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## **Bishop to host lunch stop on 2019 Great Race**

Bishop, Calif., will host a lunch stop on the 2019 *Hemmings Motor News* Great Race presented by *Hagerty* Sunday, June 23, race organizers have announced.

The Great Race, the world's premiere old car rally, will bring 120 of the world's finest antique automobiles to town for the \$150,000 event, with the first car rolling into Bishop City Park starting at noon.

In all, the participants in the event will cover more than 2,300 miles in 9 days. The start will be at the Mission Inn in downtown Riverside, Calif., on June 22.

The race will finish June 30 in Tacoma, Wash., at LeMay – America's Car Museum overlooking the Puget Sound.

Teams and cars from Japan, England, Germany, Canada and every corner of the United States will be participating in their vintage automobiles dating back as far as 1916.

"There are more than 500 people just in our entourage from all around the world taking part in this incredible adventure," director Jeff Stumb said.

Along the route, competitors will travel through four states – California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

The Great Race, which began 36 years ago, is not a speed race, but a time/speed/distance 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 check points along the way and are penalized one second for each second either early or late. As in golf, the lowest score wins.

Cars start – and hopefully finish – one minute apart if all goes according to plan. The biggest part of the challenge other than staying on time and following the instructions is getting an old car to the finish line each day, organizers say.

Each stop on the Great Race is free to the public and spectators will be able to visit with the participants and to look at the cars for several hours. It is common for kids to climb in the cars for a first-hand look.

Cars built in 1974 and earlier are eligible, with most entries having been manufactured before World War II. In the 2018 Great Race from Buffalo, N.Y., to Halifax, Nova Scotia, a 1933 Ford pickup truck won the event when it crossed the finish line in downtown Halifax. That vehicle was driven by Jeff Fredette of Tinsley Park, Ill., and navigated by his son Eric. They won \$50,000 for finishing first overall.

A 1916 Hudson Pikes Peak Hillclimber, a 1916 Chevrolet Phaeton, a 1917 Peerless Racer and a chain-driven 1918 American LaFrance Speedster are the oldest cars scheduled to be in the 2019 Great Race. The winners will again receive \$50,000 of the \$150,000 total purse.

Over the decades, the Great Race has stopped in hundreds of cities big and small, from tiny Austin, Nev., to New York City.

"When the Great Race pulls into a city it becomes an instant festival," Stumb said. "Last year we had a couple of overnight stops with more than 10,000 spectators on our way to having 250,000 people see the Great Race during the event."

The event was started in 1983 by Tom McRae and it takes its name from the 1965 movie, *The Great Race*, which starred Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon, Natalie Wood and Peter Falk. The movie is a comedy based on the real life 1908 automobile race from New York to Paris. In 2004, Tony Curtis was the guest of the Great Race and rode in his car from the movie, the Leslie Special.

The Great Race gained a huge following from late night showings on ESPN when the network was just starting out in the early 1980s. The first entrant, Curtis Graf of Irving, Texas, is still a participant today.

The event's main sponsors are *Hemmings Motor News*, Hagerty, Coker Tire and Reliable Carriers.

*For more information, go to [www.greatrace.com](http://www.greatrace.com) or contact Jeff Stumb at [jeff@greatrace.com](mailto:jeff@greatrace.com) or by calling him at 423-648-8542.*