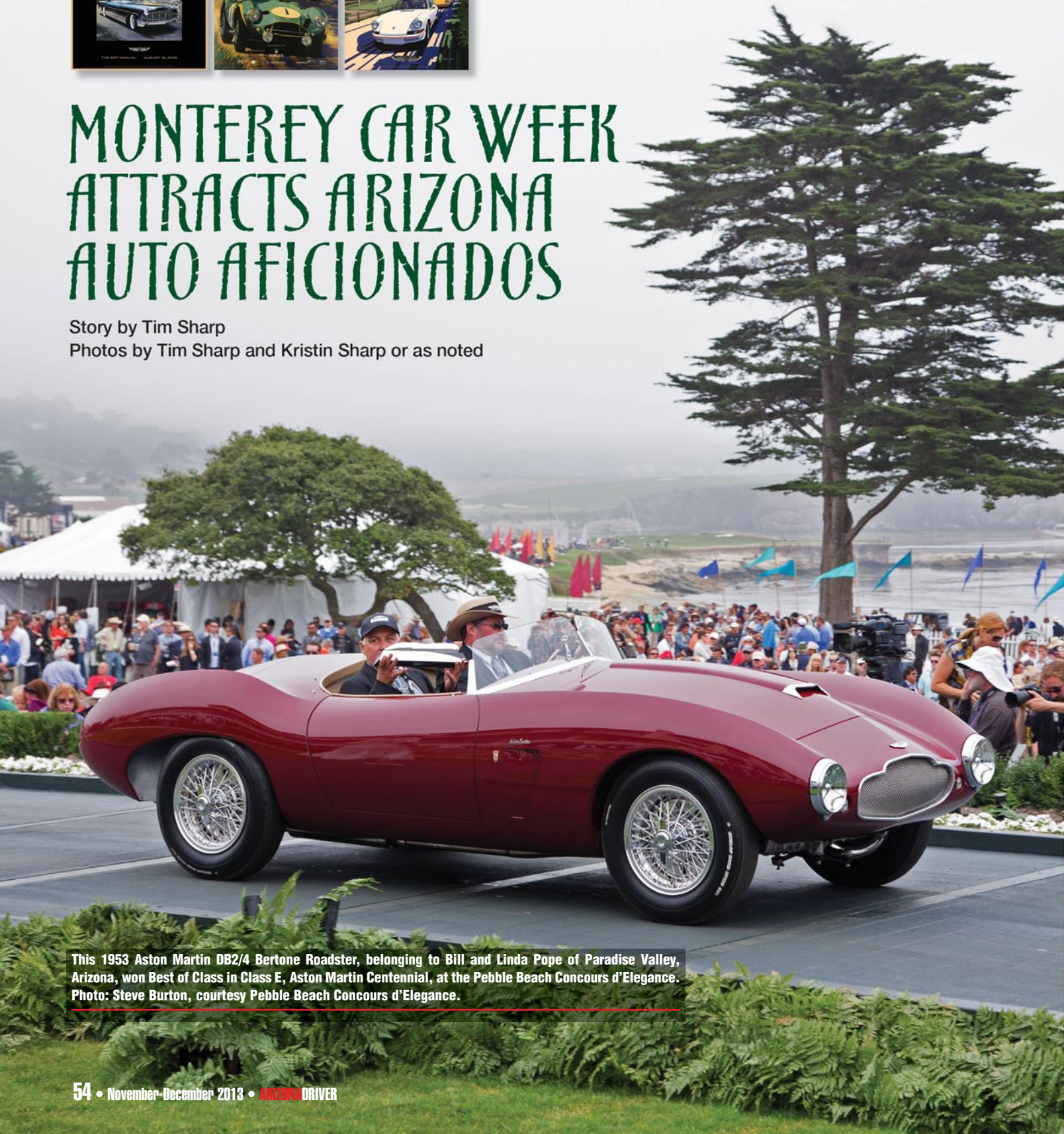




MONTEREY CAR WEEK ATTRACTS ARIZONA AUTO AFICIONADOS

Story by Tim Sharp
Photos by Tim Sharp and Kristin Sharp or as noted



This 1953 Aston Martin DB2/4 Bertone Roadster, belonging to Bill and Linda Pope of Paradise Valley, Arizona, won Best of Class in Class E, Aston Martin Centennial, at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. Photo: Steve Burton, courtesy Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

In August, it is toasty in Phoenix and cool in Monterey. This is one reason why so many Arizonans vacation there in summer. However, Monterey Car Week is the primary reason that most Arizona automobile aficionados head for the coast in mid-August.

