

# 356 CAR

California Alta Region

September/October 2008



*Rest stop on the way to Mendicino (story inside)*

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## 356CAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

### 1st Saturday

### San Mateo Breakfast

8:30 AM

Mimi's Cafe, 2208 Bridgepointe Parkway, San Mateo, take Mariners Island Blvd exit just east of Hwy 101 on Hwy 92, head north, turn right on Bridgepointe Parkway, restaurant is on the right. Contact Michael Hodos at mehodos@mac.com or 650-326-1621

### 2nd Saturday

### Sacramento Breakfast

9:00 AM

Marie Calendar's, 5525 Sunrise Blvd, East Sacramento, Hwy 50 east to Sunrise Blvd, head north about 4 miles just past Madison Ave, restaurant is on the left. Contact Wayne White at w2consulting@sbcglobal.net or 916-863-5144

### 3rd Saturday

### Hollister Breakfast

9:00 AM

San Juan Oaks Golf Course, Hollister, 156 east off of Hwy 101, 4 miles past San Juan Bautista, right on Union Road, right to the golf course. Contact Jack Biersdorff at jbiersdorff@aol.com or 831-636-3046

### 1st Tuesday

### Santa Cruz Dinner

6:30 PM

The Point (formally Portola House), 3326 Portola Drive, Santa Cruz. From Highway 1 Exit 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Go South on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue ~2 miles (towards the beach). Turn right on Portola Drive at the four-way stop intersection. Proceed 5 blocks to the restaurant on the left. Contact Steve Douglas at soquelglen@prodigy.net or 831-239-1291.

### 5th Saturday

### Central Coast Breakfast

9:00 AM

Spanish Bay Golf Course Clubhouse, Pebble Beach, enter 17 Mile Drive via the Pacific Grove Gate, mention the Porsche Breakfast for free entrance. Contact Diane Morrill at 356goodiestore@usa.net or 831-375-4442

Cover photo: Bob Cannon

## 356CAR Logo Items

Wear your colors proudly!

356CAR clothing is now available with our new logo. Many styles and colors to choose from, including women's styles. Available by mailorder and at some breakfast meetings.

Details and order form on the website.

[www.356car.org](http://www.356car.org)



# President's Message

By Jenny Derich

Hello to all of you 356ers!

Thank you for being members of this fun-filled organization that began more than 25 year ago. This letter is my first as President and I'm looking forward to the next three years of making memories together in our cars!



We had our Board of Directors selection meeting after last month's Sacramento breakfast. Jim Reeder (who's done a marvelous job at the helm for the past six years) is our new Vice President, Garrick Huey continues as our ever-efficient Secretary and Jim Hardie continues in his all-important role as our club Treasurer/Membership Chairman. The rest of our board – Barney Speckman, Elaine Cannon, Harry Servidio, Kent Anderson and Mark Grimstedt – also continue in their same roles as we work to bring you the best in activities.

We also are pleased to have the continued efforts of Michael Hodos as 356CAR Newsletter editor, as well as Bob and Elaine Cannon who will continue to design and manage the 356CAR.org website. Speaking of which, please be sure to check the web site's calendar regularly as Barney and Elaine work to maintain an up-to-date listing of the area's best vintage Porsche-related events.

I hope to introduce some new non-board positions in the coming months and I will be actively seeking members to help. We're also looking into providing more hospitality on behalf of our club and revisiting some of our memorable club-wide events in the Fall and Spring. Any suggestions you might have will be most welcome. This is your club and we are here to serve you!

Some dates of note you may want to mark on your 2009 calendars now. The Southern California Porsche 356 Club will host the 2009 North Meets South event May 28-30 in Solvang and our biannual Gathering of The Faithful event in Hollister will be held June 28. In addition, Porsche is the featured marque at the Monterey Historic Automobile Races this year at Laguna Seca August 14-16.

