

NCCC'S Top 15 2010 Competitors

Jim & Joan Thomas ~ #1

Jim and Joan Thomas
Northern Illinois CC
Midwest Region

We joined our Club and NCCC in 1994 but didn't start competing right away. Once we did, we were hooked and our journey began. In 1995, Jim's first Sanctioned Event



was a Concours, Joan's was a Rallye and our first Autocross Events were Labor Day Weekend. There are many stories we can tell and many memories we hold close about the events we've entered, the travels we have experienced and the friendships that have grown since those first competitions.

Jim first thought about our making a run for the 2010 NCCC Championships on our way home from Convention in 2009. Realizing that it would require us to dedicate one whole year to accomplish the goal, it took us about a month to decide that we would accept the challenge. The pre-planning was exciting, the details were many and we were soon anxious to hit the road!

We set out for the first time on February 2, 2010. At that time, we did not fully comprehend what a year it would be. We drove almost 54,000 miles to compete in 443 events over 36 weekends in 17 different states and then back home again...back and forth across the country traveling over many different roads across 27 states. As we traveled, we took the time to drive some back roads, visit some National Museums and local attractions, stop at interesting places we just happened to come across, visit and stay with family and friends and explore what this great country has to offer. In Kansas, we came across Big Brutus, a 16-story tall drag link excavator from their strip mining days. In Colorado, we marveled at a very large statue of a Buffalo made out of old chrome bumpers. In New Mexico, we were treated to a herd of lifelike metal horse sculptures galloping over a rise near the highway. In Florida, we were fortunate to witness a rocket launch. We left in the snowy winter, watched

spring come alive across the country, enjoyed a presentation of colorful flowers and trees through the summer and we watched the fall leaves bring us full circle back to winter. We did and saw so many things before we arrived home for the last time (in the snow again) on December 14, 2010, but we get the biggest smiles when remembering all of the people we shared this most memorable year with as we experienced our adventure. What fun we all had! What laughs we all shared! What memories we all created! And WOW...what a Country!



We are so grateful for our safe year long adventure and will cherish 2010 as the most memorable full year of our lives. It took more than just the two of us to attain our championships. Thank you to everyone for your unique contributions to the success of Team Thomas. You know who you are, you know what you did and we will never forget you and your support. We both realize that without the encouragement, support and good wishes from our families, as well as our Corvette family and especially the competitors and all of the workers, it would have been more difficult to stay focused on our goals for the entire year.

We plan to be on the road again in 2011 and continue on the journey we started in 1995. We plan to compete as much as possible for many more years, but realize that 2010 will be difficult to top.

