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This photo sort of sums up the kind of fun to be had at the London Cobra Show. This is Bob and Pat Bondurant enjoying the performance of John Spina's hot snake.

**The Cobra Replica
Faithful Gather in Ohio
Once Again for the
London Cobra Show**



BUCKEYE BLAST

story & photos by Jim Youngs

Of the 400+ burnout rides down an eighth mile of Main Street London, Ohio during the London Cobra Show, to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, we think the lion's share were handled by a grinning Bob Bondurant, one of the honored guests at this year's event. Bob took a real shine; again this year, to John Spina's quiet but ultra fast Everett-Morrison replica powered by a Grand National turbocharged V-6.

Bondurant was also asked by famed Cobra racer Dick Smith's widow, Heather, to pilot the venerable ol' #198 down the lane a few times to the cheers of the crowd. One would think that a guy would take it easy the first couple of passes in an unfamiliar car, but apparently Bob only has one speed; full on. Dick's car was on hand as a tribute to the racer and because this year's raffle replica was a faithful clone of his "Fastest Cobra Ever," a Factory Five Mk4 built by volunteers of the Ohio Cobra Club (OCC).

Also on hand as a special guest was '60s Shelby American team driver, Al-len Grant. Next year's raffle car will be



Part of the origins of this event was to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation through Team Jenny, named for Jennifer Smith (center), daughter of Factory Five Racing president, Dave Smith (left). She last appeared at the London Cobra Show when she was 3 years old. This year she was a judge for the cookie contest and, along with her two sisters, helped out in the FFR display. At right is Bill Dyer, president of the Ohio Cobra Club.

a replica of Allen's number 96 roadster described by Shelby historian, Dave Friedman, as "...the most beautiful Cobra race car of the whole bunch." The yellow

and black paint scheme was designed by George Lucas, yes, that George Lucas.

In addition to the popular Main Street burnouts the Ohio Cobra Club organized



Factory Five brought along their big rig stuffed with all sorts of rolling stock.



Hurricane displayed two very nice black roadsters; the company demonstrator and Dean Lampe's car.



Backdraft Racing had several nice examples on display along with their ancillary business, Iconic Parts.



Shell Valley brought along their demonstrator and a hot rod along with a customer roadster. The demo car even sold.



First timers at the LCS, Unique Motorcars displayed two nice roadsters and a very special Daytona Coupe that we'll tell you more about soon. We'll just say that Bondurant loved it!



Superformance was there in force with several cars including a nice Coyote-powered version. Their display also included some Roush engines.



Celina Custom Auto was responsible for the paint job on the giveaway car and is developing a Cobra replica line.



Every year the Ohio Cobra Club members build a Cobra replica that is raffled off with the funds going to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. This year's car (right) was a very faithful clone of Dick Smith's #198 (left), the Fastest Cobra Ever, clocked in a race at 198 mph. Thanks to Dick's widow, Heather, the original was also on hand to wow the spectators and even made numerous blasts down Main Street.



It was a perfect day for Cobra replicas of every description to bask in the sun in historic downtown London, Ohio.



It didn't take much arm twisting for Heather Smith (left) to get Bob Bondurant to drive Dick's venerable racecar.



The OCC booth did a land-office business selling T-shirts during the event.



bunch of activities to keep the Cobra faithful busy. Arriving early in the week, participants were treated to several tours of the countryside, discounted driving school at Mid Ohio, vintage races, autocross, pancake breakfast, auction, guest speakers, chocolate chip cookie contest and more. And the whole event is designed to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. During Saturday night's closing ceremonies the OCC presented a giant check to the Foundation for an impressive \$100,000. Capping off the activities was the drawing for the giveaway Cobra replica, this year won by London resident Buddy Byers, who was unreachable immediately.

Plans are already underway for next year's event with promises for even more fun and the kind of camaraderie that this event is famous for. Kudos to OCC president, Bill Dyer and the members of the club for their dedication to this event and their impressive organization. www.londoncobrashow.com. **KCB**



The burnout rides down Main Street is the hands-down favorite activity. This year the rides raised a record \$4,200 for charity.