

Fairfield Concours Keeps Climbing

For the first time at a major show, Japanese collectible cars were included, with some notable rarities like a Toyota 2000GT and Honda S600

by Donald Osborne

The headline of last year's SCM coverage of this event read "Climbing the Concours Ladder." Show founders Bill Scheffler and John Shuck aimed to make this year's show even better—a tall order, as their Fairfield County Concours d'Elegance set a high standard from its inception in 2004.

Now named the Fairfield County Gold Coast Concours, in reference to the common nickname for the prosperous group of communities on Connecticut's Long Island Sound coast, the show moved to the Fairfield County Hunt Club, gained a presenting sponsor in Toyota, and fulfilled most expectations.

Following a Saturday road tour, open to entrants and designed by SCMer and vintage rally presenter Rich Taylor, Sunday saw a bright and sunny day for the show itself.

The wide polo field in front of the colonial clubhouse served as the canvas on which were displayed more than 180 cars and motorcycles spanning the years from 1904 through 2008 for the almost 3,000 spectators and guests who attended.

It was a kind of homecoming for vintage cars at the venue, which hosted a classic car show exactly 50 years ago this year. Three of the entrants at that original show were on hand at this year's concours and two of them, Ralph DeAngelis and Alden Sherman, brought with them the cars they had on display in 1957—a 1911 Cadillac 30 and 1925 Amilcar 2CGS, respectively.



Details

Plan ahead: September 2008

Where: Fairfield County Hunt Club, Westport, CT

Cost: \$20 per person; \$40 per family

More: www.fairfieldcounty-concours.com

50 Years of Racing in Connecticut



1911 Cadillac 30 with owner Ralph DeAngelis

Special displays are always a part of the show, which this year featured four such groups. The first included cars that had been displayed at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, among them a 1907 Auburn boattail roadster, 1938 Alfa Romeo 8C 2900, 1939 Alfa Castagna coupe, 1938 Delahaye 135MS Competition, and a stunning 1953 Aston Martin 2/4 Bertone convertible.

The class "50 Years of Racing in Connecticut" paid tribute to the memorable track battles waged at Thompson Raceway, Lime Rock Park, and many smaller circuits. Vehicles in this class ranged from a 1932 Ford B roadster, 1961 Ferrari 250 TRI/61, and a 1959 Werner Quarter Midget to a Bob Sharp 1984 Nissan 300ZX Turbo. Legendary racer and Connecticut native John Fitch was on hand to greet the public and sign copies of his book, *Racing with Mercedes*.

Alternative-fuel vehicles ran the gamut from a 1914 Woods Electric to the latest Toyota Prius hybrid, a nod to new presenting sponsor Toyota Westport.

For the first time at a major show, Japanese collectible cars were included, with some notable rarities like a 1967 Toyota 2000GT and a 1965 Honda S600 convertible.

Motorcycles on the field included two Indian Chiefs, one



An automotive smorgasbord

from 1935, the other 1948, a Vincent Black Shadow from 1949, a 1956 BSA DBD34GS and a 2008 Ducati NCR.

As has become customary at this event, live narrated “field walks” were conducted by Miles Morris of Morris & Welford and SCM’s Dave Kinney. Morris and Kinney also served as members of the Concours’ Advisory Committee, along with SCMer Christopher Sanger, Dave Brownell, Rich Taylor, and myself. With guest Don Breslauer, they served as judges for major awards.

New this year was peer judging for the chronological classes, with entrants choosing first and second place winners. It was popular and also in keeping with the show’s aim to be a low-key experience for the participants.

Additional attractions included an art display tent and a car painting activity stand for children. The show has always worked with charities; this year’s beneficiary was Autism Speaks.

Winner of the show’s “Grand Prix d’Honneur,” or best in show, was SCMer James Glickenhau’s 1931 Duesenberg Model J Franay Convertible Sedan, which received an elegant crystal bowl presented by Tiffany, as well as a large package of Zymöl Vintage Wax.

“People’s Choice” honors were awarded to the dramatic Boano-bodied 1955 Lincoln Indianapolis, owned by Michael Schudroff, while “Most Elegant” went to Byron York’s 1929 Packard Super 8 roadster, “Most Exciting” to the Ferrari 250 TR entered by North East Scuderia, and “Best Contemporary” to the rare 1970 AMC Rebel machine of Mary Kuhn.

The “Founders’ Choice” prizes went to Malcolm Pray’s 1937 Bugatti T57C and the 1935 Indian Chief brought by Ty Haines.

