

INTSAAB2019

NETHERLANDS



IntSaab2019

From Friday 9 to Sunday 11 August, I immersed myself in the International Saab meeting in Weerseilo, in the eastern part of Holland called 'Twente'. And a warm bath it was! A bath full of people with the same passion, with Saabs in all kinds of designs and fun activities. In short: a great weekend!

The Saabclub of the Nederlands (SCN) has been around for 60 years and that was the reason to bring the annual IntSaab to the Netherlands. With 650 registrations from 23 countries, it can certainly be called an international meeting. A reunion too, because often the participants appeared to know each other from previous editions. For me it was the first time but that didn't really matter because it's easy to

make contact with other Saab enthusiasts. Everyone is approachable and after the simple question: 'Which Saab did you bring?', immediately follows an animated conversation about the origin of the Saab love, the preference for a certain type and the history of the cars. On the following pages you will find a series of short interviews I had with participants of 10 different nationalities.

For those who could not be present, an overview of the weekend follows. Friday was dominated by the arrival and registration at 'de Methoeve' in Weerselo. The beautiful tree-lined parking lot of this location was reserved for the showcase where the Saabs arrived during the day and were shown during the weekend. A wonderful selection of 75 Saabs of all years were arranged in order, from the oldest 92A delivered in the Netherlands in 1952, to the latest models produced in 2011: a 9-5NG Estate and 9-4X. The icing on the cake was the presence of a Sonett I, because Saab built only 6 of them!

On the other side of the Methoeve there is a meadow that had been converted into a 'Saab campsite' and several participants settled there early. Around 120 places were occupied and a walk around the campsite was really worth it, with Topola's to be found in double digits! Next to the campsite were sponsors of the event with their sales stalls. Therefore the participants of the event had first choice for the spare parts before the market opened to the public on Sunday. In the evening, during the buffet in the Methoeve, IntSaab2019 was officially opened. Later in the Saab café people were bonding and old acquaintances recalled beautiful memories.

On Saturday the event was divided into two locations and they were connected by a ride through the beautiful landscape of Twente. After breakfast, the participants started this ride that made a stopover at Twente Airport where the 'Saab Experience' took place. For members of the Dutch Saab club it was possible to buy a day ticket for this experience and therefore many people were present and it was pleasantly busy. The airport turned out to be a beautiful location and there were various activities. For example, you could test on the mobile power tester of one of the sponsors whether your Saab still has the specified power and there were various skill tests, from changing a wheel as quickly as possible to driving an obstacle course.

A 'Pimp my Saab car display' was organized by Lennard Schaap and Reier Numans, two young dutch Saab enthusiasts who used FaceBook and the SaabForum to compile an interesting selection of non-original, but very special Saabs. For me, the '9-5NG Estate replica' stood out; a 9-5NG sedan converted into a well built and good looking Estate, so the number of these exotics has now grown to 27 +!



After this extensive stopover, the ride led the participants back to Methoeve where at 5 pm Peter Bäckström, managing director of the Saab Car Museum, gave a presentation of the showcase. He walked around the cars and told about them with a lot of knowledge and a good sense of humor. After dinner it was partytime!



An IntSaab without a parts market and trunk sales does not exist. These took place on Sunday and on that day the site of the Methoeve, including the showcase, was freely accessible for everyone. I had set up my tent trailer just opposite to the field where the parts sales took place and I heard the first sellers entering the site well before 7 am. The entire morning it was very busy and the beautiful weather helped too! Various exhibitors told me they had good sales.



For a full terrace, the prize-giving ceremony took place around coffee time for the most beautiful cars in the showcase, with Peter Bäckström distributing beautiful Saab watches made available by the Saab Car Museum in addition to winners cups. Perhaps to the surprise of many, the Sonett I was not the winner in its class, but the beautiful white Sonett II two-stroke from 1967 owned by Clement Maussen. From a reliable source I learned that the jury used as arguments that a.) there was no Sonett I to compare with and b.) this



Showcase team. From left to right: standing: Rein van de Velde (jury), Peter Bäckström (chairman of the jury) and Rik van Lochem (showcase organizer). Squatted: Robert van der Linden (organizer), Peter Jan Metz (organizer), Peter Harmsen (jury), Steven Hartveldt (jury) and Ton Ramaekers (jury).

way it becomes clear that it is also possible to win with a very nice 'normal' Sonett. Sonett I owner Gusta Jackfors even seemed happy with it. His comment: "I often feel embarrassed when I win because there is no comparable car."

