

THE CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN



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AL ZIMMERMANN'S BEEN THERE, DONE IT!

Ever Consider Attending Or Participating In A Local Or Big Name *Concours d'Elegance* Event?

By Al Zimmermann

Chesapeake Region, AACA

For many antique car buffs, nothing is more rewarding than the process of acquiring or restoring a vehicle, and then showing it at car shows as a member of the Chesapeake Region AACA or one of the various automobile clubs.

Generally, these venues call for a step by step process leading to qualifying for the top awards, followed by recognition each subsequent time the car is shown. After participating numerous times, it can become less exciting, although attending these shows to enjoy all the cars and the association with other car enthusiasts is still a wonderful time.

Opportunity!

It's been my experience that there are opportunities to exhibit our vehicles at another type of car show, namely, the various '*Concours d'Elegance*' events. We're all aware of some of the big name *Concours d'Elegance* events, like Pebble Beach, California; Amelia Island, Florida; Hilton Head, South Carolina. However, there are many more events held all over the country. In fact, The annual 'Elegance' at Hershey is Antique Automobile Club of America's entry into this type of event and grows larger and more prominent every season.

There are more of these all the time as organizations and communities recognize the opportunity for fund raising and generating revenue. The good news is that almost all of these shows also accept a variety of quality cars, motorcycles, boats, and even tractors that may or may not be particularly rare or expensive.

Invitation only...

In order to be invited to participate, in most events just go online and download an application. Describe your vehicle's history (prove-



Al Zimmermann and Nancy Mattheu stand beside their 1934 Ford Cabriolet with the green 'Palmetto Award' ribbon at the 2011 Hilton Head Island, South Carolina *Concours d'Elegance*. Each participant is provided with a floral bouquet for the front of the car along with a plaque describing the vehicle. Participants are also pampered with delicious hors d'oeuvres and a 'goodie' bag.

nance), list prior awards, and enter other relevant information. Certain eras, vehicle types, and styles will be featured at a given show, so these vehicles are more likely to be invited.

Concours events are held in beautiful surroundings, and the cost of general admission is usually very high, but is free for exhibitors in the shows in which I've participated. At most of these shows, we were treated to free gourmet lunches, were provided with signs for the car display, and were given nice 'goodie' bags.

Judging is usually done by well qualified and

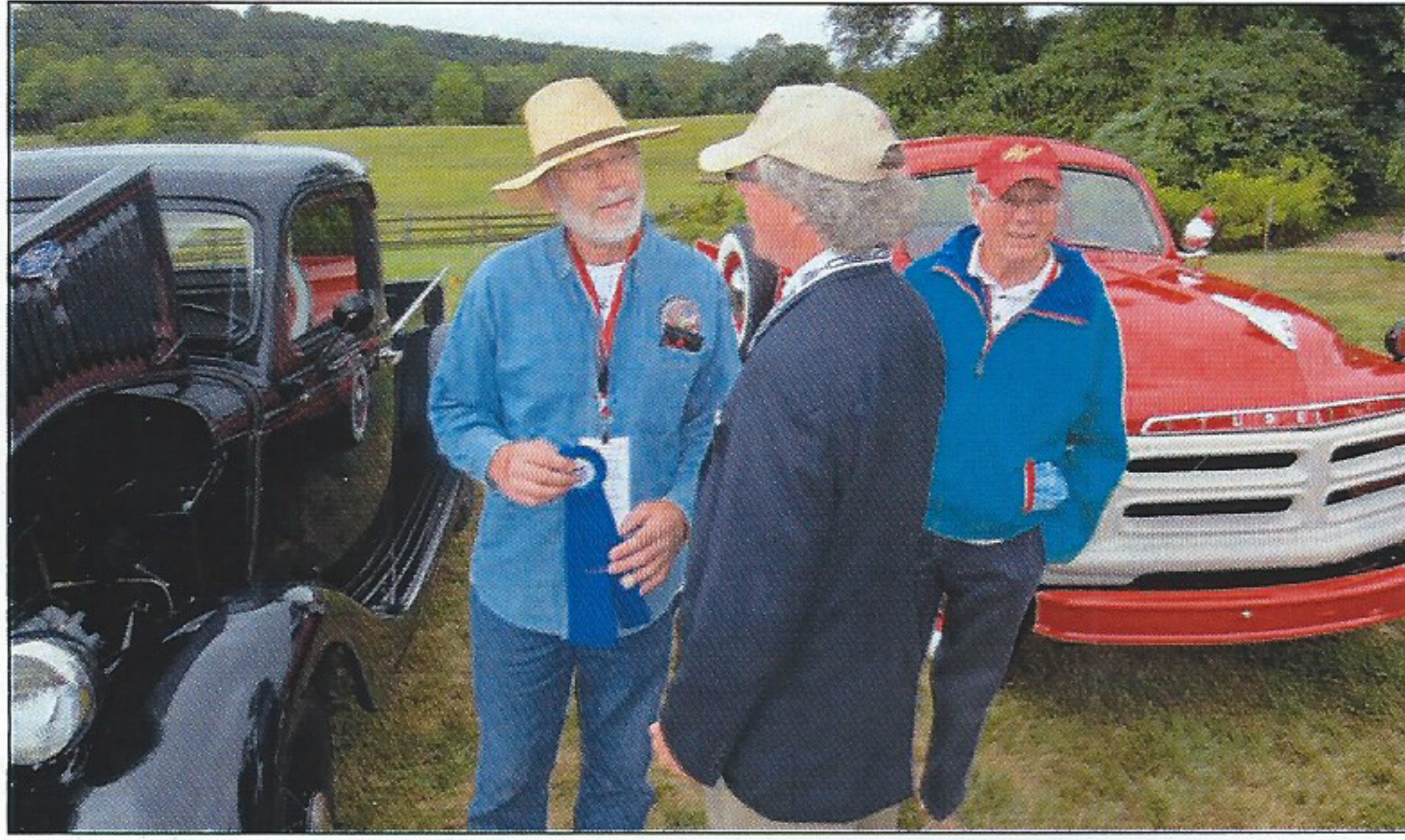
well dressed judges, adding to the air of elegance promised in the show's titles. Although it's very similar to, but a little more subjective

