

# Day in the life of ...

Interview & photography: Jeff Glen

## SANDRA KASKY

As co-chairman of the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, the world's most prestigious car event makes for a very long day.

**The Concours began almost** as an afterthought to accompany the European style road races through the forest at Pebble Beach. In 1957 racing became too dangerous for the roads and was moved inland to the new Laguna Seca track. The Concours continued at the Pebble Beach site.

I live at the Lodge at Pebble Beach for a week during the build-up, leading to the Concours on the Sunday. On the big day, I get up at 3.30am, and dress in something warm because of the fog – professional attire, but with training shoes because we are running all over the place. I meet with my staff and the committee heads for the 500 volunteers at the office between 4.00 and 4.30. We go over last minute details before dawn.

I am so wound up, breakfast is the last thing on my mind. I spend the breakfast hour watching the cars roll onto the field, greeting the entrants. Some you have heard about or are anxious to see, while others maybe looked a little ho-hum in the pictures, but when you see them in person, wow! I liken it to seeing a woman you know at a party who just looks stunning that particular night. Cars can be the same.

**“There are really no secrets behind the scenes. What people don't see, but may sense, is that crackle of intensity”**

There are 120 judges in total and I conduct the judges meeting. It is a friendly affair, as many of the judges have been involved with the event for more than 20 years. Once the judging is underway I take the opportunity to walk the field. Then I will spend some time with sponsors and with William Perocchi, CEO of Pebble Beach Company, making sure they are happy. After all, they give us this perfect green felt on which we place our beautiful jewellery.

Late in the morning there is a quick break before we go through the judging results. I then change into my ‘show clothes’ which almost always include a hat and heels.

The noon hour pulls me back to the Lodge for the judges meeting where results are reviewed. There are really no secrets behind the scenes. What people don't see, but may sense, is that crackle of intensity. The judging standards are so high that they attract the best cars, perfectly restored. It is a reflection of the entrants' passion and love for the automobile, but it is still a show and it is still fun.

In the afternoon, the winning cars are driven onto a stage to accept their awards. The Concours concludes with the highest award, ‘Best of Show’. The champagne flows from the ramp to the afterparty at the Beach and Tennis Club. Then we wander over to the Gooding Auction and are in bed by midnight.

### Below

When Pebble Beach rolls around, Sandra Kasky is already six months into planning the next year's event.

