

2010 San Diego Auto Show

Article and Photos by Stick Holmes

My old Navy buddy Tom Hamilton and I attended the San Diego Auto Show last December. Tom had procured a couple of free tickets and brought me along as moral support. You see, Tom was in the market for a new car. My job was to back him up by nodding my head vigorously in agreement and make yummy sounds whenever he found a car he liked. It's was easy.

The venue, the San Diego Convention Center, reminded me of my own garage at home except was larger, carpeted, clean, organized and filled with cars that didn't leak oil. Testosterone filled the air! You were allowed to touch most of the cars including getting in and out, opening hoods, trunks etc. You were not, however, allowed to ask the models (those whose presented the cars) if they came with the car.

For a sedan, the Volvo (above right) piqued Tom's interest. I agreed wholeheartedly while reminding him the 2011 Jaguar XJ, with the body of a sports coupe, combines sculptural elegance with visual drama and is offered with a choice of three powerful and refined new engines.



Tom considers the 2011 Volvo

Mark Maynard had a special Maynard's Garage section with an area call simply "Fins". It was stocked with 50s and 60s automobiles with impressive arrays of fins. Designers back then had the idea that if you had big fins, motorists behind you would think you were driving a jet. It was a status symbol thing. The photo of the 1959 Cadillac below left should be of the fins, but it isn't.



The 1959 Cadillac El Dorado Biarritz got my vote for the biggest fins



This Volvo is a hard top convertible

2011 San Diego Auto Show *continued*



2011 Audi R8 5.2 FSI quattro R-Tronic Spyder goes for around 180,000 smackers



Tom loved this enormous Infiniti SUV. Don't let the photo fool you, the girl standing next to it is 7 feet tall

Although Tom doesn't drive off road on purpose anymore (only the occasional mistaking the gas for the break pedal), he loved the humongous Infiniti SUV. Even though I personally don't like any vehicle that requires a ladder to gain entry, I agreed with his positive assessment (nodded vigorously) but reminded him good things come in small packages; like the 2011 Jaguar XK which is a rare blend of art and performance, science and beauty and is powered by the 5.0L V8 with 380 horsepower.



Check out the CJA badge. Anyone know who owns this car?

At the far end of the Center was a line of beautiful classics. There were Lincolns, Rolls Royces, and Gull-Wings galore, but I was particularly enamoured with the Jaguar SS100. Does anyone know who owns this? It would be nice to have him in the Club. Take a look at the photos on the right. The far right badge is a Classic Jaguar Association (CJA) badge. That could be a lead. I'll tell you what, I'll offer a free SDJC logo coffee cup to the one who gets this guy join.



2011 San Diego Auto Show continued



The obligatory beautiful girl in an exotic car



The exceptionally popular 2011 XJ



Photo of a woman walking between me and a perfect shot of the 2011 XF

Saving the best to last, we came upon the Jaguar display set up and hosted by Jaguar Carlsbad. They provided an excellent selection of 2011 Jaguars. Personnel were readily available to field any questions that might arise. It was a well planned display that showcased the most beautiful cars on the property and Jaguar Carlsbad made sure its excellent color-coordinated selection was the focal point.

Well, it's back to photographers school for me. I missed the Cadillac fins, got the innocent woman in the XF photo and the image of the Salsa Red XKR came out blurred. I couldn't even use it.



See you at next year's auto show! I'll bring a real photographer. And oh, by the way, if you see a Salsa Red XKR zipping by, give it a big wave. After that rousing sales pitch I gave him, it's probably my buddy Tom! (I should probably ask for a commission.....)



The sleek and quick 2011 XK