Scottsdale Auction Week in January is considered one of the world's greatest annual events for classic and vintage sports car collectors and enthusiasts. Monterey Car Week is the other. Both are must-see venues for the classic car devotee.

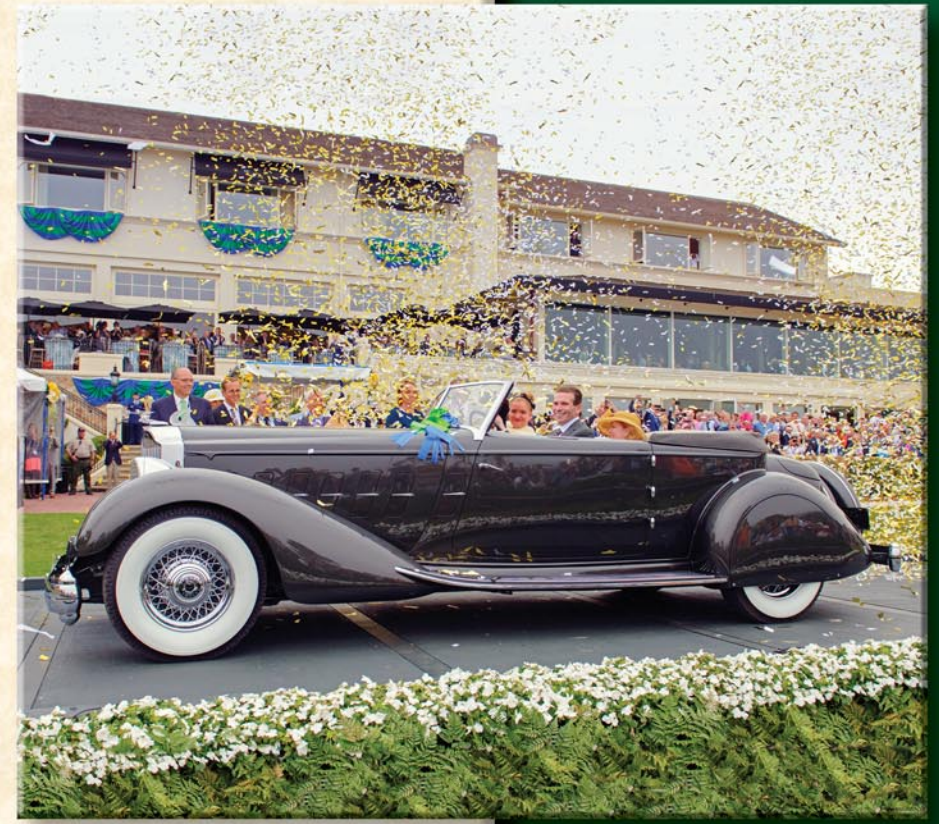
While Bonhams, Gooding & Company, Mecum, RM Auctions, and Russo and Steele hold auctions during Monterey Car Week, there are also a variety of other activities for the auto aficionado: car shows, car club rallies and vintage races run continuously throughout the week.

CAR SHOWS AND CONCOURS EVENTS

There are a variety of car shows at Monterey: The Little Car Show in Pacific Grove, Concorso Italiano at Laguna Seca, The Quail at Carmel Valley, and the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. Of course, Pebble Beach is considered to be the most prestigious concours on the planet, so it should be highest on your bucket list.

This year we attended The Little Car Show, and there was no fee to view the little critters in downtown Pacific Grove. No doubt about it, if you like cute classic cars like Austin Bantams, MGs, BMW Isettas, Fiat 500s, Porsche 356s and quirky machines like the British Trident 3-wheeler (photo, lower right), this is the place for you.

