



Event Organizer's Report 2016

Year 26, *"The Tradition Continues!"*

Sometimes it is hard to realize that twenty-six years have come and gone since the concept of creating a British Invasion was first discussed over a pint of English Ale at Ye Olde England Inne in Stowe, VT. The Invasion has grown from a couple of hundred British Motorcars to roughly six hundred who motor their way to the rustic village of Stowe, Vermont from near and far. If you visit the British Invasion Website, which contains a complete listing of all our weekend winners, you may be surprised to see their departure point as they headed off to Stowe, Vermont. We are joined by over one hundred British Motorcars who cross the border from Canada each year, including the Singer Owners' Club who continue to impress us each year with yet another creative Singer Owners Car Club display they bring from Canada and assemble for our enjoyment.

This year, we saw our largest attendance by the general Public and by our own Registrants at the Friday afternoon Registrants Reception, which was sponsored by the Stowe Area Association and featured Trapp Family Brews as they hosted their own Oktoberfest Celebration at the lodge. The Village of Stowe was awash with British Motorcars and Anglophiles as they crowded Main Street to listen to The Jerry Leone Chop Shop Band and dance in the street as the local population relished in a sea of British Motorcars.

We were fortunate to have dogged the bullet when it comes to rain. Saturday was a tad bit overcast but the temperature was pleasant and the show grounds were a glow with British Motorcar Owners and enthusiasts. We had a record number of outside vendors this year who all reported strong sales results. We anticipated rain on Sunday and many left for home early to dodge the rain. It did look like rain was at hand in the morning, but as the day progressed it never did rain and the weather constantly improved to our delight.

As the largest All British Motorcar Show in the Eastern United States, we managed to field 580 British Motorcars on Saturday, of which 85 had paid a premium to register on Friday afternoon for either the British Classic Motorcar Show (People's Choice) or the Car Corral. The Car Corral featured 29 British Classics available for purchase including a very nice Aston Martin

DB7, a Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, Austin-Healey's, Jaguar's, Triumph's, MGB's, MGC's, Land Rovers, and Lotus were available in the Car Corral.

The British Classic Motorcar Show (People's Choice) is where the vast majority of our entrants are located. We had 67 separate classes and we awarded 150 Awards to Class Winners. Our Best of Show Award went to Peter and Elaine Brainerd of Stony Creek, CT and their exceptional 1938 Bentley Pillarless Saloon.

The Concours d'Elegance, our Judged Competition, challenges owners to compete against other entrants, but also a Code of Excellence which set the scoring required to be awarded a Third, a Second, or a First Place Award. This year, the Best of Concours Award went to Robert Jefferson Jr, from Brookfield, MA with his 1953 Rolls-Royce, Silver Dawn.

The American Cancer Society, who managed General Admission Parking, raised a respectable amount of money for their cause during the Invasion Weekend. We also provided space for the "Good News Garage," who reported the attraction of support for their programs.

Sunday started with a few British Motorcars following along behind my '47 Bentley as we climbed over Smuggler's Notch and managed a 70 minute rural Vermont morning run. Meanwhile back at the Show Field, entrants were setting up for the "***Competition of Colors***" and also for the "***Tailgate Picnic Competition.***" "***The Best Tailgate Display***" Award went to ***Christina and Paul McCaffrey*** from Burlington, Vermont.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to the more than thirty volunteers who made the British Invasion the success it was as they helped with Field layout, Show Car Parking, Registration, Regalia Sales, General Admission, Concours Judging, Ballot Collection and Counting, the Awards Program, the Queen's Court, and then the breaking down of the show field and packing up. Once home everything needs to be unpacked, inventoried, and re-prepped for the next show, the ***British Motorcar Festival*** on June 9th-11th at Colt State Park in Bristol, RI.

We are hosting a Special Holiday Party at Linden Place in Bristol, RI on Saturday, December 3rd 2016. This is the weekend of the "***Grand Illumination***" in Bristol. We have this event posted on the British Motorcar Festival Website (www.britishmotorcarfestival.com) or you can contact me for details (mgaetano@britishmotorcarfestival.com)

A complete roster of all the Winners at British Invasion XXVI is available for your viewing pleasure on the British Invasion Website (www.Britishinvasion.com).

To all who attended and helped to make British Invasion XXVI a memorable weekend in scenic Stowe, Vermont over the past Twenty-Six years we say, ***“Thank You”***. We wish you many miles of carefree and enjoyable touring in your British Classic.

Michael F. Gaetano

Event Organizer