

The People Who Keep Old Cars Alive



EXCLUSIVE: Top 20 Auto Restorers
Special Section Inside
 Nominated by SCM Readers

Keith Martin's
Sports Car MarketTM
 The Insider's Guide to Collecting, Investing, Values, and Trends

Most of us have bought — or owned — a great old car that needed some help. Perhaps it needed new body panels, rust repair to the frame and an engine rebuild. Maybe it needed some light bodywork and new paint. Or in an extreme — but not especially rare — case it crashed and burned and needed an entire rebuild.

Over the past few decades, a special breed of mechanics, technicians and historians have made it their life's work to bring old cars back from the dead — or just keep them running.

Without them, our world would be a lot rustier, noisier, more dangerous and, yes, sadder.

SCM Publisher Keith Martin is no stranger to the restoration shop, and he came up with the notion of recognizing a few of the elite people in the restoration world. We reached out to SCM readers, and we got hundreds of nominations. The selection process was tough.

Yet, like a good resto tech, we pressed on, and here are SCM's Top 20.

— Executive Editor Chester Allen

Courtesy of The Creative Workshop

Jason Wenig

Company: The Creative Workshop

Location: Dania Beach, FL

Specialties: Concours-level restoration of rare, exotic, orphan, prototype and unique vehicles — both European and domestic. Coachbuilding/custom car building. Unique, historically accurate custom vehicles — from partial to comprehensive coachbuilding.

Years of experience: I have been working with cars since I was a kid. I started working professionally with cars in the late 1990s. I founded this company in 2001 and began formal operations as The Creative Workshop in August 2002.

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Most recent project: We are completing the forensic restoration of the last 1921 Kissel 6-45 "Gold Bug" Speedster on earth. The car is being unveiled at this year's Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. We are also finishing a one-off Ferrari coachbuilt custom car — a 1966 Ferrari 330 GT Speciale.

Most challenging project: There are countless challenges that I am faced with in this business, but here are some of the more challenging projects undertaken:



1953 Stanguellini Bialbero, 1955 Alfa Romeo Ghia-Aigle 1900 CSS, 1915 REO Coachbuilt Special, 1966 Ferrari 330 GT Speciale, 1962 AC MA200 prototype, Creative Workshop Coachbuilt Sport Speciale, 1959 Ferrari 250 Series II PF Cab, 1951 Connaught L3/SR.

Career high point: One was the first time I was honored to have had one of our restorations appear at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance (back in 2007). We showed a 1953 Stanguellini Bialbero with our client — which took a class award. It was quite an exciting and humbling experience.