

A View of the 2003 West Coast Volvo Owners National Meet Olympia, WA

By Wes Urbanec, Puget Sound Coordinator, VCOA

It was a day like any other day: it began with Thursday night, it seemed like lull before the storm. Folks were milling around early in the evening and I was ready for an evening of Volvo shoptalk but to my surprise I could not find a Volvo aficionado anywhere. I took a walk around the grounds and if the cars could have talked, I am sure I would have some interesting conversations.

Friday dawned a beautiful day. As you walked in the main lobby, it was undeniable; there was a certain feel in the air, a sense of anticipation and excitement. Jay and Pat Holland's scheduled vintage air museum tour after a fun 50's lunch was a huge success.

The registration table manned and organized by Marla and Peter Madsen was beginning to buzz with registrants from as close Olympia and as far away as North Dakota. After a year of planning, the 2003 West Coast National Volvo Owners Meet at the West Coast Olympia Red Lion was finally underway.

The welcome reception, sponsored by, Black Hills Beer and Wine distributors and Volvo Club of America gave everyone an opportunity to view the history of the Volvo, video, partake in the first raffle and reacquaint Volvo owners who had not seen each other since last meet.

Saturday began with the usual frantic race to spit and polish the cars, followed by individual car photos and finally their positioning on the concours. The Red Lion was generous and allowed the concours to be placed on the grassy area all around the hotel. The setting of Volvo cars, owners in chairs under beautiful shade trees, sunshine and a delicious box lunch sponsored by Volvo Cars of North America was a perfect way to begin the day of judging.

Bob Martin, Jay Holland and their crew of volunteers were organized and efficiently mapped out concours. Everyone was parked and ready for judging in record time.

Nancy Martin drove anyone who wanted to spend a day shopping in Olympia down to town and back home throughout the afternoon, in a new cross country Volvo supplied by Topping Volvo of Olympia.

The judging began with a brief meeting led by Don Johnston with support of his field captains, Gary Ramstad and Pat Priester. The judges in yellow t-shirts began their work. During this time tech sessions were taking place in the hotel. Some tech session offerings were; SU carburetors by Scotty Arnowitz. Warren Moy, owner of Larry's Volvo in Seattle who came to hear a session, filled in as a last minute emergency and led an interesting question and answer session. The

third session by David Motteler, master technician for Topping Volvo, also made himself available for a myriad of car related questions.

Saturday evening's banquet began with the ever-supportive Cameron from IPD, heading up a game of Jeopardy raffle with a multitude of wonderful giveaway items. Northwest Salmon or Pork Tenderloin were the entrée choices followed by great deserts. Speakers for the evening were President of Volvo Club of America, Lee Cordner, who introduced the evening's keynote speaker, Chuck Wilberger of Volvo Cars of North America a Volvo veteran of 20 plus years. Chuck presented an interesting and humorous history of the Volvo station wagon. Head judge Don Johnston ended the evening with the presentation of the much-anticipated awards. The meet's entire list of award winners are presented below.

Before we knew it, Sunday arrived with a breakfast and raffle where no one left empty handed. Pictures of the winners were taken in the parking lot and soon everyone was ready and set with water and cookies for their chosen drive away heading either north or south.

As I viewed the parking lot devoid of participants and the activity of the weekend, I marvel at the coordination and commitment of the folks who comprised the 2003 West Coast meet committee. Attendance for the meet was 197 participants and 88-judged cars, plus many who came for display only.

I take this opportunity to thank our many sponsors who supported us with raffle items, meals, speeches, and funding. The army of volunteers was amazing and greatly appreciated. Of special mention are the ever present and supportive Walt and Rick Tartar, Robert King, Dick Libby, Susan Freeman, Mary Lou Johnston, Nancy Martin, Gene Dvorak, Marc and Nicole Elliott and Bob Walter.

In conclusion, I thank the most amazing and committed, 2003 West Coast Volvo Owners National Meet Committee: Bob Martin, Don and Mary Lou Johnston, Jay and Pat Holland, Peter and Marla Madsen, Gary Ramstad, Gene Dvorak, Robert King, Walt and Rick Tartar, Dick Libby and Bob Walter.

