



A Weekend in Tacoma

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PHOTOS BY CAROLE HEDSTROM AND DAVID ZYGMONT

What started out as an idea to host a tech session at Griot's Garage in Tacoma, Washington, turned into something a little more. A low-key weekend for a small group was a welcome change to some of our larger, more boisterous events here at ORPCA.

Friday was the unofficial start and saw three cars take the "fun way to Tacoma." Leaving from Longview, we headed northward on

roads somewhat parallel to I5. Although the direction was the same, the route itself was twisty and beautiful with almost no traffic. We made our way up the west side of the lower Sound to Port Orchard and then crossed into Tacoma via the famous, once infamous Tacoma Narrows bridge. It was a beautiful, top-down, day. The evening brought together six souls for German food at Berliner Beerhall.

Saturday was the big day and started early at Griot's which was hosting its monthly Caffeine and Gasoline event. Although the feature marque was Ferrari, there were hundreds of cars of every make and model and hundreds of people as well. Griot's handed out 80 dozen donuts! After the crowds drifted away, our small group nearly had the whole facility to ourselves. We gathered for a simple lunch before our tour of Richard Griot's private car collection. This collection is worth seeing. Small, yes, but carefully curated and interesting. The cars there include Richard Ayrton Senna's Monaco winning 1992 MP4-7-07 F1 car that Richard bought from Zak Brown, the principal of McLaren Racing. Another looker is a RAUH-



Welt 911 housed in the collection. Akira Nakai, founder of RAUH-Welt, is the Japanese automotive artist and tuner specializing in custom Porsche wide-body kits. His re-work on Porsches is polarizing, with people either loving or hating them.

After looking at cool cars, we got down to the business of how to keep our own cars looking their best. We moved into Griot's working garage and Dan Morris pulled in his Panamera to serve as the test subject. The Griot team of Scott and Lily got to work showing us the Brilliant Finish™ synthetic clay tool used with Speed Shine, as well as a full demo of the Ceramic Glass Coating. Dan's car came away with a few gorgeously clean areas. It was a fun, interactive demonstration of many of their exceptional products. Afterward they offered us a nice 20% discount with many members taking full advantage.

Since some members had just come up for the day on Saturday, Sunday morning at the LeMay America's Car Museum found just a handful of us wandering the collection. The feature exhibit was Shinka, an immersive Japanese Automobile show. The collection included a history of the Japanese automotive industry and many "sleepers." It was an interesting look at both JDM (Japanese Domestic Market) and US versions of popular models we all found familiar and some more exotic examples as well.

If you haven't been to Tacoma and taken in the various aspects of car culture, I recommend a trip. Griot's is great experience with friendly staff and amazing restrooms. There is another LeMay collection at Marymount (a former military academy facility) as well as the more commercial experience of America's Car Museum. Great food, great views of Mt Rainier and great coastal history abound in this Pacific Northwest city. ■