Continued to page 2 'Concours'...

Helen Gordon Recovering At Home

Longtime member of Chesapeake Region, Helen Gordon, suffered a fall recently and broke her pelvis in two places. Last we heard, Helen is out of therapy and is recovering at home with husband 'Jerry' acting as chief nurse and 'gofer.' Get well quickly Helen, we hope to see you at the first car event of the season!

At the January 11, 2016 membership meeting, Al Zimmermann presented an extremely interesting slide presentation about the recent 2015 *Concours d'Elegance* event at the 'Radnor Hunt Club' in nearby Media, Pennsylvania. Al showed his 1935 Ford 1/2 ton pickup in the Pickup Pre-War Class. --Bill Wurzell



Al Zimmermann accepts a 'blue ribbon' from an official of the 2015 Radnor Hunt Club annual Concours d'Elegance, near Media, Pa. The award is for Al's meticulous restoration of his 'bone stock' original 1935 Ford Pickup truck. Chesapeake Region member, Bud Currey looks on. Bud is standing next to a sharp looking mid-1950s full size Studebaker pickup truck. Frank Salemi photo



Charles Gillet, Jr., of Lutherville stands beside his 1934 Pierce-Arrow LeBaron 840A Convertible Sedan at the 2015 'Rockville' show where the car received 'The Mayor's and City Council's Award.' Earlier in 2015, the car was awarded 'Best In Class' and 'Best In Show' at the Radnor Hunt Club sponsored Concours d'Elegance.--Dr. Harvey Rapp photo



Above, Al's 1934 Ford 'rumble seat' Cabriolet drives onto the winners platform at the 2011 Hilton Head Island Concours. Right, Al's 1935 Ford 1/2 ton pickup truck at the 2015 Radnor Hunt Club Concours d'Elegance



Concours d'Elegance continued from page 1...

