

# the Orange County Star

Happy Holidays



egg nog and grab some gingerbread, and take a ride on the MBCA-OC sleigh!

**#Ten:** Christmas, as most of us know, is the Christian tradition honoring the birth of Christ though it is not celebrated solely as such in our modern society. To most, Christmas represents a time of joy, gift-giving and family. Christmas as we know it evolved out of the Roman tradition of Saturnalia, a festival honoring their god of agriculture, Saturn, on the winter solstice.

Due to the already-rampant celebration taking place on the date and the revering of light and the sun, it was a natural development to celebrate the birth of Christ on the same date.

Many Roman writers give references to the date of December 25th and Christianity between the 2nd and 3rd centuries, and it is believed that the holiday was widely celebrated by Christians by the turn of the 4th century. Though Christmas is celebrated as the birth of Jesus Christ, we don't know the exact date, or even the year of his birth.

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TEN ORIGINS OF COMMON CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

It's the Christmas season again, and before we get sick of the egg nog, fruitcake, and Christmas music played ad nauseam, we get to enjoy it for a couple weeks. But have you ever wondered where some of our strange Christmas traditions come from? I mean, we tell kids that a fat man is coming into our homes at night; we bring in trees to shed all over the carpet; and we kiss under parasitic plants all in the holiday spirit. How the hell are these even related to Jesus, whose birthday we're supposed to be celebrating?

Well, sit back, pour a glass of some

GIFT WRAPPING



The use of wrapping paper is first documented in ancient China, where paper was invented in 2nd century BC. In the Southern Song dynasty, monetary gifts were wrapped with paper, forming an envelope known as a chih pao.

The wrapped gifts were distributed by the Chinese court to government officials. In the Chinese text Thien Kung Khai Wu, Sung Ying-Hsing states that the coarsest wrapping paper is manufactured with rice straws and bamboo fiber.

Although the Hall brothers Rollie and Joyce Hall, founders of Hallmark Cards, did not invent gift wrapping, their innovations led to the development of modern gift wrapping.

They helped to popularize the idea of decorative gift wrapping in the 20th century, and according to Joyce Hall, "the decorative gift-wrapping business was born the day Rollie placed those French envelope linings on top of that showcase.





MEMBER RECOGNITION

Welcome



MBCA OC MEMBER

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER

Judy David, Terri Gick-Pack, Kris Kroc, Samuel Mayhugh, Brian Rosete, Wallace Skok, Paul Smalley, Joseph Tabet, Judith Walker, Donald Kelliher, Anthony Stewart, Padmesh Patel, Desiree Temple, Lari Thomas, Boyd Warner

If we've missed your name in this issue, we apologize. Please contact us and we'll be sure to get you in our next issue.

ocmbca@gmail.com

- M. Ward

Wishing you a Happy Holidays!



MEMBERTALK

MISTLETOE

Mistletoe is one of the many Christmas holiday traditions that, frankly, most people do not understand but play along with anyway. But mistletoe's magical hold over holiday lovers goes back way before the first office Christmas party.

There are hundreds of species of mistletoe a parasitic green plant that grows on trees and shrubs that can be found around the world, and as such, many cultures have worked the plant into their customs and mythology.

Many ancient groups associated mistletoe with fertility and vivacity, and some considered it an aphrodisiac.

The tradition of kissing under the mistletoe started in ancient Greece, during the festival of Saturnalia and later in marriage ceremonies, because of the plant's association with fertility. During the Roman era, enemies at war would reconcile their differences under the mistletoe, which to them represented peace. Romans also decorated their houses and temples with mistletoe in midwinter to please their gods.





REAR VIEW MIRROR



Continued on page 1



**#Nine:** Gift Giving. It's sometimes said that the tradition of gift giving started with the 3 wise men, who visited Jesus and gave him gifts of myrrh, frankincense, and gold. If you want to start a Christmas tradition, I suppose the first Christmas would be a good date to start. As with many other entries on this list though, the true origin of gift-giving lies in Pagan beliefs.