In this issue you'll find articles on our biannual Mendocino trip (where we enjoyed wonderful weather, new friends and great dining), as well as the 4th Annual Rector Motor Cars People's Choice Concours and Swap Meet. There's also Part 2 of Mark Hoag's fascinating first person account of his experience as a first time attendee at the West Coast Holiday.

On one very important note, we have a desperate need to get our membership database up to date. If you are able to assist in this effort by making some phone calls, sending some emails and/or assisting in a "miss you" mailing to former members, please let me know! Also, if your email, telephone number and/or mailing address have changed in the last couple of years please notify Jim Hardie. We're finding many of our longtime members don't even realize their memberships have expired and those payments are an important part of keeping the club on a sound financial footing.

If you'd like to know the current status of your membership check the mailing label on your 356CAR Newsletter or email Jim Hardie. While we understand that with numerous club memberships (356 Registry, PCA, etc.) it's easy to lose track, our membership renewals were due July 1. Currently, members who choose to receive the eNewsletter pay \$15 per year while those who choose to receive the printed version pay \$21 per year. Either way it's a real bargain!

By the way, please note our newest advertisers in this issue: Leland West Insurance Brokers, Inc. and Paul Colby's Autosports Exclusive car sales and restorations, plus on the back cover Tony Singer's Spyder Enterprises in Carmel Valley, purveyor of fine vintage automobile posters. Please welcome them with your patronage whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Well that's all for now. Be safe out there and enjoy "happy trails" until we meet again.

Jenny Derich

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# COMING EVENTS – CLOSE UPS

By Michael Hodos

## The Great Garage Sale – October 19

9 AM-3 PM

This sale represents the life-long collections of three Porsche 356 enthusiasts: Llew Kinst, Ernie Mendicki and Richard Cassidy. The sale includes parts (many NOS still in the original packaging), tools, rare books, posters, toys, memorabilia and antiques plus a Convertible D and a Crosley Hotshot! See [http://www.autograph.net/great\\_sale/](http://www.autograph.net/great_sale/) or contact Llew Kinst at [kinst@autograph.net](mailto:kinst@autograph.net) for additional information. 10290 Imperial Avenue, Cupertino 95014. Note: This will be a cash-only sale.

## Tour of Bertelotti Cars – November 1

11 AM-1 PM

An unusual chance to view John Bertelotti's assemblage of antique and vintage automobiles. Rarely open to the public, this collection includes a large cross section of American and European historic vehicles spanning 100 years of automobile history, including a number of beautifully restored and maintained cars from the pre-WWI era (Stutz and Mercer sports cars, Pierce Arrow), 1930s early Ford V8s, as well as a number of vintage Porsches, Alfa Romeos, Austin Healeys, etc. Bearcat Properties, 505 Laurelwood Road, Santa Clara 95054 following the San Mateo Breakfast.

## Tour of the Mozart Collection – December 6

11 AM-1 PM

An unique opportunity to visit John Mozart's restoration facility. His assemblage of vintage automobiles includes a number of vintage Porsches including an RS61 Spyder, several 356s and the last 912 Targa produced. The collection also includes a number of competition cars, several of which are actively campaigned today (including a couple of Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spiders and a Ferrari Daytona). Mozart Development, 1068 E. Meadow Circle, Palo Alto 94303 following the San Mateo "Toy Drive" Breakfast.

*Event dates and locations are subject to change. Always check [www.356car.org](http://www.356car.org) for the most up-to-date event information.*

October 19  
9 AM – 3 PM

**The Great Garage Sale**  
10290 Imperial Avenue  
Cupertino 95014  
Llew Kinst, Ernie Mendicki and Richard Cassidy sponsored sale of Porsche 356 parts (many NOS), tools, books, posters, toys and memorabilia plus a Convertible D and a Crosley Hotshot! Cash only! See [http://www.autograph.net/great\\_sale/](http://www.autograph.net/great_sale/) or contact Llew Kinst at [kinst@autograph.net](mailto:kinst@autograph.net) for additional information.

