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So, here in this part of the country we truly love our Thanksgivin' Day rituals. We hurry up and eat the turkey and dressing so we can hop in the car and drive to some huge venue, pay fortune for a ticket, fight the crowds, pay too much for a drink and drive home wondering if we can go again tomorrow. Oh, yeah . . . Houston's Autorama opens on Thanksgiving Day at the George R. Brown Convention Center and lasts all weekend. You didn't think I meant football, did you? Oh, I do love football, but you can DVR that.

To me, I get a thrill when I see fathers, sons, and grandsons of all ages entering the building together. But this isn't just a guy thing. Oh, no . . . this is a family outing. You'll find everythin' from high dollar circuit cars, like "RaTical Rod" Altered Street Coupe... a '30 Ford Coupe that is absolutely outrageous, to local car clubs and vendors. You can buy diecast cars, street signs, sunglasses, jewelry, old magazine ads, or a bumper! I'd be willin' to bet that if you were lookin' for a part, a piece, or anything for your car, you'd either find it there or get a line on someone who had it.

Yup . . . Autorama, sponsored by O'Reilly Auto Parts, is one of my favorite shows of the year. No, it's not the kind of show where you hang out in the parkin' lot with the gang. It's the kind of show where you'll see some of the hottest custom automotive trends and if you are not as fortunate as I and have to opportunity to go to SEMA, this is the next best thing.

The 1960's Ol' Skool Rodz traditional rod exhibit, presented by Outkast Car Club included performances by live Rockabilly Bands. And this was one place that really got a lot of action. You could almost see the memories floodin' back.

I was very impressed with the story of a '72 Gran Torino owned by Jerry & Sue Lester of Magnolia, Texas. The storyboard tells that this car was 1 of 16 built like this. It was ordered on 1-10-72 from De Nang, Vietnam, built in Atlanta, Georgia on 2-15-72 and delivered to the dealer on 2-25-72. It's received a frame off restoration and The Lesters call it "An Old Friend."

And then there was the live auction. The amount of cars available was absolutely overwhelming. I'm not sure if that's a comment on the economy or just fertile ground for buyers and sellers alike.

While I really enjoyed the entire show, I was particularly interested in the amount of Volkswagen Beetles at the show, or maybe I was just more observant and aware. Let me back up and tell you that I got a big surprise on Thanksgivin' day. John, my guy, drove down from Oklahoma in his recently



acquired '69 VW Bug. He flew to Vegas and drove it back to Oklahoma and has been doin' a few things to tweak it since. I'm hopin' he goes with the two-tone paint and drops the front a little. And then it might be ready for May's Mississippi Gulf Coast Bug Jam & Drags in Gulfport. Can you think of anything funner?

Well, that's it for now but I'll be out and about and lookin' for fun. Hope I find it!

Jeanie

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