During Saturnalia, children would often be given gifts of wax dolls – an act with a rather macabre history itself; the dolls were used to represent human sacrifices that Rome had given to Saturn in the past as payment for good harvests. Boughs of certain trees and other plant matter were also a common gifts during Saturnalia, and were used to represent bounty and good harvests.



**#Eight:** X-MAS, that's right X-mas not X-Men. While some rather ignorant groups in the Americas believe that the abbreviation "x-mas" is an attempt by the "dirty liberals" to "keep the Christ out of Christmas", the true origins have a strong basis in Christianity. In the abbreviation, the X stands for the Greek letter Chi, the first letter of the Greek word for Christ.

Jesus' name has also been abbreviated as XP, a combination of the first and second letters of the Greek word for Christ. From XP comes the labarum, a holy symbol in Orthodox Christianity that represents Jesus.

The term X-mas has been used since the 16th century, though it gained prominent usage in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the modern world, X has been taken to be used as an abbreviation for any word with Christ or the "krys" sound in it, even in words which have no etymological connection. Chrysanthemum, for example, is sometime shortened to "xant" on florist's signs, and crystal has sometimes been abbreviated as "xtal".

**#Seven:** Wreaths. Since classical antiquity, the wreath has been used as a symbol of power and strength. In Rome and Greece, kings and emperors often wore laurel

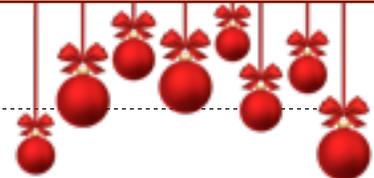


wreathes as crowns – a practice they themselves borrowed from the Etruscans, who predated them. The Greeks and the Romans connected the laurel wreath to their sun god, Apollo, and considered the crown to embody his values.

Continued on page 6



Meeting adjourned. Next Board Mtg, November 3, 2018 @ 12noon  
- Ann-Marie Alexander



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**FOLLOW THE STAR**

**DOWN MEMORY LANE**

**The Mercedes-Benz Auto 2000 The Car Of The Future**

Following the star and traveling back to the future, what do you think people in the early 1980's imagined when they thought the "Car of the Future", would they look like spaceships, would they fly making highways obsolete like the Jetsons? Who knows, but the government of Germany had their eyes on a far more realistic and ultimate goal. As the world still reeled from the energy crisis of the 1970's and as auto manufactures for the first time in history began to adopt computer technology in their vehicles, the Germans invested a ton of money into developing super efficient, super safe prototype vehicles for display at the 1981 Frankfurt Auto Show.

"Safety first" seemed to be the theme at the Frankfurt Motor Show of 1981. But as well as the occupant protection issues, Mercedes-Benz was simultaneously addressing environmental concerns, the Auto 2000 was a pioneering concept with frugality high up on the agenda.

The Frankfurt Auto Show always offers up some surprises and in 1981 this was no different; in addition to the



production car debuts such as the W126 S-Class coupé and Porsche 944, several design studies also captured visitor interest. Mercedes surprised in the climate of unbridled performance with three versions of its Auto 2000 concept car. It sounded like the future – after all, the year 2000 was still 19 years away – and in retrospect, it even gave styling cues to the W140 S-Class which went on sale a decade later.

Aerodynamics lessons learnt in Stuttgart several years earlier during the development of the W126 flagship were built upon, resulting in the Auto 2000 concealing its windshield wipers and washers behind the A-pillars. Also, the sloping tail was more than a styling feature: the 'Kamm-tail' is a drag-reduction feature which can be found today on most current hybrids. The interesting transformation of the once-conservative estate car had only one goal: to use aerodynamics and mechanical ingenuity to create a car as parsimonious with fuel as possible.

Mercedes dug deep within its design department to produce three prototype vehicles each with a different propulsion method and innovative design features.