November 1  
11 AM

**Tour of Bertelotti Cars**  
Bearcat Properties  
505 Laurelwood Road, Santa Clara 95054 following the San Mateo Breakfast. An unique opportunity to visit John Bertelotti's assemblage of antique and vintage automobiles. Contact Barney Speckman at [bmspeckman@aol.com](mailto:bmspeckman@aol.com) or 925.367.3940 for additional information.

November 8

**Ted Blake Restorations Tech Session**  
2710 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Sacramento, 95818 following the Sacramento Breakfast. Topic to be determined. Watch 356CAR.org or contact Barney Speckman at [bmspeckman@aol.com](mailto:bmspeckman@aol.com) or 925.367.3940 for additional information.

December 6

**San Mateo Breakfast Benefit Toy Drive & Driving Tour**  
Bring an unwrapped \$10 toy or a \$10 donation for Toys for Tots. Watch 356CAR.org and see below for additional information.

December 6  
11 AM – 1 PM

**Tour of Mozart Collection**  
Mozart Development  
1068 E. Meadow Circle  
Palo Alto, CA 94303 following the San Mateo Breakfast. An unusual opportunity to visit John Mozart's restoration facility and assemblage of vintage automobiles.

December 13

**Sacramento Holiday Party**  
Time and place to be announced. Watch 356CAR.org for additional information.

## 2009

March 7

**26th Annual Porsche Literature, Toy/Model, and Memorabilia Swap Meet**  
At the Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel, 5711 West Century Boulevard, 9 AM to 2 PM. Admission \$10 at 9 AM or early bird admission \$30 at 7:30 AM. Over 225 tables of collectibles.. For vendor information contact Wayne Calloway, 1504 East Cedar Street, Ontario, CA 91761 or call 909.930.1999. See [LALitandToyShow.com](http://LALitandToyShow.com) for additional information.

March 8

**All Porsche Swap Meet and Car Display**  
3001 Red Hill Avenue, Costa Mesa. Sponsored by the Porsche 356 Club. Display parking \$20 donation. Swap space \$40 per space donation. Admission free. Proceeds benefit Orange County School District's children's charity. Contact Bob Lee at [Robert.B.Lee@nsc.com](mailto:Robert.B.Lee@nsc.com) or 858.414.3523 for vendor reservations.

May 28-31

**North Meets South**

Event headquarters will be The Royal Scandanavian Inn, 400 Alisal Road, Solvang (805.688.8000). This year the town will be closing one of their main streets to accommodate the concours. Watch [www.Porsche356Club.org](http://www.Porsche356Club.org) and [www.356CAR.org](http://www.356CAR.org) for additional information.

June 28  
8:30 AM

**Gathering of the Faithful**

San Juan Oaks Golf Course 3825 Union Road, Hollister 95023. Parking on the lawn behind the clubhouse followed by a reception and then brunch at 11:30 AM. Watch [www.356CAR.org](http://www.356CAR.org) for details to follow.

August 7-9

**Monterey Pre-Historic Races**

Mazda Raceway, Laguna Seca. A laidback weekend of vintage racing. Officially a non-spectator event, admission is \$6 per car collected at the County Park Gate. Infield parking and a full schedule of races on Saturday and Sunday as many of the drivers and cars use the track time to prepare for the following weekend. See [www.laguna-seca.com](http://www.laguna-seca.com) for additional information.

August 14-16

**Rolex Monterey Historic Automobile Races**

Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. Porsche is the featured marque this year. See [www.laguna-seca.com](http://www.laguna-seca.com) for additional information.

September 27

**Rector Motor Car Company 5<sup>th</sup> Annual People's Choice Concours & Swap Meet**

1010 Cadillac Way, Burlingame, 94010. Co-Hosted by 356CAR and the NorCal912 group. Watch [www.356car.org](http://www.356car.org) or contact Michael Hodos at [mehodos@mac.com](mailto:mehodos@mac.com) or 650.326.6121 for additional information

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*(All information remains private)*

*Mark's*  
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# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Rector Motor Car Company People's Choice Concours & Swap Meet

By Michael Hodos

This year the fourth Sunday in September yielded the kind of weather an organizing committee dreams about with moderate temperatures, clear blue skies and just a gentle breeze off The Bay. In other words, the Porsche gods really smiled on us this year!

