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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **ANOTHER WINNING YEAR FOR THE CORONADO SPEED FESTIVAL**

*Vintage Races Fun for All Ages*

**SAN DIEGO, October 6, 2008** – On a sunny San Diego weekend, the familiar sound of wheels and engines echoed from the Naval Base tarmac, but this time something was different. The wheels were not attached to planes and choppers, but instead carried an array of classic cars.

Over 20,000 cheering fans gathered Sept. 27-28 in the grandstands waiting for the checkered flag. The anticipation was accelerating and in the end, event goers were not disappointed.

Every year for over a decade, the make-shift well-loved Coronado Naval Base racetrack has been home to the vintage racing event known as the Coronado Speed Festival.

“We couldn’t be happier with this year’s turnout,” said Larry Blumberg, Chair of the Coronado Speed Festival Committee. “With more passionate racers and fans showing their support each year, Speed Fest continues to be a success.”

#### **In the pits and on the track**

Spectators took a step back in time as they visited the garage area for tours from their favorite drivers. Excited kids, and grown ups as well, jumped at the opportunity to see the inspections in the pits before each big race. Afterwards, they viewed pre-WWII era makes and models alive and roaring to the finish line. Separated into nine classes based on their year, the vintage race cars battled it out for the win.

The first place drivers and their cars are listed below:

- **Group 1 (Pre-1941 Sports & Racing Cars):** George Chilberg | 1934 MG L1
- **Group 2 (1947-1955 Sports & Racing Cars):** Brian Howlett | 1961 Morgan +4
- **Group 3 (1956-1962 Sports Racing Cars):** Karim Marouf | 1951 MG TD Spl.
- **Group 4 (1956-1962 Prod. Sports Cars):** Si Robin | 1963 Lotus 23 B
- **Group 5 (1962-1970 Prod. Sports Cars under 2000cc):** Bill Lyon | 1960 Porsche RS-60
- **Group 6 (1962-1966 Prod. Sports Cars):** Jim Gallagher | 1965 Ford Mustang
- **Group 7 (1962-1966 Sports Racing Cars):** Steve Sailors | 1964 Alpine 110
- **Group 8 (1966-1976 Can-Am & FIA Sports Cars):** Dave Vegher | 1969 Chevron B-16
- **Group 9 (1966-1972 Historic Trans-Am Cars):** John Kiland | 1969 Camaro

#### **Taking time to admire the classics**

Over at Vendor Village, enthusiasts perused the numerous products available for purchase. Goodies ranging from car parts to fun accessories left for a happy home with even happier collectors. The food court and beer garden was a lively place for folks to make their own pit-stop and stock up on some fuel.

Thousands of beautiful vintage makes lined through Meguiar’s Car Club Corral as admiring onlookers took in the smooth curves, beautiful paint and powerful engines. But this wasn’t a hands-off museum type display. Intrigued guests got the chance to sit behind the wheel while chatting with proud owners about the ins and outs of their machine.

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Racers weren't the only award winners this weekend, as proud participants in the 3rd annual car show walked away with gleaming trophies to match their sparkling cars.

### **Afternoon entertainment**

Around noon, fans' attentions were glued to the fast-paced and action-filled performance by the Drift Circuit. Smoke poured from thrashed tires as expert drifters awed the fans with their sharp moves at high speeds.

Later, the sky became the main stage as the dramatic Warbirds soared over head and the Leap Frogs, the official U.S. Navy Parachute Team, descended from the air.

### **An event with a purpose**

Perhaps the most notable craze about the whole weekend was the tremendous feeling of gratitude. Racers thankful to polish their skills, fans pleased to get a closer look at the classic makes, and everyone appreciative that the event was held in support of the military. Attendees were proud to contribute to the event with a percentage of the revenue going towards the troop's community programs.

*The Coronado Speed Festival is produced by San Diego Fleet Week Foundation and hosted by the Naval Base Coronado and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Program (MWR) which benefits military personnel and their families. They in turn provide positive support for the active duty military community and their families through Quality of Life Programs including single Sailor Recreation Centers, Fitness and Aquatic Facilities and the Base Theatre Free Movies. The Southern California community is given this unbelievable opportunity to thank the men and women defending our freedom in person. Visit [www.fleetweeksandiego.org/coronadospeedfestival](http://www.fleetweeksandiego.org/coronadospeedfestival) today.*

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