

Smashing

INAUGURAL ARIZONA CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE JUDGED A HUGE SUCCESS

Photos: Michael Tobian and Bob Golfen / Arizona Concours d'Elegance



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The inaugural Arizona Concours d'Elegance, held Sunday, January 12, on the landscaped lawns of the historic Arizona Biltmore resort in Phoenix, presented a selection of 75 magnificent automobiles for a highly successful first-time event, with winners announced for vehicle classes, special awards and Best of Show.

The Arizona Concours is an event long envisioned by auto enthusiasts to serve as a starting point for Arizona's famous collector-car auction week. Under brilliant blue skies—while most of the nation shivered in winter cold—more than 2,000 people enjoyed the balmy Phoenix weather and the sights and sounds of a top-drawer concours celebration of automotive finery in an exclusive and intimate setting.

BEST OF SHOW

The 1925 Hispano-Suiza H6B Cabriolet de Ville owned by Donald Nichols of Lompoc, California won Best of Show honors from the impressive field of concours contenders. Nichols discovered the car in 1970 sitting in derelict condition in a Sarasota, Florida alley and finally completed its restoration just two years ago.

The Hispano, with coachwork by Kellner, was originally owned by the famous industrialist Andrew Mellon. Nichols kept the car for nearly four decades before undertaking the daunting challenge of restoring it. The beautiful result was chosen by the Arizona Concours judges as the event's first Best of Show.

The Best of Show trophy was sponsored and presented by Alfredo Molina of Molina Fine Jewelers of Phoenix. The Hispano also was awarded Best of Class, Full Classic European.

MAKE-A-WISH

Among the special awards presented during the Concours, one standout was for the car chosen by the Wish Kids, nine young people who are part of Make-A-Wish Arizona, the founding chapter of the international organization that grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions. Make-A-Wish Arizona is the charity recipient of the Arizona Concours d'Elegance.

The first Wish Kid award was a 1939 Bugatti T57C Galabier owned by Bill and Linda Pope of Paradise Valley, Arizona, that the nine kids chose from the Concours field. The specially prepared trophy features two fanciful figures made out of car-engine parts. Make-A-Wish Arizona raised \$24,000 through the Arizona Concours, which will fund future wishes for three kids, according to spokesperson Lisa Evans.

(At right) A team of straw-boated judges closely examining a 1938 Delahaye 135 MS. • Best of Show was won by Don Nichols' 1925 Hispano Suiza H6B Cabriolet de Ville. • Alan Travis of Phoenix shows off his 1905 Mitchell, the oldest car at the event.

CLASS WINNERS

- Antique**—
1907 Panhard et Lavassor T-3
John Konwiser, Scottsdale AZ
- Full Classic American Open**—
1934 Buick convertible coupe
Lee Gurvey, Scottsdale AZ
- Full Classic American Closed**—
1934 Packard 1104 2/4 coupe
Sharon Briskman, Scottsdale AZ
- Full Classic European**—
1925 Hispano-Suiza H6B Cabriolet de Ville
Donald Nichols, Lompoc CA
- Pre-War Rolls-Royce and Bentley**—
1936 Rolls-Royce Sedan de Ville
Jeffrey McKee, Phoenix AZ
- 100th Anniversary Maserati**—
1937 Maserati 6CM Grand Prix racer
Bill and Linda Pope, Paradise Valley AZ
- Pre-War European Sports and Racing**—
1938 Jaguar SS 100 3.5-liter
Philippe Reys, Chandler AZ
- Avant Garde**—
1938 Steyr 220 roadster - Peter Boyle, Oil City PA
- Post-War Racing**—
1951 Schroeder/Stevens Indianapolis racer
Gary Schroeder, Burbank CA
- Iconic Post-War American**—
1952 Hudson Hornet - Jon Andersen, Murray UT
- Post-War Mercedes-Benz**—
1957 Mercedes-Benz 300SL roadster
Grant and Judy Beck, Scottsdale AZ
- Post-War European Sports Cars**—
1964 Ferrari Lusso
Tony Shooshani, Beverly Hills CA
- Exotic**—
1971 Ferrari 246 GT Dino
Pietro DiLeonardo, Glendale AZ
- Post-war Preservation**—
1967 Ferrari 330 GTC - Todd Reeg, Scottsdale AZ.

SPECIAL AWARDS

- Most Elegant Pre-War**—
1938 Steyr 220 roadster - Peter Boyle, Oil City PA
- Most Elegant Post-War**—
1955 Maserati A6G Frua Spyder
Thomas Mittler Estate, Mishawaka IN
- Honorary Judges Award**—
1930 Packard 745 convertible Victoria
Steve Snyder, Orange CA
and 1928 Bentley 4.5-liter Le Mans
Bennett Dorrance, Scottsdale AZ
- Director's Choice**—
1907 Renault A1 35-45 - Alan Travis, Phoenix AZ
- Frank Lloyd Wright Taliesin West Distinguished Design**—
1936 Delahaye 135 competition Cabriolet
Ken and Ann Smith, La Jolla CA
- Historic Vehicle Association**—
1924 Hispano-Suiza dual cowl sport phaeton
William Ingler, Scottsdale AZ

KEEP RIGHT >>



Photo: Michael Tobian [1]

