

The Alternative Line

by Joe Holzer for Publication in CNY-PCA Redline Report Copyright 2007 <http://www.holzerent.com>

Parade 2007 Report

The 52nd Porsche Parade was held in San Diego. Since you'll get most of the common news about it in Pano, I'll try to cover what you are unlikely to read about elsewhere. A few things are of great importance, a few whimsy, and a few simply stupid ;-)

Those who had been to prior Parades there in '77 and '92 (they seem to host a Parade every 15 years ;-)) would have been astounded by the photo montage given to Peter Porsche. It had been compiled from pictures taken at the two prior San Diego Parades, the first of which had been Peter Porsche's first at age 20 (he has missed few since, and by any measure is a true PCA'er), and was the last at which his parents were participants. The montage was beautiful, and almost brought him to tears. A real class act.

Speaking of which; the Zone Reps annually pick a member for dedication to the club. This year they picked a posthumous award to Lanean Hughes from Maverick Region. I hope you will read more about her in Pano by looking at some past issues. Unfortunately, she passed away suddenly right after last year's Parade in Portland. I had the great honor to know her, and she will sorely be missed.

Unusually, Parade was only five days long, and much complaining was heard (not least from me ;-)) that it left no time to breathe. Next year will also be a five day affair, June 29 through July 3, in Charlotte NC. Hopefully the powers that be will expand it back to a compromise six days, which I feel is still too short to see anything which the organizers themselves do not direct us to. Hope springs...

The usual griping about the cost vs quality of the food, etc was heard, and wine at \$7 a glass for a captive audience IS pretty steep. But there are few places which can handle 1400+ car junkies, so I guess we'll have to suffer. Not in silence. Sans Porsche, we had a hoot running the "Gimmick Rally" in the mini-van, which gave us a flavor for the SoCal landscape as well as the surfer bikinis. Nice ;-)

Bussing all those people because of limited parking at the various venues was no easy task, but that came off pretty well. Certainly when compared with the lamentable Cinci Worker Party. Don't get me started. It might have been nice if Sea World had allowed the busses to get somewhere NEAR the entrance instead of having to walk half a mile to get there. But it was merely a demonstration of the walking we would do once in the park, which seemed to time everything to assure you had to walk to the extreme opposite end of the park for each next event, in order to make you pass every gift shop in the park each time! On my legs, though, that was not the slightest bit fun, and they exacerbated the issue by having NO seating which was not in hot sun (the temperature was twenty degrees above normal all week, and Las Vegas was 115-120!) AC was straining merely to knock off the edge. I secretly hoped Free Willie & Shamu would eat a dolphin on behalf of the tuna, but no such luck ;-). The shows were great, and we learned a lot vs merely watching.

The next night was the Beach Party with at least a quarter mile walk from the dropoff point to the Zone Challenge sand sculpture competition, then halfway back to the Tug-of-War, where Zone 1 gave it a good effort to no avail, all on loose sand. You can see the resulting photo if HondaMan has the chutzpa to print it ;-). Walking in sand takes three times the effort, and I was exhausted. The winner of "Most Unique" sculpture was a dead Mr. Bibbendum, no doubt a reference to the fiasco at the USGP last year and their being replaced solely by Bridgestone in F1 this year. Since Michelin was one of the main sponsors, not much was said when the award was presented. That was, to put it mildly, appropriate. Sponsorships help keep the prices at least somewhat livable ;-)

Our gracious region president, who rarely misses Parades, left it to Lynne & me to represent CNY at the President's reception, which was held on a tall ship, AGAIN a quarter mile walk from the final banquet venue, the USS Midway. When I flagged a cabbie, he insisted "you can walk!". So much for ADA. And Economics 101. Hmmm.... So I got creative and hired a guy to pedal us between for \$10 a run. Cheap in my book, because walking the aircraft carrier decks was no picnic either. But it was very informative, exceptionally so for a techie history buff like me. We had a group of members who had actually served aboard the ship be honored by the PCA Prez, whose remarks I'm sure you'll see elsewhere. Again, queuing for the bus ride back to the hotel was interesting, especially since a major accident occurred right in our path (not to any of us, thankfully). Traffic sucked all week.

