

## Playing in the Big Leagues

What was a really nice car show 10 years ago is now a world-class concours d'elegance

Story and photos by Bill Rothermel



Paul Bloch's 1938 Talbot-Lago T23 coupe by Figoni et Falaschi, winner of four awards

**G**ive the Boca Boys some credit. What I described in my first review 10 years ago as a "deluxe car show" is certainly not that anymore. They have definitely upped their game — with 217 cars and 57 motorcycles in play at the Boca Raton Resort & Club from February 19 to 21.

For the 10th anniversary of the Boca Raton Concours there was depth to the classes — and lots of potential contenders for Best in Class awards. These were cars worthy of not only a car show — but also a concours.

Packard was the featured marque, with 38 cars buoyed from a meeting of the South Florida Region of the Packard Club. Yes, that included some drivers, but lots of great cars, too. Ditto for the Classic Car Club of America, which hosted a national Grand Classic in conjunction with this year's event and brought another 24 cars to the show field.

### A full weekend of fun

Always a "seen and be seen" celebration, Friday's duPont Registry Live Hangar party at the Boca Raton Airport boasted record crowds. Earlier in the day, attendees enjoyed a private tour of the all-Packard Fort Lauderdale Car Museum — a collection of nearly 50 Packards from 1909

to 1958 amassed by 97-year-old Shirley Stone and her late husband, Arthur. This museum is definitely worth visiting if you are in the area. Check it out at [www.antiqyecarmuseum.org](http://www.antiqyecarmuseum.org).

Saturday featured several seminars and an evening black-tie gala with car guy Jay Leno providing world-class entertainment. More than 1,100 people attended, and they helped add to the millions of dollars (yes, you are reading that correctly) raised for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County during the weekend.

### Concours winners

Perfect skies greeted crowds on Concours Sunday, and Leno paid a visit as well, choosing his favorite "Big Dog" motorcycle and car.

Leno's top choices were Bridget Hagood's owner-restored 1967 Dodge Charger and a 1938 Brough Superior 11-50 with sidecar from Jack Wells' collection.

Robert Jenson took home Best in Class and Best in Show honors with his 1919 Pierce-Arrow 66 A-4 Tourer originally built for Fatty Arbuckle and modified by Don Lee Coach & Body Works. Best in Show Motorcycle was presented to Bryan Caskey's 1915 Yale Model 57.

Daniel Johnson's 1929 Peerless 8-125 7-Passenger Sedan that was literally completed the night prior to the concours took Best in Class honors among Closed Pre-War American Classics 1925-34.

Helen and Richard Harding's meticulous 1928 Auburn 8-88 Speedster was awarded Best in Class honors in the American Classic Open 1925-34 category. Steven Cooley Jr.'s rare 1942 Cadillac Series 62 Sedanette was presented the Best in Class in the American Production Closed Cars 1925-49.

Best in Class honors American Production Closed 1960-75 went to Evan Stone's highly optioned 1964 Chevrolet Impala SS coupe.

Orin Smith's 1953 Lancia Aurelia PF 200C Spider received the Best Open Post-War Car and People's Choice Award. Big winner of the day was Paul Bloch, whose 1938 Talbot-Lago T23 coupe by Figoni et Falaschi received four honors, including the Timeless Elegance and Rolling Sculpture Awards. ♦



Steven Cooley Jr.'s rare 1942 Cadillac Series 62 Sedanette, Best in Class winner for American Closed Cars 1925-49

### Details

**Plan ahead:** The 11th Annual Boca Raton Concours d'Elegance is scheduled for February 10-12, 2017

**Where:** The Boca Raton Resort & Club, Boca Raton, FL

**Number of entries:** More than 200 cars and motorcycles

**Cost:** Regular concours admission is \$60

**Web:** [www.bocaratonconcours.com](http://www.bocaratonconcours.com)



Orin Smith's 1953 Lancia Aurelia PF 200C Spider, Best Open Post-War Car and People's Choice Award winner