The second car had a 3.3-litre six-cylinder diesel engine with twin turbochargers, and managed an impressive average of 31.3mpg at 75mph. However, it was the third version that was the most pioneering: a gas-turbine engine which brought several benefits, including low-pollutant combustion, low weight, compact dimensions, favorable torque characteristics, and the elimination of water cooling.

technological and design features that have made their way into Mercedes cars decades later. And given that gas turbine technology is yet to be used in a full-scale production car, perhaps its influence will continue decades into the future.

The first was a petrol-engined V8 with an inventive cylinder shutdown system: four of the engine's cylinders were idled to conserve fuel under partial engine load, a technology which is only making its way into mainstream Mercedes models three decades later.

The concept was still considered novel when it was used in the Jaguar C-X75 of 2010 – a testament to how forward-thinking the early-1980s Mercedes engineering department was. While it might not have been a styling icon, the Auto 2000 concept had a raft of



*Did you know?*

IN THE UNITED STATES, AN ADDITIONAL FIVE MILLION TONS OF WASTE ARE GENERATED OVER THE CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING PERIOD; FOUR MILLION TONS OF THIS IS WRAPPING PAPER.





# RIVERSIDE

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# Mercedes-Benz Holiday Classics

WATCH ONE OF THESE FILMS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT A SILVER STAR!



people, specifically in the burials of saints and martyrs.

**# Six:**Stockings. Many people know of Saint Nicholas being the basis of Santa Claus, but the practice of stocking-stuffing can be traced back to his charitable donations in the 4th century. Nicholas believed

that childhood should be savored and enjoyed – but in a time where boys and girls younger than 10 had to work to support their families, this wasn't always possible.

He therefore gave what he could in homemade food, clothes, and furniture. The bishop even gave out oranges, which would have been very rare and expensive in Lycia, where he lived. The

problem became where to leave these gifts so that the children would find them. According to legends, he then saw girls' stockings hanging above the fireplace, and ol' Saint Nick (to paraphrase) thought "Why the hell not?". From then on, children would hang stockings up hoping that Saint Nicholas would visit them that night.

Beyond St. Nick, the practice can be traced back to Scandinavian countries that still held their Pagan beliefs. Children would leave their shoes full of carrots, straw, or other similar foods for Odin's mythic horse, Sleipnir. When Sleipnir ate the food, Odin would leave candy or other treats in their place.

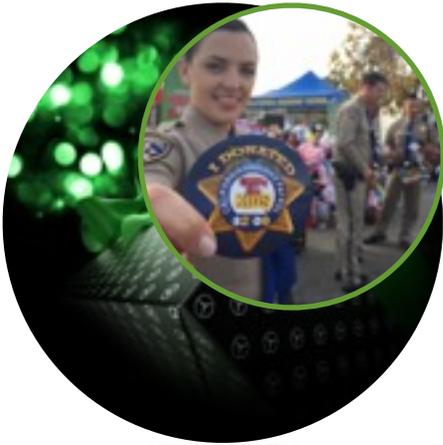
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Harvest wreathes; the predecessors to our modern decorations were used in rituals for good harvests, and predate even written history. Ancient European animists often used evergreen in their wreathes to symbolize strength and fortitude, as an evergreen will live through even the harshest of winters. As for the connection to Christianity, since wreathes symbolized tenacity and everlasting life, they were often used in funerals of important





AROUND THE BEND  
*Upcoming Events*



STARTIVITIES CALENDAR

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

**Dates**

December 2 - RADwood | 1am-4pm  
Petersen Automotive Museum - LA

**Dates**

December 7 - CHiP's For Kids Toy Drive  
Kick Off Event 2pm - 9pm Riverside

**Dates**

December - Holiday Party Postponed

**Dates**

January 19 - How to Prepare & Show  
Your Car at Concours

**StarDrives & Other Startivities  
Coming Soon! Stay Tuned.**

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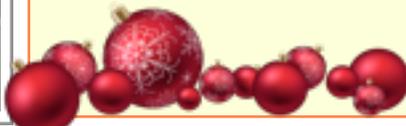
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**Road Captain | Startivities**

**David Stillwell**

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and a Happy New Year from AMG!

