

# '57 Wagon WITH A PURPOSE

Sweet Patina is the name of one very cool patinaed '57 Chevy wagon owned by Blake Evans of McKinney, Texas. This is the story of how Blake acquired and then restored this '57 wagon and how his love of cars, his passion for helping people and his career in Physical Therapy all came together to create the Sweet Patina ALS Road Trip Challenge which Blake hopes will help bring attention to and spread awareness of ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease.

Blake Evans is your normal car guy. He has a wife of 12 years (his high school sweetheart), three little ones who he adores, and a passion for old cars. Oh... and he has fond memories of traveling the highways and byways of the US with his mom, dad, sister and brother in whatever classic his dad owned at the time. Fun times. So it's no surprise that Blake wanted a classic for his own family road trips. Blake told us, "Since my dad and grandfather were both painters and top tier restoration gurus the idea of having a patinaed ride was kinda funny, we always had painted classics in our family." But once Blake started having kids of his own he realized that what he really wanted was "a classic that had a timeless look to it like a 1950's road trip time capsule" so he decided that a patinaed car would be perfect. As he says, "We like the Windows 'n Wheels Detail and Drive wash package. Something we can park and not worry if the paint is getting scratched and all door dinged. Besides, with kids, who has time to detail a ride every time you want to go cruising?"

Blake's original patinaed car was a 1972 C10 Suburban named "Big Ugly" (the Evans family likes to name their cars) and almost as soon as he sold it in December of 2015, he regretted it. He had always wanted to do like his dad did with the kids and go cruising with his family in a classic. "I loved to cruise with my wife and 3 year old to local shows and to get Saturday morning donuts in the Suburban, but without a

classic family hauler it just wasn't the same" writes Blake. "And my 3 year old started to cry when she found out I had sold the Suburban too, so I was relentlessly searching Craigslist, eBay and a Facebook page... The Street Machinery Sales and Service Sunday Swap-A-Rama (started by Boris Maryanvosky)... for a replacement."

Shortly after the Suburban sold Blake's brother, Drew, sent a picture of a '57 wagon from Boris's FB page. Once Blake saw the picture and checked out the car on Boris's page, he just could not stop thinking about how he would build the car. "Boris builds some of the coolest and most amazing Patina rides around, so it's easy to spend time stalking his Facebook and Instagram pages collecting ideas."



# SWEET PATINA A.L.S. ROAD CHALLENGE

Blake decided that the '57 was the car he was looking for and after a few calls back and forth, Blake and Boris struck a deal and the car was delivered, full of patina and needing a lot of TLC. Blake was really excited! When the car arrived on the trailer the whole family went out to take a look, Blake heard his 3-year-old start to cry....“I don't like that car!” Blake asked her “Baby, why don't you like the car?” to which she replied...“It's Ugly!” Blake told her that it was patinaed just like Big Ugly and she asked, (as three year olds do) “Is it Sweet Patina or Mean Patina, Daddy?” “Sweet Patina,” said Blake...and the name stuck.

The plan was that Blake wanted to participate in part of the 2016 Hot Rod Power Tour, which was scheduled to take off in June. So in early January 2016, the restoration of “Sweet Patina” began. First off, to get Sweet Patina ready for the trip the interior had to be removed and replaced. The car was gutted and they found that one rear floor pan needed to be replaced as well. Once the floor pan was fixed the entire floor was coated with POR15 and covered with Rattle Trap sound and temperature insulation. Next, the beautiful Ciadella interior (seat covers, door panels, headliner and carpet) was installed. With that accomplished, Blake turned his attention to the original 283 engine. “Our idea was to at least have the interior in and out and to change the plugs and rebuild the carburetor just to see just how far we could get on the Tour before the original engine died on us. During our time on that trip it died around 6-7 times. We just don't know what we would have done without all the people who stopped to help us get back on the road. We had to nurse



Blake and his father.

it about 2300 miles to get it back to Mississippi.” (Blake's mechanic lives in Mississippi)

Once they got to Mississippi Blake really got to work. The old 283 was replaced with a crate 350. Then Blake added Vintage Air, C5 Corvette brakes w/ drop spindles, and Billet Specialties wheels; all sourced from Boris at Street Machinery. Once they had installed a tow hitch, rear air shocks and a trailer brake controller, Blake and the family found themselves traveling from camp ground to camp ground and show to show pulling a 1961 Re-Issue Shasta Airflyte Trailer. “Between doing sections of the Power Tours and several out of state events we have visited 13 states, made countless family memories and collected around 10,000 miles on the odometer. And we did it with 3 kids in car seats and a station wagon full of diapers and pack 'n plays with milk cups flying around.” Blake says.



Blake and his family.