Concorso Italiano has hundreds of classic and contemporary Italian sports cars,



ranging from Fiats to Ferraris. Held at Laguna Seca Golf Ranch, en route to Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, in 2013, Concorso Italiano moves back to Black Horse Golf Course for 2014. Rows of luscious Ferraris, Maseratis and Lambos are almost mind boggling. This year a 1969 Lamborghini Miura P400S won "Best of Show."

The Quail concours in Carmel Valley has recently taken on a motorsports theme. The Quail, A Motorsports Gathering features a range of rare vintage sports cars with remarkable racing histories. In addition, the Quail has a number of fine food and wine stops around the green, all of which are included with your admission ticket. The Quail is somewhat pricey, but well worth it—a wonderful venue for vintage racing fans.

PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS

The Pebble Beach Golf Course is located on exclusive 17-Mile Drive. Owners of the world's most beautiful automobiles meet here each year to determine who has the finest classic car in the world. Featured French makes plus Packard, Lincoln, Porsche and vintage Indy 500 cars joined the usual array of exotic vintage automobiles on the sprawling Pebble Beach

(Above): A 1934 Packard 1108 Twelve Dietrich Convertible Victoria, owned by Joseph and Margie Cassini III of West Orange, New Jersey won Best of Show at the 2013 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. The Packard Twelve is considered by many to be one of the finest automobiles produced by Packard and one of the most significant creations of the Classic Era. This was the second time Joseph and Margie Cassini have taken "Best of Show" at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. Photo: Kimball Studios, courtesy Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance

(Below): Cars of all sizes attract enthusiasts of all sizes. This British Trident 3-wheeler sets the tone for The Little Car Show, a free event in downtown Pacific Grove.



KEEP RIGHT >>



(Above): Vintage racers: Rick Rawlins with his Barney Oldfield Mercedes-Benz.

(Below): Bobby Rahal with the #9 Belond Special, in which Sam Hanks won the 1957 Indy 500 (the author has sat in this when he met his dad's friend Hanks at the Brickyard). (Bottom): A 1940 Tatra, belonging to John and Sonnia Breslow of Scottsdale, Arizona.



green. "Best of Show" went to a flawless 1934 Packard 12 Dietrich Convertible Victoria (photo, previous page).

At Pebble Beach, people-watching is as much fun as car-watching. Many of the car owners dress in vintage costumes. We especially liked Rick Rawlins' outfit. With vintage driving suit, goggles and cigar, Rick posed next to his Mercedes-Benz (above), which was raced by Barney Oldfield. Celebrity watchers could spot Jay Leno, Brian Redman, Jackie Stewart and Bobby Rahal (photo at left) all at Pebble Beach this year.

Bill and Linda Pope of Paradise Valley, Arizona, won the FIVA Pre-war "Special Award" trophy with their lovely 1935 Voisin C 25 Clairiere Berline. They also won first place in the Aston-Martin Centennial Class with their 1953 Aston-Martin DB2/4 Bertone Roadster (see lead photo). John and Sonia Breslow of Scottsdale showed their unique, rear-engined Czechoslovakian 1940 Tatra in the European Classic Late Class (at left). Tatra was one of the most advanced and aerodynamic automobiles of its time.

A bit of advice: buy your tickets in advance, bring a beach blanket and

arrive early at Pebble Beach if you want to stake out a good spot to watch the class winners drive across the awards platform. Sit where Tiger Woods hit a famous chip shot. Very cool.

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

You can buy a good classic car at a reasonable price at Monterey. Scottsdale's Russo and Steele auction had some of the best deals. A 1956 Chevy Bel Air 2 door custom with a 383 V8 for \$15,400. A 1969 Fiat 500 for \$23,000. A 1951 Ford custom woodie for \$55,000. Monterey is a great place to buy hot rods and woodies.

In the market for something extremely rare? Monterey is where the world's most desirable sports cars are sold. Attend the Gooding, Bonhams and RM Auctions for these exceptional automobiles. Bonhams also has an exotic engine and automobilia auction.

RM Auctions set a world record for Ferraris with a 275 GTB/4 NART Spyder at \$27,500,000. Gooding & Company countered with a 250 GT Tour de France Ferrari at about \$9,500,000. Of course, you could have acquired a Ferrari "Magnum PI" 308 at Russo and Steele for about \$32,000, and that would gain you entry into the Ferrari Club. The 308 would not place you in the club's elite, but it is a good place to start.

