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## Chasing Super Bowl XLVI Super Cars: Fan Experience

By [Eric R. Ivie](#), [Yahoo! Contributor Network](#) Feb 5, 11:34 am EST

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Twenty-three hours over two days. Seven hundred twenty miles. Thirty-three Super Bowl XLVI [Super Cars](#). And one big question: why?

I've gotten that question a lot over the past couple of days. Why on earth would I spend all that time and [burn up all of those miles](#) just to photograph some cars? Why not just take pictures of them while they were all on Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis for the Super Bowl XLVI celebration?



From a practical perspective, it was difficult to get good pictures of all of them when they were lined up so closely downtown. Add to it that there were thousands of people there, all trying to get pictures of their favorite cars, and it was a madhouse.

The larger reason for traveling all over central Indiana is that I wanted the experience. We all celebrate Super Bowl XLVI in different ways. Thousands of people volunteered their time and effort to guide visitors from Point A to Point B all week. Thousands of others enjoyed the [NFL Experience](#) and the [Super Bowl Village](#). Thousands more shelled out big bucks to attend the game between the [New England Patriots](#) and the [New York Giants](#) in person.

I enjoyed the NFL Experience and the Super Bowl Village—three times, in fact—and since my two favorite teams, the [Seattle Seahawks](#) and the [Indianapolis Colts](#), weren't facing each other in Super Bowl XLVI, it wasn't worth it to me to spend the bazillions of dollars necessary to secure a couple of tickets to the game.

But the Super Cars really intrigued me. They're something uniquely Indiana, blending

IndyCar racing with the NFL. As I looked at them all on Monument Circle on the day they were unveiled, I was mesmerized. It didn't take me long to figure out that each car was numbered with the year in which each team joined the NFL. The bright colors, the detail in each car, and the celebration of each of the 32 teams—plus Super Bowl XLVI—was something I wanted to inspect in closer detail.

So I took the Indianapolis Super Bowl Committee up on their challenge: find all 33 Super Cars. It would be my unique way of celebrating Super Bowl XLVI.

To paraphrase Johnny Cash, I've been to Indianapolis, Speedway, Plainfield, Lafayette, Zionsville, Carmel, Fishers, Noblesville, Anderson, Muncie, Greenfield, Shelbyville, Columbus, Bloomington, and Richmond. I've been to museums, civic centers, shopping malls, arts centers, colleges, a creamery, a restaurant, an airport, and more. I've been on interstates, state highways, county roads, and gravel drives. I've met countless people that I'd have never met otherwise—other Hoosiers, as well as fans from other states.

I took a bunch of pictures for other people with their cameras, I chatted with Super Bowl XLVI volunteers at many stops, I saw kids' faces light up at Super Cars, and I witnessed the infectious excitement that the big game brings to central Indiana. Many Super Cars were at Super Celebration sites throughout the state, and as I was photographing cars, others were waiting on a shuttle to take them downtown to the Super Bowl Village. It was fun to listen to their exuberant chatter as they kept a watchful eye out for the big green charter bus to arrive.

I really enjoyed chatting with a gentleman who was volunteering at the Fishers Train Station—the site of the Cincinnati Bengals Super Car. There was something relaxing about just standing there, admiring the Bengals car together, chatting about football, and sharing with him what I had seen of other Super Cars at that point.

I am very appreciative of three kind men at Sandman Brothers in Shelbyville who unlocked their doors and stayed a few minutes past closing time so that I could photograph the Cleveland Browns Super Car. I was in Muncie at the Oakland Raiders Super Car when I realized that Sandman Brothers closed at 7 p.m. If I altered my planned course of travel and hurried from Muncie to Shelbyville, I would just barely make it. After encountering some traffic, however, I didn't make it in time. These three gentlemen, though, went out of their way to make sure that I got what I came for. Hoosier hospitality at its finest.

(On a related note, thank you to the fine citizen of Dunreith, Ind., who posted the home-made sign warning of erroneous GPS directions that would send me down the wrong street. You saved me valuable time!)

I've been to places that I didn't even know existed. I've been to places where I want to return at another time with my wife and kids. I've seen really neat art and other exhibits. I've gotten ideas for future articles. And I came home with close to 700 photographs and a bunch of fond memories.

All told, it was an enriching experience. I'm so glad that I chose this quest as my way to celebrate Super Bowl XLVI. I've lived in Indiana for 15 years, and yet through this experience, I was struck by how little I know about my state, as well as how much more I want to learn about it. I was also struck by how welcomed and appreciated I felt at

every Super Car location.

It made me feel proud to be a Hoosier, and *that* is why I chased them all down.

To see my photos of every Super Car, [visit RedZoneWriting.com](http://RedZoneWriting.com).

*The author is a resident of central Indiana and a Featured Contributor in Sports for the Yahoo! Contributor Network. You can follow him on Twitter at [@RedZoneWriting](https://twitter.com/RedZoneWriting) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RedZoneWriting).*

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