

10 WAYS TO ENJOY A CAR SHOW

By Steve Thompson – reprinted from Oct. 15, 2007 AUTOWEEK

1. If it's a concours d'elegance, and you're a spectator, leave your envy at home. Some people have a lot more money than you do and like to show it off. You benefit, and they benefit. Nobody loses.
2. If you're an entrant, leave your arrogance at home. Unless you designed and built your own car, what you're showing is somebody else's creation.
3. If you're a spectator, never be afraid to ask questions. Sooner or later, feigning knowledge you don't have makes you look stupid.
4. If you're an entrant, encourage people to ask questions about your car. No explanatory text placed next to it can convey everything you know about it.
5. Don't try to photograph everything. Some experiences cannot be captured in images, and some cars are experiences as well as things. Nobody's ever managed to paint, sculpt or photograph the essence of a Ferrari Berlinetta Lusso. The car is art, and how it looks, feels, smells and sounds is too subtle to reproduce.
6. Remember that kids need help understanding what their parents are looking at. Letting a kid sit behind the wheel of your '57 Chevy will bring smiles to everyone, and the kid will never forget it.
7. If you're a spectator, and your kid asks a question about a car, don't fake knowledge about it. See No. 3 above.
8. If you're the wife or girlfriend of a car guy and cars bore you, don't torture yourself pretending to care about Holley carbs or Raydot mirrors. Let the boys amuse themselves while you do something else.
9. If you're the wife or girlfriend or a non-car-guy but you're a car gal, be gentle but firm. If he'd rather stay home and watch football while you go to the car show, so be it. Fascination with beautiful, exotic or just plain interesting cars can strike anyone!
10. And finally, the single most important way to enjoy any car show: Wear comfortable shoes.