



Event Organizer's Report 2017

Year 27, *"The Tradition Continues!"*

It is hard to realize that twenty-seven 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 over six hundred British Motorcars that found their way to the rustic village of Stowe, Vermont this year. If you visit the British Invasion Website (www.britishinvasion.com), which contains a complete listing of all our weekend winners, you may be surprised to see where some of our Winnes reside, when not in Stowe, Vermont for British Invasion weekend.

This year saw the largest attendance by the general Public and by our own Registrants for the Friday evening Main Street Party in downtown Stowe. 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 to dance in the street.

2017 brought the warmest weather we have experienced in 27 years of producing the British Invasion in Stowe, Vermont. Our Ice Cream Vendor reported brisk sales, as did those vendors selling water.

As the largest All British Motorcar Show in the Eastern United States, we managed to field 610 British Motorcars on Saturday, of which 58 had paid a premium to register on Friday afternoon for either the British Classic Motorcar Show (People's Choice) or the Car Corral.

The British Classic Motorcar Show (People's Choice) is where the vast majority of our entrants are located. We had 65 separate classes and we awarded 150 Awards to Class Winners. Our Best of Show Award went to Bill Johnson and his grandchildren of Wakefield, Rhode Island and their 1926 Bentley Open Tourer.

The Concours d'Elegance, our Judged Competition, challenges owners not only to compete against other entrants, but also against a Code of Excellence which sets the minimum score required to be awarded a Third, a Second, or a First Place Award. This year, the ***Best of Concours Award*** went to Jim and Kathy Whalen of Loudonville, New York and their 1967 Austin Healey BJ8 Roadster. ***First Place in Preservation Class*** went to Ann Sullivan from Stowe, Vermont and her 1960 Austin Healey 3000 Roadster. Special Awards in Concours included the "***Chairman's Award***," which was presented to Jim Macri of High Meadows Farm in Vermont for his collection of Land Rovers. Another Special Award in Concours was the "***British Motorcar Enthusiast Award***" for Life Achievement with British Motorcars that was awarded to John Magee of Warren, Rhode Island.

The American Cancer Society, who managed General Admission Parking, raised a respectable amount of money for their cause during the Invasion Weekend.

Sunday started with our largest following of British Motorcars for the morning "Notch Run." I believe we attracted 38 Motorcars who followed 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***."

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 8th-11th at Colt State Park in Bristol, RI.

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

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

Michael F. Gaetano

Event Organizer