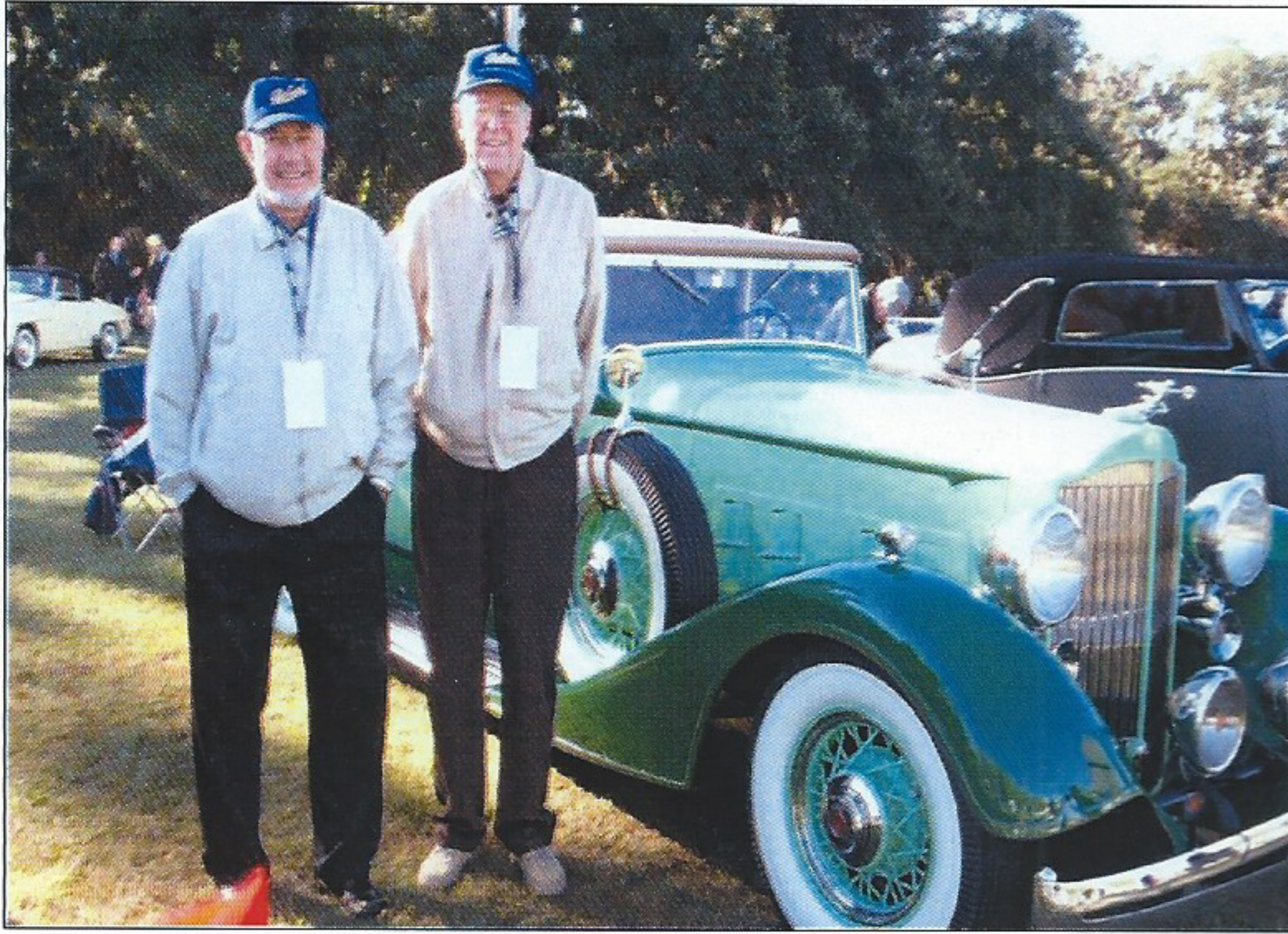
than, AACA judging, it is not based on achieving a points threshold to qualify for an award. In most cases there are first place awards as well as one or two second place awards in each of many categories. Each event has its own class breakdown, and that can be seen by looking up previous classes and winners on the event web site sometime after the event.

Each time I've gone, the award ceremonies were held on the same day as the Concours. A tent and platform is set up for the winners to drive up individually to receive their awards. It's quite a show, and there's usually a huge crowd watching intently as the cars parade through. The awards at the shows I've attended are nice engraved cut glass, with ribbons for the selected vehicles.

After accompanying CRAACA member Frank Salemi with his Alfa Romeo to Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance in 2008 and Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance in 2010, at his urging I showed my 1934 Ford at the Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance in 2011, the Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance in 2013, and the Saratoga Springs, New York, Hemmings Concours d'Elegance in 2013. Bud Currey and I then showed my '35 Ford pickup at the Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance in 2015. Conveniently one of the classes last year was for classic pickups. I was pleasantly surprised to have been awarded a first in class in each of the Radnor Hunt and Hemmings events, and a Palmetto Award at Hilton Head, proving that you don't need an exotic or classic high-end car to compete at these events.

Happy Valentine's Day Ladies!

To capture all the reasons why I love you
 Is harder than to catalogue the stars.
 Ten and four brief lines are far too few
 For all the daily moments that are ours.
 I love your sleeping body in the night -
 It warms me even when you are unaware.
 When I get up I don't turn on the light;
 I wonder how I'd live if you weren't there.
 You bring the comics with my shredded wheat;
 You read aloud a story while I cook.
 We watch the birds together --
 Their feeders near the window of our nook.
 Our kitchen has become a lover's shrine,
 Now and forever be my Valentine.
 --submitted by, Mary Whitcraft



Two Veterans of many, many Concours d'Elegance events and auctions, are left, Chesapeake Region Chief Judge, Gene Sauter and right, member Charles Gillet, Jr. There probably isn't an event of any significance in which these gentlemen haven't participated, and they have the awards and blue ribbons to prove it. The picture above was taken at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina in 2010. Charles has a 'stable' of numerous 'Concours worthy' automobiles that stagger one's imagination including the 1934 Packard convertible.--Al Zimmermann photo



