

# AV

 AUTOWEEK—LIVING THE AUTOMOTIVE L

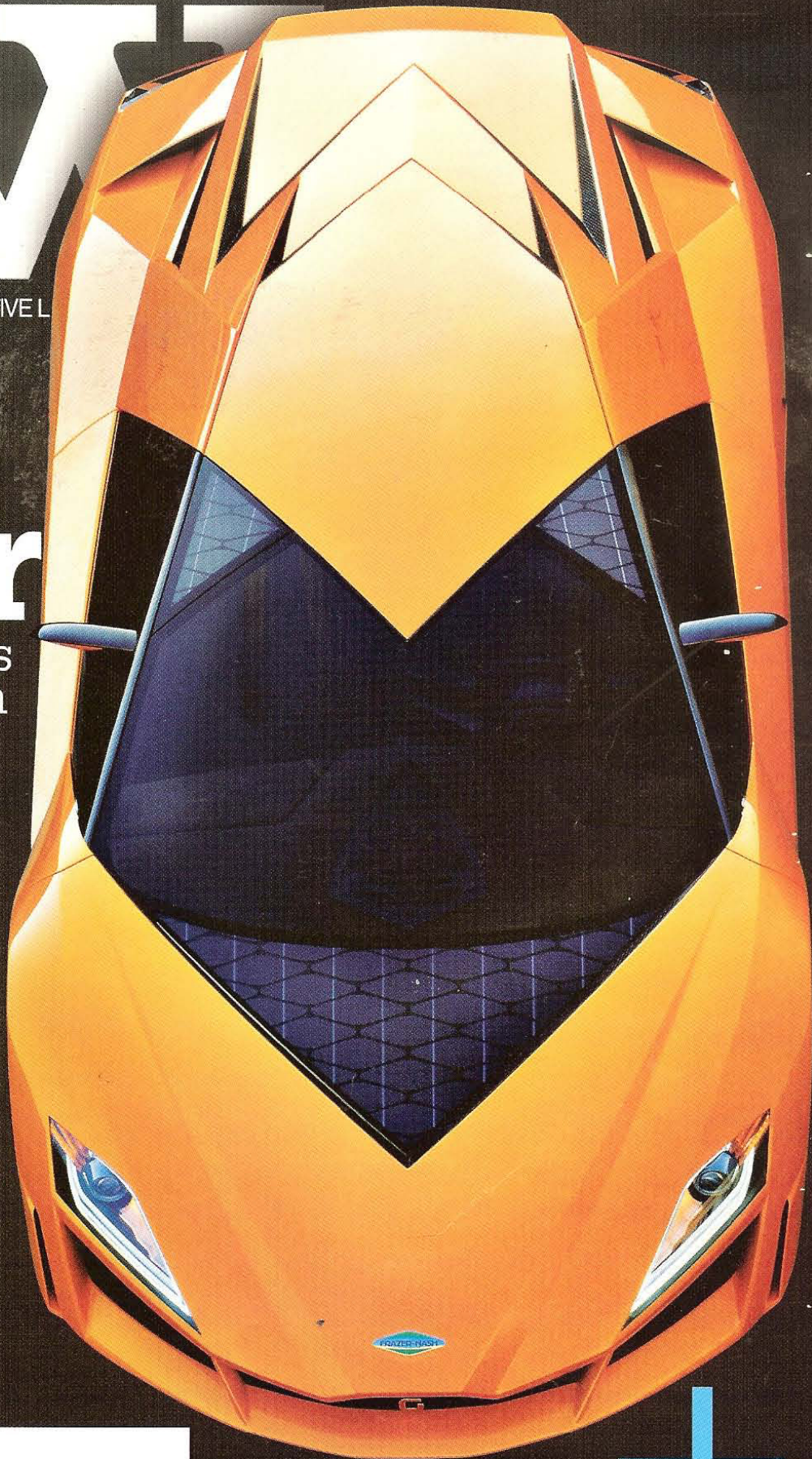
## What's in a Namir

0-62 mph > 3.5 seconds  
Top Speed > 187+ mph  
Mileage > 160 mpg

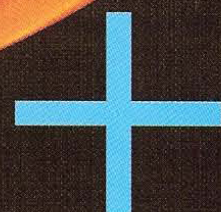
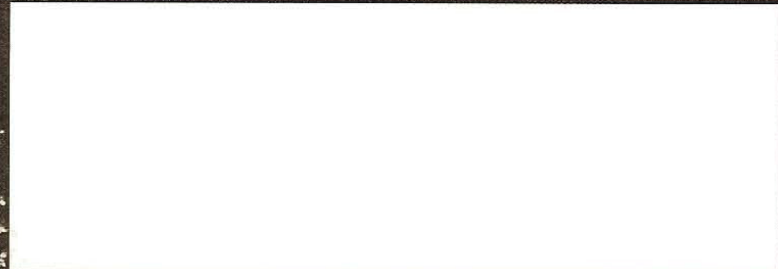
## Hallelujah, Earth Day!

