

Climbing the Concours Ladder

It's rare that a concours establishes itself so thoroughly in such a short time, but Fairfield displayed a maturity suitable to see it into the future

by Donald Osborne



1958 Facel Vega of SCMer Matt deGarmo (R) and the 1958 Morgan Plus 4 of Lance Herman

Mother Nature was not too kind to most collector car events held in the Northeast U.S. in the summer of 2006, but the annual Fairfield County Concours d'Elegance in Westport, Connecticut, proved it was out to beat the odds. On an overcast day that threatened rain but only delivered a brief shower, a full show field and a large, enthusiastic crowd enjoyed the 94 cars and 12 motorcycles on display on the Veteran's Green in the center of town.

Again demonstrating the unique educational approach of the show, the cars, bikes, and their detailed, descriptive cards were arranged in chronological order, spanning a full 100 years of motoring—from a 1905 Packard Runabout to a 2005 tuned Bentley. SCMer's made up a healthy dose of exhibitors, as well as those behind the scenes, including show organizers Bill Scheffler and John Shuck, Senior Auction Analyst Dave Kinney doing an informative "Field Walk," and myself as master of ceremonies.

Special displays have been a hallmark of the Fairfield Concours since its inception, and this year the tradition

continued with a survey of MG. Ten cars were represented, dating from a 1932 Type M to a 1980 MGB. Also included was a rare 1953 Arnolt MG coupe. Also, with Lancia's centenary receiving much attention over the summer both in Europe and America, in Westport the celebration continued. Richard Sirota displayed his 1958 Aurelia B20 coupe, while I brought out my 1952 Ardea sedan.

Returning was the popular "Reveille," for which concours entrants fired up the engines of their cars and bikes on cue, much to the delight of the crowd. The day also featured special activities for the youngest show visitors, hosted by the event beneficiary, the Save the Children organization.

Though small in scope and still young, the Fairfield County Concours has never lacked for exceptional machinery. This year's highlights included a 1948 Tucker—the third built—owned by SCMer's John Boccardo and J.R. Roberts, which took home the Founders Award. Also attracting plenty of attention was the People's Choice winner, a 1939 Horch owned by Jack Rich, while one of the event's oldest entries, Richard King's 1908 Thomas Flyer, took home Best in Show.

It is rare that a concours can establish itself so thoroughly in the rapidly filling

DETAILS

Plan Ahead: September 16, 2007
Where: Westport, CT
Number of entries: 95 cars, 15 motorcycles
Cost: \$15 for one, \$30 for families up to 2 children and 2 adults
More: www.fairfieldcountconcours.com



(Center) 1953 Fiat 8V of SCMer Lawrence Auriana



Jack Rich's 1939 Horch took home People's Choice honors

calendar of automotive events, but the third edition of this southern Connecticut show displayed a maturity suitable to see it into a successful future. Plans for the 2007 show will shift the event further forward on the calendar, and a new venue at the Fairfield County Hunt Club will allow more space for the exhibits and attendees. In addition, a new name, "The Fairfield County Gold Coast

Concours d'Elegance," will reflect the national reputation this part of Connecticut has for accomplishment and gracious living. This is certainly a show on the move, and is worth your Sunday afternoon if you plan to be in the area. ♦

DONALD OSBORNE is the principal in Appraisers Automotive Valuation Services. His articles on collector cars have appeared in the New York Times.

SCMers in Connecticut

Tony Angotti—Westport, CT
1954 Porsche Speedster

Lawrence Auriana—Greenwich, CT
1953 Fiat 8V, *Best Closed Foreign*
1967 Ferrari 275 GTS/4 NART Spyder,
Best Open Foreign

Michael Balaban—East Patchogue, NY
1973 BMW 3.0CS, *1st Closed Sports*

Richard Bernstein—Rye, NY
1932 Studebaker President

John Boccardo & J.R. Roberts—Sausalito, CA
1948 Tucker, *Founders Award*

Ronald Brandman—Norwalk, CT
1967 ISO Rivolta

Wayne Carini—Portland, CT
1954 Hudson Italia, *Preservation Award*

Matt DeGarmo—Norwalk, CT
1958 Facel Vega S4, *Best Car to Take Home*

Charlie England—Darien, CT
1961 Porsche 356 Roadster, *1st Open Sports*

Jim Glickenhau—Rye, NY
1947 Ferrari 166 Spider Corsa

Larry Goldstein—Hartford, CT
1973 Ferrari Dino

Tom Grudovich—Weston, CT
1968 Triumph Bonneville

Michael Grunberg—Greenwich, CT
1948 Chrysler T&C convertible

Fred Kanter—Mountain Lakes, NJ
1958 Dual Ghia 400 Concept

Phil Laiacona—Trumbull, CT
1935 MG PA
1955 MG TF, *Best MG*

Robert Machinist—New York, NY
1965 Aston Martin DB5

Dennis Mamchur—Verona, NJ
1970 Fiat Dino Spyder 2400

Roger Noble—Simsbury, CT
1931 Blower Bentley
1935 Cadillac limousine

John Oricchio—Pound Ridge, NY
1969 Ferrari 365 GTC

Donald Osborne—Avon, CT
1969 Lamborghini Islero, *2nd Closed Sports*
1952 Lancia Ardea

Rick Phillips—Weston, CT
1967 AC 428 Frua convertible

Malcolm Pray—Greenwich, CT
1912 R-R Silver Ghost, *Best Open Pre-war*

Michael Resnick—Stamford, CT
1968 Oldsmobile Toronado

Bill Scheffler—Westport, CT
1971 Maserati Ghibli SS

John Schiavone—Old Saybrook, CT
1969 Porsche 912

Archie Urciuoli—Nokomis, FL
1965 Shelby Cobra
1969 Ford GT40