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42Americruise, held this year in Springfield, Illinois, drew rodders from all over the country.

SPECIAL SECTION: AMERICAUISE '97

Americruise '97

See what the fifth Americruise was all about.

The Show

42 The Illinois State Fairgrounds played host to more than 3,000 rods, customs, and classic trucks.

The Tours

Read first-hand accounts of each of the nine tours that led to Americauise.

FEATURE STORIES

Top Gun

A chronicle of the life and career of custom top and interior creator Bill Gaylord.

115

Brake System Buyer's Guide

94 We've compiled a treasure trove of trick parts to help you in your quest for stopping power.

Ford Motorsport's Ultimate T-bird

The 'Bird's finally finished. Here's your chance to check it out.

HOW-TO TECH

Big-Block Chevy Buildup

106 In Part Two of our "Killer Rat" buildup we add heads, a valve train, intake manifold, ignition, and carburetion.

Emergency Brake Install

Adding a universal E-brake to your ride is easy with Lokar's kit.

Engine Bracket Install

We update the mounting system on a '57 Chevy small-block.

Bracket & Brake Install

A classic Jaguar IRS gets a bracket and brake update.

RODS & CUSTOMS

'40 Ford Convertible	79
Terry Drake's award-winning two-door is a "Fab Phantom Phaeton."	

84 '30 Ford Coupe

This "Lethal A" is one mean-looking beast.

88 'AR Chevy Pickup A group of friends hailing from Pennsylvania help create "Fitch's Fine '48."

92 '50 Merc Custom

Handsome, powerful, and cleanly shaved, "Mercules" has reached mythic status. 104

'32 Ford Sedan With some work by the experts at PC³g, Charles DeHeras' cherry sedan becomes his

"Old Blue '32."

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This Merc may not be able to wrestle lions, but we bet it's got other ways of proving its might.



 $32\,$ If you didn't make it to Americruise this year, you can still check out the action here. If you're among those who can say, "I survived Americruise, enjoy a little reminiscing with us.

ON THE COVER: From A-bones to Vickys and everything in-between, the street rods of Americruise rolled into Springfield, Illinois, ready to live it up. PPC's own Scott Killeen stopped cruisin' just long enough to snap

