

## CAR SHOWS

When I first became involved with showing cars about 30 years ago the emphasis was on glitz and shine with large sums of money and time being spent to be sure that all was authentic, shiny and clean. This seemed to be more important than whether the car ran or not. There was clear "over restoration" in many cases. The car was expected to pass the "white glove test".

The emphasis today is more on preservation than restoration in the sense that an older car should retain a well cared for patina reflecting careful preservation of the original and sensitive restoration where necessary.

Even such prestigious concours d'elegance as Pebble Beach now give preference to cars that run. The day before the actual concours the entrants are invited to go on a 70 mile drive. In the event of a tie in the judging the following day, the car that was driven has the advantage.

The traditional Pebble Beach approach is followed by most of the older concours. The judging is carried out by experts in each marque with an additional eye to originality and performance: does the engine run as it should, do the lights, horn and other electrical components all work? Will it make it up the ramp to collect its award? All this can be very stressful for an owner where a placed finish at a prestigious concours can add a significant amount to the value of the vehicle.

In the last few years the Amelia Island type of concours is becoming popular. The new Marin-Sonoma Concours is in this category. This is more of a beauty contest with minimal technical judging and more of an eye to how the car looks.

In both of these cases there is an emphasis on raising money for charities and significant fees are charged for entering a car and for the public to view. I believe it is now more than \$150 to view the cars at Pebble Beach!

Then there is the Tiburon Classic Car Show which is an opportunity for those of us with fine old cars to dust them off, show them off and tell lots of tall tails about times past! No judging; no prizes. And it's free! It's fun! Money from sponsors and entrants go towards a local community charity.

So, if you are lucky enough to be in Tiburon this June 19th we hope you have enjoyed the show, will tell your friends and come back to see us again next year.

Story by,  
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