The advertised 8 AM starting time notwithstanding, the swap meet vendors started arriving at 6:30 AM. Fortunately, Swap Meet Chairman Wil Patterson arrived before them and already had each space in Rector's immaculate shop area

labeled with the names of those who had pre-registered for the event. Before we knew it there were 16 vendors unloading and displaying their wares on the highly polished floors. Of course their first order of business was for each of them to peruse the goods for sale by their fellow sellers!

Publicity Chairman Richard "Ponce" Ponce De Leon once again outdid himself by again increasing the publicity for the event and it showed. In the weeks preceding the swap meet we received inquiries from people who had read about the event in such diverse places as the 356CAR, 356 Registry and 912 Registry web sites, local newspapers, the San Jose Mercury News and even Craig's List! As a testament to Ponce's publicity efforts and the growing popularity of the event, the number of swap meet vendors once again increased over the previous year with the long-distance award going to tool kit seller Harvey Rosenthal from Orange County!

Speaking of outdoing oneself, 356CAR member and Rector salesman Richard Griffith and his spouse Mary once again did whatever was necessary to make everyone feel most welcome. First there were the usual canisters of hot coffee and wide variety of pastries set out in the morning. Then at lunchtime out came Rector's barbecues and it was hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad and cold drinks for all with Richard, Mary and none other than Mary Pellow serving up the eats.

While Concours Chairman Steve Group with the able assistance of his spouse Susan was set up and ready to go by 7 AM, only 3 cars were in the concours area by 8 AM! We began to look at each other a little nervously. What if we put on a concours and nobody came?

As it turned out we had no need to worry. Everyone was just a little late getting started on a beautiful Sunday morning. By

9 AM or so the People's Choice Concours had 21 cars entered with 13 Porsche 356s and 8 Porsche 912s on display. ~100 participants, swap meet vendors, Rector employees and local residents took the opportunity to view the cars and vote on their favorites while the owners spent the day renewing acquaintances and answering questions from interested bystanders. As in years past we received many positive

comments from both participants and "guests" about the pleasant low-key atmosphere . . . and once again nearly every vehicle in the concours received some votes.

Again this year Richard Griffith arranged to have an impressive array of just about every Porsche and Audi model Rector has for sale. Needless-to-say, the impressive collection of new cars drew a steady stream of interested viewers and potential future purchasers.

Our special thanks to Rector Motor Car Company President Jim Hannay who donated the concours trophies and generously allocated significant corporate manpower, time and resources to help make the event a

success. We also wish to thank Rector salesman and 356CAR member to Richard Griffith who gave so generously of his time and whose extraordinary efforts helped to make the day so successful.



*The swap meet deal of the day, this Radio Flyer scooter went to Robert Curley's daughter for \$5 !!!*

## People's Choice Concours Winners

### Porsche 356 Category

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Denny McCoy ('59 Fjord Green A Coupe)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Stan Jenson ('58 Aga Blue Speedster)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Tod Detro ('59 Silver Metallic A Coupe)

### Porsche 912 Category

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Michael Hodos ('67 Sand Beige Coupe)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Steve Group ('69 Irish Green Coupe)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Brian Mendel ('68 Olive Coupe)

*The following individuals worked for several months to make this event a success:*

*356CAR – Wil Patterson (Swap Meet), Richard Griffith (Rector Motor Car Company Liaison)*

*NorCal912 – Steve Group (Concours)*

*356CAR & NorCal912 - Richard Ponce De Leon (Publicity), Michael Hodos (Event Chairman)*

# Mendocino Tour

By Danielle DeSilva

Mendocino . . . is it heaven or just a weekend escape?

