



Speaking of goodie bags, these sturdy totes were donated by Frank Chirat of Crevier Classic Cars and were also filled with copies of “California Classics,” the written history of the Southern California Region published 40 years ago.

Immediate past Regional Director John Milliken and his worker bee/Energizer Bunny wife Leslie sponsored an opening night dinner at the Sherwood Lake Country Club where great food and drink led to great conversation before we headed back to our host hotel, the Hyatt Regency Westlake Village for one more nightcap.

While rain was forecast overnight, the ground was dry at 6:30 a.m. Driving the short four miles east to the North Ranch Country Club, a bit of mist developed but even so, the Classics arrived, some traveling 40 miles or more to be judged. One such hearty soul was new member Arthur Kahn who arrived in style from Beverly Hills driving his 1941 Cadillac 60 Special, prepared for his first foray into CCCA judging. >>>

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION GRAND CLASSIC

SEPTEMBER 28, 2019 / BY RON VERSCHOOR

PHOTOS BY VALERIE WEISS, BELVA & ERIK BALTZAR AND RON VERSCHOOR

“It never rains in Southern California,” or so goes the 1972 hit by that title. Well, “never” might be a bit too strong. After four months of zero precipitation in the greater Los Angeles area, a mild rain replaced the normal sunny daybreak Saturday morning, September 28. And while the ground and the Classics were dampened as the skies opened, the spirits of a loyal group of Southern California Region members were not.



Regional and National members from as far away as Colorado (Don Leach), Oklahoma (Phil Guilhem), South Carolina (John Farrall) and New Jersey (Steve Babinsky and Dave Kane) descended on Westlake Village, California Friday, September 27 to celebrate Classic cars and Classic friendships.

In-person National Board support came from Steve Babinsky, Dave Kane, Vicki Zeiger and Fred Lax, supplemented by in-kind Board support from Jeff DeMarey who contributed metal valve stem covers to the “goodie bags,” added to make sure no judged Classic would suffer a point deduction for that omission.



PHOTOS

- 1.** The Hansen’s 1921 Duesenberg Model A Dual-Cowl Phaeton, Fleetwood
- 2.** Donnie Crevier’s 1936 Packard 120 Convertible Victoria, LeBaron
- 3.** Area Head Judge and National Head Judge John Milliken and Steve Babinsky
- 4.** Larry Symons’ 1937 Packard 1507 Club Sedan
- 5.** Stanley Zimmerman’s 1932 Plymouth PB Town Car, Brewster
- 6.** Robert Robin’s 1940 Cadillac 90 Touring Sedan, Fleetwood.

In all, 19 Full Classics® assembled in front of the Clubhouse properly placed by Regional Board member Paul Whitney, after he made two trips home to retrieve his 1930 LaSalle 340 Phaeton by Fleetwood and his freshly-restored 1936 Packard 1404 Super Eight Coupe Roadster. Additional Board participation included a pair of John Milliken's Convertible Sedans, his 1939 Buick 80 and his 1941 Cadillac 62, Robert Robin's 1940 Cadillac 90 Touring Sedan by Fleetwood, Fred Lax's 1934 Auburn 1250 Salon Phaeton and a stunning 1937 Horch 853 Sport Cabriolet by Gläser owned by Aaron Weiss.

From the south, San Diego/Palm Springs Regional Director Mike Adams entered his recently acquired 1928 Lincoln L Willoughby Limousine and from north of Los Angeles came Ron and Sandy Hansen's 1921 Duesenberg Model A Phaeton by Fleetwood. Stanley Zimmerman entered the singular example of a Classic Plymouth: his 1932 Plymouth PB Town Car by Brewster. Former Regional Directors also made contributions with Steve Snyder in attendance, John Nolan who traveled from Riverside to serve as a judging team leader and Rick Zeiger supplying two Classics.

In planning events like this, it's comforting to have a cadre of volunteers on which you can rely. I'll mention and thank tabulators Belva Baltzar and Michelle Snyder as well as Barbara Lax who handled registration and name tags. And treasurer Terry White always keeps spending in check so we stay within our budget.

