

THE SPARK PLUG

News to spark your interest

January/February, 2023

Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America



One end of the beautiful Kirberg Car Barn Venue for our SSR 2022 Annual Meeting.

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SPARK PLUG NEWSLETTER

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Director's Message

As we usher in a New Year, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year! It's also a good time to briefly reflect on the past year and the fun and fellowship that we experienced during the various activities and events that were held throughout the year. Credit is due in large part to Todd Tobiasz, our Director of Activities, who cooked up a wonderful mix of "outings" including visits to the Hunter and Nolan Collections, an overnight Fall Foliage tour to Hannibal, a visit to an eclectic 80-plus car collection of Bob and son Kevin Huff, and getting our hands dirty at Jack Pledger's *Ancient Grease Garage* learning the art of metal bending and shaping. And that was by no means the end of it, for we had numerous great times at Spirit Nights, with our year culminating at our traditional Annual Meeting held at Doug's Car Barn, the personal collection of member host Doug Kirberg. How do you top that, you might ask? We'll certainly give it our level best, that's for sure.

For starters, we're back at it on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 11:00 am at our well attended Annual Kick-off Meeting at Hyman Ltd. Classic Cars (see more inside this issue) where we will get some insight on the antique car market at the Scottsdale Auctions from the perspective of hosts Mark Hyman and Shawn Dougan, learn what's new in our Region and enjoy the fellowship of other members and those from other marque clubs that will be in attendance. Of course, we'll keep the meeting short so that you can enjoy and browse the ever-changing collection of antique, Classic and Special Interest Pre and Post-War automobiles in two buildings! All of the cars are for sale, folks, so bring your checkbooks! Don't miss this event that kick starts our year of activities!

The ever-popular Spirit Nights will be back beginning in early March where we meet and greet one another at a favorite restaurant or pub over dinner (and of course some drinks), and it's all about promoting fellowship within the Club. My goal this year is to have a guest speaker at as many of these functions as possible. In 2022, we learned of the History of the Turbine Car from member, John Hartmann, and Wendell Smith, Bob Abbott and John Gibson shared their viewpoint on proper touring preparation, in addition to showing slides of the Colorado CARavan in which John and Bob participated.

Have an idea for an activity or event? Let us know, will you. We want to bring you the best experience possible and continue making our Club the best that it can be.

John



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Across the Editor's Desk

Best wishes to everyone for hopes of a peaceful and prosperous 2023. This first issue of 2023 features stories from the last part of 2022. Thanks to the generous members such as Todd Tobiasz, John Lowell, Larry Hassel, John Gibson, Wendell Smith, Duane Wesche and others who continue to participate and contribute pictures and materials to the Spark Plug.

Thanks also to the great advertisers such as Hyman, Ltd, St. Louis Car Museum and C&C Auto Parts in Florissant who continue to support our club. Be sure to visit them and take advantage of their fine products and services.

Don't forget the deadline for Spark Plug submissions is 20 February. Jim Schild—Editor

In Memoriam

Hello all,

I am saddened to inform you that Willette Weber passed away on Saturday, December 17, 2022. Willette was an Associate Member of SSR and the loving wife of longtime member, Fred Weber, and stepmother of David Weber. On a personal note, I found “Willy” to be one of the most kind and sweetest women I have ever known. She was a beautiful person both inside and out and I know her charm will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Fred and David for the loss of their loved one. Please keep the Weber family in your thoughts and prayers.

John Lowell

Photo by Jim Schild>>



WILLETTE WEBER OBITUARY

Weber, Willette passed away on December 17, 2022. Beloved wife of Fred Weber; loving mother of Randy (Cynthia) Forgy and Renee (Leon) Daniels; cherished grandmother of Zack Forgy and Alex (Clayton) Rubach, Chris (Laura) Ballard, Josh (Britney) Ballard, Jen Ballard, Joe Ballard along with many great-grandchildren; dear sister of the late William (Diana-survives) Knight; our dear sister, sister-in-law, aunt, stepmother, cousin and friend.



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Membership Musings

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We ask that advertisers submit ads reflecting services or businesses consistent with our members' interests. Digital graphics are not required but will result in a higher quality advertisement. If submitting a hard copy of graphics please make sure there are no fold lines, tears in the paper or information that is not accurate.

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Welcome new members: Gary Sudin of Olivette, Missouri., Gary Schlueter of St. Charles, Missouri

Happy New Year. Welcome to the Garys! Gary Sudin is known to many of us through his activity in other local clubs. We've seen Gary and his wife, Trudy, at events in their very sporty Jaguar E-Type Roadster (NC) Gary Schlueter, a former member who has recently rejoined, is likewise a Jaguar enthusiast. The cats do seem to run in packs.