ROLEX MONTEREY MOTORSPORTS REUNION

When Ernie McAfee died racing at Pebble Beach in 1956, his passing rocked the racing world. While the road racing fraternity was not huge in the 1950s, Ernie was a giant in the sport. His racing skills were on par with legends Phil Hill and Carroll Shelby.

Following McAfee's death, racing through the tree-lined streets of Pebble Beach was deemed too dangerous. Hence, the Laguna Seca Raceway was born. Today the circuit is known as the Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, and it is the home of one of the three most prestigious historic races on the planet. While Goodwood (GB) and Monte Carlo (Monaco) also feature great vintage racing, Laguna Seca is the only one of these famous vintage races to be held on this side of the pond.

This year the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion honored the 60th Anni-

versary of the Corvette, so it was logical that Arizonans Bob and Pat Bondurant were special guests. Bob became famous racing Corvettes, so it was fitting that Chevrolet would introduce their 2014 Corvette at Monterey with Bondurant. Racers Dick Gulstrand, Ron Fellows, Tommy Milner and famed Corvette designer Peter Brock were also prominent guests.

Chevy showcased the new C7 Corvette by giving "hot laps" with Bob Bondurant driving school professionals Darren Law and Johnny O'Connell. The on-track display was a crowd favorite with the contingent of Corvette owners at the track.

Arizonan Ross Thompson, an ex-Bondurant instructor, gave the biased Corvette crowd even more to cheer about. Thompson took his Corvette Stingray from 35th to 4th in Race 5A. While not enough to catch the winning Corvette Grand Sport of Bruce Canapa, Thompson's inspired drive was fun to watch.

Scottsdale's Rob Walton finished a close second to Tony Garmley's 1962 Corvette in Race 3A. Rob lent his 1958 Scarab Mk I to David Swig, and the rare machine won Race 7A going away. The Valley's Bob Hardison, Eric Engelhorn and Rob Walton all drove very well in Race 7A; however none were able to challenge Swig. Yes, it is good to have friends like Walton who will lend you their multi-million dollar race car for the weekend. Swig drove the car well.

Arizona was well represented in other races at the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion. Craig Jackson, Alex Curtis, Steven Hilton, Jonathan Ornstein, Jim Cantrell, Sammy Bell, Walt Brown, Jr., John Muller, Lon Walters, Harley Cluxton and Chuck Croteau all ran at the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion. This author's newly restored Austin 7 Special also ran well in qualifying, but was sidelined by supercharger problems before the race. Ah, but the Austin GP car did look beautiful in the pits.

PLAN NOW FOR MONTEREY 2014

If you are a classic car fan, you owe it to yourself to attend Monterey Car Week at least once. Where else do the Ferraris outnumber the Mustangs? Where else will you see prewar racing Bentleys tooling around the city streets? Nowhere but at Monterey. No other time but in mid-August during Monterey Car Week.



Here are some websites to check out for more information:

Concorso Italiano:

www.concorso.com

Legends of the Autobahn:

www.legendsoftheautobahn.com

The Little Car Show:

www.pacificgrove.org/events

Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance:

www.pebblebeachconcours.net

The Quail, A Motorsports Gathering:

www.signatureevents.com

Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion:

www.mazdaraceway.com

Bonhams auction:

www.bonhams.com

Gooding & Company auction:

www.goodingco.com

Mecum Auction:

www.mecum.com

RM Auctions:

www.rmauctions.com

Russo and Steele auction:

www.russoandsteele.com

Hotel rooms and tickets for events like the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and The Quail are gobbled up quickly. Our advice is to act now to insure that you can have an enjoyable vacation during Monterey Car Week. ■

(Above): Arizona's Ross Thompson, a former Bondurant instructor, goes toe-to-toe with a Shelby Mustang in his Corvette Stingray.

(Below): David Swig in Rob Walton's 1958 Scarab Mk I. (Bottom): Pretty girls, vintage costumes and classic cars at Pebble Beach.

