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# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Vintage Car Enthusiasts Will Celebrate Historic Auto Race Centennial

On October 18, 2008 a group of adventuresome automobile enthusiasts driving vintage cars will begin a three-week, highly-anticipated, caravan across the U.S. to celebrate the most historic event in U. S. and world automotive history.

The greatest automobile race in history began on February 12, 1908 when 250,000 people gathered in Times Square to send off 17 men, driving in six of the most innovative automobiles of the era. They raced westward to San Francisco. The cars were shipped across the Pacific, and then raced across the vast expanses of Asia and Europe. After six months and 22,000 miles three teams made a spectacular finish at the Eiffel Tower in Paris. With intelligent planning and emotional fortitude, the American team triumphed over extreme physical conditions to win; racing the "Thomas Flyer" under the leadership of George Schuster.

On October 18 of this year, a group of automobile enthusiasts, coordinated by Luke Rizzuto, will begin in Times Square, NY, and follow the exact route used by George Schuster across the U.S. to San Francisco, CA. Luke is calling this homage to the early automotive pioneers 'The Longest Auto Race Centennial'. He explains, "It is more of a caravan than a race, so that more drivers can join the adventure".

There will be no entry fees or timed checkpoints. Participants may join and leave as they please and are responsible for their own food, lodging, and fuel expenses. There is no specific age requirement for participating vehicles, though pre-1972 vintage autos are preferred. Since this event is also celebrating 100 years of automotive innovation, alternative fuel vehicles are also invited to join the once-in-a-100 year caravan.

Luke himself will be driving his rare vintage 1918 Chevy V8 and is particularly excited to have Jeff Mahl, great-grandson of George Schuster, riding with him. Jeff's extensive knowledge of the 1908 Great Race will provide the participants with insights into the many challenges that the original drivers faced along the historic route.

Historical societies and supportive individuals across the country have already expressed enthusiasm about the celebration.

Those interested in joining the group or learning more about The Longest Auto Race Centennial, can visit [www.longestautoracecent.com](http://www.longestautoracecent.com).

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