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10,157 attend Classics and Chrome

Record-breaking crowd enjoys two days of automotive history

ROCKFORD, IL – A spectacular assortment of world class vehicles was on display this weekend at the 11th Classics and Chrome Car Show, presented by State Farm Insurance, and a record-breaking crowd showed up to enjoy it. Show officials report the two-day attendance totaled 10,157 patrons, the largest draw in the show's 11-year history.

"Every year our goal is to exceed the previous year's turnout, but this weekend was truly off the charts," said Alan Gibby, Head of Keith Country Day School. "Our selection committee has turned Classics and Chrome into the premier car show in the Northern Illinois. Keith Country Day School is so lucky to have a group of dedicated individuals help us put on such a first-class event."

More than 125 vehicles filled up the old Menards building in Machesney Park. The show featured a wide range of cars and motorcycles including pre- and post-war cars, muscle cars, sports cars, hot rods and custom cars, exotic and race cars, special interest cars and of course, motorcycles. Although an official tally is still being totaled, event organizers expect more than \$40,000 to be raised for Keith Country Day School.

Ten cars were given show awards, eight by class, a Committee's Choice Best of Show Award and the People's Choice Award. James Heinsohn of Huntley, IL was honored with the Committee's Choice Best of Show Award for his 1923 Studebaker Speedster. Teri and Bernie Evans of Muskego, WI claimed the coveted People's Choice Award with their 1954 Kaiser Darrin.

The complete list of winners is as follows:

Committee's Choice Best of Show	1923 Studebaker Speedster, James Heinsohn, Huntley, IL
People's Choice	1954 Kaiser Darrin, Teri and Bernie Evans, Muskego, WI
Pre-War Class	1941 Packard Woodie Wagon, Kim and Denny Harms, Poplar Grove, IL
Post-War Class	1956 Studebaker Golden Hawk, Ron and Nadia Johnson, Rockford, IL
Muscle Class	1969 Shelby GT 500, Dan and Kim Gillis, Bensenville, IL
Sports Class	1959 Chevy Corvette, Todd Powelson, Niles, IL
Hod Rod/Custom Class	1939 Deluxe Coupe, Randy Stenson
Exotic/Race Class	1953 Studebaker Champion, Gordy and Annette Buetsch, Rockford, IL
Special Interest Class	2006 Excalibur RS, Bob Shaw
Motorcycles	2009 Custom Chopper, Doug and Nancy Towle, Barrington, IL

In addition to the award-winners, patrons enjoyed seeing some multi-million dollar vehicles including several Indy 500 race cars such as the 2011 Danica Patrick Indy Race Series Car, the 1948 Don Lee Special, the 1981 A.J. Foyt Coyote and the 1934 Gilmore Special. The Indy 500 section also featured a car from the 1911 Indy 500, complete with actual race video as part of its display.

"This is by-far the best car show in the entire region," said Richard Weiss of Rockford. "Classics and Chrome is a must-see because no other show displays such a wide range of rare cars. The Indy 500 display was historic. I'm really glad I had a chance to take my son this weekend."

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Sponsors of the 2011 Classics and Chrome include: State Farm Insurance, Swedish American Hospital, Keith Country Day School, Coke, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Alpine Bank, Papa Johns, Clodius Jewelry and Co., Mulford Dental, WIFR, and Maverick Media.

Proceeds from the entire weekend benefit Keith Country Day School. Keith Country Day School is an independent, nonsectarian, college-preparatory school. Located on a 15-acre campus overlooking the Rock River, Keith serves students from age three through grade 12 from the Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin area. The school is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools and fully accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. More information about Keith School is available at www.keithschool.com.

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