



Willow Springs Track



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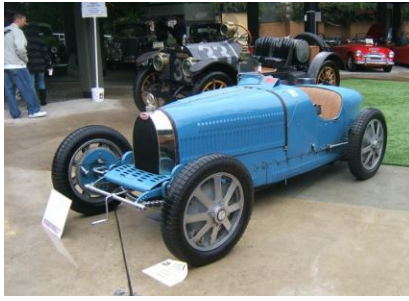
November 2010

Willow Springs is the place to test both your car and your skills. Here, Bob Singer is elated to try his new Mini on this very fast road course. The last new Mini on the track had tracers added to its top as it went end over end three times at turn nine. A tribute to BMW engineers is warranted for it barely dented the roofline --- can you say built-in roll cage? Note that no glass was spared resulting in natural air conditioning. Last report stated that he had no trouble with his insurance company since it is not considered a race but merely a means to improve one's driving skills. He did, however, have to listen to his wife's admonition for a period of time. You'll be happy to know that Bob did manage to keep the shiny side up throughout the event. Instructors tell us that the fastest way around is the longest. This strikes us as truly different than the axiom fastest between two points is the shortest line. It turns out that every time you turn the front wheel, speed is scrubbed off just the same as touching the brakes lightly. So, creating a large arc through any turn allows for a faster run in the corner because there is less resistance and it essentially gives you more straights. Willow offers a wide range of opportunities. Two very long straights yield very high speeds for those who like that sort of thing. I enjoy the elevation changes and sweeping turns like those I had in the hill climbs and shooting the sand bowls at Pismo Beach when it was possible to run in the dunes there. Oh I still recall the challenge of the monster "Devil's Slide" there.



Scott Bell was there too with his Chevy powered Pantera. It is still going through its sorting phase. His son earned great praise for his help in inserting the Corvette LS motor into his "future ride". Jim Saxton expressed his gratitude once again to those TPOC members who attended and helped at the event.

Laguna Beach Classic continued to shine despite the morning's light rain. Our cars were spared the dampness by the overhang of the courtyard cover. Call it prime location. Everyone's enthusiasm grew as the sun brightened the rest of the day. I loved the blue Bugatti fresh from the run at Laguna Seca Historics where the driver met the 50 other brethren. He was one of the thirty odd racing before us at the track there. Its 8 cylinders made a very distinctive sound from the other ancient vehicles.



Cindy Harris watched over her Indian that took first place in its class. She made poor Bill pick up the trophy. Brass radiator cars were mixed with classics from Europe and America. Sport cars were everywhere. Austin-Healy and Porsches were numerous. There were so many cars within the compound that there was an overflow of muscle cars and hot rods across the street. There we found my brother-in-law with his stunning 66 Mustang fastback. We also saw a 1960 Pontiac bubble top that had a rare long play 33rpm record player (I remember the little 45 rpm players) mounted to the transmission hump.

The Alpine Renault 1600 SC below was the favorite of the Frenchmen about Grenoble. They actually looked down upon my rally worthy Matra 530. My little bomb was amidships powered by a 1700cc Ford V4 used in both the Saab Sonnet and Taunus/Capri. The Alpine's pension for weight reduction made it much faster than the Matra even though I had more displacement and horsepower and shared fiberglass bodies construction. Its design was simply to win rallies throughout the Alps mountainside and it certainly did that.



Membership Directory is found on-line at POCA.COM in the Club tab then select My Chapter. You must be signed in to see this screen so please do so. It is a convenient way to also reach your fellow POCA members. Confirm the information posted there and send updates to Judy since the POCA membership file is its source.

POCA Membership is offered by Judy McCartney at jpoca2@hotmail.com. Contact her there and be sure to say which chapter you'd like to join --- TPOC jumps to mind. She has a flyer outlining the benefits of membership in this worldwide organization.

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

- Dec 4 **Cars n Coffee** is where we'll present the toys collected by TPOC to our Marines for kids. Drive your Pantera and watch the turnover with the rest of us.
- Dec 4 **PI Motorsports Show** offers a chance for you to enjoy a snack while seeing the many cars on display. Bring your Pantera to share and meet the many friends certain to be there. Share some Holiday Cheer with the Adlers at 1040 N Batavia, Orange 714 744-1398.
- Dec 5 **Christmas Party** at Foxfire once again. Contact Bob Singer for your \$35 tickets.
- Dec 18 **Gondola Tour** - Contact Bob Singer for your \$25 tickets.
- Jan 12 **TPOC Mtg 7pm Zito's Bar & Grill** 17320 17th St, Tustin, CA 92780 (714) 730-0003 east of hwy 55 on 17th.
- Mar? **Willow Springs Open Track** days is where we mix it up with Porsche and F cars at Willow Springs Raceway in Rosamond, California just north of Lancaster. Here you can run your car regardless of make or model at speeds on a closed course known worldwide. Big bore machines of the CanAm series were right at home here so our Panteras are well suited with their big torque engines to power out of the high speed turns and onto the long straights. Just contact Jim Saxton, long time TPOC member, at 626 285-2515 Jim@westcoastracinginc.com for details and an application. An optional performance seminar is offered for personal instruction including how to make setup changes to your car like tire pressure, shock and spring adjustments.

Long Beach Swap Meet: Dec 12 --- 8am at Veterans' Stadium.