Thanks to Doug and Joanne Kirberg for hosting our annual meeting at "the Barn". We had a good turnout, about 50 members and guests. The meal was delicious. Jeff Buckley provided an interesting presentation on the history of the Moon Motor Car Company in St. Louis and highlighted it with his AACA First Place Award-winning (NC) 1925 Moon Sport Roadster. And the setting was spectacular. Then after Thanksgiving we were able to work off some of the holiday calories by walking through the varied and sundry cars in the Bob and Kevin Huff collection. The Huffs were wonderful hosts over two days to the many, many visitors from Spirit Region and a

couple of other fortunate clubs.

This is the time of the year when we have a chance to slow down from the fast-paced weeks leading up to the Holidays. A chance to think about the last year and a time to plan for the next.

It was a busy year. Right from the Hyman kickoff in February, there were opportunities every month to keep up with fellow members at a Spirit Night or at an event. We shared some of those events with other car clubs, ostensibly to make planning easier and take advantage of having a larger group to help reserve a venue. Gathering with other clubs has the added benefit of expanding the exposure of Spirit members to other local car clubs and some other ideas. The creative juices to plan these events is a lot easier when they are suggested by members and are tossed around in small groups to help add some structure to the original idea. So, keep those ideas percolating. Share them with John Gibson, John Lowell, or me and let's see if we can keep the calendar full in 2023.

Don't forget to renew your membership. You'll want to keep up with members and activities in the coming year. National Life members, remember that you need to renew our local membership each year. It's too early to name names, but so far two-thirds of our members have renewed for the upcoming year. Please be sure to renew and tell your friends how much fun you are going to have this new year. I've seen John Lowell's membership renewal come through, so we don't want to be late! See you at the Membership Kickoff February 4 at Hyman Ltd.

Todd



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, February 4, 2023 • 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Since 1989 Hyman Ltd. Classic Cars 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, 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 2023. 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

The 2022 Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America Annual Meeting—

Pictures by Jim Schild & Larry Hassel

The Spirit of St. Louis Region CCCA Annual Meeting was held on November 5, 2022 at the wonderful facility of SSR member Doug Kirberg he likes to call “Kirberg’s Car Barn”. Upon entering this historic building in the near south side of the city of St. Louis, one realizes that this is like no barn you have ever visited. It is a former commercial structure that now houses a number of Full Classic and antique automobiles.

The catered meeting was a full house and after a fine dinner, introductions and awards everyone was treated to an interesting illustrated presentation by Jeff Buckley about the history of the Moon Motor Car Company in St. Louis. Jeff is the founder and president of the International Moon Motor Car Club and owns a number of Moon automobiles including the AACA National First Place award-winning (NC) 1925 Moon roadster he brought to display at our meeting.



The Spirit of St. Louis Region banner was prominently displayed in the venue for the Annual Meeting.



Trish Gormley led the group in an opening prayer of thanks.



Wendell Smith presented a bound booklet about the provenance/technical aspects of Doug Kirberg’s Rolls-Royce to Doug for recognition of his generous hosting of our annual event.



John Lowell presenting a SSR Participation Award to Jack Pledger for his 2022 metal-shaping seminar.



Richard Quick, immediate past recipient of the Richard Olson Award, presenting the award to Bob Radel as the 2022 honoree.



SSR Member Bob Radel received the SSR Top Participation Award from John Lowell.



Moon Motor Car Club founder and President Jeff Buckley giving a detailed presentation on the history of Moon.



The SSR Director's Award was presented to Matt Palish in recognition of his passion for driving a Classic Car, in particular his participation in the 2022 Great Race in his 1940 Packard Custom Super Eight 180 Formal Sedan.

Right Upper: The AACA National First Place Award-winning 1925 Moon Sport Roadster (NC) owned by Jeff Buckley was on display at Kirberg's Car Barn for everyone's pleasure. It was restored by SSR member Rick Quirin in Belleville.

Right Lower: One of Doug & Joanne Kirberg's Full Classics on display was this fabulous and colorful 1931 Packard Convertible Coupe.



Hints From The Classic Car Garage—By Jim Schild

Brace Yourself - Installing a new steel full floor pan on a 1936 Cord 810 Convertible Phaeton.

