

LeMons Buttonwillow

Written by Rick Lofgren

Wednesday, 12 January 2011 13:38

Team *Help Dubai* (formerly Team *Baconator*) has a good history of high finishes in LeMons races. They were looking for a driver for the **"Arse -Freeze-Apalooza"**

at Buttonwillow, so I signed up. The car is a 1986 Porsche 944 running wheel spacers and late offset 16x8s with 225-50-16s. LeMons requires 200 or higher tread wear tires, so we were on Direzza Sport Z1 Star Spec. The car has been modified to resemble a Bugatti Veyron through the creative use of a toilet seat, foam, and lots of foil tape.

"Increasing the cost of oil one lap at a time"

is the team motto on the side of the car. LeMons cars are limited to a value of \$500--excluding wheels and tires and safety equipment--so everything else on the car is original, except maybe the shocks. Our competitive advantage was going to be the late 21-gallon fuel tank.



The race was December 4th and 5th, and the weather was threatening. On the way to the track Saturday morning it was raining hard. I am glad we weren't on the standard limited tread Toyos from the 944-Spec racecars. Tread depth is your friend in the wet. Buttonwillow has many configurations and we found out in the drivers' meeting that we would be running clockwise, omitting Lost Hill, and using the Sweeper.

Through the parade lap lottery system of the 24 Hours of LeMons, Team *Help Dubai* started 91st out of 164 cars. On the first ten laps, we went to 79th, 67th, 54th, 49th, 46th, 44th, 43rd, 41st, 35th, and 33rd. That's a lot of passing, good practice and a fun game of sharks and minnows. You don't need a racing license to do a LeMons race, so there are many drivers who aren't so fast; but for the most part, they were all behaved and predictable on track.

The Team *Baconator* guys have expanded to two cars and we were sharing resources for pit stops. In addition to the *"Help Dubai" 944, "The Most Interesting Car in the World"* (a BMW 533i with 300,000 miles on the original motor) was running the crazy race. They ran the race with a beer tap installed where the trunk button used to be and also served Dos Equis from a keg on Saturday night.

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Billings, Montana, USA, 12 January 2011, 13:38. Two men in white thobes and ghutras standing next to a silver race car at a LeMons event.