

Classic Motorsports

Unwrapping Pebble Beach

By Tim Sharp
Photography by Tim and Kris Sharp

Like a well-wrapped gift, the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance doesn't reveal its true treasures until it has been thoroughly uncovered. Harry Yeaggy's flawless 1935 Duesenberg SJ Special took Best of Show this past August 15-18, but classic sports car enthusiasts seemed most delighted by the spectacular display of Ferrari and Aston Martin race cars on the manicured greens of California's Pebble Beach.

At the pinnacle of the Postwar Preservation Class was the 1960 Ferrari 166 MM Barchetta of Manny and Juanita Del Arroz. Most 166 MM Barchettas have undergone extensive frame-off restorations, but this unrestored survivor sported its battle scars, faded paint and worn leather racing seat with pride. Even Piero Ferrari stopped by to admire the Barchetta and to chat with the owner.

The Ferrari 250 GTs were celebrating their 50th anniversary in the Ferrari Grand Touring Class. Peter Kalikow's 1958 Pinin Farina 250 GT Series I Cabriolet took top honors, but the second place SWB Berlinetta of Jaime Muldoon and the third place Ferrari 250 GT LWB California Spider belonging to Michael Marix were equally impressive. It must be tough to be a judge at Pebble Beach.

In the restored Ferrari Competition Class, another 166 MM Barchetta, this one owned by Brian and Kim Ross, won its class. Seems that you can't go wrong at a concours with a Barchetta.

In the Aston Martin Postwar Race Car Class, the 1956 DB3S of Peter Livanos traveled all the way from the U.K. to win top honors. One of the more interesting classic race cars at Pebble Beach was the Jaguar C-type owned by Scott Gauthier. Allegedly the most extensively raced Jaguar in the world, this unrestored example had substantially more disfigurement than the 166 MM that won the Preservation Class. However, the charm of these unrestored race cars is that they proudly show the proof that they were not always driven by gentlemen racers in a genteel way.

One of the more uncommon cars in the field was the 1954 Stanguellini 750 Sport Internazionale Racer owned by Howard and Diane Banaszak.

The only setback to owning these little race cars is that they're so cute, you feel guilty leaving them in a cold garage at night. Not to worry; these cars are small enough to store in your living room, and they are great conversation pieces. This one earned third place in the Postwar Sports and Racing category.

If you have never attended the Pebble Beach Concours, make a hole in your calendar for mid-August and plan to be there in 2008. Tickets can be purchased online at pebblebeachconcours.net.



Hey, Isn't That...

Part of the fun of the Pebble Beach Concours is people-watching. You see entrants dressed in period attire to match their vintage cars, babies dressed in Ferrari racing suits and little girls dressed in Delahaye dresses. It's also common to see celebrity auto nuts like Jay Leno and Ralph Lauren, as well as legendary race drivers like Phil Hill, Dan Gurney and Pete Lovely.



Top: The coastal view rivals the beauty of the cars at Pebble Beach. Left: Jack Thomas Jr. took second place in the Postwar Preservation through 1967 class with his 1955 OSCA Vignale Berlinetta. Bottom: The 1935 Duesenberg SJ Special, better known as Ab Jenkins's "The Mormon Meteor," took Best of Show. Now owned by Harry Yeaggy, the Meteor hit 135.58 mph in 1935 and sold for \$4.45 million at a Monterey auction back in 2004.

