

# SAN DIEGO/PALM SPRINGS REGION GRAND CLASSIC

MARCH 16-18, 2018  
RANCHO SANTA FE, CALIFORNIA

BY RON VERSCHOOR

IF YOU'VE EVER ATTENDED ONE OF THE SAN DIEGO/PALM SPRINGS REGION'S GRAND CLASSICS IN RANCHO SANTA FE, YOU KNOW WHAT A SPECIAL LOCATION IT IS. IF YOU DON'T . . . READ ON.

RANCHO SANTA FE IS A CHARMING RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY ABOUT 100 MILES SOUTH OF LOS ANGELES AND 25 MILES NORTH OF SAN DIEGO. FIVE MILES INLAND (EAST) OF THE 5 FREEWAY, YOU ARRIVE IN THE QUIANT TOWN AND SUDDENLY FEEL FREE OF THE TRAFFIC AND MADNESS THAT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HAS BECOME. WHAT A GREAT LOCATION FOR A WEEKEND GETAWAY, DOUBLE SO IF YOU ADD CLASSIC CARS TO THE MIX.



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1. Steve Snyders' 1940 Packard 1803 Club Coupe
2. Gary Marchetti's 1931 Packard 826 Sedan
3. John Ellison's 1923 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost RRCCW Salamanca
4. Fred Lax's 1934 Auburn 1250 Salon Phaeton
5. Michael Adams' 1925 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost Town Car by Merrimac
6. The Hansons' 1921 Duesenberg A Dual-Cowl Phaeton by Fleetwood
7. Aaron Weiss' 1936 Mercedes-Benz 290 Cabriolet A
8. Joel Cutler's 1941 Buick 90 Formal Sedan
9. The Zeigers' 1936 Packard 1408 Convertible Sedan



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This year, the Region selected the St. Patrick's Day weekend for its biennial Grand Classic, with Carl Zeiger in the role of coordinator. Wisely, every possible outcome was anticipated and planned for, even the somewhat unusual rain showers we had Friday night.

While hosting Regional members were in full force, the collaborative relationship this Region enjoys with the Southern California Region always brings out a loyal group from the north. Also attending were members from Arizona, Washington, Wisconsin, New York and New Jersey. Local resident and National board member Vicki Zeiger was accompanied by Carrol Jensen (Wisconsin) and Steve Babinsky (New Jersey) who also serve on the National board. Executive Director Jay Quail was on hand as well, supporting the first Grand Classic of the year.

A Mexican buffet, hosted Friday with the surprise of the evening coming in the form of the arrival of the Briskmans from (this time of year) Arizona. Their connection to this Region and the SoCal Region date back many years when both Arizona and San Diego were included in the geographic boundaries of the SoCal Region.

Now about that rain. It wasn't heavy by say, Indiana standards, but it was enough to make the front lawn of the Inn at >>>



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Rancho Santa Fe, the planned location for the display of Classics, not the best choice for the event. As mentioned, Carl was one up on the weather and seamlessly moved to plan B, an indoor venue in the form of the Rancho Santa Fe Motor Club and Storage facility in the city of Vista, a few miles north via "El Camino Real".

The showroom housed all the Classics with a room available for snacks and treats. Judging was led by Area Head Judge Eric Voigt, with Head Tabulator duties conducted by Linda Voigt. With judging complete and gossip and catching up completed, we were free to explore the charms of North County San Diego.

Saturday night's award banquet featured a visually stunning PowerPoint presentation of all the Classics in attendance, with special photographic attention placed on the interesting details of each entry. Thank you Jim Greene and Don Williams for your efforts in that area.

Sunday morning, a driving tour toward the coast ended up at John Ellison's collection in La Jolla. Rolls-Royce and Bentley are prominent in this collection but Cadillac and Lincoln were also represented.

Thanks to all for your efforts during this weather-challenged weekend. All went smoothly and your work is greatly appreciated. Do join us in 2019 when the SoCal Region returns the favor.



1. The Hansons' 1915 Pierce-Arrow  
48 Seven-Passenger Sedan
2. John Ellison's 1937 Lincoln K  
Judkins Two-Window Berline
3. Larry Symons' 1937 Packard 1507  
Club Sedan
4. Nick Fintzelberg's 1929 Chrysler  
Imperial L80 Coupe by Locke