Like many pre-WWII Classic Cars, our 1936 Cord 810 Convertible Phaeton had seen better days through its life. This Cord was living in the St. Louis area as far back as 1944 when our late friend Pete Dapkus remembers seeing it on the local streets painted fully in what I call "Porch Green." When we acquired the car in Overland, Missouri early in 1992 it was obvious that not only had the entire car been this familiar shade of green, it had at one time been converted to some type of rear wheel drive configuration. The butchering evident from this, in addition to some obvious time in the open left this otherwise solid Cord in a less than inviting condition that would turn some restorer's away. This was how Myrna and I captured this gem when SRR member Larry Hassel decided it was more than he wished to deal with. As usual, Myrna wasted no time in jumping at the chance to own and enjoy this rare Classic. We were in the Overland Garage shop the next day.

Our Cord had been changed back to front-drive configuration at some point with the front clip and engine/transaxle assembly from another Cord but the steel floor of the unitized body was rusted and butchered beyond hope. It took a few years before we had time to tackle this chore but when that time arrived we had to decide on how it would be accomplished. As members of the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Club we knew that Stan Gilliland in Wellington, Kansas had the parts and the information needed to solve this problem. Rather than have a craftsman fabricate these parts from steel as many professional shops might do, we chose to purchase them directly from Stan and save a lot of time and expensive effort.

The next important choice at this point was how and where to get this work done. I know how to weld but to do this job would obviously require a full rotisserie to access the bottom of the body inside and out. We do not have that capability so we had to find a shop that could do the work properly. We checked with three local restoration shops, all experienced in restoring Classic Cars. After seeing what we needed to do, they all three came up with estimates of \$25,000 to replace the floor pans with a time schedule unknown. Considering that was a bit more than we paid for the car I told Myrna that we should check with some friends I know from my other life as a Mopar Factory Maximum Performance historian and consultant.

I contacted my two friends Jeff and Darren in Buffalo, Missouri at Premier Body & Paint (417-345-2886) who had completed an award-winning restoration on Bill "Maverick" Golden's

famous (NC) 1964 Hemi Super Stock Dodge sedan. Myrna and I soon met with them personally while on a trip to the Springfield, Missouri area for my Granddaughter's Missouri State University Graduation. They had no idea what a Cord was or how it looked but after showing them what we had and what we needed they gave us a price of \$17,000 to finish the job. Myrna knew as soon as she met them that we could trust them with the work. We promptly ordered the new steel floor pans and had them shipped directly to Premier.

As soon as possible Myrna and I transported the Cord down to Buffalo and after dropping it off we told them we would also like them to restore the previously messed up firewall and paint it and the steering column Cigarette Cream and instrument panel Ramada Red in acrylic urethane. We left the car in Buffalo on a Thursday afternoon and by the following Tuesday we were sent pictures of the Cord already disassembled and on the rotisserie.



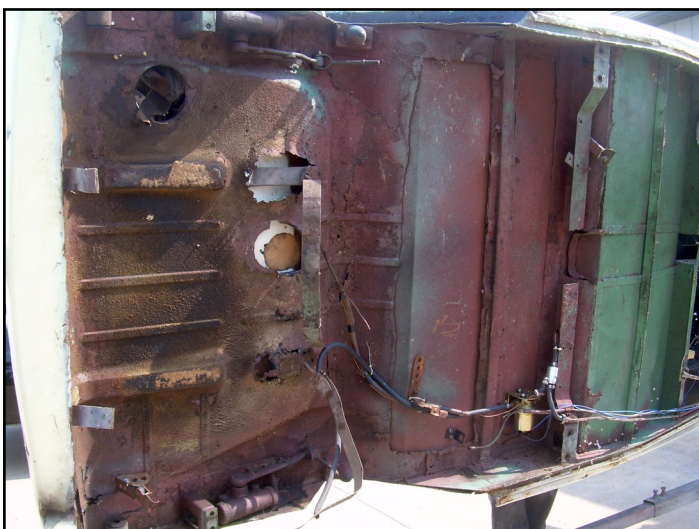
The entire front sub-frame had to be removed to properly restore the underside and structure of the 1936 Cord 810 body. It is held together with twenty bolts.



This is the picture we saw on Tuesday after the Cord was delivered to Buffalo on the previous Thursday. Note the 1" x 1" steel braces in the totally stripped body.



The underside of the 1936 Cord body shows the extremely poor condition, rust and ugly porch green paint that at one time covered the entire car. This Cord had been hiding in the St. Louis area since the 1940's and was unknown to Cord historians.



Another view of the Cord body and the butchering done to convert it to rear-wheel drive at some point..



The 1936 Cord after all new pressed steel floor pans were welded in place by the guys at Buffalo Paint & Body. Everything is almost perfect at this point.



While the body was disassembled we told the guys at Buffalo to repair and restore the firewall according to detailed drawings were got from Stan Gilliland in Kansas.