I'm off on my first trip with the Sacramento 356CAR group and in my very own Porsche 356 B Coupe! I had a short drive to Apple Hill a few weeks back but this was the real thing. A trip that would surely prove to be a great excuse to have bought my car or perhaps the point at which my little inner voice would say, "Sell and run far away." I was excited and apprehensive. Would my little car keep up with all the others, would it be left in the dust gurgling down the road or would I be considered an environmental polluter as I leaked oil down those twisty roads? Maybe I would just have an Adrenaline rush from owning such a beautiful toy!

Okay, about the trip. It started at 9 AM on an already hot Sacramento day. We met at Ted Blake's Shop then hit the road and began jockeying for leader position. Was the one racecar present going to influence us enough to be speeding? Was I going to be left behind? We left the freeway and quickly headed for the first twisty road we could find. Apparently no one mentioned or bothered to ask if anyone got motion sickness! If you own one of these beauties it's too bad. The more twisty the road, the better everyone seems to like it!

As our little caravan headed toward Mendocino we received appreciative waves all along the way. It was great! Our plan was to arrive at the Geyser Peak Winery by noon for a nice lunch. Now let me say we drove on some fun roads, but they may not be on any maps. I was hopelessly lost. As we

approached the winery at Highway 101 we pulled over for the slower cars to catch up and a gentleman on a bicycle tapped on my window and said something like, "I have one of these I bought as a young man and I still own it!"

Now before anyone gets too excited, no I did not ask him if it was up for selling his car nor did I get his name. So if you want his car you'll have to go back and hunt him down. Remember, he was on a bicycle! How far could he go? Anyway back to the story. He continued to reminisce about how much he loved his Porsche and we told him about the club. Maybe he will show up at a meeting in the future.

After all this excitement it was time for lunch at the winery. Following a few glasses of wine and some snacks, we joined the rest of our group and headed toward the coast on Warm Springs Dam Road. I was anxious to get out to the ocean.

The roads got twister and narrower as the forest closed in on us. The weather began to cool and windows were soon rolled up. We began to feel the coastal influence as we descended into the fog. It was like floating in Porsche heaven. We got several glimpses of the ocean as we drove up the coast towards Fort Bragg. Before long we were checking into The Beachcomber Motel hotel high above the fog bank. We enjoyed a spectacular sunset on the deck and shared a few drinks.

The next day we headed over to Bill and Gwen Jacobson's home for lunch. As we drove in the cars were lined up in rows on the grass. A ladder was retrieved from the barn so the cars could be properly photographed from above. We began a leisurely afternoon of socialization, wine and property tours. Their home was lovely with plenty of preferred Porsche garage space. Come to think of it, I bet the garage was larger than the main house! Dinner that night was at Silver's on the Wharf in Noyo Harbor with fresh seafood the highlight.

On Sunday people informally divided into small groups as decisions were made on which route to take home. I was reluctant to leave the little bit of heaven. I wished for a longer stay. The drive home was hot and long and my car suffered. We encountered quite a bit of traffic in Santa Rosa and the reality of returning to civilization began to set in. My car was idling too fast and I could no longer get it into first gear. Stop and go traffic became unbearable as the afternoon dragged on. We crept home dreading traffic lights and the return to the Sacramento heat.



At rest in the coastal fog



Relaxing at the Beachcomber Motel

The trip was heaven while returning to the heat of Sacramento felt like hades. Will I join another adventuresome tour with the 356CAR group? Will my car once again drive in first gear? I'll have to wait and see. One thing is certain: I made some great new friends and had a trip like no other.

*Danielle DeSilva is a new member of the Sacramento 356CAR group who recently bought her 1963 B Coupe on eBay!*

# 2008 West Coast Holiday

## A First Person Account –

### Part 2

By Mark Hoag

*Mark and Windy Hoag are relatively new Porsche 356 owners and even newer members of 356CAR. This was their first Holiday. Part 1 of Mark's first person account appeared in the July/August issue.*



On Thursday 19 June we are up with the sun for an early breakfast at the Motorsports area set up adjacent to Squaw Village. This gig was SO well organized we couldn't help but feel like VIPs!

