

A Car, a Cause, and 450 Miles of Open Road

by Eric Bybee

Full tank of gas...check. Map...check. Coffee...check. Co-driver...sleeping, but check. Big smile on face...check.

The screaming yellow Mustang in front of away, and I popped it into first. We were

Months of planning and anticipation had end. The 2005 Cheese Wheel 450 was and I driving in it...

A college roommate of mine and I dreamed of the Cheese Wheel 450 after watching a film on the Gumball 3000, an annual no-mile cross country/continent/world race. We “Why should these Ferrari and Lotus driving get to have all the fun?” Within minutes after the credits rolled on the film, we had a plan in place. We would organize a similar (but safer) event, a road rally, to take place in Wisconsin across 450 miles of roads, highways, and interstates starting at Lake Michigan in Racine and ending at Lake Superior in Superior. We would charge a small entry fee in exchange for a rally packet which included a map, official Cheese Wheel 450 decal, and a t-shirt. All proceeds were to be donated to The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Association and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin.



Inaugural 2005 Cheese Wheel 450 participants just before the start in Racine.

me pulled officially off.

come to an finally here,

up the idea documentary rules, 3000 figured, millionaires

The event drew 11 participants from all over Wisconsin and raised \$160 for each charity. Stops were made along the way for lunch and refueling, and the night concluded with a dinner at Barker’s Island Inn in Superior.



A tricked out Miata and Evo MR refueling in Eau Claire.

Planning for the 2006 Cheese Wheel 450 is already well underway. We now officially have a website (www.cheesewheel450.com) which is loaded with information: pictures from last year, a promotional video, information on the charities, and a registration page. Also, we have been able to get two corporate sponsors and already have people signed up to participate.

The 2005 event was a huge success, and lots of fun. Everyone enjoyed the drive and the camaraderie. A big thanks goes out to all that made the rally last year.

The 2006 Cheese Wheel 450 is scheduled for August 5th. If you would like to participate in the event or would like more information, please email us at cheesewheel450@gmail.com.

A presentation was shown at the April club meeting. Sign up papers were passed around for email notification. Several club members are interested in this worthy cause. Please contact them if you are interested in participating.