



Dave Ruddrow's



www.ocpanteras.com

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Laguna Beach Show was held October 18 at the home of the Festival of the Arts. This is the first year in which our club has been invited to the prestigious event thanks to Cindy Harris. None of us came close to winning the pre-74 foreign sports car category simply because the competition is unbelievably tough. The Austin Healy group was the only one outnumbering our 4 cars. Yet, we felt right as home with all the sparkling autos, from the brass radiator examples to the upper class Brit, German and Italian issues. The one that caught my eye was a 1967 Ghia 450 SS. There were only 52 made of this now \$2 million valued car. Its dash is quite similar to the Mongusta. I was drawn to the Saab Sonnett II with its Ford V4. The engine is exactly the same as my midships Matra M530 with 73hp but the Matra was RWD rather than FWD. Phyllis found a perfect 1953 MGTD mark II. The owner gave us some leads to get the MG parts needed to complete her car. All the Panteras were arrayed within the central court and occupied a very premier spot. Meanwhile, the American hotrods and muscle cars were located across the street in the municipal parking lot. They too were outstanding representations of the craft. Most importantly the food was great.



Harris, Kunishige & White



Wings Wheels n Rotors Los Alamitos airfield was the site of a show it all event. Here planes of every size and age met helicopters on the tarmac for us to explore. I tried each of the jump seats and found them to be uncomfortable. Cars came in all classes from antiques to classics (tri-fives), hot rods, cruisers and sports. Among the latter was our own Bob Culpepper with his special passenger. My car was flanked by a rat rod and surf woodie. The weather was most cooperative and as the day progressed more feminine clothing disappeared to my delight. A red 63 Falcon Sprint Convertible brought back fond memories from my first year of marriage.



Willow Springs A bright beautiful day yielded a perfect setting for this lively event. Our entry to the track was a bit earlier than normal because the chatty members on the ride left my absent-minded right foot a bit heavier than usual. Luckily those black and white cars were all too busy to notice Phyllis' big black four door sedan. Repeatedly both Jim and Cherie Saxton do a fantastic job in hosting this event. Their lunch spread is of particular note. My diabetes bars me from the sweets but everything else on the table is fair game. It's true, offer free food to a Pantera owner and he'll be there...at least I'll be there.

There were three Detomaso cars on the track in different classes. A white L caught my attention but I neglected to meet the driver. The same was true for the yellow Guara. But I did get to speak to Dan Courtney about his ride. I'll let him speak about his day. Only one Ferrari attended this year. Thanks go to these brave participants.



If you were there you may have seen me pleading for a ride. Armed with helmet in hand I accosted one instructor; then Dale relented. We walked up to a bone stock BMW 540. Oops, did I make a mistake? Was I suppose to ride in the back seat with the grocery bags? Nope. In fact he even handed me a communications link to allow us to talk during the ride--front seat for me.

The BMW v8 doesn't have the torque to power out of the turns like our Panteras do. Instead, I learned that he went around the track faster than my car by following the racing line and extracting the most speed through smooth use of the tires and suspension. One point he made was that Formula Ford (FF) drivers do not use the brakes. They scrub off speed using their tires. One driver ahead of us gave me more insight as Dale told me that his slow speed is the result of constant movement of the steering because he needs to look farther down the road. The corrections scrub speed like the FF cars. Like our 3 liter six, the sweet spot on the BMW is above 3,600 rpm. Keeping the revs high is important as is using 4 of the 5 forward speeds. In the Pantera, I used only three. He passed cars of every ilk from big bore Mustangs, Cobra, Z28 and each of the foreign cars. Each car we approached was caught at the turns. Some of the big blocks pulled away on the two straights but, since we are not allowed to pass in the turns for this class, they both gave us the pass signal on the next straight. We entered turn 8 at an even 100 mph and held it through turn 9 leading down the front straight to 120 mph. This tells me that the Pantera can go a lot faster when I get better driving skills. I'll hunt down Dale once again when my car is ready for this track. The lessons are free to you and me.



Dave Adler brought out his new Monte Carlo seen here entering the hot pits. It is always a joy to watch him run. Support came from the Gornys, Colin Haney and Bobby Bishop. Tom Todak brought his Pantera for all to see.



HB Concours is in the planning stage and we hope to have an overwhelming showing there in 2010. Let's get two dozen cars on the lawn. Schedule a tech session with me via email rkunishige@hotmail.com. Your place or mine.

Date? No I'm not asking for one. My wife doesn't allow it. Someone wanted to know how to decode his tires. Old tires had an alpha code system that simply translates to...don't use these at highway speeds 'cause they're too old. Search for the line on the sidewall that starts with "DOT". Skip to the end on the line for the last four numbers. These indicate the week number and the two digit year of manufacture. So, 4807 says 48th week of 2007.

Please help us plan for the coming year by proposing a run for all of us to enjoy. Speak to Bill Harris, or even better Cindy, with your idea. The only requirement is that it be a fun thing to do.

Reminders: from rkunishige@hotmail.com. Everyone with an interest in DeTomaso cars is always welcome.

- Nov 11 **TPOC Mtg** 7pm at Marie Calendar's next to Mel's Drive-in 12241 Seal Bch Blvd, Seal Beach. Elect your board at the meeting.
- Dec **No TPOC mtg.** Go to the party!
- Dec 6 **Christmas Party** welcomes all to its annual event. Foxfire restaurant in Anaheim Hills, Santa Ana Canyon Rd. will be serving a Champagne Brunch for us at a subsidized price of \$30pp. Contact Bob Singer for tickets.
- Dec 6 **Post-Christmas Party Antique Car Show** to benefit **Toys for Tots** is open in Huntington Beach. Bring a new non-stuffed toy or donate \$20 to cheer a little one. Check out www.pcstoydrive.org for more info but we must RSVP by Nov 16. Contact Bill Harris to RSVP as a group.
- Dec 26 **Gondola Ride** again ends a great year. Being with my loved one and a boat full of friends can't be topped --- only \$25pp. The Italian sailors cast off promptly 5:15pm. So come early and enjoy a bit of vino to warm your innards. Christmas lights will line the canals.

Long Beach Swap Meet: Nov 29, Dec 13 at Veterans' Stadium.