As we head down the hill embracing the brisk Sierra morning, we notice a soft blanket of frost has enveloped the Speedster. That's reason enough to start the day with the top up. She willingly fires right up eager to take on the day. We motor the short hop to the village and prepare for some tasty chow. A great culinary selection awaits us and we settle at a table with a couple that has amassed a noteworthy collection of Carreras. I hear the stories of where the values have gone and reflect on growing up in Pennsylvania, having a friend whose dad raced Carreras in the 60's and the vision of a large barn "littered" with spares. Who could have guessed where people's nostalgia and desires would take the values of these amazing tubs.

Shortly after breakfast we gather for a driver's meeting to discuss the travel route and etiquette for the main feature of the day – a tour of the Ranson Webster Collection. Soon we queue up for the ride to Reno. The procession heads out and it's a whirling dervish of sound and color as the incredible lineup of Porsche 356's zig and zag out of the parking lot. It is a rolling museum of 50's & 60's vintage beauties. The brightly colored thread snakes its way along the Truckee River beside California Route 89 on our way to pick up Interstate 80. If it weren't for the occasional newer vehicle blasting past, you'd swear you had been dropped into a soft-focus time warp! Keeping a line of 100 cars in any semblance of order is quite a task, but definitely worthy of trying. 30 minutes or so later, we roll into our Reno destination. The view in the parking lot alone is certainly worth the trip!

We listen intently to the obligatory dos and don'ts, present our credentials (which have the entire Holiday event schedule printed right on the back) then enter single file through a narrow man-door. Once inside, Mr. Webster provides a brief introduction about his interest in Porsches and an overview of his collection. As he speaks we can't help noticing that directly beside us sits a Porsche Indy V8 being used as the base for a coffee table that we later find out Mr. Webster uses as a desk!

While some 400 posters adorn the walls and cases of memorabilia, models, tool kits and dioramas are found throughout the building, it all pales in comparison to the Porsche feast before our eyes. Along one wall sits one of every year of nearly every production Porsche 356 beginning with

1949 save a Gmund Coupe that is out on loan.

Because our time was very limited, the toughest part is pacing ourselves and not getting stuck admiring any one car for too long. Mind you it's not easy when you're walking down a row of gorgeous mostly 100 point cars that all get exercised regularly. My attention shifts to a McLaren TAG F1 MP4/2C from the era of the Prost/Senna battles. Directly behind is a stunning Porsche 908 that I'd seen place 3<sup>rd</sup> at Watkins Glen back in 1968. Next to it is a flowing long tail that was absolutely breathtaking.

Moving across the aisle we find a Porsche 962, a Porsche 906 and at the end of the row not one, but two Abarth Carrera coupes! Also represented are a factory RS Lightweight and its more docile 1973 street cousin. Further on we encounter a 911R lightweight and on the end of the row a stunning Elva Porsche. The cars themselves are truly remarkable and their racing provenance equally spectacular, not to mention the fact that alongside some of the most noteworthy vehicles beautifully preserved examples of their exact engines are displayed. There is even a special 914/6 that in its former life was a test mule for a raucous 8-cylinder engine!

The clock is ticking so it's off to building 2. My eyes are instantly drawn to a beautifully preserved 1959 bug looking like the day it left the showroom, but completely overshadowed by a gorgeous RS61. Its sculpted silver body appears to be in motion while sitting still. It is truly automotive art. We have barely an hour to make all those neuron connections and everybody is on complete sensory overload.

