



The Show Field at Las Vegas Ballpark.



Fred Lax with his 1934 Auburn 1250 Salon Phaeton



The Nethercutt Collection's 1938 Mercedes-Benz 540K Cabriolet

THE LAS VEGAS CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

OCTOBER 21-24, 2021

BY JOHN MILLIKEN; PHOTOS BY LESLIE MILLIKEN AND VALERIE WEISS



Larry Nannini's 1932 Chrysler Imperial CL Convertible Sedan, LeBaron

Stuart Sobek is a man on a mission. Educated as an engineer, he made his marque spending most of his working life in California's Silicon Valley real estate. A lifelong car fan, he purchased a home in Las Vegas in 2005 and moved there permanently in 2014.

He soon realized that for all the activities Las Vegas had to offer, it did not have a high-end vintage auto show where owners of fabulous collector cars, both locally and around the globe, could showcase their special cars. Hoping to change that, he spent several years attending prestigious concours events in California--events like the Pebble Beach and La Jolla Concours d'Elegance and our local San Marino Motor Classic, speaking with owners and judges of these cars and noted their interest in participating in a concours to be held in Las Vegas. In October 2019, after spending a great deal of effort promoting his dream show, the first event took place at the prestigious Dragon Ridge Country Club. He selected the month of October with its somewhat cooler weather and less competition from other shows that time



photos clockwise from top left: Aaron Weiss's 1937 Horch 853 Sport Cabriolet, Gläser; Gary Marchetti's 1931 Packard 826 Sedan; The Baltzar's 1929 Rolls-Royce Phantom I Ascot, Brewster.



of year. Stuart is very serious about his show and invited all concours attendees a pre-event gala and assisted with accommodations at the Bellagio Resort.

Due to COVID challenges, the 2020 event was canceled. For 2021, the concours returned but at a new venue, the recently completed Las Vegas Ballpark and Stuart arranged for accommodations at the Suncoast Hotel and Casino, located near the ballpark in the suburb of Summerlin. Stuart asked me to serve as Honorary Chief Judge and I was happy to accept the assignment.

The event kicked off Friday, October 22 with a tour of the Shelby Heritage Center, home of the Carroll Shelby Museum which features more than 30 of Shelby's famous Cobra and Mustang automobiles. Also on display was the DeLorean "Time Machine" car from the "Back to the Future" film. Festivities continued Friday evening with a traditional gala dinner for all participants at the ballpark's exhibition and private club areas of the stadium. Stuart presented his unique display of beautiful awards he calls the "Helene" awards, as a tribute to Helene Rother who, in 1943, became the first female auto designer for General Motors.

Saturday was concours day and a number of Southern California Region members displayed their cars. Fred and Barbara Lax brought their 1934 Auburn Salon 1250 Phaeton, just a month after they drove it on the Colorado CARavan. Aaron Weiss showed his 1937 Horch 853 Sport Cabriolet by Gläser, Larry Nannini exhibited his 1932 Chrysler Imperial CL LeBaron Convertible Sedan, Steve Snyder brought his 1947 Packard 2106 Coupe, Gary Marchetti brought his multi-award winning 1931 Packard 826 sedan, Erik and Belva Baltzar displayed their 1929 Rolls-Royce Ascot Tourer and the Nethercutt Collection entered its 1938 Mercedes-Benz 540k Cabriolet, all making for a very impressive sight. A 1935 Packard Twelve Boattail Speedster won the Best of Show award. Plans for the 2022 event are in development. •

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