

CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

On the Ground at the Greenwich Concours

[David Conwill](#) on Jun 6th, 2018



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A Connecticut park, on the water, is the ideal place to honor the cars of Briggs Cunningham. Photos by the author.

Saturday morning, June 2, 2018, was beautiful: Sunny and warm with a light breeze. The weather and the sights made it highly worthwhile to wake up early and watch the arrival of participants in the Greenwich Concours d'Elegance, held at Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, in Greenwich, Connecticut. Even the trees raining loads of pollen that accumulated on the running boards of unsuspecting classics had a certain beauty about them.

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These are the Cunningham sports cars, that were arrayed by the water—an appropriate setting given Briggs Cunningham’s fame in yachting circles.

In a parking lot adjacent to the show field, vehicles lined up in an orderly loop to await entrance. Many drivers protected the steering wheel on their investment from fingerprints by wearing gloves, gripping the wheel through a towel, or some other means. A quick look revealed '50s and '60s cruisers, true antiques gently puffing white exhaust, high-strung sports machines and racers, hot rods, and, of course, Cunninghams. Even the spectator lot contained a sprinkling of interesting cars—most for sale or advertising a restoration shop or dealer.

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Spectator parking had lots of eye candy too, like this 1967 Jaguar 340 advertising a local restoration shop. Those not advertising were typically themselves for sale.

The vehicles of millionaire sportsman Briggs Swift Cunningham and his eponymous company were special features at this year's event. We counted at least 35 original and two continuation Cunningham cars there, in addition to other marques owned and used by the legendary racer and yachtsman. Other featured cars included early SS/Jaguars and the cars built and modified by John Cooper Fitch.

Modern exotics, brought there by dealers to tempt the well-off participants and attendees, didn't even stand out—Acura NSX's looked no more remarkable than the Ford car-wash van there to keep them clean between test drives.

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Cars lined up in a loop while awaiting entrance to the show—an excellent (and free!) opportunity to see the cars running and moving, and see how human bodies fit inside. Here are a 1950 Fitch Whitmore Special belonging to John W. Rich Jr., a 1914 Cadillac owned by Michael and Karen Tomko, and a 1966 Corvair Corsa Fitch Sprint presented by Byron H. LaMotte Jr.

Even the wait to get in isn't without drama, and a few show cars, unaccustomed to idling, succumbed to one or more mysterious maladies. Most were quickly rectified, but a couple cars had to be pushed to the show field.

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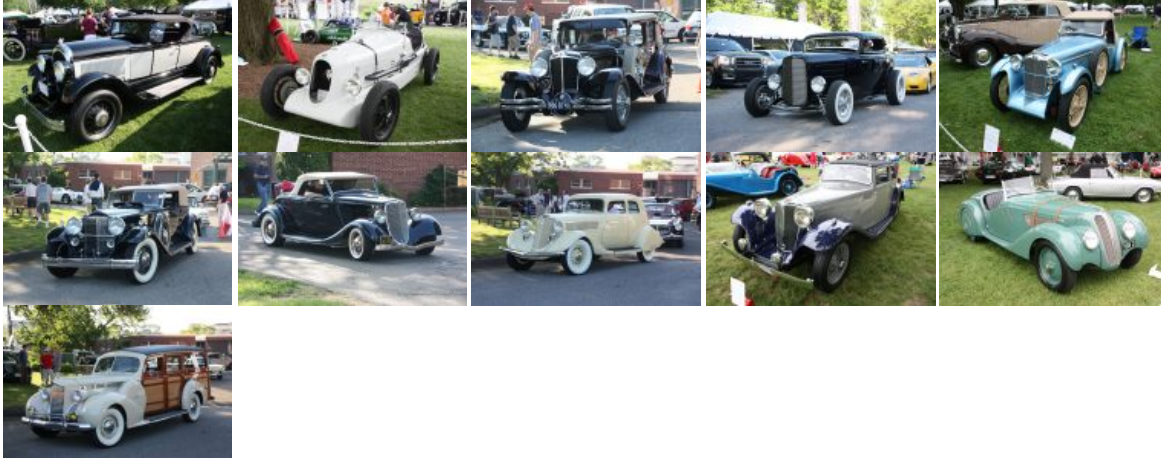
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“It was running fine this morning!” was the lament heard from one of the fellows pushing this 1932 MG J2 Roadster belonging to Al Warner. A handsome car nonetheless.

Inside, the grounds of Roger Sherman Baldwin Park were surrounded with high-end retailers hawking yachts, storage space, automotive art, and other diversions in keeping with the posh setting. There is also a Bonhams auction on site that, this year, featured many cars from the collection of the late Carroll Shelby. The real attraction was the show cars however, and to that end, we offer you this gallery of images from Saturday and Sunday at the Greenwich Concours d’Elegance.

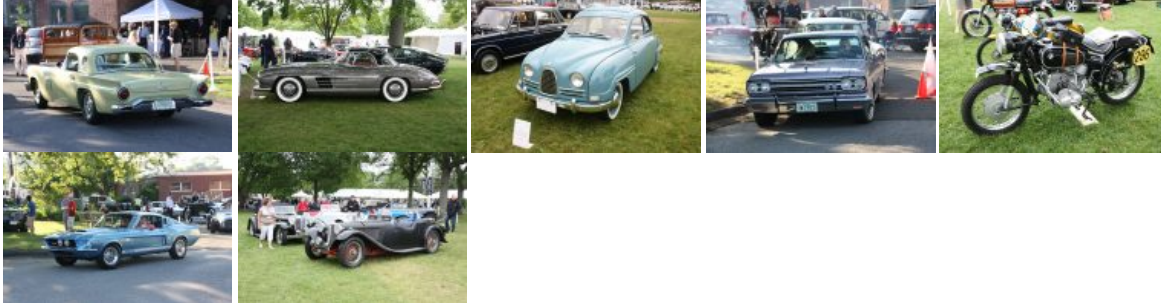
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Tags

- Briggs Cunningham
- Cunningham C-3
- Cunningham C-4R
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- Fitch-Whitmore Special
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15 Comments Leave a Reply

Leslie says: June 6, 2018 8:50 am

A good show, particularly since the dire weather forecast did not come to pass! A highlight unmentioned here was the Friday evening talk at the Greenwich library about the life and career of Briggs Cunningham, including Tom Cotter modelling Briggs Cunningham's very own raccoon coat from his Yale days.

