

More than 1,000 engines will rev at San Bernardino's Rendezvous Back to Route 66

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The Rendezvous Back to Route 66 car show and cruise in downtown San Bernardino, Calif. on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016. Hundreds of classic cars were showcased during the event. (Photo by Rachel Luna/The Sun, SCNG)

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In downtown San Bernardino for the third consecutive year, the 5th annual Rendezvous Back to Route 66 is expected to draw more than 1,000 custom and classic cars, topping last year's turnout.

Organizers expect more than 25,000 guests at the daylong celebration of the city's roots.

Presented by the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce and the city of San Bernardino, the Rendezvous is from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, and will have entertainment, food and merchandise and three beer gardens.

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Also, the poker run and open header contest return.

Since relocating the free event to downtown, participation has "exploded," said Jack Avakian, a chamber board

member and volunteer. More than 400 volunteers are expected to help with the festivities.

“We can’t run an event like this without the volunteers,” Avakian said.

Five things to look out for:

- For the first year, there will be a First Responders Row for guests to check out fire engines, police cars, military vehicles and an ambulance. Sherlock, the San Bernardino Police Department K-9 of the Year, is expected to be there, too.
- The 1.3-mile cruise route will wind around and through the event area, from 2nd Street to Arrowhead Avenue, north to 5th Street, west on 5th to E Street, south on E Street, east on 4th Street to D Street, south on D Street to 2nd Street, east on 2nd to Arrowhead Avenue.
- Court Street Square will be the activity hub. Its parking lot will have a beer garden and food and merchandise vendors. With American, Chinese, Italian and Mexican food booths expected, there should be something for everyone’s tastes.
- Free parking is available around the Carousel Mall and in the parking structure behind Big 5 Sporting Goods.
- The 12-mile poker run begins at 7:30 a.m. at Costco, 1099 E. Hospitality Lane. Drivers will collect cards at The Art Institute, 674 E. Brier Dr.; Mattel, 1456 Harry Shepard Blvd.; Norton Air Force Base Museum, 1601 E. 3rd St.; and the historic McDonald’s Museum, 1398 N. E St. Participants with the best five-card hands will win prizes.

For more information: rendezvoustoroute66.com.