



2015 All British Field Meet

Story and Photos by Bruce Woloshyn



Every automobile enthusiast (or “*car guy / gal*” as I like to call them) has his or her favorite make and model. And, although I’ve always thought the Mercedes-Benz R107 was just about the prettiest machine I ever saw, I do admit that there are a few other pretty machines that catch my eye from time to time. Now, I might not admit it while at an MBCA Section meeting . . . but some of them are British. Dubbed “The Greatest Show on British Wheels,” the Vancouver All British Field Meet held on the on the Great Lawn of the world renowned Van Dusen Botanical Garden in Vancouver, is certainly the premier event in British Columbia to see more than 500 classic British-built vehicles and quietly admit, all pretty looking machines are not built by Mercedes.

The history of the event goes back farther, but the ABFM as we now know it began in 1992, with the husband-and-wife publishing team of Patrick and Joan Stewart. The Stewarts were interested in adding a classic car show component to their publishing and event company, Westco Marketing Ltd. My work in the film visual effects industry introduced me to my friend, Patrick and Joan’s son, Michael, and that is where my interest for British cars really began. Indeed, it is Michael that ensures my appreciation of British cars grows each year as he hosts my visit to the show. This year marks the show’s 30th anniversary.

The 2015 event had over 60 vehicle classes displaying everything from early pre-war Rolls-Royces to the latest models from Jaguar, Bentley, Aston Martin, Land Rover and McLaren.





2015 All British Field Meet

(continued)



As much as the leading British car companies had their latest-and-greatest on display, it is the British classic cars that are nearest and dearest to the hearts of the organizers. *"We want to encourage the next generation of enthusiasts to restore, rebuild or modify and drive today's generation of classic cars to ensure we have a future for the classic car hobby,"* said Patrick Stewart. *"Everyone in the classic car hobby these days is worried about the aging demographic of the hobby, which is estimated at 65 years for the average owner. It's up to those concerned to do what they can to encourage the youth of today to get involved so there will be a legacy to celebrate 10 years from now."*

However, at this year's 2015 All British Field Meet, there was certainly no shortage of classic vehicles to celebrate the legacy. From a 1954 MG TF, to a 1957 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud, to a 1963 Sunbeam Alpine, the legacy of British auto making was on full display. And, I must admit, Michael's hosting me to this event every spring may be starting to work . . . the R107 is still the prettiest car I ever saw . . . however, there certainly is something to be said for the classic E-Type Jaguar (but don't tell Michael). ☺

For a complete list of event winners at this year's event, visit Western Driver On-Line Magazine at http://www.westerndriver.com/?page_id=5490



Nothing says British automobile, quite like the hood of a Rolls-Royce. The Spirit of Ecstasy is the bonnet ornament on Rolls-Royce cars. It is in the form of a woman leaning forwards with her arms outstretched behind and above her. Billowing cloth runs from her arms to her back, resembling wings.



Rob Wilde's 1957 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud Sedan



Joseph's British Field Meet Photo Gallery

Joseph says, "Def Leppard and Jaguar . . . now THAT'S British!"



From C.O.N.T.R.O.L. to MI6 . . . Maxwell Smart to James Bond . . . all major agencies were represented.



Joseph says, "When I get this baby up to 88 mph, your gonna see some serious . . ."