



# THE LA JOLLA CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

BY PAUL WHITNEY • PHOTOS BY VALERIE WEISS

At one of the most beautiful settings in the United States, the 15th Annual La Jolla Concours d' Elegance was held Sunday, April 14, 2019. The weather was perfect with the temperatures in the low 70s and crystal clear sunshine (take that, Pebble Beach!). Both the cars and attendees could not have asked for better conditions. More than 130 cars were exhibited, including Brass Era, Pre-War Classics, American and European sports cars, Muscle and contemporary exotics – in short, something for every taste. There was even a flyover by a squad of vintage aircraft.



**Best in Show**

General Lyon's 1935 Duesenberg J Speedster,  
Gurney Nutting



Steve Snyder and Carl Zeiger with the Zeiger's  
1936 Packard 1407 Convertible Sedan

This year, Cadillac was the featured marque. Representing your Southern California CCCA Region were Aaron and Valerie Weiss with their 1931 452-A V-16 Sport Phaeton and Fred and Barbara Lax with their 1930 452 V-16 Roadster. Congratulations to both couples who took first- and second-place awards, respectively in the Cadillac Open Class. Aaron and Valerie also took home a double by winning the special Pre War Award. Another winner among our membership was Gary Marchetti for his beautifully restored 1931 Packard 826 Sedan (Packard Class Winner, Closed). Steve Snyder also represented our Region with his handsome 1936 1401 Packard Convertible Coupe.

Best in Show was awarded to William Lyon for his spectacular 1935 Duesenberg

J Speedster often referred to as the Maharaja Duesenberg. Designed by A.F. McNeil, this one of a kind car was built by Gurney Nutting Ltd. in London, for Maharaja Holkan of India. Rarely exhibited in public, it was a real treat to see it in the flesh. (We're guessing the orange and black color scheme is reminiscent of a tiger's colors, not Halloween!). Other notable winners were McKeel Hagerty with his 1931 Cadillac 452-A V-16 All-Weather Phaeton (the LPL Summit Best of Marque Award), the Petersen Automotive Museum for its 1939 Bugatti Type 57C Vanvooren Cabriolet (Sotheby's International Timeless Elegance Award), William Lyon for his 1939 Cadillac 90 Fleetwood Formal Town Car (Cadillac Closed

Award), and the Harding's 1929 Bentley Speed Six (Chairman's Award). Virtually every Classic exhibited could have been a winner, but the competition was formidable.

By the way, several members of our Region endured, at great personal sacrifice, an evening of reckless abandon at the Steam Punk Gala the night before the show. Outstanding food and drinks were abundant and entertainers dressed in outlandish costumes mingled with the partygoers. Live dance music, magicians, acrobats, strange mechanical contraptions – you name it – provided plenty of entertainment. Everyone had a wonderful time and look forward to returning next year. Don't let it be said that San Diegans don't know how to party! **Cowabunga!!**

BOTTOM PHOTOS LEFT to RIGHT:

The Weiss's 1931 Duesenberg J All-Weather Phaeton, LeBaron • Gary Marchetti's 1931 Packard 826 Sedan • National Board members from California, Vicki Zeiger and Fred Lax with McKeel Hagerty's 1931 Cadillac 452A All-Weather Phaeton, Fleetwood • (L-R) the Whitneys, the Millikens, the Weisses and the Zeigers • Aaron and Valerie Weiss and their 1931 Cadillac 452A Sport Phaeton, Fleetwood.

