

Concours at Lake of the Ozarks Parade 2018

OR

Why would anyone want to do this?

As I am writing this, I am trying to figure out what this is all about. Is it our experience at Parade or is it about Parade Concours preparation and that experience. I guess it could be both and is up to you to decide. Warning, this may be longer than you want to endure. As Jimmy Buffet said, "you had to be there." I guess this thought came from the week spent at Tan Tar A resort which has recently been purchased by the great, Jimmy Buffet. Much of the resort décor has an island and Margarita Ville theme, while his songs play as background music in many of the resort venues.

So it all started with a blue painters tape application (about 3 hours work) to the front of the car two days before we left. You ask why do this, since there is Xpel clear film on the front of the car and mirrors? Well my thoughts were for extra protection from bugs, road rash and easier clean-up upon arrival. Just peel the tape off and we should be ahead of the game. Since we were about to drive 650 miles thru heat, rain, and unknown road conditions, this seemed like a worthwhile effort. We left early Friday morning in clear skies. That lasted only about 90 miles, and we hit heavy rain the other side of Crossville. Fortunately it did not last long and the rest of the way was clear. We stayed overnight in Poplar Bluff, Mo. (400 miles), figuring the drive Day 2 would be short and easy. While having dinner that evening, the skies opened up and it rained like tropical storm "Nasty!" Fortunately, no hail and things settled down before dark. Pictured here is the car as we were leaving Poplar Bluff on Saturday morning. Note the tape partially peeling off after 400 miles with rain. It actually stayed on the rest of the

way to Osage Beach.



We arrived at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach about noon on Saturday. After checking in, we decided “let’s start the fun” and work on the car. While in the hotel garage, we removed the tape which was no problem, but the car screamed “WASH ME”! Friends, Bill and Mary Caldwell from Sun Coast Region in Florida, warned us about the hard water at the resort and advised not to use the car wash area because of severe hard water spots. The car was so dirty from the drive, we decided there was no option. Bad mistake! Even though we took all precautions to keep the car wet and immediately dry it off, we had terrible hard water spots all over the car. It was incredible. I have never seen anything like this. It looked like the whole car had some sort of spotted disease! Turns out, the local water is off the chart with minerals. So bad, taking a shower required a bar of soap to feel clean.

We were beside ourselves; no way could we enter the car in Concours like this. We had to try something to remove the water spots. I had about 1/3rd of a

bottle of Meguire's Paint cleaner which I brought with me. Paula and I rubbed and rubbed, with only slight improvement. The windows were also so badly spotted we could not make them clear with our usual Invisible Glass spray. The frustration was mounting, after working for at least 2 hours and no real improvement. Several friends and competitors came by and offered various products they had, but nothing really worked to remove the water spots. As it turned out, many participants at Concours voiced similar comments and most just gave up. Apparently the only way to avoid the hard water spots was to hand wash out of a bucket in the garage or to wash the car early in the morning shade before it got warm. Just ask Matt Fischer about his experience.

So by about 4:00PM, we were totally wasted after working on the car for several hours. Hot and sweaty (about 90 degrees in the garage), tired and discouraged, Paula said, "I have had enough, this is not working." Agreeing, we decided after a very long day, to get cleaned up and try to figure out what we could do to address the spots. After cleaning up and getting something to eat, we felt better and had clearer thoughts about what to do next. I remembered having used a clay bar to remove some minor water spots from the car after we bought it. So we decided to find a place that sold auto supplies and buy a clay bar system. It turned out we located a Wal-Mart in Osage Beach that happened to have a decent auto section. Fortunately, they had a supply of Mothers Clay Bar system.

After a well deserved dinner and a glass of wine, we changed clothes, went back down to the garage. Clay bar in hand, I did the entire car, including the windows, while Paula went behind me and wiped off the spray lubricant. About 9:00PM, we decided to call it a night. We had mostly completed the claying of the entire car. It looked like this was going to work, but with only a hand-held LED light, we could not really tell what it would look like in direct sunlight and if our effort was worthwhile. In addition, now we were a full day behind since we had not done anything with the interior, windows, wheels, storage area, or the top! So it looked like Sunday was a full day of more cleaning which we had not planned on.

I woke up at 4:00 AM on Sunday and could not go back to sleep. So at 4:30AM I decided to get up and go back to the garage and work on the car. Surprisingly, at

that time of the morning, I was not the only crazy one in the garage cleaning their car! Two others were in there with radio playing and pretending to be normal! Paula was getting some well-deserved sleep. Still sleepy and not knowing exactly where to start, I sprayed the car with some waterless car wash I use from Pinnacle. It helped clean off the clay residue and the car started to look pretty good. Next were the windows, vacuuming, and wheels. By this time Paula appeared, with renewed enthusiasm, ready for more sweating and dirt under the nails! She did more interior cleaning and went over the wheels while I waxed the entire car with Meguire's Gold Class spray wax. Finally, we dared to say, progress! The garage was hot and dirty, and so by sometime around noon, we decided to call it quits. That evening the Welcome Party, which was a big event, was on our schedule and we also wanted to enjoy some of the other things Parade had to offer, so the rest of the day was for chilling.



I found out that staging for the Concours the next morning, Monday, began for the early groups at 5:30AM. We were lucky. Our group did not stage until 6:30AM! So we had another very early morning wake-up to get to the car, make sure we had everything needed for judging and final detailing. We naturally asked ourselves, "Are we having fun yet?" The cars were staged on one of the two golf courses at the resort. It was a fantastic site to see probably 200+ beautiful Porsches of every year and model lining the two fairways for judging. The Parade committee did a great job positioning all of the cars by group. The day was bright-sunny, but really HOT, like 97 degrees by mid day.



There was very little shade, other than some tents, which only provided minor relief. Paula was a tremendous help, as you can see. The Parade committee was terrific by providing water for everyone throughout the day. Heat exhaustion was a real issue for some but the water and ice was readily available and really appreciated. Our car was finally judged about 12:30PM, six hours after we placed it. Due to the number of cars and the heat, the judges needed to take breaks between cars which delayed the judging beyond what we

expected. It was scary hot by the time judging was finished and trophies were presented at 2:00. The temperature in the car at that time was 104 degrees. For us it was a grueling event, and we were fortunate to win our class after many hours of extra work, which we did not anticipate, mainly due to the water spotting course.



I think I heard Paula say, under her breath of course, "All of this for a \$25 trophy?" But it is not about that. We met several new friends, saw many old ones and had a great experience seeing a new place and spending time together. All the while, doing something we enjoy and challenging ourselves to

work thru unexpected problems. So for us, it was worth it!