# 48 CONTIGUOUS US STATES TO RAISE AWARENESS

Blake loves his job. But he mostly loves the fact that he gets to help people get back in the saddle, able to function normally again after a surgery or accident. And he gets to do that almost every single day. Except the days when he sees one of his patients, and now friend, Bernard Rudler. You see, Bernard is battling ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis). Also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. A disease for which there is no cure and for which the cause in 90% to 95% of the cases is not known. "With my ALS patients," says Blake, "I feel so helpless. There is no cure... there is no recovery. The only good part of the situation is meeting these incredible men and women that are fighting this disease. So I decided to combine my career in healthcare, my passion for classic cars and my love for helping others to create the Sweet Patina ALS Road Trip Challenge."



Blake and Bernard.

maybe a pledge might help heat things up. So, he pledged to drive "Sweet Patina" thru all the lower 48 states attending shows and spreading the word about ALS. He also set a goal to raise \$100,00.00 for the cause.

As things progressed, even though he could not actually do a national fundraiser, the Sweet Patina ALS Road Trip Challenge began to gain traction. "Pretty soon", writes Blake, "People from all over the country wanted to know how they could help or donate to their States ALS Chapter. So one night after getting the kids off to bed I sat down and created a link to every single ALS Chapter across the US. So now, if you want to donate just go to [www.sweetpatina.com](http://www.sweetpatina.com) and click where it says, "Click here to donate. Choose your state chapter, click on the link and you can donate directly to the one of your choice."

Blake is proud to say that some of the biggest companies in the Automotive World have signed on to help support the cause. These include Vintage Flatz, RideTech, Ciadella Interiors, Holley Performance, VP Racing Fuels, Billet Specialties, Danchuk, HPI Customs, iKamper, Painless Performance,

Digi-Tails, DeadEnd Garage, Laid Back, Magnuson Superchargers, Magnaflow, Goodguys, TCI Automotive, Ididit and Max Grundy. More are bound to sign on as The Sweet Patina ALS Road Trip Challenge continues to gain traction.

It was on the drive home from the 2018 Power Tour in early June 2018 when the idea was hatched. Blake knew that much of the fun of going to different shows was the standing and walking around hot parking lots to appreciate and ogle all the cool rides and the general camaraderie that goes on among the people who attend the shows both as spectators and participants. "The Automotive World is one of the most generous groups of people I have ever been a part of," says Blake. "So I thought I could start something similar to the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, only this would be a challenge to encourage hot rodders to get out and drive their cars and trucks and post a picture of them driving and enjoying their cars or trucks. Hopefully they would then follow the links on the Sweet Patina website, donate, and share the experience with their friends."



Some of the states Sweet Patina has traveled to.

And Blake and his family are knee deep in their personal challenge. The weekend before this publication went to print they were just getting back from the Goodguys Lone Star Nationals in Fort Worth, Texas where they got almost 2K in additional donations...but they have a long way to go to reach their goal. In their quest they will travel countless thousands of miles and go through many states a couple of times to get "Sweet Patina" to all 48.

Their next big trip will be the East Coast leg. They plan to participate in the 2019 Power Tour but they will

leave the group for a few days to travel up to Maine. Then they plan to meet back up with the tour group in Ohio. Along their way they will be making stops at different ALS Association Chapters as well as different car shows spreading awareness about this dreadful disease. So keep an eye out and if you see they will be in your town go out and support them. We are positive that Blake and his family will appreciate it.

Blake wanted to thank Micah Claycamp who donated his time to create the T-Shirt Design for the fundraiser. All proceeds from the sale of these Tee's goes to ALS Research. "We would love to have your support," writes Blake. "God Bless and Safe Travels."

\*\*\*When you donate thru the ALS Texas Chapter page all donations go directly to the ALS Chapter of Texas. To reach You can use this link: <https://danchukusa.com/Sweet-Patina-ALS-Challenge> to reach the page.

A few days after returning from the Tour and after much discussion with his wife and Bernard, Blake got started on making things happen. He met with Catherine Nodorft of the Texas Chapter of the ALS Association. After talking with Blake, The ALS Association of Texas, along with the Texas Community of Hope, created a donation page on their website for the Sweet Patina ALS Road Trip Challenge.\*\*\* Now that Blake had the ALS Association of Texas's support and blessing he got to work. He quickly built a website, created social media pages and started sharing information about the Sweet Patina Challenge. Since the concept Blake had thought of was a very new idea to the ALS Association, Blake was not able to do a "National Fundraiser" thru them. So he spent most of July praying and thinking "non-stop" on how he could proceed to make this happen and in the process create a national buzz for ALS. Blake decided they needed more to get out the word, an "Action Getter". He thought that