Also I would like to thank all of the sponsors that give so openly towards the meet! VOLVO CARS OF NORTH AMERICA, Irvine, Cal., TOPPING VOLVO DEALERSHIP, Olympia, WA. LARRY'S VOLVO REPAIR, Seattle, WA., SWEDISH CLASSICS, Oxford, Maryland, BLACK HILLS BEER AND WINE DIST., Tumwater, WA., SANDBERG NW VOLVO DEALERSHIP, Seattle, WA., RAVENNA VOLVO DEALERSHIP, Seattle, WA., VOLVO CLUB OF BC, Vancouver, BC., VCOA FLORIDA SUNSHINE CHAPTER, G.G. BAILEY, Ringgold, GA, TARTAR BROTHERS, Seattle, WA, GRIOT'S GARAGE PRODUCTS, Tacoma, WA., ALL EUROPEAN, Royal Oak, MI, PACIFIC CARGO COMPANY, Tacoma, WA., JIM FISHER VOLVO, Portland, OR., BOB WALTER, Tacoma, WA, DICK LIBBY, Seattle, WA. MARLA AND PETER MADSEN, Mercer Island, WA, and myself, Wes Urbanec.

I ALSO EXTEND A SPECIAL THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE MEET. WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING THESE MEETS

WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. IF FOR ANY REASON, WE AS A LOCAL CHAPTER, FAILED IN ANY AREA OF THE MEET AND CAUSED ANY CONCERNS FOR YOU WHICH IMPACTED YOUR LEVEL OF ENJOYMENT, PLEASE EXCEPT MY APOLOGY AND LET ME KNOW WHERE WE COULD IMPROVE IN THE FUTURE.

Wes Urbanec
VCOA Puget Sound Chapter Coordinator

CONCOURS WINNERS

CLASS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE
Stock 1800E	William Thomas	Peter Eulau	Darcy Bullock
Stock 1800ES	Bruce Howe	Dave Warner	Larry Goetz
Stock 444,544	Gregg Morris	Walt Tartar	Warren Moy
Stock 122, 123	Gary Ramstad	DeeDee Reynolds	Fred DeBoer
Stock 140	Dave McAree	Gene Dvorak	
Stock 700-900	John Cripps	Bill Paitson	Jay Holland
Stock 244,245	Mike Harding	Clay Concannon	Peter Madsen
Stock 850, C, S, V, XC	Jennie Patton	Peter Madsen	Greg Blake
Stock 210 Duett	Jim Macindor	Allen Fitzthum	Dave Lindholm
Stock 242-262	Lee Cordner	Al Imrie	Wes Urbanec
Modified 1800 Coupe	Lance Kahn	Dale Rembold	Steve Trinkle
Modified 1800ES	John Myers	Larry Rembold	Don Johnston
Modified 544	Hal Locke		
Modified 122	Phil Singher	Tim Thantham	Cameron Lovre
Modified 140	Dave Cottrell	Wes Urbanec	
Modified 700	Fred Gallaher		
Modified 850, C,S,V,SC1	James Harrison	Lance Kahn	Jonathan Dailly
Modified 240-260	Dave Barton	Doug Kaver	Eric Holmquist
Stock Masters 1800 Coupe	Susan Freeman	Karl Grimm	
CLASS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE
Modified Masters 544	Ellie Cleaver		
Modified Master 1800 Coupe	Jerry Palfenier		
Modified Masters 1800ES	Wes Urbanec		
People's Choice Stock		William Thomas	
People's Choice Modified		Lance Kahn	
Best of Show - Stock Old		William Thomas	
Best of Show - Stock New		Mike Harding	
Best of Show - Modified Old		Lance Kahn	

Best of Show - Modified New	Dave Barton
Longest Distance Driven to Event - First Place	Trana and Gail Rogne, North Dakota
Longest Distance Driver to Event - Second Place	Dave Barton, Lake Ellsinore, California
Oldest Volvo	Walt Tartar