



2019 St Michaels Concours d'Elegance

The Inn at Perry Cabin
and
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

St Michaels, Maryland
September 29, 2019



Nestled along the shoreline of the historic Maryland Eastern Shore, the St Michaels Concours d'Elegance (SMCDE) displays legendary automobiles in a tranquil and scenic setting. Come along as we explore some of the automotive wonders displayed there, on this, its thirteenth anniversary.

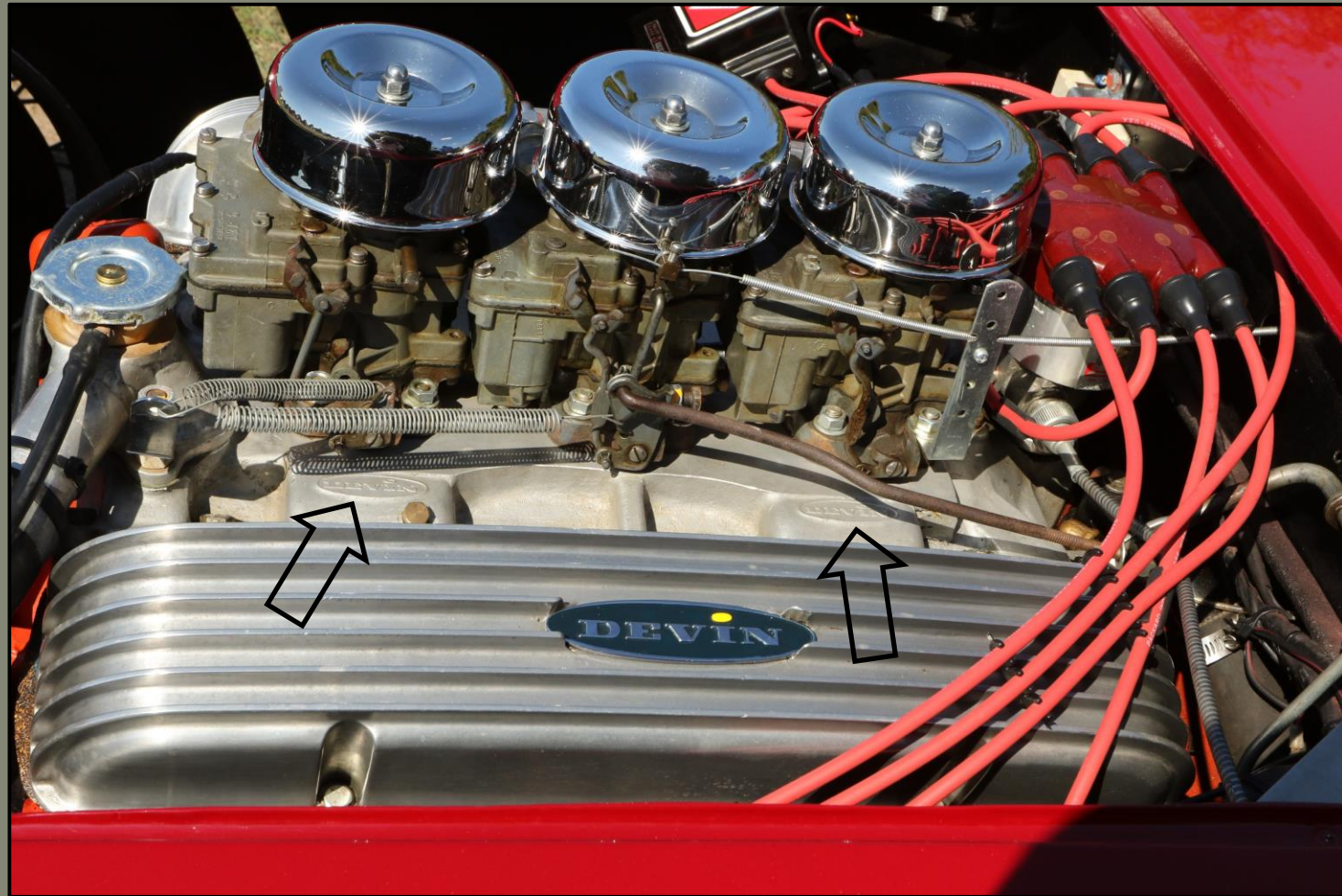
1958 Devin Special Sports Racer

Phil Fleming



Bill Devin splashed a body off a 1955 Ermini Type 357 Barchetta (styling by Scaglietti) in that 50s miracle product, fiberglass, and spawned an industry. Period ads trumpeted it was available in 27 different sizes to fit wheelbases from 78 to 96 inches and treads from 40 to 52 inches. You could drape one across just about any sports or imported car at the time and suddenly you were a manufacturer. Fleming's example combines an Austin Healey 3000 frame, suspension, wheels and rear end with a Corvette small block and transmission.





1958 Devin Special Sports Racer

Phil Fleming

Fleming found this car in Virginia about thirty years ago. The identity of its original builder remains a mystery although Fleming said they were likely very skilled based on the quality of work he found during his restoration of the car. It was originally intended to be restored as a vintage racer, but Fleming changed course and prepared it for the street. This example sports several Devin branded accessories such as gauges and intake manifold (arrows above). Fleming says this is the only 3x2 Devin manifold he has seen, the others being 2x4.

Auburn was one of the myriad of companies that made up the American automotive scene at the turn of the Twentieth Century, eventually finding its way to the influence of E.L. Cord and becoming part of his ACD (Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg) conglomerate. There the Auburn line came under the design tutelage of Gordon Buehrig. He would modify an existing design to come up with this piece of true automotive art. An optional supercharger assured it had the oomph to match its rakish style. This one came from a California farm where it sat dismantled for decades awaiting restoration. One of the issues encountered in its restoration was ridding it of the smell of the farmer's produce ... garlic!

