

What started as a simple request by Suesan Way; President of the Grand Prix Region of PCA and Michael Dolphin; PCA Zone 8 Representative, turned into a massive undertaking on my part to get 356's to come to the California Festival of Speed at the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana. The simple request; help get 10 356's for a display. Yeah right. I had 3 weeks to do it. It turned into a full scale grassroots effort by all my 356 friends to have a respectable



showing that other PCAR's to marvel at our wonderful 356's and their enthusiastic owners are capable of. Twenty Seven 356's, and their 35 participants showed up for 5 hours of action filled, exhilarating fun. Along the way, we had many ups and downs. But above all else, we had fun. This would not have been possible without the great support from PCNA, Pacific Porsche, PCA Zone 8, and PCA Grand Prix Region. This was strictly a 356 sub event, no other organization support us. More on these supporters as we go along in the story. The 356 underground spoke, and the message is that we are a very tight knit group in SoCal.

356's became the envy of all the other Special Interest Groups (SIG's) that came to the event. Through a series of backroom dealing :^) we were all able to go to the front of the line for many of the event happenings. Members came from Santa Barbara to San Diego and from the beaches cities to Murrieta to have a great time.

After we registered for the event, we were directed to a wonderful spot of prominence at the entrance to the paddock. Everyone coming had to walk past the many traditionally colored 356's. This wasn't just silver, black, or white. We were multi colored. Participants who walked by, stopped to admire, photograph, and ask owners questions. In the process, many new generation PCA members were given a brief history of early Porsche's and our passion.



*A partial lineup of 356's as we were setting up.*

Many admirers walked away eating their hearts out wishing they were owners of 356's. We were equally proud of our favorite Porsche cars.

As I said, there were many events packed into 5 hours of fun. A PCNA run autocross course, parade laps, Zone 8 concours, PCA Club racing, and finally our Porsche Design 356 watch drawing. By the end of the events, I was one tired guy. I had been up since 2:00AM scared that all my plans would fall apart. But that did not happen and I went away from this event knowing that all my friends went away with grins as big as the one on the Cheshire cat in Alice in Wonderland. What a boost to my ego. I'm still on my high. We pulled it off with only PCA and minimum direction from Suesan Way to make sure everyone had fun.

The first event for the 356's was not with their cars, but in new 2010 Panameras and Boxsters. PCNA setup an autocross course in one of the parking lots. Thanks to Kerry from PCNA, and Lennie of Pacific Porsche, we were accorded front of the line privilege. PCNA setup early to give our group every opportunity to test drive Panameras and Boxsters. We all had such a great time. What a big difference. We were able to compare 1960's state of the art to 2010 state of the art. Give me the smell of gas and noise of 356 romance, but hey, I do like my air conditioning and stereo also. Patt, there is room in the driveway for a new Porsche... honest.



*356r's lining up for the Panamera demo drive on the autocross course.*

*O.K. Lori, how was the demo ride? BTW, Lori also drove the pants off the Panamera and Boxster. She impressed her instructor from the Porsche Driving School. She is the proud owner of a 64 Sunroof Coupe.*



We then had time to visit the paddocks, vendor's row, and look at the Zone 8 Concours. At the vendor's tents, we got some great deals on Porsche paraphernalia and memorabilia. One vendor gave away free Porsche factory posters; another was selling Porsche Design at 60% discount.



*Here is a lucky buyer and one of our favorite 356 supporters and vendor. She's getting some great bargains.*

*Lennie and Pacific Porsche donated a 356 watch to our free drawing.*



*Hey buddy, you missed a spot. Just kidding. LOL*

We all met back at our cars for our parade laps. This time, our own Dal Lee; now aptly named "Group Leader", lead us on our own laps. Thanks to Dal, we got extra laps. Hey, it pays to have connections.



Again to the ire of others who were left wondering how we once again were given the first grouping with our own leader. A big thanks goes to Dal Lee for organizing this and keeping us safe. As you can see, I didn't do the parade lap. Frank took Kevin Yee with him on the laps. It was Kevin's fourth time in a Porsche and the first time on a track. This time was Frank's second time on at Fontana. The first time was with POC Club racing. He had a wonderful time.



The sight of 27 356's on the track at one time was awe inspiring. The last production 356 was made 45 years ago, all these beautiful examples are representative of Porsche's past, showing their resilience, circling the track at respectable speeds and agility. Being able to experience and witness this event put a tear in my eyes.

Then came the highlight of the day, the Porsche Design 356 watch drawing. Everyone, including passengers that came in a 356 was given an opportunity to win. The watch drawing was part of a challenge offered by Lennie Yee and Pacific Porsche to drum up 356 participation. Lennie told me



*DeWayne, getting congratulated by Lennie Yee for winning the watch.*

*I told DeWayne I'm a carnivore and love Lowery's prime rib... hint hint wink wink*

to get 30 356's to come and he would give us a watch to give away. In the end 29 signed up. Close enough in hand grenades and horseshoes. We gave away the watch. Oh, the winner? DeWayne Ichirui! His new nick name is now "Lucky". Ask him how many raffles and drawings in a row he has won.

We all went away refreshed and invigorated for the upcoming Summertime 356 activities and all pledging to come again next year. I have already started planning next year, with some added twists. For those who were couch potatoes and didn't come, you missed one hellva event. You should plan on next years PCA Zone 8 California Festival of Speed at Fontana.



*Don and Ed getting their drive and ride autocross times.*



*After his drive, Jesse Rodriguez is wondering how he can convince his wife how this would fit into the garage. Jesse, just remember, this is easy to solve with a little money and time. What was her favorite flowers and perfume?*



*Hal Thoms' and Jon Schmid's 356's  
Both cars have interesting histories.*

*Launch Control drive on Pit Lane.  
I'm glad this wasn't my tires or gas.*





Normally, the last paragraph would have been the close of the story, but I wanted to give special recognition to Gustavo Borner. While on the track, Jon Schmid broke his clutch cable. Jon, being the Boy Scout, came prepared with a spare cable! Don't forget, these were always a part of the normal tool kit as delivered from the factory. Well, with a few shade tree tools, Gustavo and his son helped Jon put the new cable onto Jon's Roadster in the parking lot. Try that in one of the new fangled cornpooter cars. We all watched. Again, a big shout out goes to Gustavo!!!

There has been lots of talk from the past to the present, how Porsche does not care about 356r's. That maybe the past, but this is now. Both Porsche AG and Porsche Cars North America are showing they do care. With support for this and other events like the Registry Holidays and Dana point Concours they are trying very hard. So, whenever there is an opportunity please thank them for their support.

KTF.