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The North Carolina Region

Hello,

My name is Eric C. Marsh. I'm an AACA Senior Master judge, current chairman for the Continuing Judges Education (CJE) program and the CJE instructor for tires. When our members restore a vehicle and place it on the field for judging, it is assumed it has been in accordance with our AACA General Policy which (in brief) says the vehicle represents how it looked when it left the dealer with factory authorized accessories.

When looking at this process, it is expected that the vehicle will have tires that are of the period. When any question arises, the judge asks the owner for factory documentation.

Over the last few years there have been challenges to accomplish this and some of them have been in the area of tires. There are two questions that come up quite often:

1. "Why can't I, as an AACA member, get a discount on the price of my new tires from the aftermarket manufacturer " ?
2. "I have called everyone I can think of and cannot find the Alpha radial tires for my car. When are we going to have them" ?

I believe the first question would fall back to our Executive Director, Steve Moskowitz, and our current president, Tom Cox. They have the organizational position to make the case to someone like Corky Coker to negotiate that discount. Once they recognize this is a priority for our members, we will hear of their success.

I have taken on the second question. Most of our vehicles have the period correct tire available. The three page ad you see in the back of each issue of Hemmings magazine is quite extensive. One small group of vehicles has been overlooked. Many of our vehicles from 1973 to 1978 could have come with Alpha radials. During that period we had bias ply tires ( such as 6.70-15) , Eurometric tires ( such as 225R78-15) and Alpha radials (such as FR78-15). When the

P-metic tires were introduced in late 1978 on the Corvette, the tire manufacturers wanted to reduce the inventory complexity and dropped the Alpha radials.

I have spoken with each of the aftermarket tire suppliers and received the same answer from each of them. "Show me how much potential demand there may be and we will initiate production". These vehicles are displayed in classes 27K, 27L, and 27M. I have been on the forum, published in the Speedster and walked down the line in each of these three classes at each AACA National Meet talking with these owners. I have requested that any owner, who feels they would like the correct Alpha radial tire for their vehicle, to share their requirement and contact information with me to be placed in a registry. Once this file is of reasonable size, I will go back to the aftermarket manufacturers and see if and when we can have these tires made available.

This process will work but, I've recognized that I am only one man. I need the help of others to "get the word out" that we can do this if we band together. The sports car owners were successful in the past and recently the Corvette owners were able to get GR70-15 tires back into production by Kelsey Tire.

My request is that you poll your members to find who has a 1973 to 1978 vehicle. Ask them to check their documentation to determine if an Alpha radial is what was originally on the vehicle. Ask them to contact me via phone, e-mail or letter if they wish to be placed on this registry.

We are a club that stands for authenticity and the members who own these 1973 to 1978 vehicles need our help.

Thanks,



Eric C. Marsh