Next is a short hop to the National Automobile Museum in Reno where we line up for a lunch buffet. Lo and behold right there in the dining area are the other missing pieces from the Webster collection. The most noteworthy to me is the Model 804 Formula One car from the early years of Dan Gurney's epic career. The real show stoppers were next - a 1958 718RSK and another RS60 Spyder next to it, storied bits of history that leave you speechless. How humankind created rolling artwork like these cars is unbelievable. Last but far from least, sitting hunkered down at the end of the row is the slippery shape of the Gmund coupe with its beautifully faired-in bumpers.

We retrieve our cars, and after topping off with fuel head out to the highway toward Mt. Rose. As we peer off into the distance, the mountain peak is ahead of us. The summit looks pretty well up there so I pull off to check the oil. With the air temp

climbing toward 90+, I add a ½ quart just for insurance. As we begin the ascent, it's clear we're in for a long haul. The constant load and fact that either spirited revs in 3<sup>rd</sup> or lugging in 4<sup>th</sup> are pushing the temperature gauge passed the ¾ green mark for the first time ever. Before too long and without too much struggle we are at the snow level and approaching the 10,000 ft. summit. The scenery is breathtaking and the switchbacks beg us to pick up the pace just a notch.

We soon crest the top then instantly began the cooling, trailing throttle descent down the backside of the mountain. Occasionally we catch glorious views of the lake, but only for brief moments. A few miles later we pull into an overlook that really captures the essence of the area. There is an amazing iridescent glowing ring around the sun with partial rainbows giving a special welcome to this majestic place. Back on the road through some nice twisties, a quick stop for an ice cream and soon we're back at Squaw Creek.

We grab a quick bite at the pub and head over to the welcome reception graciously hosted by Barry & Buffy Rilliet. What a great opportunity to get to know some of our fellow 356 owners a little better. Most noteworthy are bench racing stories of Alex Fucile and Kirby Hollis as they travel down the memory lane of Northern California sports car racing from the era when 356s were new. Tracks like Candlestick and Cotati long gone, but still deeply etched in the memories of passionate Porsche enthusiasts.

On Friday June 20 we're off early again to the Motorsports area for the start of another action-packed day. Breakfast sets us in a good direction as we take in two events happening simultaneously. On one side is a Funkhana, best described as a fun test of driver and passenger skills and agility timed through a series of pylons. Car control is paramount but it's obvious there are many different approaches to getting through it. The open cars clearly seem to have the advantage with the occasional passenger sprawled out over the back attempting to guide the pilot home. While it is hilarious to watch, the participants are having a ball too!

Over on the opposite side there is a super tight, first-gear-all-the-way autocross course enticing an amazing cross section of cars and drivers. Men and Women alike are out in force testing cars and driving limits. Some make very leisurely passes but many put on their race-faces although they are hard to see through their ear-to-ear grins! A nice break for lunch is topped off with surprise ex-Porsche AG guest speaker Ralf Sprenger.

Next on the agenda are a few tech sessions, the first conducted by the 356 Electrics guru Joe Leoni. He sure makes the black art of electrics very simple and passes along a myriad of great information. Session 2 is about disc brake conversion by Classic Speed and Parts owner William Pringle. While many were deeply engrossed in the tech sessions, there is also a Ladies Tea hosted by Ruth Garretson to give a little diversion from the driving events. The final tech session is Barry Brisco getting some folks up to speed with the new 356Talk Forum, a simply amazing on-line resource where you can get answers to almost any Porsche 356 related question, not to mention share photos and stories.

Saturday June 21 and it's time for the People's Choice Concours event. To say that the planning for this entire event was amazing is a HUGE understatement. As we motor our cars out on the Resort at Squaw Creek golf course fairway it is nearly impossible to imagine a more picturesque backdrop. The still snowcapped mountains and contrasting greenery are awesome. The depth of field and sheer number of each category of car represented is a testament to 356s being very much alive and well . . . and a real credit to the organizers. Best of all are the stories being exchanged and distances traveled by an amazingly eclectic gathering of folks from all over the country and even a few from abroad.

