

## **2009 DATES FOR ROLEX MONTEREY HISTORIC AUTOMOBILE RACES ANNOUNCED**

### ***Porsche to be the Featured Marque***

MONTEREY, Calif. (November 6, 2008) – Following the success of this year's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rolex Monterey Historic Automobile Races with guest Mario Andretti driving his Lotus 79, General Racing announced the dates and marque for the 2009 event. The 36<sup>th</sup> annual running of the world-famous races and auto exposition will take place on August 14-16, 2009, at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca with ticket sales commencing on November 17, 2008.

Each year, a featured marque is chosen to commemorate the event. This annual celebration of a specific manufacturer has intrigued thousands of compassionate enthusiasts from around the world. In 2009, the featured marque will be Porsche.

“We are extremely excited to honor Porsche and its incredible racing heritage at the 36<sup>th</sup> Rolex Monterey Historic,” said Steve Earle, founder of the event and president of General Racing. “With great cars from the early 356 Speedsters and Spyders, to the 917's, this event will be an auto enthusiasts dream and we look forward to seeing these vehicles on the track.”

The iconic 356 gave Porsche its first overall win in a major sports car racing event at the 1956 Targa Florio. The 356s are more than just special to auto enthusiasts, but even more amazing is how many of the 356 Speedsters and Spyders will be at the Monterey Historic Automobile races, as they are rarely seen in public.

The Porsche workmanship and craftsman has survived the endless replications, improvements and technical evolution of the intervening 60 years. The early 356's lean curvatures, penned by engineer/aerodynamicist Erwin Komenda, are fundamental to Porsche products. To look at the first Porsche's is to see the prototypical shape of Porsche, the solid geometry of the brand that has survived six decades and will be prominently driven on track during the event.

The Porsche 917 was at the time, the fastest series production car ever produced and it was made into a movie star by Steve McQueen in his 1971 film *Le Mans*. The movie showed off the bright blue and orange livery Gulf 917K and Porsche Austria 917LH magnificently.

“Porsche won the Can-Am Championship here in 1972 and 1973 with one of the most iconic sports racing cars of all time,” said Gill Campbell, CEO/general manager of

Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. “The 917 was known for its high speeds and high horsepower outputs and raced successfully here at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca.”

Tickets, additional event information, parking directions and information for the 2009 season at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca are available by calling (800) 327-SECA or online at [www.laguna-seca.com](http://www.laguna-seca.com).

Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca was established in 1957. The world-renowned raceway has been operated since its inception by the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula (SCRAMP), a not-for-profit 501C(4) corporation. Each race season, SCRAMP donates its net proceeds to the volunteer groups that help put on the races.

Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca’s world-class 2009 racing schedule includes the Festival of Speed featuring Rolex Grand-Am Series May 15-17, Red Bull U.S. Grand Prix featuring MotoGP World Championship July 3-5, the 36th Rolex Monterey Historic Automobile Races August 14-16 and the Monterey Sports Car Championships featuring the American Le Mans Series October 9-11.

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