



The

Checkpoint

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Skid Marks

----by Bill Taylor



The Gathering

Other parts of the country have various annual gatherings for the automotive faithful. In the West the preeminent festival is Pebble Beach. In the Midwest the two best known are "Back to the '50's" and the "Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise." Close behind has to be "Wings and Wheels," the yearly house-cleaning festival by Motor Books International down in Ocoela, Wisconsin. MBI is one of the biggest



publishers in the world of books pertaining to cars, trucks, planes, boats, trains and other more obscure modes of transportation.

The biggest part of this Saturday carnival takes place on the MBI grounds. Essentially their whole inventory is on sale and there is great, eclectic car show. A small air show and military equipment display is found at the Ocoela airport. There are also art exhibits, displays, cooking demonstrations and

other things in town for those who aren't interested in wheeled mobility.

Yes, I picked up a few books, chiefly, a detailed tome on the development of Ford's GT40. Want to know who bought which chassis number and how the vehicle was used? Find it here.

Biggest thing you gotta love is the car show. Rods, sports cars, customs, classics, brass, plastic, common, unique, obscure and "I didn't know they made those" are all there, scattered across parking lots, hills, open fields.

Missed the best picture of the day. Too slow to get a shot of two 2CV's parked in front of a couple of port-a-potties. Loved the irony. Your imagination is probably better than the picture.



Some of the space in this issue is dedicated to pictures of some of my favorites. If you don't like 'em, go next year and take your own photos! So there...

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Submissions

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Computer disks with text should be in an IBM compatible format. If material is submitted as an attachment to an e-mail message, notify the editor before submitting. No unknown e-mail attachments will be opened. Deadline for submission is the last Thursday of the month for the following month's issue.

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Head Scratchings

While I realize that this may not be the most tightly edited publication you will ever find (yes, I probably have edited it while tight,) we do try to be consistent within any given issue. Well, at least we try not to directly contradict ourselves in the same issue.

Now cast your attention to the August 19, 2002 issue of *AutoWeek*. In that issue they had some observations on VW's W8 Passat. (emphasis added)

From *The News* column on page 8:

"Volkswagen's W8 Passat may be going away. The high-tech 270-hp 4.0 liter engine likely will be dropped, **at least in Europe**, when the redesigned Passat comes out in 2005 or 2006, VW sources say.

"Word is that VW isn't happy with the W8's sales in Europe (***U.S. buyers have snapped up VW's entire W8 allocation in its first year, however***)."

Five pages later, the *Car Board* column reports:

"In Europe the W8 engine sells the car on its own, and Gunther is a cooler guy for owning one. However, many Americans care more about badging than substance and would prefer to plop money on a V6-powered Audi instead of a really expensive W8."

OK, guys, which is it? Granted, I'm not all that sure about VW's tactic of moving some parts of the marque up-scale to compete head-on with BMW and Mercedes (and its own Audi??). But, there is a reason why this editor is writing for the USPS's smallest mass mailer and is not employed within the strategizing bunkers of the automotive world.

Besides, you know we never make mistakes!

--nuff sed



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