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*Continued from page 6*

**#Five:** Christmas Tree. The modern Christmas tree differs greatly from its roots; today, we decorate an everlasting, artificial construct with bright lights and dazzling ornaments, while traditionally, the tree was of course, real and more importantly, decorated with edibles such as apples and nuts. The tradition, as with that of the wreath, started with the elements symbolized by evergreens in pre-Christian winter festivals: immortality and fortitude.

The evergreen was also known to have represented the same values to a variety of cultures, including the Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews. The worship of trees was also very common in European druidism and paganism. In Christian tradition, trees were often put up in December to serve the dual purpose of warding off the devil and allowing a perch for whatever birds still remained. Evergreen trees decorated

Today, Boxing Day is known as a shopping day similar to Black Friday. Many important sporting events are also commonly held on the holiday. Boxing day grew out of St. Stephen's day, a Christian holiday that commemorates the eponymous St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. St. Stephen was a deacon in an early church in Jerusalem.

After an argument with members of the synagogue, he was accused of blasphemy. While waiting for his trial, he said he had seen God the Father and Son, though this wasn't enough to save him – he was stoned anyway.

**#Two.** Mistletoe. Now while we did cover mistletoe in the Member Talk area, it's still a good idea to read on as there is

with apples and wafers were also used in Christmas Eve plays during the Middle Ages to represent the tree from which Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. As for decoration, the first evidence for decorated Christmas trees comes from German craftsman guilds during the Renaissance. After the Protestant Reformation, trees enjoyed a surge of popularity among Protestant households as counterparts to the Catholic nativity scene.

**#Four.** Caroling. Christmas carols grew out of the first Christmas hymns, which developed in 4th century Rome. While these Latin hymns were sung in church for generations, the first true carols developed in France, Germany, and Italy in the 13th century. These carols, written in the vernacular language of the area they were composed, were enthusiastically sung at community events and festivals. They were not composed specifically as Christmas carols, but rather as conglomerate holiday songs that were

more information to be learned about it and its tradition.

Mistletoe is a parasitic plant which perches on a tree branch and absorbs nutrients from the trunk – hardly one of the most romantic forms of life. But it has been inspiring people to go at it for generations. Mistletoe has a large mythological background across many cultures.

The Greeks believed that Aeneas, the famous ancestor of the Romans carried a sprig of mistletoe in the form of the legendary golden bough. In Eddic tradition, mistletoe was the only thing able to kill the god Baldur, since it had not sworn an oath to leave him alone.

Amongst other pre-Christian cultures, mistletoe was believed to carry the male

sung at many separate festivals and celebrations.

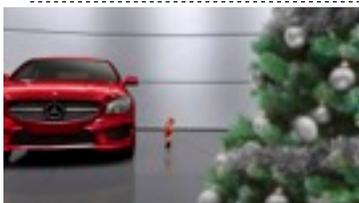
Later on, the songs would become associated primarily with Christmas and sung in numerous churches. Carols in Protestant churches were much more numerous, since the Protestant movement encouraged the arts, especially music. The modern practice of going door-to-door caroling likely has something to do with the root word for carol, "carole" or "carula" which both mean a circular dance. The practice may have developed out of the public ceremonies that created the first carols.

**#Three.** Boxing Day, and no we aren't talking about getting in the ring and boxing. Boxing Day is, as opposed to the rest of this list, an instance where a secular holiday grew out of a religious one. In most English speaking countries, Boxing Day is traditionally the day following Christmas in which people receive gifts from their bosses or employers.

essence, and by extension, romance, fertility, and vitality.

Its use as decoration stems from the fact that it was believed to protect homes from fire and lightning. It was commonly hung at Christmas time only to remain there all year until being replaced by another sprig next Christmas. The process by which mistletoe became associated with kissing is currently unknown, but it was first recorded in 16th century England as a very popular practice. Mistletoe carries a pretty good legacy, for a parasite of a plant that causes diarrhea and stomach pain when ingested.

*Continued on page 9*



Give the gift of performance this holiday season. Use you MBCA-OC discount with K&N this holiday season.