### FUN GREEN FIRST DRIVES:

Chevrolet Cruze  
Honda FCX Clarity  
All-New Toyota Prius  
& Porsche Cayenne  
Hybrid



crain



**GM EV1 TEAM:**  
Where Are They Now?



# SPRING BEAUTY

AT AMELIA ISLAND CONCOURS,  
ELEGANCE REIGNS **BY DENISE MCCLUGGAGE**

**A**MELIA ISLAND, LIKE PEBBLE BEACH, IS A PLACE name that has become a synonym for a ceremonial assembly of extraordinary cars and their devotees. This mid-March saw the 14th-annual Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance along Florida's northeast coast. About 250 cars of every era, size and consequence graced the rolling greenery of the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club. Designer weather prevailed. As a concours, Amelia Island reflects the eclectic automotive interests of its founder, Bill Warner. He has raced cars, collected cars, swapped cars, photographed cars, talked cars. He succeeds every year in sharing his continued delight in them.

Amelia Island is a concours de sport as well as a concours d'elegance, with two Best in Show awards. Oddly, this year's sport winner exhibited more obvious elegance than the de facto elegance winner. Is there any wheeled object more stylish, concise and purposeful than a Miller racing car? Winning in every meaning was the 1923 Special 122 supercharged Miller belonging to Dano Davis of Jacksonville, Fla. (and Brumos Porsche).

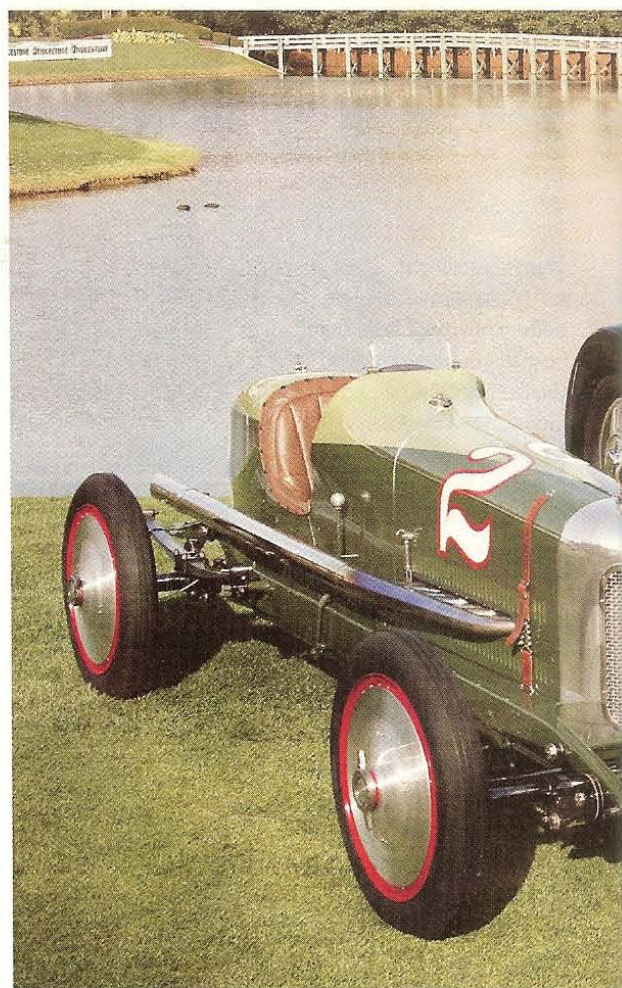
The other Best in Show trophy taker was brutishly boxy, gloweringly low and pushing grotesque. And yet (how can this be?), it was still lightly French, all of a piece and ultimately remarkable. A product of the singular mind of Gabriel Voisin, this 1931 Voisin C20 Demi Berline is a recent addition to the Munder collection of West Palm Beach, Fla.

The 50th anniversary of the first U.S. Grand Prix, run at Sebring in 1959, was celebrated by a special class. Alas, only two cars that actually ran that day could be found: the Cooper that Jack Brabham drove (pushing it over the finish when he ran out of fuel) and the Kurtis Kraft midget that was run by Rodger Ward. The four other cars shown were simply similar to actual participants.

Each year, Amelia Island features cars from the history of the guest of honor. For 2009, the honored guest was the witty and urbane David Hobbs, known lately for his Formula One coverage on Speed TV. The Hobbs history lineup included the McLaren Formula 5000, the Gulf Ford GT, a clutch of BMW team cars and the 1971 Sunoco Ferrari 512M. The last mentioned earned the *AutoWeek* award as the most significant from that assortment.

Popular innovations of the concours are Friday and Saturday seminars on a variety of automotive matters. Among those in Friday's "The Great Customizers" was Chip Foose, whose lovely hot rods were displayed Sunday. On Saturday, "The Great Roadster Drivers" found four Indy stars—Parnelli Jones, Bobby Unser, Johnny Rutherford and Jim Rathmann—keeping the laughs coming with equal parts memories and one-liners abetted by hosts Bob Varsha and Tom Considine.

Amelia once again was a memorable spring car fix. 🍷



Clockwise from above:  
1971 Sunoco Ferrari  
512M, a Chip Foose  
Hemisfer, Jack Brabham's Cooper, Rodger  
Ward's Kurtis Kraft mid-  
get and guest of honor  
David Hobbs. Far right:  
People mingle among  
the concours offerings.







**BEST IN SHOW:** The concours de sport winner was this 1923 Miller Special 122, left, and concours d'elegance honors went to this 1931 Voisin C20 Demi Berline.

Aston Martin and Friend, below, a painting by Automotive Fine Arts Society founding member Bill Neale, won Mazda's "The Emotion of Motion Award" at the 14th-annual AFAS art show during the 2009 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. The painting features a stunning 1961 Aston Martin DB4 Zagato below a soaring British Spitfire fighter plane. Neale's painting was chosen by 2009 Amelia Island concours guest of honor David Hobbs.