Several hours pass in the warm sun combing the rows for glimpses into Porsche's glowing past. We brake for lunch up at the resort midway through after having cast ballots to extend appreciation for all the effort put into these beauties. The sky begins to look a little threatening as the cars head back up the hill. Rain looks likely and not far off. People retire to get ready for the Holiday Awards Banquet.

This was the final night for the 2008 West Coast Holiday and a fitting close to a remarkable event. Skid Hall and Rich Peters along with the 30+ person organizing committee and 125+ additional volunteers deserve enormous credit for their tireless efforts in putting it all together. Dinner is great and the company even better. There are guest speakers from Porsche AG and a short teaser presentation about the new Panamera. All that remains for the following day is the swap meet, a chance to say farewell and a promise to gather in Sedona in 2009 to again celebrate as kindred spirits the legacy of the fabulous tub.



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# TECH NOTES – Deco Strip Magic

By John Thompson

Replacement of the deco strip rubber inserts has always been problematical because the material supplied by virtually all the vendors seems cut to length off a roll. As a result, the ends do not have the finished chamfered appearance of the factory original inserts.

I purchased my deco strip inserts from William Pringle of Classic Speed & Parts. When I mentioned this problem to him, he described a technique for replicating the factory-finished end. The process I used is described below. As you will see, it worked quite well.



## Step 1

Make a V-shaped cut in the end of the new insert material as shown. This may take a couple of practice tries.



## Step 2

Make a wooden jig to shape the end as shown. The width of the slot should be just a bit wider than the base of the insert's raised portion (i.e. the part you see after it's inserted in the aluminum part of the deco strip.) The diameter of the hole at the end should match the end diameter of original insert's raised section. I gently eased (rounded) the radius edge of the cutout that would be pressing the end. I first did a couple without easing the radius edge but it left marks on the soft rubber.



## Step 3

Use a heat gun to warm the cut end of the new insert material just to the point of melting.

## Step 4

Position the wooden jig over the heated cut end of the new insert material as shown and clamp for ~30 seconds.



## Step 5

If the end looks good, trim off the excess and install. If not, try again!



*John Thompson is President of the PCA Cascade Region in southern Oregon. He is in the process of restoring a 1968 Porsche 911 soft window Targa. He first posted this article on the 912bbs.org bulletin board. Reprinted with permission.*



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## PRODUCT REVIEW – Cool Work Light

By Michael Hodos



Tired of work lights that burn on contact, burn out frequently and/or blind you instead of illuminating the areas you're trying to see . . . not to mention dealing with the tangles of a power cord in a crowded engine compartment?

Finally there's a cordless, bright but not blinding work light that's well engineered, well made, lightweight, shatterproof, water and oil proof, and gives off very little heat. You guessed it . . . it's a battery powered LED work light!

Sold by Griot's Garage, the LED Work Light is comprised of some 30 white LED bulbs surrounded by a mirror-like metallic reflector that focuses the lights. It's small enough to be maneuvered into some of the tightest spots in our little cars (inside the engine compartment, under the dashboard, even under the seats!).

While the self contained Lithium battery is not replaceable, it's good for ~5000 recharge cycles and a 2 hour recharge yields ~5 hours of use time. That's ~8½ years of 8 hours a day use! The battery is claimed to have no "memory" for shorter charge cycles. It comes with both a 100-volt wall charger and a 12-volt automotive style power port/cigarette lighter charger. The LED Work Light is encased in a soft rubber housing with a built-in hanging hook that rotates 360 degrees for easy placement. A general purpose Magnetic Holder accessory can also be purchased.

The Griot's Garage LED Work Light (part no. 13091) is available for \$40. The Magnetic Holder (part no. 94516) is an additional \$7. Griot's Garage: 800.345.5789 and [www.girotsgarage.com](http://www.girotsgarage.com).

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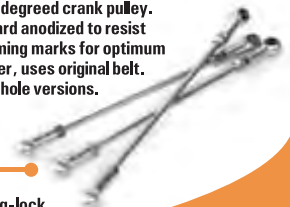
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