

Auto Dept. does 'Monster Garage'



Joe Piazzisi Clackamas Print

Students and faculty from Clackamas create a monster golf cart

C.J. Ciaramella

Feature Editor

Hot rods of almost every make and model crowded the floor of the Expo Center during The Portland Rod and Custom Show, but the Clackamas Auto Department was the only group showing off a golf cart.

With some help from the crew of The Discovery Channel's "Monster Garage," students and faculty from the Auto Department turned a standard golf cart into a slick, wheelie-popping machine during the three day hot rod show.

The Auto Department was invited to come to the hot rod show and participate in the "Monster Garage"-style build.

"Jason Wilson, the show organizer, called us up and asked if we were interested in doing it," said Dave Bradley, the head of the auto department.

The Clackamas team's objective was to make a golf cart that could "pop a wheelie" or fly back on its rear wheels. To accomplish this, the team had to strip the cart and almost start from scratch.

"We started out with a stock golf cart at 10 a.m.," Bradley said. "By noon it was a flat chassis, and then it got crazy."

"The first thing we attacked was

the front suspension. We modified it to a beam suspension," said Bradley. "Then we shortened the frame and worked on the steering — repositioned the seats and the battery tray."

By Sunday afternoon the group had created something that could only be called a golf cart on steroids — a glossy, black machine powerful enough to flip back on its rear tires with ease.

Bradley said the cart had about 45 horsepower, and that some of the other members claimed it could go over 55 mph. However, he said he was going to "take their word on that one."

People passing by couldn't help but stop and look at the monster cart, even though it was wedged between eye-catching Camaros, Mustangs, and Ferraris.

After finishing, the crew took the cart out for a victory spin.

"Yeah, we were out doing wheel stands in front of the Expo Center on Sunday," said Bradley.

Although there was no prize for completing their "monster challenge," Bradley and the rest of the crew enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

"[It was] just the challenge and fun of doing it... Some of us haven't had this much fun in years," said Bradley.

After the show, Bradley and the rest of the people who participated are still waiting for a well-deserved break.

"We're all sitting around tired and wanting to go to sleep again," Bradley said.

Editor's Note: For more information on The Portland Rod and Custom Show, turn to page 6.

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