



1993 VECTOR W8 (SN #016)

## Las Vegas Concours d'Elegance Announces 2021 Showcase of Automotive Excellence

The prestigious Las Vegas Concours d'Elegance (LVCE), presented by Towbin Motorcars of Las Vegas, has announced it will again bring more than 100 of the most famous magnificent collector cars to the entertainment capital of the world. The LVCE founder and chairman, Stuart Sobek, hopes to form some future alliance with NBAA, in the hopes of solidifying the bond between Collector Car owners and the world of private and business aircraft; many people who own one usually also own the other. That alliance could bring great added synergy to two significant Las Vegas events.

What relationship would a Concours d'Elegance have with airplanes? Many of the cars have aerospace engineering and manufacturing techniques. For example, the early 90's VECTOR W8 (originally marketed as a fighter jet for the street) was manufactured with many aspects from the aerospace industry from its gauges to its construction.

Now in its second year, the "crème de la crème" of automobile shows, the 2021 Las Vegas Concours d'Elegance, scheduled for October 21-24, also announced an exciting new venue and opening day soiree called Concours d'Avant. The concours will feature several of the world's most magnificent collector cars and over 15



classes of cars ranging from 1903 to today's latest showstoppers. "We initially set out to ensure that our inaugural event would earn its rightful place among the famed concours showings and competitions from around the world," notes founder, Stuart Sobek, "and we achieved our goal. Now we are focused on elevating our second year to even greater heights." Sobek's 2021 planning includes a new show venue that blends 70-years of famed Concours elegance with one of today's most up-to-the-minute sports facilities –

the Las Vegas Ballpark in Summerlin.

The relationship to aircraft lineage continues with the venue. The recently completed \$150 million stadium, owned by Howard Hughes Corporation, features a lush grass infield for spectator viewing and the league's largest Daktronics LED video screen overhead with nearly 4,000 square feet of visual display (measuring 31 x 126 feet) for exciting close-up coverage of the world's most beautiful classic cars drawn from exclusive private collections and famous automotive museums. It's no coincidence that the shape of the grandstand is designed to look like an aircraft fuselage with wings, paying tribute to Hughes Aircraft and Howard Hughes' love of flying.

Finally, and most importantly, Las Vegas Concours

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Pictured above left are the F-117 Nighthawk and the VECTOR W8; the company car? Above right, Paul T. Glessner poses quickly after stopping the VECTOR WX-3 Avtech in front of Los Angeles City Hall; police are just “gobsmacked.”

## 2021 Showcase of Automotive Excellence...

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d’Elegance is further taking flight through its ties to the charity, Miracle Flights, the Las Vegas-based nonprofit that utilizes and provides free air transportation to children and adults who need help reaching specialized medical care far from home [www.miracleflights.org](http://www.miracleflights.org).

“In every respect, Concours d’Elegance is the crème de la crème of automobile shows. It transcends basic

motoring history and instead, elevates truly outstanding and amazing vehicles to a captivating art form,” notes Sobek. Continuing, he notes, “Perhaps a ‘Concours d’Avion’ is in the future for Las Vegas!”

For further information about the 2021 Las Vegas Concours d’Elegance, visit [www.lasvegasconcours.com](http://www.lasvegasconcours.com) or call 702.992.0512.

## Interview with Ed Bolen...

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about getting people where they need to be when they need to be there. Our convention will be a celebration of technology and innovation. We will focus on key issues like workforce development, sustainability, and security. Products and services that impact all of those things will be on display. It will be a high-energy event that I think people will be glad they had the opportunity to attend and experience.

**BAJUSA:** What is the job market looking like post-pandemic?

**EB:** It’s interesting. Early in 2020 before we all understood Covid, everybody recognized that there were real challenges on the workforce front. We needed pilots, technicians, and others to come into the industry so we could attract and retain the best and the brightest. Then the pandemic hit, and it felt like the bottom kind of fell out. Commercial airlines laid off thousands of pilots, and flight hours were down across the board. But in less than a year, everything has rebounded. We are back where we were, recognizing the importance of devel-

oping a pipeline of talent. The importance of reaching out and bringing in people who are underrepresented in our industry today is a top priority. We want to reach out to schools and work with a whole new generation of people coming into the industry.

**BAJUSA:** Do you recommend anything for people who want to find jobs in aviation?

**EB:** We hope that they will interact with NBAA. We have student memberships available, and we try to hold events that welcome students. At our NBAA-BACE convention in October, we’ll have a Student Day where we can bring young people in and prepare them for the job market and the multitude of opportunities available in business aviation. We encourage them to network in our industry and find scholarships, internships, and mentors to help them along the way.

**BAJUSA:** Thank you, Ed, for your time and this insightful interview and BizAvJets USA looks forward to seeing you at NBAA’s BACE!

For more information, visit [www.nbaa.org](http://www.nbaa.org).