1935 Auburn 851 SC Boattail Speedster

Capricorn Collection





1935 Auburn 851 SC Boattail Speedster

Capricorn Collection

The Speedster abounded in detail from stem to stern. At the front, the hood ornament complemented the art deco lettering on the grill badge. At the rear, the taillights featured the brand name on the lens. On the side, the chrome exhaust pipes exit the hood sides, travel down the body and disappear under the car. Inside the dash features full instrumentation accentuated by even more chrome. And it doesn't end on top of the car. The radio antenna is mounted underneath the body to avoid disturbing the lines (the shiny piece indicated by one of the arrows to the upper left). To the rear is a two-speed rear axle to ease high speed touring.





Heckman has owned this Bentley for about ten years, putting about 25,000 miles on it while participating in numerous tours. In that time it has only required minor upkeep. In addition, it is a very original example, still sporting many of the pieces with which it was built. Heckman bought the car after its restoration in Australia. It is the third vintage Bentley he has owned. He told us he spent a long time looking for just the right car, including looking at about 25 different ones, before settling on this one.



**1929 Bentley 4½ Liter Four-Passenger Tourer
Body by R. Harrington & Son**

Thomas S. Heckman



**1947 Alfa Romeo 6C 2500
Extralusso Cabriolet
Stabilimenti Farina Bodywork
Frank Salemi**

Immediately following WWII, Alfa released their 6C2500 series. The last of the separate body & frame Alfas, they would also represent the end of the line for many of the coach-built Alfas. A unique feature of Salemi's car is its lack of an external rocker panel. The door goes all the way to the bottom of the car and wraps under the car, eliminating the gap normally found there.