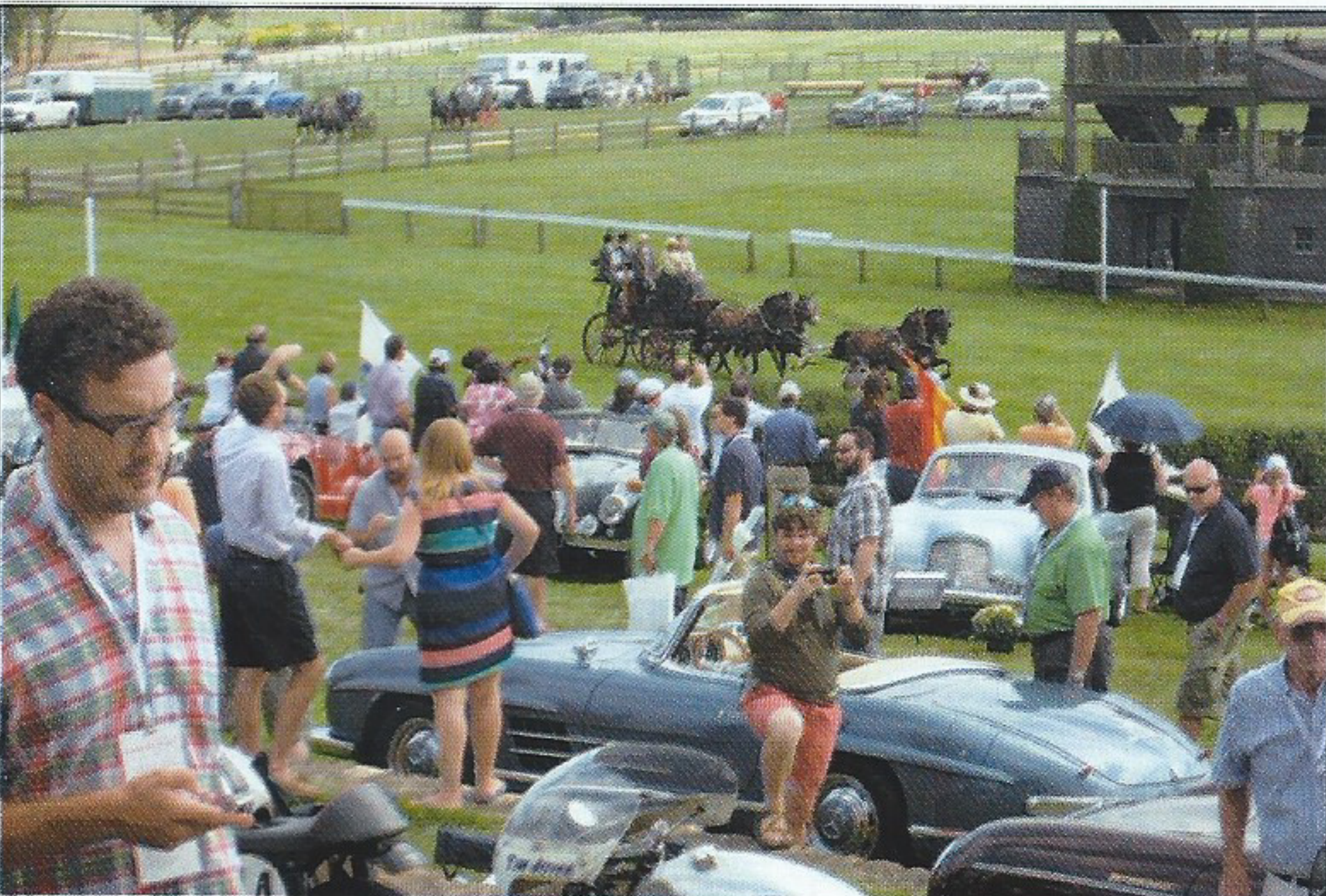
CORVETTE ROW! Vintage Corvettes on display at the 2013 Hemmings Concours d'Elegance at Saratoga Springs, New York. Al Zimmermann photos



The 'terraced' show area displays exotic and classic Italian and European vehicles at the 2008 Radnor Hunt Club Concours d'Elegance. Al Zimmermann's success with his 1934 Ford Cabriolet rumble seat, and 1935 Ford pickup is proof it's not necessary to field a 'priceless' or one off trailer queen to compete in a Concours d'Elegance event. These events focus on vehicle authenticity, originality, integrity and quality of restoration.



A 92-year-old gentleman by the name of Bob Hanson drives his 1938 Lincoln formal limousine onto the winner's platform for acceptance of the 'Most Intriguing Classic' award at a recent Concours. The Lincoln chassis is fitted with a 'Brunn' body, a popular choice for high-end vehicles.



The Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance includes horse drawn carriages and hounds, lovingly maintained and shown by the folks that promote this show.



Mostly mid to late 1930s European and domestic convertibles are favorites at any Concours d'Elegance event. Automobile enthusiasts of all stripes owe a debt of gratitude to the folks that preserve these rolling 'works of art' for generations to come.