But prior to that we had a full day. It started with the Tech Quiz, whose format and sponsor are radically changed. From Bosch to Porsche Design, so you can tell it was style over substance. Not much really changed in results, though; the perennial winners repeated (I took a 3rd in 993-997, while Jess' 1st in Early 911 score was only three less than the overall women's winner, both of whom had better trophies with fewer points than me... ;-(It will forever be thus. Oh well, if it was merely a trophy I wanted, I'd enter Cayenne.

However; you will ALL want to pay attention to the following; Automotive Engineering Professor Bob White from Chicago gave a tech session on oil. Many in the room wanted to know about the zinc & phosphorus issues as raised by the good folks at <http://www.lnengineering.com> and written about by me in a prior Redline, while most had not a clue. Bob's take is he is not too sure that the issue is really understood. For clarity, you should know that CA and NY both use "oxygenated" fuels for emissions, which is accomplished by adding alcohols, and of course the midwest is all gasahol, heading for E85 (85% Ethanol). Bob said he had done some experimenting with ethanol and methanol fuels, and discovered that they break down the oil film on the cylinder walls, causing scoring. It should come as no surprise that the same mechanism could result in the empirical evidence of scoring in bearings and cam/rocker interface. So he feels a far greater risk comes from the fuels we are forced to run, citing that midwest farm associations tried to get him fired for publishing the test results. So politics might have more to do with this than technology!

Another discussion centered around frequency of oil changes and types of oil to use. Bob feels there is no advantage for synthetics (vs their cost) with short cycle changeouts (eg 3K miles typical for a 911 with a 15 qt. Capacity), UNLESS you have a turbo because of the heat soaking at shutoff. He felt an annual changeout was adequate for most limited mileage cars, and that the original Porsche ban on using multi-grade oils was based on poor quality oils at the time. He stressed that the higher service life/stress oils are the higher classifications as labeled S (spark ignition) M (the higher alpha designations – below G are no longer produced; if you have them you should avoid their use except in a winter rat). But since diesel engines see even more stresses, his preference is a C (compression ignition) class oil, which happens to be what the Shell Rotella is which is recommended by LN. Bottom line; there is no certainty for cause, nor even if there actually is any Zn/Ph related problem. Stay tuned... But watch for ANY metallic particulate in your oil, and find out why FAST.

And of course, sandwiched between was the Worker Party. No Parade is possible without the effort of hundreds of volunteers, themselves Parade entrants. We like to work the "check-in" (they changed from "Registration" to assure people would actually register online ;-) since it is the one place everybody has to go, so we can be certain to see old friends. This was our 20th Parade (19 for Lynne since she missed the DFW Parade where I played bachelor, and while Jess missed two of mine, I missed her last year Portland to go to the Swiss Trip, and a few year's prior Wisconsin when we had a conflict). Volunteer – you'll feel better!

We finished the week with a pre-arranged flight for six of us over the Grand Canyon flying from Lost Wages. Breathtaking! I mean the hassles. After telling us they would pick us up at our hotel as part of the price, they said "we don't go to that hotel". "So you have to drive a half hour to the airport and be there by 6 AM". When we got there, they insisted we had to have government issued photo ID. To fly from point A to point...A?! So drive like a crazy person back to the hotel, then back, to find the plane would not start loading until after 7. At six AM you needed an HOUR lead time to give me a boarding pass which took exactly three minutes. For all SIX of us?! And then, there was no more security than a locked door. No shoes off, computers out, groping by TSA through your dirty underwear (I try to put that on top, and the grosser the better – might as well have a little fun anyway ;-)

The view, though, made it worth the pain. You should if at all possible mark your calendars for next year in Charlotte. Who knows how long the current single annual Parade can continue, nor when it will be within driving distance again. They are not to be missed.

Oh, yes. San Diego also had a concours. So what? ;:-)

