

Keep Vintage Car shows Vintage

Something that is happening more frequently is the appearance of newer cars at organized old, antique, classic gathering events. Newer cars attend and some hobbyists don't care or say anything.

Why is this an issue? I have been prodded into typing out my two cents' worth after a few seasons of bench cruising discussions with fellow hobbyists.

The point is these organized gathering events are classic, or antique car shows, usually with a 25 –year old and more cut off. It is a showcase for cars and trucks we don't see any more, the design, styling and engineering of a past time. These are to show the rare, well preserved original survivors, expertly restored vehicles showcasing skilled craftsmanship, customized older cars, or something of a blend. These older vehicles are cars, trucks ranging from basic transportation with small engines to big-block performers. The power train doesn't matter, coming from a bygone era does. Much blood, sweat and tears are shed in restoring a vehicle, but the rewards are well known in the hobby when the results are shown. A barely used untouched original is a bit of a holy grail these days. Much effort is put in toward running antique clubs and organizing the show events. It is a shame to see the purpose of their efforts watered down. I don't believe these gatherings are for "cool" cars, but bygone cars and trucks.

Regardless, one antique car guy had his son follow him in a new V8 sport coupe for example. Everyone is proud of their ride. New 2023 performance cars are amazing, but are no different from new 2023 minivans when lining vehicles up for a vintage vehicle show. They are cars of today and can be found lined up at the new car dealer's lot, for the most part. There are other types of car shows each season featuring new sport, modern customized, utility trucks etc.

A local car club came up with a great solution out of necessity as the park rented once a week had only so many parking spots. Previously they had to turn back a driver in his 1950's car as a squadron of new pony cars had taken up the last available row. It put organizers in a tough spot. The solution appeared when an overflow row of grass just outside the park between the sidewalk and the road was assigned for vehicles newer than 25 years old. To distinguish, a sign at the main park entrance attended by the usher guides declares the show is intended for vehicles manufactured 25 years or more ago.

It's a fine line between turning off a segment of automotive enthusiast and keeping the purpose of the vintage hobby. Of course owners of newer cars can turn out to be the vintage drivers of the future. The future will hold display shows for recently bought performance cars of today, but 25 years down the road. Folks can then see what condition they will be in, or if they received a loving restoration. A strong presence of vintage classics ensures younger drivers are exposed and become hobbyists if they wish. This is something we have been seeing lately.

I believe organizers should see no problem with ensuring vintage vehicle shows and gatherings are exclusive to vintage vehicles to keep the purpose of the events from turning into simply interesting vehicle shows.

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