

MAKEOVER

The Meadow Brook Concours d'Elegance receives a new lease on its long and distinguished life

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY THE AUTHOR



They said it couldn't be done. But after staring down menacing Sunday storm clouds, the 29th annual Meadow Brook Concours d'Elegance posted record attendance and was acclaimed for presenting its best event yet. Held during the first week of August 2007, Alfa Romeo was the concours' featured marque.

"I've been away [from Meadow Brook] for three years," said chief judge and GM vice-chairman Bob Lutz. "But I am back this year, and we pulled out all the stops to make this the best-ever Meadow Brook."

Indeed, Lufthansa sponsored the opening night, invitation-only reception at a private, 35,000-sq-ft hangar at Oakland County International Airport. Several guests flew in for the evening, including Lutz himself, who taxied his marine fighter jet onto the tarmac midway through the merrymaking, and motor racing icon Jack Roush, who winged his way in at the controls of his P-51 Mustang. Not to be




outdone, the Yankee Air Force and its crew posted a vigil with its glistening B-17 bomber.

“We emphasized an educational aspect to the show this year,” said newly appointed Concours chairman Larry Smith. “We wanted everyone to walk away having learned something about the cars.” A storyboard was developed for every one of the 214 cars and 40 motorcycles (all four-cylinder) on the field Sunday. Smith also strove to pull young people into Meadow Brook, and advertised free Concours admission to college students with a college I.D. And in a



bid to boost general admission, prices were reduced this year to \$25 per person.

Alfa Romeo took advantage of its press conference at historic Meadow Brook Hall by unveiling its dazzling Alfa 8C Competizione. The car also headlined the national convention of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club on the same grounds, which occurred the day before the Concours. One hundred classic Alfas from around the country, including Elliot Goldstein's 1924 RLSS, made it the most impressive Alfa meet in a decade.

The Blackhawk Collection's three distinctive BAT cars, a 1938 8C 2900B Berlinetta and another 8C2900B Spider (Best in Show—Foreign) were Alfa Romeo headliners on the field Sunday. So was the rare Bugatti Royale Type 41 convertible from The Henry Ford collection. The Best in Show-American honors went to Ethel Lanaux's 1931 Chrysler GG Imperial Victoria convertible. 



Clockwise from bottom opposite: The Alfa Romeo 8C 2900 Touring Spider of Roy Scherr of Westlake Village, CA and Ethel Lanaux's Chrysler CG Imperial Victoria from New Orleans, LA were Best in Show for Foreign and Domestic respectively. At the hangar party, Jack Roush checks his P51 wing loading with models from the fashion show. Race cars on the tour. Above: Bob Lutz arrives in his own jet. How can you beat movie star

RM Auctions had a successful sale that brought this Packard 840 Roadster \$159,500



looks and the confidence of a fighter pilot. New event director Larry Smith congratulates Steven Schultz on his '36 Auburn 852 Speedster's Timeless Elegance award. The Blackhawk Museum brought the three Bertone B.A.T cars and the Ford Museum its Bugatti T-41 Royale.