

**“TIGERS UNITED” & “TIGERS NORTH”  
U.S.A. & Canada - 2005**



Captured by national press photographer caption: Santa Maria, CA, U.S.A "This STINKS!" --John and Angela Dandy from the U.K. are simply aghast at the texture coating of California Association of Tiger Owners member Mark Theroux's "Texture Tiger" while attending Tigers United XXVIII in Santa Maria, California. A bright yellow stucco paint job which was the result of a bargain basement spray guy which gave more of a splatter than a spray, has been putting the purists on their heels for a couple of years now. Photo by Dan MacMedan. Below: Angela readying for the Ladies Autocross.



## WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

**Angela Dandy takes us through an unnerving highlight of her visit with John to and fellow Club members Peter & Deborah Phelps to 'Tigers North' this summer.**

Even though it's early July there's a b.....y cold wind blowing in from the west right over this disused part of an old airfield near Langley, Vancouver, British Columbia. I'm walking the course along with 50 or 60 other people who like me have decided to take part in the 'Tigers North' Autocross challenge. I am not sure that I so much decided to take part in it but ran out of excuses for at least not giving it a go. It wasn't as though I didn't have a car to drive because the Phelps had kindly offered to let me drive their black Tiger (specially prepared and running on "slicks")!

First things first - Tigers North is not an official club but the name given to this year's meeting of members of the Pacific Tiger Club from Seattle and Tiger owners who reside in the Vancouver area. It was the first meeting of its kind for 20 years and hopefully won't be the last. Here's a piece of information that you may not know.... There are more Tigers per capita in British Columbia than anywhere else in the world (I think) and the reason is that Tigers became un-saleable in the US when emission tests were bought in back in 1967 so a large number were shipped up to British Columbia and bought by the locals.

Tigers North was a great event, extremely well organised, very laid back and had one key objective - everyone was to have fun!

Back to the story... so why was I walking miles around an airfield in a cold wind if this was fun?

Autocross US style is not quite like Autocross UK style. Whilst we Brits race cheek by jowl around grass race tracks, our friends across the pond prefer to test their skills against the clock by driving at breakneck speed around a specially designed course that includes slaloms (chicanes to us), hair pins, and fast straights. And the skill is not in the driving alone! It's no good getting the best time nor succeeding in leaving all the cones upright up if you don't follow the pre-determined route. Sounds easy? Well believe me that when the first 20 or more drivers did their practice run at Tigers North Autocross, only one or two of these old hands managed to take the right route first time! And if you take the wrong route, move a cone or fail to come to a dead stop in the finish box you are a most definite DFN (Did Not Finish) - no arguments hat is why I was walking miles



(maybe a small exaggeration) around this airfield.

This actually wasn't my very first experience of Autocross US style. Just the previous week when John and I had been at Tigers United (TU) in Santa Maria I had had the pleasure (did I say that?) to be taken out on a couple of "fun runs" at the TU Autocross by Deborah Phelps. I can't say I really knew what to expect at the time but once we were strapped in and off from the starting post I remember hanging on for grim death but at the same time shouting "Wow, faster!". Luckily for me Deborah said that she was taking it "real easy" so that she didn't scare me too much! I have to say that I never would have believed that a Tiger could be driven so fast around such a tight narrow course.

My biggest mistake, of course, was letting on to Deborah and Peter that I had enjoyed the fun run at Tigers United - after that there was no escaping having a go at Tigers North! As it turned out my mentors (Peter and Deborah) allowed to me to get off the hook after I had been out driving on the practice runs. I refuse point blank to discuss the timing of my "round" but I can report to all my colleagues in the UK that I did not go the wrong way, I did not knock any of the cones down and I did come to a dead stop in the finish box. I was not a DFN!

My thanks to Peter And Deborah for letting me drive their black Tiger and giving me a push to at least have a go. Next stop for me is Silverstone Driving School so that the next time I end up at an Autocross I shall be going fast enough to knock all the cones down and have no chance whatsoever of stopping in the finish box. Both Peter & Deborah were well into points at the Autocross but Deborah just beat Peter to the honour of being "fastest lady"!

**Angela Dandy**

Footnote: John and I would like to thank everybody who was involved in the organisation of Tigers North for their hospitality. We thoroughly enjoyed the company and the events and hope to be invited again. Incidentally the trophy for "furthest travelled" looks good on the mantelpiece alongside other Tiger mementoes which remind us of great times with STOC. *Thanks John & Angela for all your roving ambassador work on behalf of STOC. Ed.*



**New member Bruce Ulrich's "Lord Rootes Trophy" 2005 winning Tiger  
Tigers United - Autocross**