



Phyllis & Rod in San Diego



More at www.ocPanteras.com

October 2013

Coronado Speed Festival in San Diego was a repeat of prior years with the exception of the drifter cars. I recall last year when they remained on the track to give us an extra showing beyond what was scheduled. The track crew had to block the track and slowly reduce the space in order to send them back to the pit area. My guess is that they were not invited back. It's a pity because their prior years' performances were outstanding. We did enjoy the historic qualifications and races. The cars were for the most part the same ones as at the Laguna Seca track. HMSA puts on a great show. Cars ranged from pre-59 sports racing and production cars to historic NASCARs. The slowest seemed to be the 1917 Chevy making a valiant effort against the 1953 six liter Kurtis and 1958 Corvette powered Devin. Formula cars abound with engine sizes 1600cc to five liters. Production cars were separated by drum or disc brakes underscoring the importance of this transition in the late 50s. I loved both TransAm classes. This year was a bit different in that they did not run at the same time. Instead the big five liter cars had the track all to themselves because the field in both classes were so large. But the roar of the bigger and super fast CanAm cars is hard to beat. Some would consider the NASCAR historic with largely production-based bodies to their liking. These predate the "one body fits all" sentiment.

We arrived late to take the 13th spot among the Panteras including Doc Stewart and Ron White's. Most took this opportunity to see all the Naval arms at the base. Someday, we'll do the same.

Laguna Show found us amongst big money cars and some just plain big cars. The 1886 Benz Patent three wheeler is purported to be the first car ever. Its recent price was a cool \$2 million. I don't know if the car we saw was authentic or a replica but it was truly impressive as it moved about to locate its place. Two "special interest" cars won class honors. The first was a very rare amphibious 1943 GPA based on the famous WW II Jeep. This sample had a mock thirty cal machine gun mounted a la desert patrol of TV fame and a Thompson mounted to the dashboard. Most were sent to our allies in Russia and served as reconnaissance vehicles. Its owner assured me that it is not a "Duck" although it swims like one. The other was a Dan Gurney F Ford car. A long narrow body with an extended tail section was built for just one track with a very long straightaway. My lone Pantera was placed between the Triumphs and Porches. None-the-less it was a prominent spot near the entrance and well within the shaded area. The day was most pleasant with just a slight breeze to keep us comfortable all day. I marked my selection for people's choice as the 300SL Gullwing whereas Phyllis went with the stately 1947 Rolls Royce. Simply, she has much more class than I.

I did meet a TPOC member couple (Allen and Linda) and I am hopeful that they will renew their participation in the coming meetings and events. Another member there has had his car since new but is about to begin a restoration to return it to the road. Let's urge all members to be active once more.



Consider Serving as an Officer for next year. November is when we hold elections. Volunteer to help.

General Meeting Changed (Reminder) to Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719 at 7:30PM on the third Wednesday of each month.

Toys for Tots remain in force this year even as we have not given it the attention it truly deserves. Please consider bringing your donations to a meeting or the Christmas party so we can fulfill our commitment to these children in need.

POCA Fun Rally is scheduled for May 28 through June 1, 2014. Our many thanks goes to those who bring this vital event to our DeTomaso community. The gratitude goes to the Rally Committee, POCA Board and to both past and future host Chapters. San Diego will host 2014 and will direct us to the wonderful features there. This close proximity offers the California chapters a unique opportunity to participate in numbers that underscore our support of the international organization while expressing our appreciation of the effort made by our host brethren. We have plenty of time to block the dates and prep our cars for all to see.

Car Collector magazine was given to me by Bill Wright. It had an old article about the 1964 904 Porsche Carrera GTS. The design features led me to wonder if this remarkable car may have influenced our designer Tom Tjaarda. Butzi Porsche headed up its design while working on the 901 (later known as 911). The rear midships engine motivated a ZF five speed mounted to a pressed steel twin rails of the lower platform with independent suspension at all corners. Front trunk held the battery, spare tire, jack and tool kit. Our "gills" mimic side scoops in the 904 B pillars. Most importantly, its shape is just as timeless as our beloved Panteras.

Picture of Your Car is needed for our web site. Email one to Greg Ford at tpocwebmaster@gmail.com.

Badges Available once again. You and your associate may wear either a pin or magnetic style TPOC badge simply by asking any Board member. Their lettering is a very fashionable black to match everything you wear.

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

Oct 16 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

Oct 27 *Wings, Wheels and Rotors* Los Alamitos.

Nov 9-10 *Willow Springs Open Track w/e*

Nov 20 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

Dec **NO TPOC Mtg**

Dec 1 *John Force Holiday Show* Yorba Linda

Dec 1 **Christmas Party** is at Meadowlark CC in Huntington Beach. We had it there many years ago and hope it will be as successful as in the past. It will be an Italian Buffet style. Contact Bob Singer for more info.

Dec 28 **Gondola Tour** - Contact Bob Singer for your tickets.

Please help me rkunishige@hotmail.com fill in the dates for the calendar.

Long Beach Swap Meet: Oct 13 Nov 10 Dec 1 @ 6am – 1pm at Veterans' Stadium \$8.

Weekly Events: Friday: Garden Grove Main St, Saturday: HB Donut Derelicts, Irvine Cars n Coffee, Sunday: Woodland Hills Supercars, Topanga Canyon & Erwin St 7-11am.