

THE SPARK PLUG

News to spark your interest

January February 2019

Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America



The Strong's 1915 Packard Dominant Six on display at the 2018 SSR Annual Meeting. John Lowell Photo

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SECRETARY

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BOARD OF MANAGERS SSR REGION

Jim Gormley (2020)
Rob Hosenfelt (2020)
Duane Wesche (2020)
John Groll (2019)
Barb Knudsen (2019)
Todd Tobiasz (2019)
Robert Bruce (2020)
Dave Groerich (2020)
Larry Hassel (2020)

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SPARK PLUG NEWSLETTER

EDITOR

Jim Schild
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Director's Message

Hello all:

Happy New Year! I wish you good health, happiness and countless blessings in the year ahead.

A warm welcome to new Board members, Jim Gormley, Rob Hosenfelt and Duane Wesche, who join a dedicated and talented group of individuals who will assist me in leading our Club this year. We've already held our first Board Meeting and planning for the year ahead is well under way.

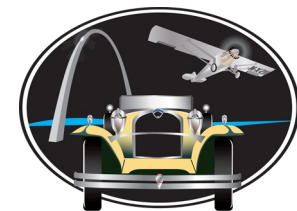
So, what are we planning this year? In a word, "fun". We begin our year of activities with the Annual Kickoff Meeting at Hyman Ltd. Classic Cars on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 11:00 am. Our good friends at Hyman, Mark and Shawn, along with their entire staff, never fail to show us a great time, and their inventory of pre and post war Classic and Special Interest automobiles is ever changing and always interesting.

Beginning in March, the ever popular Spirit Nights will be back, held at a local restaurant or pub, and always a great opportunity to catch up with friends or make new ones in a relaxed atmosphere. And, whenever possible, we'll have a guest speaker to make your experience even more special. Oh, by the way, if you want to plan a Spirit Night during the year, let us know.

In the Spring we are planning an interesting and scenic drive in our Classic Cars to a rustic cabin in the town of Labadie, Missouri for a home cooked lunch prepared by a gourmet cook and former model. After lunch there will be a photo shoot of our cars set against some

beautiful woods and foliage in the area. And there's more to come that's still in the planning stages. Got an idea for a tour or activity that you feel would be of interest to our members? Let us know. We're here to make our Region the best that it can be.

John



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Classic Car Club of America

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Across the Editor's Desk

Happy 2019 to all Spirit of St. Louis Region members and the best of wishes for a great and prosperous new year. We are well underway at the beginning of another year of wonderful fellowship and fun with our Classic Cars and friends. Last year ended with a great Annual Meeting at a wonderful venue in the city. Anyone who missed it missed a good time, good food and lots of fun people to talk with. Rooms full of historic antique motorcycles did not hurt at all and the Strong's historic and very interesting 1915 Packard Dominant Six roadster capped off the event. Read the report on that in this issue.

I have to take this opportunity to thank the club and the board of managers for the presentation to me of the very important annual Member Participation Award for 2018. That was a great surprise for me, and even more when I happened to out of the room when the award was presented. I am very sorry for that but I will treasure that award, the beautiful plaque and what it represents and try to improve myself over the next year.

I also have to congratulate Tom Roberson on his presentation of the Richard H. Olson Member of excellence Award. I cannot think of a more deserving person for this prestigious award. His attitude and friendly support for everything we do and care about is an inspiration to all of us.

Make sure to check out the Director's Message and flyer in this issue for information on the **Annual Membership Kickoff Day at Hyman's LTD. in Westport January 26**. This is always a very well attended event and is the first opportunity for advance reports on the plans for 2019. The year looks to be filled not only with some interesting events and tours, but new possibilities for ideas to contribute the ongoing success and strength of our club. As always, Shawn Dugan will provide a very knowledgeable report on the activities surrounding the annual auctions that take place in Scottsdale, Arizona every January and the health of the automobile markets in general.

Don't forget the Spark Plug Deadline for submissions—20 February 2019.



