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# BOSTON OVERDRIVE

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AMELIA CONCOURS 2010, ANTIQUES, AUTO SHOWS

## Ayer shop brings Kurtis, Bocar to Amelia

Posted by Peter Bourassa, Boston.com Correspondent March 14, 2010 12:08 PM

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(Peter Bourassa for Boston.com)

This 1959 Bocar Stiletto will be shown at the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance.

A Concours d'Elegance is generally a show at which cars are judged and awarded based on how well they conform to pre-determined standards. A race track is generally a noisy, often dusty venue at which cars are tested to their limits and are constantly changing for myriad reasons. They are not similar car experiences. However, race cars are often invited to Concours events to add noise and color.

KTR European Motorsports, a premier vintage auto racing support facility located in Ayer, brought two cars to the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance today: a 1953 Kurtis 500 roadster and a flame red 1959 Bocar Stiletto racer. Both are frequently used by their owner, Dudley Cunningham, and since they're part of an exhibit and won't be judged, they require little preparation for the trip.

Bob Carnes was a fighter pilot who built fiberglass reinforced chassis for his kit cars. His Stiletto resembles a jet plane and the fiberglass body is bonded to the purpose-built tube frame. Equipped with a supercharged Chevy 283 V-8 and four-speed transmission, this car was competitive in the hands of brave drivers. Dudley Cunningham, its current owner and driver, and Chris Cassidy, who prepared the car at KTR, have assiduously maintained the

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### Contributors

**Clifford Atiyeh** edits the Cars section on Boston.com and is an automotive correspondent for The Boston Globe. He has spent his entire life driving cars he doesn't own.  
**In the garage:** MBTA Charlie Card, 1995 21-speed Iron Horse.

**Bill Griffith** has reviewed cars for more than 10 years. He was also the Globe's assistant sports editor for 25 years and the paper's sports media columnist.  
**In the garage (over the years):** 1956 T-Bird, 1959 Nash Metropolitan, 1980 El Camino, 1997 supercharged Camry TRD.

**Keith Griffin** edits the used car section on [About.com](#) and is vice president of the New England Motor Press Association. He is also founder of the [Internet Car and Truck of the Year awards](#) and contributes to various weekly newspapers in Connecticut.  
**In the garage:** Mazda 5, Dodge Neon

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originality of this important vehicle.



(Peter Bourassa for Boston.com)

KTR is also showing this 1953 Kurtis 500.

Following the 1953 Corvette's lead, the Devon, Bocar, and Kellison companies all introduced "kit" cars that allowed enthusiasts with an engineering bent to build their own cars with running gear often found in salvage yards. As better quality running gear became available, the cars were upgraded by their owners and as a result, no two were the same.

The 1953 Kurtis 500 originated from two manufacturers. The chassis was designed and built by Frank Kurtis that year, but the body was designed by Dick Jones in Colorado and wasn't completed until 1959. By then it was equipped with a 283-cubic-inch Chevy Corvette V-8 and a four speed transmission. The Kurtis is reminiscent of the early Ferrari Barchetta, also of the early fifties.

It's part of the "Forgotten Fiberglass" exhibit of early kit and small manufacturer cars, one of many rare cars on Amelia Island.

Peter Bourassa runs [MMRsite.com](http://MMRsite.com), a classic car enthusiast forum and marketplace.

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