The assemblage of Cunningham cars was probably a once-in-a-lifetime event, as of the 36

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AD cars built 34 were present. The C4-RK at the Revs Institute (which was represented by a superb tribute car) is too fragile to travel, while the other missing car no longer exists. Considering that the last Cunningham was built in 1954, this is an amazing rate of survival.

➤ Reply

Graham Lloyd says: June 6, 2018 10:10 am

So nice to see a wagon with a canoe on top instead of one of those silly surfboards.

I didn't realize that the Cunningham rate of survival was so great. Rivals Tucker. Very impressive.

➤ Reply

Roger Gorski says: June 6, 2018 11:41 am

"SILLY SURFBOARDS"? That Cunningham Woodie would look strange in Huntington Beach, California with a SILLY canoe on top.

➤ Reply

200mph says: June 6, 2018 10:13 am

The efforts undertaken to secure the star cars here are remarkable.

Tom Cotter and the organizers had EVERY Cunningham EVER made on the show field or represented. That's incredible.

Rich Taylor assembled an example of EVERY car John Fitch built or improved; the Phoenix (1 of 1), Phantom (1 of 2), Firebird (1 of 2) and Corvair Sprints that most attendees had only seen in long-ago magazines. That's an incredible devotion to his friend and hero, and mine.

This show had something for everyone; mundane (as-new Rambler Marlin), to preserved (one-owner 57 Fairlane and 67 El Camino), race cars (Dyson Porsche 962), to eye candy (new Ferrari Portofino).

My son met Tom, Rich, Miles Collier, David Hobbs, Judy Stropus, R&T's Kim Wolfkill, Don Breslauer and many more key people in the classic car world. We had a great day!

➤ Reply

Ken Smith says: June 6, 2018 10:17 am

Love those Cunninghams!!

➤ Reply

Kevin Crow says: June 6, 2018 10:30 am

Special thanks to Chuck Schoendorf and his team for getting all the Cunninghams together.

An amazing effort not likely to be repeated! (AT least not by Chuck, in seems safe to say!!)

Also great to see Bill Wirth's 'original owner, unrestored' Sunbeam Tiger on display. Quite a rare beast among a great field of cars and bikes.

➤ Reply



AD

bill wright says: June 6, 2018 10:36 am

My home town for 66 years, I lived next to Roger Sherman park. I met briggs Cunningham and knew John Fitch quite well. I moved to Rhode Island and got active in antique cars until a stroke 4 years ago. Still like cars, can't drive stick shift any more since the stroke. WW

[➤ Reply](#)**Roberto Rodriguez says: June 6, 2018 12:16 pm**

This was the first time for the Seal Cove Auto Museum to show at the Greenwich Concours and it will most certainly not be our last. The show was first-class all the way, with a stunning field of cars; help and hospitality at every turn; and so many friends and acquaintances from the old car hobby there, that it was like being at a high school reunion. The Cunningham assemblage was beyond being awesome... Having attended several marque reunions, from Corbins to Underslung, the Cunningham display ranks at the top of the list. A perfect day, culminating with a best in class win for our 1904 Knox Tudor Surrey. To quote a well-worn line, "I'll be back."

[➤ Reply](#)**Leslie says: June 8, 2018 9:32 am**

Roberto, it was great meeting you at the lecture on Friday and then in front of the 1904 Knox on Saturday. Happy to hear about the class win—bring more cars next time! Brass Era cars are always fascinating.

[➤ Reply](#)**Barry Thomas says: June 6, 2018 12:39 pm**

Quite a variety of cars. Where else would you see a Volga or that little green English Ford(?) packed with people?

[➤ Reply](#)**Calle Carlquist says: June 6, 2018 4:07 pm**

It's not a Ford but a Moskvitch 400. The car is an almost exact copy of the prewar Opel Kadett, which is due to the fact that the Kadett production facilities were transferred to the Soviet Union after WWII.

[➤ Reply](#)**Dmitri Shvetsov says: June 6, 2018 11:44 pm**

Hi Barry:

I am glad you liked my Volga, which was awarded "Best in Class-International".

And "little green English Ford(?)" is actually a USSR-made Moskvitch-400 from 1951.

It is based on 1939 Opel Kadett.

And yes, the show was great this year!

[➤ Reply](#)

AD Gary G. says: June 6, 2018 5:23 pm

Boy, that Mustang GT350 really does it for me 😊

➡ Reply

Ron DeVito says: June 6, 2018 5:37 pm

Great show but I'm surprised you didn't get a photo of that stunning 60 Thunderbird. Just joking. Good job on the coverage.

➡ Reply

Bill Westerlund says: June 6, 2018 6:57 pm

Is that Packard wagon in photo 17 Mr. Harrah's former vehicle? I read that it not only have A/C but also had a roll cage installer by his shop without his knowledge....

➡ Reply

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