2018 Election Results

Officers

Region Director— John Lowell
Assistant Director— Thomas Quick
Treasurer— Kevin Williams
Secretary— Jim Heslop

New Board Members

Jim Gormley (2021)
Rob Hosenfelt (2021)
Duane Wesche (2021)



Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday Closed

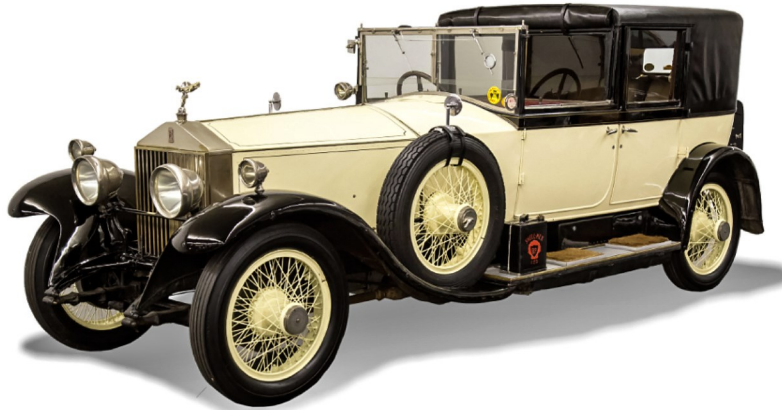
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Membership Musings



2018 is now history. A new page is opened for 2019. I currently have 33 members and 12 associates who have renewed for 2019. We are missing about 50 renewals from members. I know it is sometimes hard to remember when you've renewed and, if you are in a few clubs, which memberships you've renewed. Please check your account on -line or drop me a note if you have any questions. I will be sending reminders. I am hoping that in a couple of weeks there will be fewer reminders to send out.

I am an accountant. Most of my professional life in finance has been ruled by the calendar. Either recounting history with financial statements or looking forward with budgets. Either way there is always a clear line of demarcation to say when I am working on one job or another. I'm not so sure where our annual meeting falls in my neat compartmentalization. It was in November. We celebrated the activities and highlights

of the past year. We learned about the life history of one very special Packard. And we touched on the a few things to look forward to in 2019. The National Annual Meeting in Arizona. A May trip into the west country with Larry Hassel. Another northeast trip a bit later. And in between a few Spirit nights where we can bring out our cars. I guess even though our annual meeting seems to be billed as a wrap-up for the year, I come away anxious for the new year.

And now January is here. I hope to see you all at Hyman on January 26 for the official kick-off. I thought it would never get here!

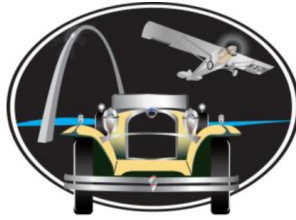
**Todd Tobiasz
Membership Chairman**

NEW MEMBERS

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Spirit of St. Louis Region
Classic Car Club of America

COME SEE WHAT'S NEW WITH THE SSR – CCCA....COME SEE WHAT'S NEW AT HYMAN LTD.!



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP KICK-OFF MEETING
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Since 1989 Hyman Ltd. has been internationally known as a purveyor of fine pre and post-war antique, Classic and special interest automobiles. From the Scottsdale Auctions to Classic sales in Europe and even television shows, Mark Hyman and his crew are well known in car collecting circles worldwide.

We encourage you to bring family and friends to this annual event! You will hear about the state of the collector car market, and see the recent acquisitions in the collection. Find out what our Club has been up to and what we will be doing in 2019. And weather permitting, drive your Classic.

We are pleased to once again host the Annual Kick-off Meeting and look forward to seeing you again....

- Mark Hyman

Hyman Ltd. Classic Cars, 2310 Chafee Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63146

Spirit of St. Louis Region Annual Picnic

The Spirit of St. Louis Region held its annual picnic at the beautiful home of Thomas Quick and family in South St. Louis County on Sunday, October 28, 2018. The event was well-attended as always and included lots of good food brought by guests and as always, new people and new friends. The Quick garage was the venue and included a bevy of interesting Classics to gaze upon during the day. Many Thanks to the Quicks for hosting this enjoyable event.



Open House at Kirberg's Collection

Doug and Joanne Kirberg had an Open House event at their beautiful facility in South St. Louis City on Tuesday October 30 and a number of Spirit of St. Louis region members attended. This fabulous and diverse collection of Antique and Full Classics is always exciting and included the newly-acquired green 1931 LaSalle purchased from the recent auction of the Richard Muehlmann collection.

We were greeted not only by a selection of food and drinks but also entertained by our gracious host, Joanne in full witch regalia for the upcoming Halloween celebration.



In Memoriam Fred Summers



Fred Summers, October 30, 2018

Cherished husband and beloved life companion of Sharon Summers. Dear son-in-law of Alvin Stern. Beloved brother-in-law of Michael Stern and Sandra (Brent) Richbrook. Loving uncle of Jacob Stern. Dear son of the late Lewis and Ethel Summers of Squirrel Hill, PA.

