



SHOW HISTORY

On Memorial Day 1996 a group of antique police car owners, including myself driving a 1966 Chevy Bel Air Chicago police car, caravanned out from Chicago to Genoa for the Police Unity Day Parade. We enjoyed it so much that we did it again in 1997, and afterwards had a BBQ at the home of Chicago Police Sgt. Greg Reynolds, an avid police car restorer and photo historian. During the party someone came up with the idea that we should create a local show for antique police cars. So in 1998, Greg planned the very first Chicagoland Emergency Vehicle Show. We gathered about 25 squad cars, a Harley Servi-Car, and 1 fire engine in Harwood Heights at their summer festival.

In 1999 the show doubled in size when Greg moved it to the parking lot of the Rosemont Horizon. An emergency vehicle obstacle course was added, a big hit with police car owners. In 2002, after a couple years down the road at the Rosemont Theater, the show was without a home. I got involved to help Greg find a new location near my hometown of Aurora. While enjoying a break for ice cream at Oberweis Dairy in North Aurora, we were talking with Joe Oberweis (the milkman in those commercials) and he offered us the use of their property and introduced us to their corporate neighbors, the Aurora Pump Company/Pentair. The 5th Annual CEVS was born! After the success of the 2002 show, which doubled in size to 150 emergency vehicles, Greg handed me the reigns and I became the show's organizer.

The North Aurora Fire Dept. has an active role in planning for the North Aurora Days Festival. With their yearly support and that of the NAPD, the Village adopted our Friday night Lights and Sirens Parade as the kick-off to their weekend festival. The Emergency Vehicle Cruise Night became an added attraction during the concert and fireworks. During the big show on Saturday, the NAFD provides the backbone for the incredible demonstrations we produce, including elaborate extrication crashes, structure fire response, and live propane fire training. IDOT, Lin-Mar Towing, and now O'Hare Towing (featured on the Speed TV series *Wrecked*) also help to locate, haul in, tear apart, and haul away demo vehicles and structures. Kane and Kendall County SWAT teams became involved and continue to amaze the crowd with high-risk entry simulations.

2009 brings us to the 12th Annual CEVS. What started off as a line of antique cop cars in the Police Unity Day Parade now anticipates yearly participation of around 200 emergency vehicles, 100 in the parade. I am thrilled to announce that the organizer of the Police Unity Day Parade, Frank Beierlotzer, has decided to mark his 21st and final year as parade organizer by merging his parade with ours on July 31st. Thank you Frank! And thank you to every agency and collector for your generous sharing of time and resources.

Dave Weaver, Organizer, Chicagoland Emergency Vehicle Show