

## 2016 968 Summer Gathering Recap



S. Lake Tahoe was a 2-day drive away as we started out from our home in N. Arizona July 7th. We met up with a good friend for breakfast and then we pointed our White 968s, one coupe and one Cabriolet, to I40 and westward toward California to meet new friends. Other 968s were headed to the same destination from the north and west with the same temptation of a weekend with other 968 owners. Others would begin their journeys from the east and west the following day since they didn't have as far to drive. We spent the night at a small hotel in Lone Pine, CA with a spectacular view of Mt Whitney. The next morning led to a great drive up CA 395, with a stop at Mono Lake to see its amazing mineral spires and tufa columns. After more spirited driving up higher into the Sierra Nevadas we arrived at the Park

968 hotel. A funky environmentally-executed hotel that was the perfect gathering place to park our 968s.



As more 968s pulled into the reserved covered parking spaces, the owners began to gather and greet each new arrival. After dinner we all congregated in a private patio to get better acquainted with each other, swap stories and share some great bottles of wine, late into the evening.



Saturday morning the 10 cars met down by Lake Tahoe for pre-drive photos.





Matt, our local guide, delivered a spectacular drive over a mountain pass through a winter ski area and down into Virginia City for lunch and "hangin' out" where early miners, cowboys (Bonanza!) and an obscure Bay Area 60's rock-and-roll band (The Warlocks, look them up) played in the bars. Couple other bands passed through the doors including Big Brother and the Holding Company (Janis Joplin of 356 fame) and the Jefferson Airplane. Joined by several other 968 owners during that day we headed off south to our dinner destination. Despite protestations that people were still full from lunch, the Basque family-style multi-course food and wine were cleaned off the plates! I guess all that driving took more calories than we thought it would! A fast run back up the mountain to the hotel capped off the day, except for more night-caps and solving of the world's problems.

Sunday was another day of spectacular weather and another start from the lakeside. This time we headed south over some more amazing roads cresting at snow level altitudes and drives over some twisty farm roads to gather at a Tuscan-styled winery recommended by Jeff, a local participant, where wine tasting and lunch provided a great mid-day break. Photo ops followed before departing for the hotel or home.



On Monday the remaining cars gathered for final farewells and off to home! Our drive back to AZ took us back down CA 395 and across CA 168 into Nevada and home. CA 168 between CA 395 and NV 95

travels over two 8,000 ft mountain passes through the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and is one of the more exciting drives I've ever had with more tight curvey sections mixed with long straights than most race tracks I've been on. What a way to finish the weekend before the boredom of interstates to finish our drive home!

The 968 was absolutely a great car for this trip - fast, agile, comfortable and lots of room for luggage and fly-fishing gear (Can't go to the Sierra Nevadas without a day on the Carson River with a rod in my hand).