

2005 PV Festival

By Dick Libby

The Bellingham, WA. PV FEST (July 15-17) was a smashing success, bringing together members of Puget Sound Volvo Club of America (PSVCOA), Volvo Sports America (PSVSA), and the Volvo Club of B.C. (VCBC). (Some participants were members of all 3 clubs). 16 PV cars participated and a few I22's.

Organizer Steve Hutchens and spouse, Celia Obrecht opened their home to all and treated us like family, beginning with Friday's delightful barbecue. We shared photos, stories, and confessed our obsessions.

On Saturday the long line of PV's (mostly 544's) cruising scenic country roads was awesome, often roller coasting along and dovetailing right and left--pure poetry in motion.

We circled lakes with secluded cabins--just like rural Sweden! Pedestrians often waved at our entourage--a great desire was detected in their eyes at such a sight. We had only one major breakdown, requiring a new distributor.

At the banquet, a free round of drinks was provided by Fred DeBoer of Aldergrove, BC (he was unable to attend but still contributed to our merriment). Every driver received a PV FEST bottle of wine with a special 544 label which warned "do not use as coolant."

The long distance driving award was an ornate ice bucket reportedly used to cool champagne when Volvo's factory celebrated production of the last 544 in October, 1965. That award went to Rob and Janet Schwieger who came 450 miles from Crawford Bay, BC. Other awards were hand-crafted brooms, 544 models, T-shirts, 544 parts, etc.

We reflected in detail on why these old classics appeal so much--the passion was undeniable (some even carried 544 photos in wallets alongside their family).

Such an event celebrating PV's has never been held in the Northwest. As the week-end came to a close there was the sentiment that "it doesn't get any better than this."