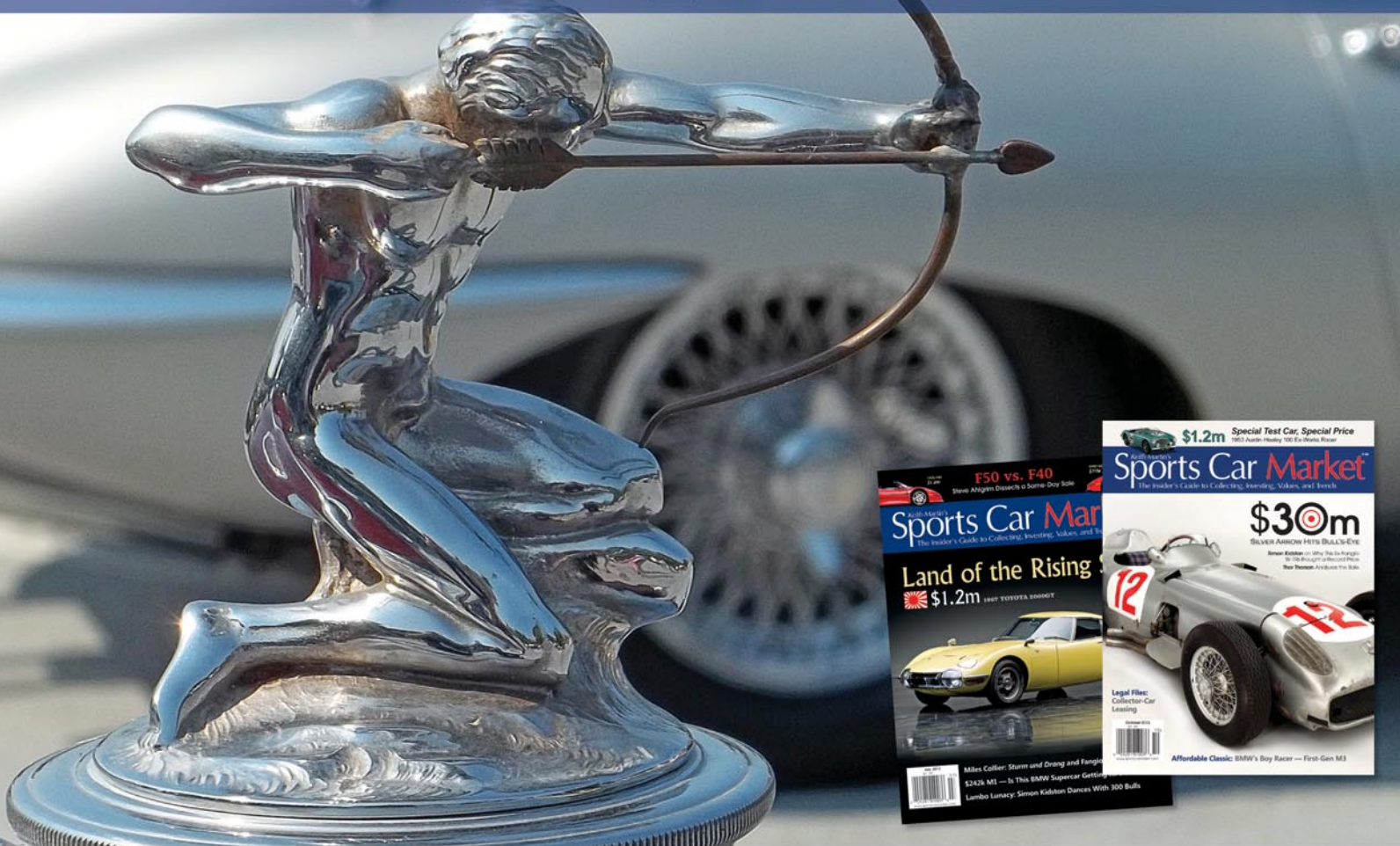
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A 1957 Mercedes-Benz 300SL belonging to Grant and Judy Beck of Scottsdale won that marque's Post-War class. • Nine Make-A-Wish Arizona youth judges chose a 1939 Bugatti T57C Galabier for their special award. • This 1937 6 CM Grand Prix racer was the 100th Anniversary Maserati class winner.

DATE SET FOR 2015

Following a highly successful inaugural event, the date for the second-annual Arizona Concours d'Elegance at the historic Arizona Biltmore Resort has been set: January 11, 2015, once again serving as the startup and focal point for the famed Scottsdale/Phoenix classic car auction week.

The three Arizona car collectors who founded the Concours—Kevin Cornish, Ed Winkler and Chuck Stanford—said that the overwhelmingly positive response from spectators and participants at the inaugural event helps set the tone and direction for the future.

“The founders of the Arizona Concours d'Elegance were very pleased with the success of the event for our entrants, judges, sponsors and attendees, and especially for our charity, Make-A-Wish Arizona,” Cornish said. “Plans for 2015 are under way, and we look forward to having much of the same elements as 2014, but with some improvements to enhance the quality of the overall experience.”

The planning process has already begun, and several potential entrants have sent in applications to include their vintage cars in 2015.

Announcements will be sent out during the next few months regarding such 2015 Arizona Concours features as honored marques, special awards, celebrity guests and key sponsors.

For more information about the 2015 event, see www.arizonaconcours.com.



Photo: Bob Goflen [1]

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