Judges and tabulators convened for their meeting, led by Area Head Judge John Milliken, while the rest of the participants enjoyed a full breakfast inside the clubhouse. In spite of the light drizzle, "The Show Must Go On," as the cloud cover making for some interesting photographic conditions.

The thorough judging wrapped up as the sun made its debut in time for lunch. Back in the clubhouse, we enjoyed a very California Santa Maria barbecue buffet, complete with local chardonnay and champagne.

We made our way back down the hill to visit the great array of cars Ray and Janet Scherr have assembled over the years. The always-gracious Ray Scherr has a broad appreciation for the automobile, perhaps centered in performance and speed, ranging from a Mercer Type 35 Raceabout to a late >>>



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PHOTOS

- 1. Aaron Weiss's 1937 Horch 853A Sport Cabriolet, Glaser
- 2. Andy Spilkoman's 1935 Packard 1201 Phaeton
- 3. Michael Adams' 1928 Lincoln L Limousine, Willoughby
- 4. Malcolm Royalty's 1937 Cadillac 70 Coupe, Fleetwood
- 5. Rick Zeiger's 1934 Packard 1104 Convertible Victoria
- 6. Terry Kaplan's 1941 Cadillac 62 Convertible Sedan
- 7. Arthur Kahn's 1941 Cadillac 60 Special.



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model Bentley Brooklands coupe. Between those two (and I'm sure I'm forgetting a few here and there) are an Alfa Romeo 8C2900B Touring Spyder, a Lagonda LG45 Rapide, a pair of vintage Bentleys and a Stutz Model M boattail speedster. And those are just the Classics. Postwar sports cars include Jaguars (XK-120, 140 and 150 and an E-type), Porsches, Mercedes-Benz 300 SLs (both Gullwing and Roadster variants) and a pair of precious Ferraris (short wheelbase 250 California Spyder and a 250 Tour de France). Then there's a room filled with 1950s automotive Americana, the walls of which are covered with automotive art and memorabilia.



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A myriad of other small rooms house the most extensive collection of guitars I have ever seen, each with a story behind them. Automotive artwork, books and models fill every nook and cranny of these buildings—truly automotive heaven. Thank you Ray, for this opportunity as well as for our previous visits in 2007, 2013 and 2018. I hope you had a great tour in your 1934 Packard Twelve during the days that followed our event. >>>

PHOTOS

- 1. Peter Kahn's 1936 Packard 1408 Touring Sedan
- 2. Rick Zeiger's 1941 Cadillac 60 Special
- 3. Paul Whitney's 1936 Packard 1404 Coupe Roadster
- 4. Fred Lax's 1934 Auburn 1250 Salon Phaeton
- 5. Paul Whitney's 1930 LaSalle 340 Phaeton, Fleetwood
- 6. John Milliken's 1939 Buick 80 Convertible Sedan
- 7. John Milliken's 1941 Cadillac 62 Convertible Sedan.



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PHOTOS

1. 1950s Americana 2. Mercer, Alfa Romeo and Lagonda 3. Our own private atrium for cocktail hour 4. Speed-centric Classics 5. Postwar European sports car 6. 1,000s of guitars, each with a story.

Saturday evening found us in the Hyatt's private atrium for a premium pour cocktail hour hosted by our Region. The awards banquet followed with seven first-place awards revealed including a singular 100-point showing for Aaron Weiss's Horch. Congrats to all who deservedly placed in spite of the rain. We wrapped up the banquet with a few words about events on tap for 2020. March alone looks busy with our sister region in San Diego hosting a Grand Classic March 13-15 (thank you Vicki and Carl Zeiger and the McCumbers for your participation; we'll surely return the favor) and the Annual Meeting two weeks after that in King of Prussia-Valley Forge-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania. Oh, and the real reason for us all gathering this weekend was explained ... it was Larry Symons' 85th birthday celebration!

But wait there was more ... Leslie Milliken welcomed all to the hospitality suite for more socializing, either in the room or outside on the terrace. It was a long day, with conversation winding down around 11 p.m. but we enjoyed every minute of it.

And that's what SoCal Grand Classic hospitality is all about. ●