With a much larger crowd, yet no crowding on the wide lawn, and an ability to attract rare and important cars to the Fairfield County Hunt Club, this event is well positioned to grow. ♦

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

SCMers at the Fairfield County Gold Coast Concours d’Elegance

Bob Aronson—Milford, CT
1954 Jaguar XK 120 roadster

Skip Barber—Sharon, CT
1957 AC Ace Bristol

Richard Bernstein—Rye, NY
1931 Studebaker President Model 80

John Brice—Ridgefield, CT
1968 Porsche 911 T/R

Wayne Carini—Portland, CT
1953 Studebaker Commander Hot Rod, *1st in Class*
1954 Volkswagen coupe
1963 Triumph TR4 Surrey Top

Jonathan Cohen—Greenwich, CT
1966 Bristol 409

Stanley Cohen—Sparta, NJ
2003 Ferrari Enzo
2007 Ferrari 599

Drake Darrin—Greenwich, CT
1947 Chrysler Town & Country

Tom Derro—Carlisle, MA
1933 Pierce Silver Arrow

Keith Duly—Bethlehem, CT
1961 Maserati Sebring Series I (Vignale), *2nd in Class*

Charlie England—Darien, CT
1965 Sunbeam Tiger Mk 1

Frank Gallogly—Lime Rock, CT
1973 Porsche Carrera RSR

Dr. Jack Gish—Brookfield, CT
1965 Porsche 356SC

James Glickenhau—Rye, NY
1931 Duesenberg Model J Franay convertible sedan, *Grand Prix d’Honneur*

Larry Goldstein—Farmington, CT
1973 Ferrari Dino

Ed Greenberg—Stamford, CT
1964 Buick Riviera

Michael Grunberg—Greenwich, CT
1936 Austin Bantam
1939 Cadillac Limousine
1976 Porsche 914 race car

Mark Herman—Glen Ellyn, IL
1903 Locomobile steam car
1911 Stanley steam car

Fred Kanter—Mountain Lakes, NJ
1958 Dual Ghia Concept

Eric Kaufman—Farmington, CT
1972 Ferrari Daytona 365 GTB/4

Richard Kresch—New York, NY
1975 BMW 2002 Turbo

Robert Kurtz—Weston, CT
1965 Ferrari 275 GTB

Philip Laiacona—Trumbull, CT
1925 Rolls Royce 20/25hp

Gerry Lettieri—Rocky Hill, CT
1949 Allard J-2 Prototype

Michael Maddalena—Roxbury, CT
1965 Morgan Plus 4 roadster

Bob Mead—Ridgefield, CT
1899 Locomobile Stanhope steam car

Kirk Meighan—Far Hills, NJ
1975 Lamborghini LP400 Countach periscope

Henry Miller—Greenwich, CT
1965 Aston Martin DB5

Albert Mitchell—New York, NY
1960 BMW 507 roadster

Roger Noble—Simsbury, CT
1928 Bentley 4 1/2-Liter tourer

Steven Novak—Green Farms, CT
1957 Jaguar XK 140MC FHC

Jon Oricchio—Pound Ridge, NY
1979 Ferrari 365 GTC, *2nd in Class*

Donald Osborne—Avon, CT
1963 Lancia Flaminia Pininfarina coupe

Nick Perakis—West Chester, PA
1963 Ferrari 400 Superamerica

Malcolm Pray—Greenwich, CT
1937 Bugatti Type 57C, *Founders’ Award*

Jerry Robinson—Mount Kisco, NY
1951 Jaguar Mark V Drophead coupe

Christopher Sanger—New York, NY
1936 Bentley 4 1/2-Liter Sports coupe, *1st in Class*

Michael Schudroff—Pound Ridge, NY
1953 Aston Martin 2/4 convertible (Bertone)
1955 Lincoln Indianapolis (Boano), *People’s Choice*
1957 BMW 503 convertible
1957 Chrysler Dual Ghia convertible

Peter Starr—Saco, ME
1967 Toyota 2000GT
1967 Toyota 2000GT roadster

Richard Taylor—Sharon, CT
1957 Morgan Plus 4 4-seater
1964 Maserati 3500GT
1972 Royale RP 17 race car

Archie Urciuoli—Nokomis, FL
1965 AC Cobra

Kevin Weiss—Wilton, CT
1965 Ford Mustang GT “A” Code
1976 Porsche 930 Turbo Carrera

Herb Wolfe—Englewood, NJ
1939 Alfa Romeo 6C 1500 SS Corsa, *1st in Class*