*Continued from page 8*

We've taken you on a sleigh ride throughout these pages of our holiday issue and now you've made it down to **#One**. Santa!

Most people know that Santa's origins lie in Saint Nicholas, that generous Saint who gave presents to needy children. However, many other figures evolved into the conglomerate we call Santa Claus.

For one, the Dutch Sinterklaas, who himself has basis with Saint Nick, was the main inspiration for Santa Claus. He is nearly identical to Santa: he wears red and white, knows if you're naughty or nice, and has elf helpers referred to as Zwarte Piet. However, the legend takes on a much darker legend when one hears that the Zwarte Piet's duties also include punishing naughty children with "jute bags and willow canes". He also differs from Santa in the facts that he wears a bishop's hat and comes on steam boat from Spain, rather than the North Pole.

Another large influence into Santa's design is the British Father Christmas, a figure developed in the 17th century as the embodiment of holiday joy and mirth. Odin also exists as a potential pagan inspiration for Santa Claus; he lead a

hunting party with other gods on Yule, a German holiday at roughly the same time as Christmas; he rode Sleipnir, a legendary horse with 8 legs; like Santa, he has 8 reindeer; and he would fill children's' boots with candy, as mentioned earlier.



The modern Santa Claus, contrary to popular belief, was not created by Coca-Cola, but has been in American folklore since the late 18th century. His name comes from an Americanization of Sinterklaas, and somewhere along the way, he lost his bishop's hat. One could write an entire list on the origins of individual components of Santa's story – suffice to say that they all have

interesting origins, and I would suggest further reading.

There may be a couple levels of separation, but nearly every strange traditions we practice around the holiday season stem from Christianity, and further than that, even have a basis in Pagan religions and pre-Christian traditions. And really, do the connections to Christianity even matter? Christmas is the one time of year where everyone (or nearly so) is friendly, generous and gets along with each other, does it matter the inspiration? As a non-Christian, I believe we can all learn something from the Christmas spirit, regardless of race, religion, or creed.



*Happy Holidays!*



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# ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A 2018 MERCEDES-AMG E63 S



## MBCA's 2018 Fall Raffle

### Details & Dates

- Prize: 2018 Mercedes-AMG E63 S
- MSRP: \$128,920
- Tickets are \$50 (US) each
- Last day to purchase tickets is Wednesday, December 5, 2018
- Drawing is Thursday, December 13, 2018
- For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [raffle.mbca.org](http://raffle.mbca.org), call the NBO at **800-637-2360** or check your mailbox for an official mail-in order form.

Open to MBCA Members only. Must be 18 years of age or older. No limit on the number of tickets one member may purchase. The winner will choose an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealership where a check in the amount of \$96,690 (US) will be sent. The winner will shop for their vehicle at the dealership of their choice. If fewer than 5,150 tickets are sold, the raffle prize will be one-half (50%) of the gross raffle ticket sales - less Federal withholding of 25%, or at least \$5,000 (less withholding), whichever is greater. Vehicle featured in this ad is representative only. Odds of winning depend on the total number of tickets sold. Must be a current Member of MBCA at the time of purchase and day of the prize drawing. Members may attend the drawing (not required to enter or win). 100% of net raffle proceeds shall be devoted exclusively to the lawful purpose of MBCA International Stars Section. License Number R49608.

Image in contest promotional materials does not entirely represent actual prize being won.  
Photo Credit: Mercedes-Benz USA



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The holidays are a time for friends, family and celebrations. Unfortunately, they are also the time when accidents involving drunk or drugged drivers increase.

Because of this, the National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration had deemed December National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention/Awareness Month to help educate the public of the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

The best way to stay safe during this month of celebration and beyond is to understand the very real risks of drugs and alcohol, to commit to always driving sober and to stick to the following tips.

### Tips For A Safe Holiday Season

The following tips for a safe holiday can help you have fun and enjoy the season without risking the chance of getting a DUI or causing an accident due to drug or alcohol use.