2000th member Saab Club the Netherlands (SCN)

A special milestone was reached this weekend. Rob Stal-Ivord, boardmember of the SCN, was able to welcome the 2000th member of the Saabclub. This proves the SCN is alive and kicking!

A slow exodus of participants started around noon. Tents were folded at the campsite, seats and tables were stowed in motorhomes, and caravans were linked to their towing cars. Many hands were shaken after which the cars and campers

drove away with arms waving wide on each side.

The previous IntSaab in the Netherlands was at the 50th anniversary of the Saabclub Netherlands in 2009 and this year at the club's 60th anniversary. If this line is continued, it is logical that the next IntSaab will take place in the Netherlands during the 70th anniversary of the club in 2029. I'd love to be there!

Many thanks to the organization team!

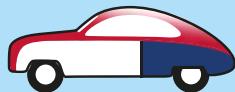
Tekst and photos interviews: Peter Harmsen

Photo organization team IntSaab: Claudia Tebes

Other photos: Niko Bloemendaal



Organization team IntSaab2019. From left to right: Kees Haverkamp, Hans Smit, Antje Trip, Merlijn Kalkman, Luppo Egberts, Pieter Goedhart, Johan Beikes

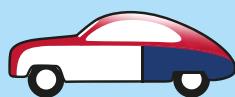


For Marc from Switzerland, the purchase of his 9-3X XWD in 2011 was the fulfillment of a long dream. He had been wanting a Saab for a long time and in 2011, when he realized it was the last chance to buy a new one, he bought one of the last ones to roll off the band. He loves the Saab so much that he also bought a 1983 2-door 99 sedan as a hobby car. Marc and his wife Prisk visit IntSaab "to meet nice people and see beautiful cars".

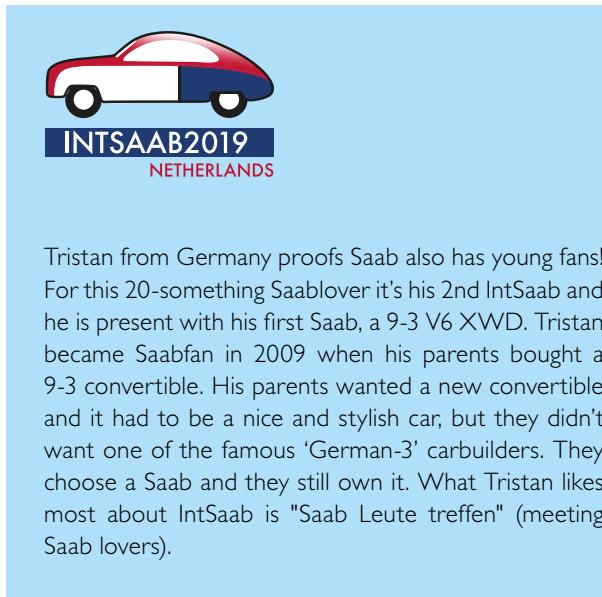
The 9000 in which Charel visits the IntSaab just completed the Pothole Rodeo, a rally on bumpy roads through countries in the Balkans, which can only be driven with a car that is over 20 years old and may not have cost more than € 500 to purchase. From his hometown in Luxembourg, Charel drove a total of 6,883 km in 12 days through 16 countries and when I asked about his expirience, he replied with a big smile: "No problems at all!" Without making any repairs or adjustments to the 9000 the drove to IntSaab2019. For more info see: www.pothole-rodeo.com



Palle's Saab proofs the 9000 is a modern classic, since nowadays they are being restored. Palle found this 1997 CD in a very bad condition with a lot of rust and restored it to its current state. The special thing about this Saab is that it is factory-equipped with the famous interior you normally only find in the CS Aero. The 9000 CD looks great again and Palle visits his first IntSaab to test-drive the Saab on long distance.



