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PRESS RELEASE

THE PREMIER CAR EVENT OF THE SEASON *Don't Miss The 12th Annual Coronado Speed Festival*

SAN DIEGO, September 17, 2009: Just over one week until the Coronado Speed Festival!

Don't miss out on the premier racing event of the season. This year's Coronado Speed Festival will offer all of the same great activities of year's past, but there will also be many new and exciting aspects to experience. *When you are looking for somewhere fun to spend a day or weekend and a unique experience appropriate for all ages, look no further than this year's "Race At The Base".*

What's New?

Stock Cars: Over 30 of the most famous NASCAR Winston Cup stock cars will compete at the Coronado Speed Festival in Group 9.

The cars racing over the course of the two day weekend are genuine retired stock cars from the NASCAR circuit, which at one time were raced by famous NASCAR drivers. Some of more notable cars racing are:

- DALE EARNHART'S #3, GM GOODRICH 1995 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO: To be raced by Gary Sousa
- JEFF GORDON'S #24, 1993 CHEVROLET LUMINA: To be raced by Steve Schoellhorn
- BILL ELLIOTT'S #9, 2002 DODGE INTREPID: To be raced by Jim Phillion
- Bill Elliott's #94, McDonald's 1994 Ford Thunderbird: To be raced by Steve Barber
- Jimmy Spencer's #12, Meineke 1993 Ford Thunderbird: To be raced by David Goodell
- Bobby Labonte's #18, 1999 Interstate Battery Pontiac Grand Prix: To be raced by Russ Romer

First Annual Car Parade: Don't miss forty hand-selected race cars parade off NASNI through the streets of Coronado before the races start! The forty cars, which will be racing over the course of the weekend, will showcase their beauties on Thursday, September 24 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and will park on Isabella and be on display for all to see. Enjoy other amenities like excellent dining and views in the picturesque community.

Car Show Show Down: See Southern California's finest examples of muscle cars, hotrods and sports cars battle it out for Best of Show . Who will it be Chevy, Ford, Mopar? Or will it be European or Japanese? Come visit the 4th annual car show in the Car Club Corral and find out.

Mercedes Ride & Drive: AMG, the high-performance division of Mercedes-Benz, is pleased to announce a special ride and drive event designed to indulge automobile connoisseurs with an unforgettable test drive experience.

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Lunchtime Activities

Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) Demonstration: The LCAC is a class of air-cushion vehicle (hovercraft) used as landing craft by the United States Navy. They transport weapons systems, equipment, cargo and personnel of the assault elements of the Marine Air/Ground Task Force both from ship to shore and across the beach.

Flyovers: The thunderous engines – you won't be able to miss the rumble of aircraft as they fly overhead.

Leap Frogs: The Navy Parachute Team, the Leap Frogs, will demonstrate their skill and precision on Sunday, September 27 during the opening ceremony. The Leap Frogs are based in San Diego and perform precision, free fall parachute demonstrations across the United States to showcase Navy excellence and will be available after their jump for autograph signing at the Navy display in Vendor Village.

Car Show Parade Laps: The Car Show winners will take part in parade laps during lunchtime on Saturday and Sunday.

Drift Circuit: Drifting is an un-timed freestyle motor sport that is judged by achieving the maximum sideways angle, and speed in the corner. Drifters gain maximum points by striking the proper clipping point, and taking a favorable line that connects one drift smoothly into the next.

In other words, drifters deliberately control their cars to slide sideways at high-speeds, aiming for the maximum points through stylized movements and skilled maneuvering techniques. Major consideration is given to style and crowd appeal. Originating on twisty, narrow, mountain roads in Japan, teams and individuals would compete for respect and the glory of being number one on the mountain.

You can see the drifting exhibition during the lunchtime hour on both Saturday and Sunday. The drifters will also be racing after the last race on Saturday.

Ship Tours

The Commanders of the U. S. Navy's Third Fleet and Naval Surface Forces once again invite you to step aboard two Navy Ships. This year you will be able to tour the USS Makin Island and the USS Princeton.

USS Makin Island: USS Makin Island (LHD 8) is the second ship to bear the name of this raid. The first USS Makin Island (CVE 93) was a Casablanca class escort aircraft carrier which served during World War II from 1944 - 1946. The USS Makin Island is scheduled to be commissioned once again on October 24, 2009.

USS Princeton: CG 59 is the sixth ship in a proud series of U.S. Navy ships to honor the name Princeton. The first vessel named Princeton was a sloop of war, commissioned in 1843. She was the first Navy vessel to be powered by a steam-driven screw.

Garage Tours

One of the most unique attractions at the Coronado Speed Festival is the Garage Tours. Unlike most racing events, visitors are encouraged to freely explore the garage area, view the cars and talk with the owners and drivers of these unique and vibrant vehicles.

What better place to learn about the history of these magnificent cars than in the garage with the professionals? It is also a great place to witness the mechanics getting these classic machines ready for racing on the 1.7 mile track. Garage tours will be taking place at 9:30am and 11am on both Saturday and Sunday. Meet at Maynard's Garage at those times to participate.

Military FREE

And once again, all active duty, active reservist and their direct depend military ID holders will free admission to this year's event. Active duty military, active reservists and dependent ID holders DO NOT need tickets and will gain admission through a specially-designated entry gate. Admission is free for children 12 and younger. Thanks to our sponsors, the event will further its tribute to our nation's military.

About The Coronado Speed Festival & Fleet Week San Diego

The Coronado Speed Festival is Fleet Week San Diego's marquee event. The event features fast-paced, thrilling auto racing and exhibitions for car enthusiasts of all ages at one of the most distinctive race track locations - Naval Air Station North Island, the birthplace of Naval Aviation. Nowhere else can you see a variety of cars racing on a live runway used by the U.S. Navy.

This is the only Navy Open House on the West Coast. Naval Base Coronado is home to over 20,000 active duty military and over 4,000 civilian employees. The general public only gets a glimpse of the daily activities happening at the base. This is San Diego's opportunity to interact with the young men and women who defend our freedom. Climb aboard and tour an active Navy ship berthed at NASNI, visit command displays, watch flyovers and see military vehicles in action.

Don't miss out on this annual celebration of speed. The Coronado Speed Festival offers something for everyone to enjoy so race on down to Naval Air Station, North Island on **September 26-27** for the premiere racing event of the season. This event is free for active duty military and their dependants. For more information please go to www.fleetweeksandiego.org/coronadospeedfestival.

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.

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