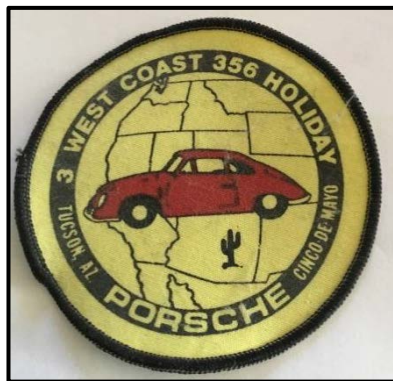


Arizona Outlaws Grille Badge – A Retrospective

By
Jeff Gamble

Prior to the organization of Arizona Outlaws 356 Club, a merry band of Baja Arizona 356 enthusiasts decided that a 356 Registry West Coast Holiday in Arizona would be a lot of fun to host. So in 1979, the third West Coast Holiday would be hosted in Tucson. The committee was headed up by Valley National Banker Fred Moore, Attorney Tom Murphy, Rick Hammel and Jeff Gamble. Invitations went out for the Tech Sessions to then-partners Al Zim and Ed Mayo who were 356 experts extraordinaire. The enthusiastic committee jumped headlong into the Holiday planning adventure.

Wouldn't you know, that year the second oil crisis struck and the price of oil doubled, with long lines at the gas pumps. We were worried about the potential impact of the shortage, but the 356 Faithful persisted and the event was a great success. We worked with a local Artist to create a Southern Arizona-specific patch designating Tucson with a saguaro cactus and event details. I went to work on the awards, hand making half plaster Porsches painted silver and mounted on wood wall plaques.



By the middle 1980's enthusiast Mike Wroughton had organized the Arizona 356 owners with a loose concept of no rules, no dues and no one in charge. This approach became the popular Arizona 356 Outlaws club. About this time my girlfriend Patsy and I were spending Columbus Day holiday in Sedona, surrounded by a Street Rod convention at the Poco Diablo resort. We thought that this could be the perfect site for a 356 Holiday.

A committee was formed and we did a spin-off on the "Jazz on the Rocks" name and called the 1989 West Coast Holiday "Porsche on the Rocks." I contacted and submitted the event proposal to the 356 Registry Trustees complete with an unprecedented permission to use the Poco Diablo's golf course lawn for the Concours. When a contractual and uninsured liability developed, I stepped aside, but Cliff Berryman stepped up and saved the 1989 Holiday. I volunteered to create awards appropriate to the venue that included hand-cast sterling silver 356 Cabriolets mounted on a small slab of Sedona red rock.



Another decade passed and in 1999, leader Mike Wroughton would step forward to chair another West Coast Holiday in the timeless beauty of Sedona. This Holiday was called the Arizona 356 Outlaws Round-up and was again held at the Poco Diablo resort. The golf course was again the setting for the Concours, based on the 1989 precedent. Scenic area driving tours were planned and Mike turned to me for help with the awards. In the meantime, the late Bob Poister's daughter Amy, who was an animation artist for 20th Century Fox, had created a very cool Outlaw design that the Arizona Outlaws subsequently adopted as the official club logo.



With Amy's design, I hand carved a wax version of the Outlaw into a three dimensional relief the size of a grill badge. My foundry then molded and cast ten first place badges in sterling silver, ten second place badges in polished bronze, and another ten third place badges in traditional patina bronze. The badges included mounting lugs so recipients could mount their awards on their 356 engine grills. So that is how the Arizona 356 Outlaw car badge was born.



Moving forward yet another decade to 2009, Jim Kauffman and Candace Delaney came forward to chair a fourth Arizona West Coast Holiday. The Arizona Outlaws seemed to have created a tradition of hosting the 356 Registry West Coast Holiday every ten years, “on the nines.” Once again, it was hosted by the good folks at Poco Diablo resort in Sedona. This time it would be themed "B in Sedona" to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the third-generation 356B.



Jeff Gamble presenting a Concours award to winner Ron Roland and closeup of “B in Sedona” award (photo by John Hearn)

Jim gave his approval for me to create a “B nose” award. Once again, the first place awards were cast in sterling silver, second place in polished bronze and third place in a patina bronze in the same medallion grill badge format. The winners were presented their newly created Outlaw awards on a German colors neck ribbon at the awards banquet.



Earliest generations of the copyrighted badge had artist initials, casting date "JG 99" and brazed-on nuts for grill mounting.



Later versions were copyrighted, sculptor-signed and dated. Then in 2010, a non-signed edition was released (not pictured).



2019 version in antiqued patina, with artist logo, foundry stamp and serialized numbering

As part of the awards tradition since 1999, I decided to make available a continuation of the bronze badges to meet fellow Outlaw's interest to have the Outlaw grill badge for their cars. This most recent edition of 2019 badges has a foundry stamp with an Artist logo. This design is also numbered and supplied in an antique patina finish.

Version 5

Jeff Gamble has been a 356 enthusiast since purchasing his first Porsche, a Speedster in 1967, and an active Arizona Outlaws participant since the creation of the club. Jeff's sculptures, both polished and in bronze patina, have received critical acclaim by automotive editors, executives, designers, and collectors in the United States, Europe and Japan, including Ferry Porsche. This favorable reception to his works is the result of his exhaustive research into the people, places, and events he portrays. His amazing attention to detail, such as oil on the hood, mud splashes, and water spraying from the tires, has earned him a worldwide following that enables the collector of his works to experience historic moments in time. More of Jeff's story and art can be seen at <http://www.gambleart.com/>.

