

**Gathering of the Faithful- 2008**  
**By Stan Pfof**

In the mountains of Central Florida, there is a small unique village named Mt. Dora which is where the Porsche 356 Florida Owners Group met to hold their First Annual "Gathering of the Faithful". The date of the event was January 11 - 13, 2008. The 125 year old Lakeside Inn with its rustic charm and great lawn area for auto display overlooking the beautiful Lake Dora was the headquarters for the event. The group has had previous one day events but this was the first 3 day event to be held. The weather was great for this time of the year and suntan lotion was in order for the event.

Friday afternoon, the cars began to arrive and take their places in the designated areas to park. There were 6 groupings. Pre A/A models, open and coupe. B models open and coupe, and C models open and coupe. After checking in and getting situated in our rooms, we ventured out to explore the area...what a great shopping area for the ladies-- jewelry stores, art shops and unique shops of all kinds abound with many great restaurants and ice cream parlors in abundance. Strolling back to the inn and exploring the hotel grounds was a treat in itself; it was like walking back in time when President Calvin Coolidge and his wife stayed here for the summer after he came out of office. From 6pm to 7:30pm a superb cocktail party with an open bar was presented that was sponsored by Nort Northam and the Lakeside Inn.

Saturday, more cars began to arrive and with many new acquaintances being made while setting up for the Peoples Choice Concours which was held from 10am until 12 noon. It was a great event in that you can vote for your own car as well as someone else's without having the pressure of concourse judging.

There were 6 plaques for the 6 classes and 1 plaque for best of show. The total was 25 356's. The recipients to be rewarded at the Buffet Dinner later that night. From 12 noon until 2pm you were on your own for lunch and then the driving tour began...



The driving tour got underway at 2:15pm and Jan Reker, who set it up, was bound and determined to make it a fun event and it was to last for 90 minutes driving thru the scenic Lake County with all the lakes and a few mountains thrown in for good measure. 23 cars went on the tour and there were no complaints heard. The weather was great and so were the bakery goods that were at a stop half way thru...upon returning to the great lawn and arranging the cars, most retired to rest and clean up before going to the cocktail party that started at 6pm thru 7:30pm, again with an open bar that was sponsored by FOG.

The Dinner/Awards presentation was in a private room in the hotel and was a buffet that is a feature of the hotel, and it was great. After dinner, the awards were presented by our event chairman and Vice President, Mike Owen and by

our President John Reker. Bob Dewey from Melbourne Fl. won honors for being the original owner of his 1958 speedster. Bob was nice to share his story of the purchase and all the things he went thru owning and maintaining the car. The awards were then presented by Mike Owen and beautiful plaques were given. The recipients were as follows:

A Coupe	Don Morton	1956 Beige Coupe
A Open	Mike and Debbie Owen	1956 Black Speedster
B Coupe	Harry Bopp	1962 Slate Gray Carrera 2
B Open	Stan and Lura Pfost	1960 Black Roadster
C Coupe	Mike and Terry Davis	1964 Black SC Coupe
C Open	Mike and Terry Davis	1965 Ruby Red Cabriolet

Peoples Choice            Harry Bopp    1962 Slate Gray Carrera 2

This is a great event and we hope it becomes an annual event because the accommodations, the food, the friendship and warmth of those that attended along with the number and quality of the cars was great. Mike and Debbie Owen and John and Jan Reker are to be congratulated for the outstanding job and the amount of elbow grease that was expended to make this meet have the quality that was accomplished.