**1952 Daimler DB-18
Drophead Coupe
Hooper & Co. Coachwork
Linda & John Spillman**

Daimler was a manufacturer of high-end British cars. At one time they supplied conveyances not only to the British Royal family but royal houses throughout Europe. The fluted radiator shell as shown top, left was a Daimler trademark. The Spillman car is #4 of 6 produced and features such luxury touches as a power top and windows, unheard of at the time. Every inch of the car speaks to luxury from its carefully appointed interior to its Australian Camphor wood dash. Mechanicals included a 130 HP straight six backed by a pre-selector gearbox. The Spillmans told us that the first of the DB-18s was made for King George VI after his daughter, Princess Elizabeth, recommended the purchase.



Fitzgerald's Model A tied together the emphasis the SMCDE places on wooden cars & boats with a love for the nature wonderland Maryland's Eastern Shore represents. The car was displayed with all the accoutrements of an early camping rig from loads of period correct outdoor equipment to the tools and spares necessary to keep an early off-road vehicle moving. Below showcases an example of what we mean. Fishing tackle shares space with a tool kit. Extra gas and water each have their own container. Note how the block and tackle is looped around the headlights & grill, while to the left we see a wooden canoe at the ready atop the station wagon.



1929 Ford Model A Station Wagon

Thomas Fitzgerald



To the right is the trailer in camping mode. The accommodations are certainly cozy and rudimentary, some may even say crude, compared to modern RVing. But everything you require is here and certainly preferable to being exposed to the elements.

Fitzgerald conveyed a feeling of the great outdoors in a day gone by to the viewer with his coordinated display. His effort gained him the People's Choice Award. Master of Ceremonies, Bill Rothermel, commented that this wasn't Fitzgerald's first such award, proof that the feeling he portrayed struck a cord in a time of high technology.



1929 Ford Model A Station Wagon

Thomas Fitzgerald





1955 Chris Craft Cobra "Venom"

Bob Boardman

Alongside classic automobiles, the SMCDE displays exemplary examples of wooden boats. This year, Bob Boardman's "Cobra" took top honors among them. His example boasted classic lines and impeccable finishes to help cement his award with the judges.

1933 Isotta-Fraschini Tipo 8A Two-Door Sports Tourer, Body by Castagna

Stephen R. Plaster/Evergreen Historic Automobiles

Winner of the 2019 Best in Show at the St Michaels Concours d'Elegance was this stunning Isotta-Fraschini. Its provenance was as impressive as its Castagna bodywork!





1



2



3



4

"Too many cars,
too few pages"

1 - 1936 Bentley Dual
Cowl Phaeton with
body by Vesters &
Neirnick - The North
Collection

2 - 1920 Ford Model T
Speedster - Karen &
Joe Minchelli

3 - 1930 Duesenberg
Model J Dual Cowl
Phaeton with body by
Murphy - Dwight
Schaubach

4 - 1947 Delahaye
135M Cabriolet with
body by A. B. Guillore
- BHA Museum

**"Too many cars,
too few pages"**

1 - 1957 Ford
Thunderbird "E-Code"
Convertible - John
Keesee

2 - 1933 Chrysler
Imperial CL Four-Door
Phaeton with body by
LeBaron - Lawrence
Macks

3 - 1941 Cadillac
Series 62 Two-Door
Convertible - Next
Level Auto

4 - 1937 Ford V-8
Station Wagon -
Vivienne & Tom Haines



1



2



3



4

People Watching



Left - Denise Dolan compliments the 1908 Rolls-Royce 40/50 Silver Ghost Tourer owned by her and her husband John. Middle - Two young car aficionados tour the show field in the kiddie version of a yacht tender. Right - Sharon & Michael Hamby mean business as they display their 1929 Ford Model A Roadster.



2019 St Michaels Concours d'Elegance

The Inn at Perry Cabin
and
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

St Michaels, Maryland
September 29, 2019



The 2020 edition of
the St Michaels
Concours d'Elegance is
scheduled for Sunday
September 27, 2020.
We hope you will take
the opportunity to not
only see the show but
also enjoy all
Maryland's Eastern
Shore has to offer.