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If it's November, it must be SEMA . . . and I landed in Vegas with my stalkin' schedule in hand!

The SEMA Show (Specialty Equipment Market Association) is the premier automotive specialty products trade event in the world. But, it's not just some BIG car show. Oh, no! It's the entire Las Vegas Convention Center, inside and out. And truthfully, it's a little like porn for Gearheads!

My first time at SEMA I was a complete rookie and really had no clue what to expect. I walked around in a daze, totally overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of the whole thing. Last year I was more prepared and did a much better job of gettin' around. But this year, boy, oh boy . . . I was ready.

It's no joke . . . I had a two-day schedule of celebrity appearances I wanted to make and I figured that given enough time I could get it done.

It was comically called my "Foose stalkin' schedule", but honestly . . . there were several others listed. It was more like my Foose, Woods, Foose, Edelbrock, Foose, Whitaker, Foose stalkin' schedule. See, I don't see a thing wrong with that, do you?

Seriously, I was afraid that I might have gone over the edge with this whole 'schedule' thingy 'til I stood in line beside a young man from Venezuela who's list was so much more detailed than mine . . . and it was typed! TYPED!! And they think I'm obsessed? I think not!

Day 1 started out on the shuttle bus for the two-block trek to the Convention Center . . . by way of Salt Lake City. Apparently there are no short cuts in Vegas. Maybe their motto should be 'Vegas, you can't get there from here!' So, I got to know the guys sittin' behind me pretty well, but I did eventually get there



Vic Edelbrock

and I wasted no time gettin' to work.

I hadn't been in the building very long and there standin' right in front of me, right in 'his' booth, Vic Edelbrock . . . workin' the customers, sellin' his stuff and generally just bein' a salesman. So, of course I walked right up and waited. Waited 'til he was done and asked for a picture and an autograph. I got to mention my website and Gulf Coast MotorSports magazine, not that he'll remember but I did mention it as I blushed and grinned.

Next stop, Dynamat booth and owner Scott Whitaker. Center stage in the booth was a Black/Copper color '36 Auburn Boat-Tail Speedster, owned by



Scott Whitaker

James Hetfield of Metallica, that was so beyond description. But the best part was that he knew me. Can you believe that? Scott Whitaker knows who I am! He's been to my site, he's read some of my stuff and he's my HUB Garage buddy.

So there it was, still before noon and I had already gotten two of

the four top guys. Now it was time, time to find the line and get in it. And find the line I did. A long line, and it was almost over an hour before Chip Foose was scheduled to be there. Did I mention that there are lots of people that come from other countries to this event? Well, there are tons of them.

So, I'm in line and on one side of me are some guys from someplace I can't find on an atlas and a guy, my homeboy, from The Great Republic Of Texas. Austin to be exact! Les, of Audio FX of Austin, tells me he has a Mazda RX8 in an audio booth, so of course I added that to my 'list', but I'll get to that later.

So, Les and I are standin' in this line, we had lots of time to 'bond' and he tells me that all he has for a pic is his cell phone. Oh, heck no! That wasn't gonna do. I was in front of him in line, so I'd be right there to get his pic. Well, this line goes down the side and around the corner, and finally it starts to move.

Just about the time I get about 5 or 6 people from Foose, security starts tellin' us that they need to move the line along and to be ready for ONE quick autograph. WHAT?? I didn't come this far and wait this long to be short sheeted! Wasn't gonna happen! No way!



1936 Auburn Boat-Tail Speedster owned by James Hetfield of Metallica



**Chip Foose is always gracious, very kind and givin' to his fans.**

But true to form, Chip Foose is always gracious, very kind and givin' to his fans. He never rushes anyone and signed 3 or 4 things for me and when Les was up, he actually sketched a car on his t-shirt. Right there, in just a minute or so. Just like that! What a guy Chip Foose is! What a super guy!

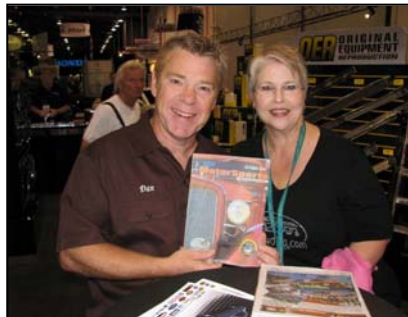
Later in the afternoon I decided to go check out Les' RX8, just as a courtesy and Holy Cow! The car was pretty hopped



up, and included some custom hand painting inside the trunk and on the inside door panels but the audio was completely off the hook! A rotating ball speaker in the trunk and liquid cooled amps? Did you get that? Liquid Cooled Amps! How much

power does it take to play Little Feat through your head? This sound system woulda sent the 1973 Rolling Stones home with their tails between their legs! I was sufficiently impressed!

Well, I was makin' a pass through the south building lobby . . . no, maybe it was north or central. I don't know, but I was there and there was a display of the NHRA Legends. Featured were Don Prudhomme's Coca Cola Funny Car and Hauler, Don Garlits' Swamp Rat, Kenny



**Dan Woods of Chop, Cut, Rebuild**

Bernstein's First Budweiser Funny Car, The Freight Train dual Chevy engined dragster and Stone, Woods and Cook Swindler II. I was so totally blown away. These were the real deal . . . not reproductions. It was amazing to see some of these giants of drag racing.

Well, that is Day 1! I can't wait to tell you about Day 2! Merry Christmas . . . see ya next time!

*Jeanie*

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