Fred was a superb salesman, raconteur, author, a lover of music and art, and a gourmet whose curiosity, enthusiasm and logic were endless. A good friend to so many in our community, Fred hosted many large gatherings, earning the sobriquet of Fred Party and amateur shadkan status. A classic car maven, Fred was a prolific author for the vintage automotive press. Many articles were translated into several foreign languages. His closet was filled with numerous car show trophies. Fred's historical knowledge and artistic writing abilities were evident to Classic Car Club members by his prolific comments on the regular "When They Were New" column in the Classic Car Club Bulletin. His Long March is now over, and will lovingly be remembered.



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The History of the Automobile in St. Louis

Pictures by Larry Hassel and Jim Schild

On November 1, 2018 Spirit of St. Louis Region member Ben Hilliker presented a fine slide show and talk on the history of the automobile business in St. Louis. The presentation was very informative and interesting and included pictures that have not been seen before. The presentation was held at the amazing facility and collection of SSR member Greg Rhomberg in South St. Louis County. The presentation was limited to 35 guests due to the limited size of the space in the facility and refreshments were provided including soft drinks from antique soda machines.

SSR member Dr. Robert Bruce assisted Ben with taking reservations. Greg's collection of antique automobiles, fire equipment, campers, signs, automobilia and just about anything and everything else that could possibly interest those of us who care about things historical and unusual, especially those concerning the St. Louis area. The private collection is not open to the public so the rare opportunity to visit should not be missed. Greg's collection includes the wonderful Bevo Boat that was restored some years ago by Fred and David Weber. The Bevo Boat is on a Classic 1931 Cadillac chassis.



2018 RICHARD H. OLSON MEMBER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Presented by Shannon Olson

We often underestimate the power of connecting with others and what they can teach us about ourselves and our hobby. These connections make an impact. Because of them you want to be a better person, a better friend, a better hobbyist because their example is so absolutely wonderful.

What do you do for someone that has been key to the success of multiple organizations? What do you do for someone that has done so much for others, including teaching them to be better people along the way... when thank you is not enough?

Well, you can start by making them feel as special as they make everyone else feel. You make sure to tell them that this organization, this hobby and those that are sitting around them today would not be the same without them. You tell them that you are so very grateful that they were your mentor on this journey of a lifetime.

The Richard H. Olson Member of Excellence Award is given annually by our club to honor those members who are dedicated to our automobile hobby. The fact that the award is made from rare Purple Heart wood should not go unnoticed, as it serves perfectly to symbolize what this year's awardee means too many of us.

He has worn many hats on both boards and committees not only for the Classic Car Club, but also the Horseless Carriage Club and the Mississippi Valley Packard Club. Those that included that of a secretary, a treasurer, a membership manager, a newsletter editor, a committee member, a CARavan contributor, an attendance and ticket taker, a meal coordinator, an event sponsor, an activities director, a mediator between clubs, a wedding chauffer, a chocolate chip cookie connoisseur, mental health assurer, a great story teller, an event MC and most importantly, a hobby educator. An educator who once stated, ***"When it comes to the eccentricities of Classic cars and a novice owner, it is never wise to pressure either one too much at the beginning of their association."***

For this member, the next generation of enthusiasts has always been important. And his love for Packards has lead him there. In my personal experience, he was really one of the first to allow children to touch, smell, sit in and gaze at his Classic. Fingerprints were never a problem. In fact, he felt that youth in this hobby were so important that he co-wrote children's stories with his wife about Penny the Packard, her friends and adventures. He even published coloring books on his own, and handed them out at car

shows. And I just know, that somewhere, there is a kid who has kept that coloring book and we will be meeting them again soon.

He has often served as the voice of reason. Expressing the importance of being fair while also keeping in mind what was best for the hobby and its members. He is always genuinely happy to see you and speak to you.

He has mattered. He has made a difference. His great generosity has had a profound and lasting impact on the Classic and collector car hobby. His willingness to share both his time and talent by volunteering says a lot about how wonderful of a human being he is. His willingness to give selflessly to help others speaks to both his strength and the quality of his character.

He is compassionate, dedicated, inspiring, a true friend. Yet... regardless of all that... he has always been humble. He personifies what it means to be in this hobby, and everything that makes it special. He gives it heart.

I am incredibly overjoyed to announce the 2018 Richard H. Olson Member of Excellence Award honoree, Dr. Tom Roberson.



John Gibson personally presented the Olson Award to Tom Roberson at his home in Ballwin.

