

Concours d'Elegance

Written by Erinn McGuire

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Hilton Head Island's marvelous motoring festival turns ten.

Vicki Head estimates that she's owned about 117 cars in the 39 and 1/2 years she and her husband Bill Head have been married. That works out to about a new car every four months.

It makes sense though. The couple owns H&H Auto Service and H&H Auto Body on Hilton Head Island and automobiles are a way of life.

Vicki is a board member of this year's Hilton Head Island Motoring Festival & Concours d'Elegance. She might be the first woman to hold that position but she is certainly no stranger to the premier car show. She and Bill have participated in various capacities as volunteers, exhibitors and sponsors since the beginning.

Now in its 10th year, the Hilton Head Island Motoring Festival & Concours d' Elegance will focus the design and engineering of German-made vehicles, in particular BMW. BMW is this year's

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marquee sponsor.

The Heads will show a 1963 Mercedes-Benz 280 SE as part of the upcoming Car Club Jamboree, one of four events during the multi-day festival devoted to luxury, power and speed.

The entire event is expected to draw an estimated 15,000 people from across the country, according to Vice President of Operations Lindsey Harrell.

"It started as a fundraising event and it's grown into its own thing," she said. "We've grown nationally."



This is a great thing for people living here to have in their own backyard."

The Hilton Head Island Motoring Festival & Concours d'Elegance earned the distinction of being one of the nation's signature automobile events and was recently named to the Southeast Tourism Society's "Top 20 Events" list, event organizers cite.

"This is a chance to see one-of-a-kind vehicles; vehicles that there's maybe only one or two of or one of 20 in the world," Harrell said. "It's not what you see on the road today. These are museum-quality vehicles; they're works of art and pieces of history."

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A part of that history will include a rare 1940 BMW 335 Cabriolet from Colorado, one of the last pre-World War II models in existence, according to those connected to the show.

On the Sunday before things revved up though, the BMW was safely parked in a garage at Bill Head's auto business off Cardinal Road, transported earlier in the week after making an appearance at another car show in Atlanta.

The car's front vertical grill and blue, white and black BMW emblem is unmistakable. Black with plush red leather interior, suicide doors and convertible top, this vehicle is valued around \$200,000.

Only 400 were ever manufactured in Germany; with only 45 being the cabriolet model, according to Phil Capossela, the chairman of the board.

This particular vehicle was acquired by an American intelligence officer during World War II and was shipped to California.

"Today, there's only eight left in the world," he said. Capossela spent 30 years with BMW after retiring six years ago.

This special BMW be one of 150 vehicles on display on the last day of the event, Sunday, Nov. 6.

As the marquee sponsor, four categories of vehicles will be highlighted during this year's event: BMW Pre World War II; BMW Post WWII; BMW Race Cars and BMW Motorcycles.

Fifteen of the best BMWs from the BMW Car Club of America will be shown the day before the Concours on Saturday, Nov. 5, during the Car Club Jamboree at the Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn.

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he Heads will be there, along with vehicles from 16 car clubs from around the country. The Jamboree is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will pay special homage to German-made vehicles, to include BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, Porsche and Volkswagen.

“Half of the day will be dedicated to demonstrating the renowned engineering of Germany,” according to the event’s organizers.

Tickets for the Jamboree are \$30 and can be bought on-site. Two-day ticket packages are also available for \$50. Visit www.hhiconcours.com or call (843) 785-7469 for complete ticketing information

A trip down memory lane

“The Jamboree is a really fun day,” Vicki Head said. “When you go, it’s really like you have déjà vu. These are the cars that you had your first kiss in or it’s the kind of car your grandparents

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drove. These are the cars that people are really passionate about and they're the kind of cars that all of us can aspire to own or maybe did own at one time. You think, 'I might be able to have that one day' or 'I wish I hadn't given up that car.'"

Vicki can relate.

Even though lots of cars have come and gone from the Head's garage, she still remembers her second and third cars.

"My husband was horrified to learn that I didn't even own a car when we first met," she said.

That quickly changed and before too long she was behind the wheel of a 1969 Chevy Camaro RS and then a 1969 Buick Cutlass.

"I wish I had that Camaro today. It didn't have power steering, so I didn't really like it. But then I got a '69 Cutlass, which I loved and I wish I had one of those today."

The need for speed

Things shift into high gear on Friday, Oct. 28, the first day of the festival, across the state line with

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