic Dixie Highway for its 2017 event, held June 24 through July 2. The Dixie Highway, which is actually a network of highways, stretches from Florida to Michigan, and the 2017 Great Race passed an awesome array of landmarks along the way. A special treat for participants included private tours of many car collections and museums, and it's one of the many reasons that car enthusiasts consider the Great Race a "bucket list" event.

The Dixie Highway-themed route featured many attractions, starting with an outstanding crowd of car loving folks in Jacksonville, Florida on Saturday, June 24, 2017 with "Big Daddy" Don Garlits waving the green flag. Jacksonville has hosted multiple Great Race stops in the past, and it has always been extremely



1932 FORD SPEEDSTER

popular. Other attractions include numerous car collections, including an inside look at Corky Coker's collection in Chattanooga, Tennessee. With Chattanooga being Coker Tire's hometown, as well as the

Motor News Great Race presented by Hagerty.

Congratulations to Jody Knowles and Beth Gentry for winning the race and more than \$50,000 in cash and prizes.



OLIVIA & GENNA GENTRY



1933 FORD PICK UP

birthplace of the Dixie Highway, it makes perfect sense to host a huge overnight stop in the Scenic City. The route traveled through Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan.

The finish was held in downtown Traverse City, Michigan, the site of the grand start of the 2012 Great Race, and the home of Hagerty Insurance, the event's presenting sponsor. The race took nine days, seven states, and over 2,000 miles.

Thousands of people were on hand to watch, and to welcome the racers through the finish gate of the 2017 Hemmings

The other division winners:

Expert (and Overall): Jody Knowles and Beth Gentry, 1932 Ford, 44.55 seconds
 Grand Champion: Howard and Doug Sharp, 1916 Hudson, 1 minute and 00.72 seconds
 Sportsman: Mike Weaver and Craig Jongerius, 1931 Ford Model A, 1 minute and 46.11 seconds
 Rookie: Olivia and Genna Gentry, 1963 Dodge Dart, 2 minutes and 33.44 seconds
 X-Cup: Galax, Virginia, 1928 Ford Model A Roadster, 4 minutes and 34.56 seconds
 To find out more about the Great Race, visit www.greatrace.com, or you can email jeff@greatrace.com or call 1-800-989-7223. The 2018 Race will start in Buffalo, NY.



JODY KNOWLES & BETH GENTRY

TRIVIA TIME!

Q: Who wrote to Henry Ford, "I have drove Fords exclusively when I could get away with one. It has got every other car skinned, and even if my business hasn't



been strictly legal it don't hurt anything to tell you what a fine car you got in the V-8."

A: Clyde Barrow (of Bonnie & Clyde) in 1934.