

Things to Come



At the kickoff of HOT ROD Power Tour® 2017, we held an open forum with VIP Platinum participants. It was their chance to ask the HOT ROD staff about any subject matter they wanted. I had no idea what to expect, but it ended up being an extremely memorable part of the event. Being in a room with that many like-minded car people, many of whom had double-digit Power Tours and decades of readership under their belts, was an absolute blast and the questions were heartfelt and fun to answer. One of my favorites—and the most unexpected—was, “Do you see electric cars becoming a mainstay in hot rodding?” The staff was each given a chance to relay their thoughts on the issue. Every member had a radically different answer. Phillip Thomas rattled off several examples of electric cars that were setting records, had crazy acceleration, and that the technology was rapidly decreasing in price so the average guy would be able to afford it. Thom Taylor was resolute that he wanted nothing to do with electric cars in the hobby.

It was a pleasant reminder that this magazine is a tapestry of divergent interests, bound together each month by a simple, shared passion. A friend,

mentor, and longtime *Street Rodder* editor, Brian Brennan, once told me, “If all your guys think the same, you’ll have a boring magazine.”

Back to the question: My thoughts were far longer-winded, but split the difference on the issue.

Electric cars will join our hobby in the near future—and why not? They have tires, suspension, and hundreds of other parts that the aftermarket can expand on. They will encourage innovation and be a revenue source for the industry and, as Tesla has proved, can be fun to drive.

But it will be a different type of person behind the wheel. Someone chasing tenths on a racetrack or mpg on the highway will find allure in an electric car. The rest of us hot rodders are after something else entirely: nostalgia. Classic cars are windows to the past. For some, they represent a more youthful chapter. For others, a glimpse at an era never experienced. They are roaming anachronisms, with tailpipe symphonies resonating harmoniously through our souls. They evoke a visceral and faculty experience that no electric car will ever recreate.

➤HOTROD.COM/Evan-Perkins



[Ironically, an electric—well, solar—car showed up on Power Tour® 2017. It was built by this crew of young guns from Illinois State University and actually drove on the route!

*Even Prius-driving Managing Editor Phil McRae loves Art Director Ryan Lugo's revamped HOT ROD Instagram feed (@hotrodmagazine). ☺

IN MY OPINION

Drive Time
I'd like to organize a drive to the start of Power Tour® 2018. Who's with me?

The World Is Flat
Someone suggested a dyno test of flat- versus cross-plane crankshafts. That would be a ton of work, but I think I know who can help me pull it off.

Donor Car On Steroids
A friend brought home a “donor car” with a healthy powertrain to swap into his 1962 GMC pickup, except it wasn't a “car” but a motorhome!

Which Is It?
The most common question I was asked on Power Tour® 2017 was, “What was your favorite car?” Truthfully, I couldn't pick between all the awesome rides.

➤HOTROD.COM/Brandon-Gillogly



I recently went through my toolbox in a futile attempt to organize my sockets. I have so many duplicates of the most common sockets, thanks to various swap-meet acquisitions, that I've almost got too many—if there is such a thing (which there isn't).

➤HOTROD.COM/Thom-Taylor



Since the article I did about NHRA's Pro Stock debacle a few months back, there has been no hint of changes, revisions, or focus to do something about the all-Chevy Pro Stock series. I hope the reason is because they're coming up with a really cool new format for 2018.

➤HOTROD.COM/Phillip Thomas



Who else checks the garage before the home when returning from a trip? Mostly to make sure that no more 10mm sockets have been stolen, of course, but we motorheads prioritize things differently. Tools are more expensive than silverware, and I'd miss a project car a lot more than my TV.

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