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I walked in the door of the Las Vegas Convention Center, for the last day of SEMA, like I owned it, like I belonged there, like I had press credentials! Oh wait . . . I did have press credentials!!!

Well, before regular hours, before the crowd arrives, before some clueless guy stands in between my camera and a great shot. And there was that 'be at the very front of the Chip Foose stalkin' . . . uh, make that appreciation' line.

I spent the next hour or so revisitin' the James Hetfield '36 Auburn Boat-tail, the Ford display and a few other things that caught my eye the day before. I really did like the green '37 Packard Roadster in the House of Color booth, I just couldn't seem to stay away from it.



By 9am, I was standin' in my first line, not just in the line . . . but I was #5 in line!!! Do you know what that means? It means I don't get told to 'hurry', 'move it along' or 'sorry, this line is closed!' Oh, noooo!! I was #5 . . . front of the line . . . top of the heap and glory bound! Okay, maybe that's a little over the top but hey . . . I'm #5! And it wasn't too long before Foose showed, but he stopped at another booth and started signin'! WHAT?? How could this happen to me? How could we all be wrong about the line? Oh the inhumanity!

Well, as it turned out it was a fast, last minute side trip and it didn't take long and anyway, I could still see him.

Let me just take a sec to explain . . . I'm really not obsessed. Really! It's just that he's the most popular personality at the show and if you want an autograph, you gotta stand in line. So, stand in line I will . . . and I did.

Chip, and by now I feel I know him well enough to call him by his first name, remembers people, well, maybe not names but faces. He said "I see your back" and he reminded me . . . again, that he doesn't sign body parts! But he did sign a couple of other things for me and posed for a couple of pictures, but as I turned to walk away (and the camera was down and off) he came around the table and stopped me, put his arm around me and kissed my cheek. He kissed my cheek!!! And the camera was off!!! OFF, as in NO PROOF . . . ugh! But I swear, it really did happen, I have witnesses!



My next mission was Dan Woods, Mr. Chop Cut Rebuild himself.

As I walked up to the Original Equipment Reproduction booth, I was shocked. I couldn't believe there wasn't a big line. Do these people not know who Dan Woods is? Well, I do and I was happy to not have to wait forever to get to him.

The guys in front of me were doin' a video interview and I just hung around waitin' my turn and that's when it happened, he actually said, "Hey guys, I need to see the Car Show Diva." He knew me . . . or maybe he just read my shirt, but either way, he took the time to visit with me about the website and the magazine. He's my HubGarage.com buddy and he told me that he'd read some of my articles and has referred a few people to my site. WOW!!! Is this huge or what?



After that I needed to get out and see what was outside. There were cars and trucks of every shape, size and color imaginable. Seems that if you can dream it, someone will and has built it.

I really liked the Aspen Green 1959 Impala, sportin' those Mercury Turnpike Cruiser fender skirts. Not only that but it had a completely chromed engine compartment . . . firewall, wheel wells and all.

Every time I thought I'd found my favorite, I'd turn and there'd be somethin' I liked even better. Maybe my taste is just too indiscriminant. Yup . . . I liked 'em all!

Well, I guess that's it for SEMA 2009. I'm already lookin' forward



to next year, but between now and then there must be about a gazillion cars shows to attend.

WooHoo! Look out 2010!

Jeanie

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