

Cruisin' for a Cure on Three Legs  
By Doug Beck

The trip was planned for weeks before my accident but a sprained ankle and crutches were not going to stop me from enjoying what was to be a pretty cool weekend. The trip like any story has a beginning, a middle, and an end; the beginning being the trip driving to California, the middle being our tour of the Warner Bros. Studios, DMC Open House, and the day at the Cruisin' for a Cure 08 car show, and the end being the events of the day on the way home.

Ben Ferguson, Johnny Sawyer, and I all met at Johnny's to set out in his gas saving Honda. I rigged up my foot in a quik camera strap rig to make myself comfortable in the backseat. On the way we had an exciting moment where a driver on the freeway was harassing a specific driver following his speed and lane changes for miles. Our very own Ben sprang to action calling 911 informing the operator of the dangerous driver. Ten minutes later we saw a highway patrol vehicle pull over the vehicle, great job Ben! A few stops for food along the way got Ben and I some subway sandwiches and some dry Chesters Chicken for Johnny, yum-yum! A special truck stop to use the restroom and look for radioactive signs was another stop we had made along the way - you never know when you might need one. After some road construction giving us a bit of a detour we made it to our home away from home to sleep for the day ahead.

We awake and prepare for our day with a breakfast of champs consisting of donuts, milk, and chicken fingers. Yes, I said chicken fingers which were Bens breakfast of choice but in his defense they were really good. We set out to DMC Cali to grab our fellow AZ-D club member Chris Mack to take a tour of the Warner Bros. Studios. I was told this was going to be a trolley tour so crutching around wasn't going to be a big deal in my mind - Wrong. The trip was more walking then anything but I was more then happy to do the hopping around. We started off with some basic outdoor sets and watched the filming of a portion of the Ghost Whisperer with Jennifer Love Hewitt. Then there was a Museum of costume and prop pieces but cameras were not allowed as were they for most of the tour. We also saw some movie cars and a set of Friends. A great time was had by all 4 of us but we had to get to the DMC open house so away we went. The open house was my first but I think it went well and was a good time. Of course I spent the whole time fixing a BTTF Digital Speedometer replica that I had built for a nice guy named J Ryan whom I had built several parts for months ago and this one was giving him some trouble. So I set my crutches aside the car and hoped in and got to work. But, between doing that I got to talk to two of our Cali AZ-D'ers Chris Mack and Garth Dale who are always a pleasure and treat to talk to about all things DeLorean and beyond. I met a few new people there as well one whom just bought a pre-built time machine and was seeing it for the first time there. Ben was not seen for a while since DMC Cali is to Ben as a fat kid is to cake. Johnny mingled around as well and as said before a good time was had by all. The day ended though with us all driving the D's to the Orange County Fairgrounds to stage the D's for the next day. We then all went to TGI Fridays for dinner. Again, a great time had there that night with plenty of interesting conversation and antics, especially messing with the waitresses. The next day was the big day I had kind of been dreading, the car show. Now, why would I say dread? If you haven't had to get around on crutches yet hope you never do, it was a huge show and a lot of walking was necessary which I couldn't do. Heck, even the walk from the parking lot to the D's was tiring. I spent the show sitting by J Ryan's time machine again, doing repairs to the speedo and looking at other problems. But, Johnny rescued me at one point to go on a cruise of all things around the show. Danny Botkin was nice enough to let him use one of the shop D's to drive around. We saw a lot of cool cars of course and had to have heard that our doors were open from many a beer holding patrons. As is the nature of all good things our time at the show had to come to an end. We said our goodbyes and headed back to get some sleep before our trip home.

Next morning we got one last stop at Ruby's Diner which was our restaurant of choice our time in Cali. Then, off to our last business before heading home, going to the BTTF filming locations! I had never been to them so Johnny thought it only right that we go do those. We went to Puente Hills mall first where I dared Johnny to roll down the hill like Marty but he kinda had me since I couldn't do it and that was the only way he was. Then we headed to the Gamble House Mansion which was Doc's house before it burnt down in the movie. Last we went to where else, the McFly house which we were lucky to not run into its angry owner. After some quick pics and video we grabbed some In 'N Out burger and we were on our way back to our home state. Ben slept most the way so the criminals of the road were safe from his fast dialing fingers and Johnny rocked out to his Ipod while I got some sleep off and on. We stopped in Quartzsite to scope out this antique car yard that caught the guys' eyes. It was nice to make it home though. I was dead tired from crutching around everywhere but in the end it didn't matter. It was a great trip with great friends and would do it again 2 legs or 3.