My thanks to the club

The membership of the Spirit of St. Louis Classic Car Club is very diverse. There are members who own garages full of beautiful classics and then some, like me, who own just one Classic. I started the hobby when I retired from public education in 1997. In 1998 I acquired what I thought was a “driver” but turned into a “project car”. My wife and I chose to restore my 1934 Packard limo to original specifications and thus began my 20 year journey in the hobby. A journey in which I would meet fellow hobbieists, mechanics, authors, collectors, and new friends, who want to share the excitement of a Classic car with the world. We have all experienced the joy the public has for our cars. I will always remember the gentleman who followed me for miles, rolled down his window and thanked me for putting a beautiful work of art on the road.

I was introduced to the club by the late Fred Summers. He saw me at my first car show, yes, I took my “Penny the Packard” to a show in less than prestige shape, and he told me about the Spirit of St. Louis Classic Car Club. Seven years later with a lot of help, my 1934 Packard 8 Seven Passenger was complete. It was in this club I had the opportunity to meet experts, mechanics, and collectors. It has been a wonderful adventure. I was not mechanical and wanted to contribute back to the club and fellow members who helped me so much so I worked within the club and it was always a joy to make new friends and work on events and activities with these friends in the Spirit of St. Louis Classic Car Club.

I never imagined that being a part of this adventure with wonderful friends I would be the recipient of the Richard H. Olson Member of Excellence Award. It is a wonderful recognition that is made possible by my association with members of this club that delight in sharing the joy, history, and love of the Classic Car. Thank you to the committee, my friends, and the club for this award.

Tom Roberson



Left: Bob Abbot and Family drove their 1936 Lincoln Phaeton in the annual Halloween Parade in Alton, Illinois.



David and Fred Weber reunited with the Bevo Boat they were responsible for restoring and preserving many years ago. It is now in the Greg Rhomberg collection. The original was built by Anheuser Busch during Prohibition to promote their Bevo product. It was on a Pierce-Arrow chassis but it is now on a 1931 Cadillac chassis.

Spirit of St. Louis Region CCA 2018 Annual Meeting

Pictures by Jim Schild, John Lowell and Larry Hassel.

The Spirit of St. Louis Region Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, November 11, 2018, at the fabulous Moto Museum in mid-town St. Louis, Missouri. The museum houses an impressive collection of over a hundred rare American and European motorcycles spanning more than a century of motorcycle development. Fifty-four members and guests gathered at noon to enjoy cocktails and the company of fellow members while touring the motorcycles on display. Following the cocktail hour, and against a backdrop of motorcycles ensconced in the walls surrounding the dining area, guests enjoyed either a choice of a beef, chicken or vegetarian entree at a sit down luncheon.

Accepting an invitation to be our keynote speaker for the afternoon event, fellow Spirit Region members Allen and Nancy Strong traveled from Urbana, Illinois and gave a very informative and interesting presentation entitled "Carl Fisher and the Dominant Six", an overview of the life and times of Carl Graham Fisher, an early automotive pioneer and principal founder of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. To make the afternoon even more special, the Strong's brought their historic 1915 Packard Dominant Six, the pace car of the 1915 Indianapolis 500 Race driven by Carl Fisher himself. The car was brought into the museum's central gallery where it became the centerpiece among the motorcycles and the focus of many cameras.

Commenting on the opportunity to actually sit behind the wheel of the behemoth Packard, Region Director John Lowell recounted, "to sit in the same car, even in the same seat, and touch and feel the same steering wheel that Carl Fisher did was truly an experience like no other and gave me the chills." At the conclusion of Allen's talk, John Lowell presented him with a commemorative award as a thank you from the Region.

The afternoon agenda continued as Director Lowell conducted some further business of the Club, including the announcement of the 2018 election results and presentation of the Club's Participation Awards as well as the honoree of the Director's Award. The final award of the afternoon was presented by past Director Shannon Olson on behalf of the family's prestigious R.H. Olson Award. This year's honoree was outgoing Board Member, Tom Roberson.

After announcing several upcoming activities for the New Year and some final remarks, Director John Lowell concluded the 2018 Spirit of St. Louis Region Annual Meeting.





Jim Schild
5 Rowan Oak Lane
Columbia, IL 62236



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2019

>>Annual Kick-Off Meeting, Hyman's LTD. January 26, 2019

February 2019

Spark Plug Submission Deadline February 20, 2019

March 2019

>>Spirit Night, John Lowell Host, Location TBD March 5, 2019

Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance March 10, 2019