Linda and Marc from Belgium are regular IntSaab visitors. Already in 2009 they were present in Doesburg. In that year they won two 1st prizes, for their Sonett and their 900 GT. This year their 1973 Sonett III was shown in the showcase but did not win a prize. They are real Saab enthusiasts and own 7, in addition to the Sonett a 96, 900 convertible and GT. For daily use they drive a 9000 CSE. When I asked what makes a visit to the IntSaab so nice, Linda says: "What I love to see is the enthusiasm between the men, they can talk for hours about those cars!"



Skaidrite and Alisa are from Lithuania where last year Skaidrite's partner was involved in the organization of IntSaab 2018. This year they came with their 9-3 Estate TiD which is being tested here on the power tester during the Saab Experience at Saturday. At home they also have a 96, 99 and a 9-5. This Saab family visits IntSaab as a family outing and the enthusiasm of mother and daughter is clearly visible!



Father Jorma and son Akseli drove a long way. They drove more than 1,500 km from Finland to Holland to be present at this IntSaab, their 5th. They drove all this way to enjoy the 9-3 Turbo X sedan with automatic gear of which Akseli has been the owner for 6 years now. As they say in their own words: "IntSaab gives us a reason to drive a long distance". For them, the IntSaab could also take place in southern Spain!



Peter drove from Frankfurt with his special 92B from 1955. The car had been parked in a forest for 40 years and almost perished when Peter bought the car in 2001. Where the body was rotten, he welded new parts and treated them in a way they optically melted together with the rest. The chassis however, has been completely restored and is ready for daily use. The car is "Unten schöner als oben" (underneath more beautiful than outside), but he deliberately leaves the Saab in this rusty state because it belongs to the history of the car. It is the 3rd IntSaab for Peter and what he really likes is the getting together of old and new. Everything Saab made between 1950 and 2011 is welcome here and that is unthinkable at many other brand clubs.



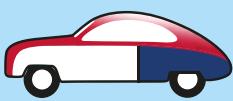
The most striking car on this IntSaab was of course the Sonett I owned by Gusta Jackfors. It could be admired the entire weekend on a prominent spot of the Showcase. Only 6 of this type Sonett cars have been built and Gusta has owned this one since 1964. In the next 'Saabberichten' magazine you will find an extended article about this special couple.





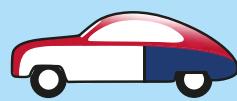
Mihai drove 1,400 km from Malaga to Weerselo with his 900 convertible from 1987. It is not an original flat-nose classic, he adapted it. As he did a lot of refurbishing the car, because he got the car in very bad condition. A special story: the original Swedish owner had a holiday residence in southern Spain and when he sold the house he left behind the convertible in the garage. The new owners didn't understand the value of the Saab and were very careless about it. When Mihai bought the car from them it was "destroyed" and it took him 10 years to bring it back in this condition. Mihai combines this visit to the IntSaab with a vacation with his family and a visit to his family in Amsterdam.





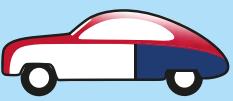
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For Marcus and Manuela from Sweden, Saab love means true love. They got to know each other when they each posted messages on the 'Save Saab' FaceBook page in 2011. After various posts and likes, they agreed to meet each other in Gothenburg. There the love they shared for Saab also became love they share for each other and in 2014 they even got married. Now they have fallen in love with the Saab 9-4X they drove to IntSaab2019, the love simply doesn't stop! For them, the Saab community is a special group of friendly people, a community where old and new Saabs are all welcome. A community that feels like home.



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For Geoff and Becky from England it is their 10th IntSaab. Their first visit was 2009 in Doesburg. They participated in the 'IntSaab pre-tour' and brought their 96 V4 from 1972. It could just as well have been another Saab because Geoff owns 20 ... Not that they are all driveable, they are as Geoff calls it "in various stages". In addition to Saabs, Geoff also owns a number motorcycles because he has been a motorcycle-dealer in Somerset for 40 years. He cares about his classics since as a daily driver he uses an old Peugeot 306 diesel.



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Niko Bloemendaal is a Dutch Saab enthusiast and professional photographer. We are very grateful to him that we can use the photos he made during IntSaab2019. He also posted the photos on his website, a 'must-see' for those who love beautiful Saab pictures!
<https://bloemendaal-fotografie.nl/intsaab-2019/>





IntSaab 2019 and the showcase are made possible thanks to our sponsors!

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