#### Plan Ahead

With a full calendar of office parties and holiday get-togethers, it's easy to find yourself under the influence and away from home. It's much easier to designate a driver to get you home safely before you're under the influence. Planning ahead before you head out to celebrate can keep you safe and prevent an accident.



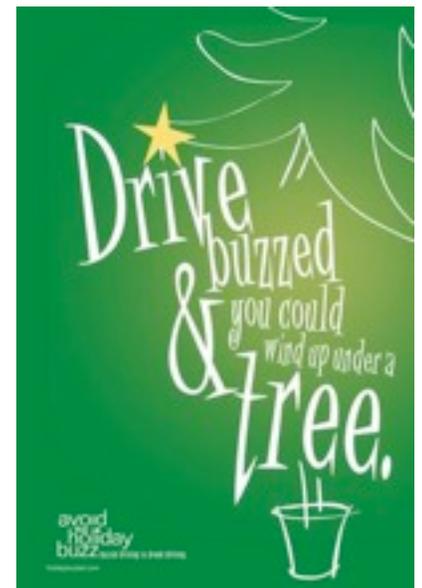
#### Take The Keys

What if you see someone you know stagger out of a party and into their car? Like the slogan goes, "friends don't let friends drive drunk." If we all applied this rule of thumb, there would be far fewer injuries and deaths due to drunk or drugged driving.

Yes, it can be difficult to stop someone who is drunk or high from getting behind the wheel, but it's far easier than having to feel partially responsible for a needless accident. Offer a ride, pay the cab fare or let someone sleep over. Just don't let anyone drive when they are unable to safely do so.

#### Be A Responsible Host

As the host of a party, you have a responsibility to ensure your guests get home safely. This can be accomplished by offering transportation to and from the event, serving non-alcoholic beverages and cutting off the alcohol at least an hour or more before the party ends.





We are always looking for volunteers to chime in with ideas, planning, and coordinating events.

**How To Show Your Car At Concours 01/19/19**

Two-time Best of Show winner Jeff Wong and MBCA Concours Judge Anne-Marie Alexander will present a two-hour class entitled How to Show Your Car at a Concours.

We will provide a broad overview of what a concours is, the judging standards, and how awards are given.

Then we will give a timeline of preparation - long term, short term, and day before/day of. Included in this session are tools/products/tips that we have found helpful.

We'll go into what to expect at the show as well as the do's and don'ts. Finally, we will review a sample car from the judging point of view.



Tickets are free for members, \$10 for non-members (cash at the door). RSVP to [ocmbca@gmail.com](mailto:ocmbca@gmail.com).

The event will be at the Loreley Room at the Phoenix Club in Anaheim. 1pm-3pm

Any updates or changes to the itinerary will be posted on the OC Section Website.



See you there!

IS YOUR  A  STAR?

We all love our vehicles! If you'd like to feature your Mercedes-Benz vehicle(s) in a future issue of the OC Star Newsletter or if you have an interesting story or photo with you and your Benz regarding a road trip or anything else you'd like to share or feature, please submit them digital format via e-mail to: [ocmbca@gmail.com](mailto:ocmbca@gmail.com) We look forward to your submissions.





**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**



Mercedes Benz Club of America.  
Your Opinions, Please Share!



**SAVE THE DATE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**STAR TRADITIONS**

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**



Ho Ho Ho, Holidays are fast approaching. We regret to inform you the OC Holiday Party will be postponed until 2019.



For more info contact MBCA-OC StarExperiences at [ocmbca@gmail.com](mailto:ocmbca@gmail.com)

December 7 - CHP Toy Drive in Riverside. Kick Off Event 2pm-9pm  
**DECEMBER TO REMEMBER - TOY DRIVE**



Improve your skills, whatever you drive.



JANUARY 19, 2019 - Phoenix Club - Anaheim

**HOW TO PREPARE & SHOW YOUR CAR AT A CONCOURS**

Section member Jeff Wong (winner of Best in Show at Legends of the Autobahn 2017) and MBCA-OC Section Board Member, Secretary Anne-Marie Alexander (concours judge for MBCA) will be presenting a two-hour class on how to prepare and show your car at concours.

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