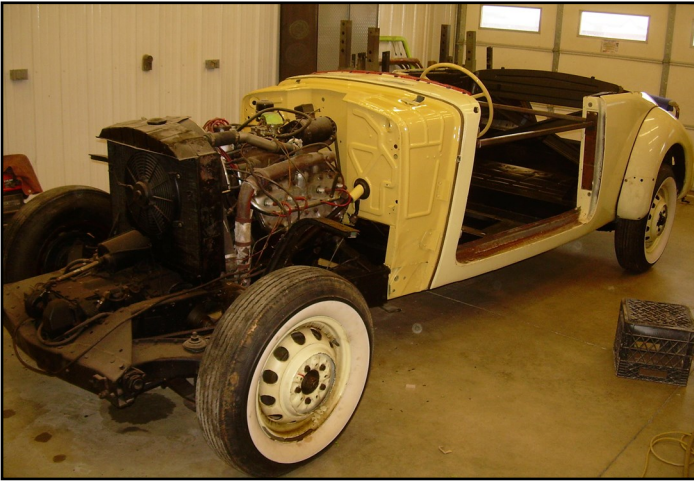


The underside of the Cord body was sprayed with black pickup bed liner material which is virtually indestructible. This replaced the original black undercoating that had been applied when the car was built at Connersville.

This is where the title of this little article comes in. It was clear in the pictures that these young men knew what they were doing when I noticed the one-inch square steel tubing braces welded and bolted between the door jambs and across the body width. Once the old floor pan was removed from the body there would be little left to provide strength as the work was completed. It is important for any job like this, especially a convertible, to maintain the body in a solid and square position so nothing can move around. If you don't see this structure while someone is working on your similar car or body in this condition you should quickly find another shop to complete the job properly.

Huff Collection Tour, November 25-26, 2022

By Todd Tobiasz and John Lowell



This is how our Cord looked when we arrived at Buffalo to haul it home. There is still a lot of work to do but it will happen. The new top is done and all of the beautiful red leather interior by the late Rick Hulett is finished and safely stored in our house in boxes.

Myrna and I were further surprised when after just 21 days, we were contacted by Premier informing us that the work on our Cord was completed and it was ready to be picked up. We again drove to Buffalo to inspect and load our Cord in our trailer. The work done was excellent and very high quality. As we had discussed, the original underside and outer wheel wells of the floor pan of the Cord was coated with a thick factory gloss black undercoating and we wanted that replaced with something acceptable in appearance but much more durable. We decided on using black truck bed liner like that used on our new 2014 Ram pickup by the factory. We knew from some study and experience that this material was virtually indestructible and would add strength and protection to the underbody.

The guys at Premier had sent pictures of their work and we already knew the quality of the welding and repair work. The underbody now looked like new and would outlast the original material many times over. After all of this additional work the cost was exactly \$17,000 as we had been told at the beginning. This was in addition of course to the \$1,000 for the new steel panels. We highly recommend calling Premier in Buffalo to get on their waiting list for any restoration work.

Now, all I have to do is assemble a 1936 Cord 810 Convertible phaeton from about ten boxes of parts that I did not remove or disassemble. Just another day (or years) in the life of a Classic Car enthusiast and restorer.



SSR Member Barbara Knudsen discusses the depth of the collection with Bob Huff during the tour.



Kevin Huff (right) tells some of the tour members including (left to right) Al Mercer, Dave Stephens and Duane Wesche about their family car collection.



Friday Tour Group



Saturday Tour Group.

For two days after Thanksgiving, Bob and son Kevin Huff, hosted tours of their automotive collection to members of the Spirit Region of the Classic Car Club, the St. Louis Region of the Cadillac & LaSalle Club, and the Gateway Region of the AACA. Approximately eighty car enthusiasts made the visit. There were nearly ninety cars spread over four buildings and five acres. No small amount of exercise. Their collection spans the 1920's to the modern era. Some original, some restored. All makes and models. And every car comes with a story. Most cars hail from the 40's, 50's, and 60's. Several makes were represented from the Classic Era, primarily unrestored, including several Cadillacs from 1938 to the '40's, a rare 1926 Packard Opera Coupe, a Hupmobile, a REO, and two Stutz cars, one a racer.

The collection of cars and memorabilia represent many decades of collecting. Bob and Kevin regaled us with stories that go with how each of the cars was acquired and why they are desirable. We respected their wishes to refrain from publishing photos of the cars. But this collection is truly one that has to be seen to be believed.

The Huff Collection is one of those little-known rare gems in the Metro area that's reminiscent of other famous car collections uncovered in the past, such as the incredible cache of Stutz motorcars squirreled away in barns and outbuildings by the reclusive A. K. Miller, or the stash of cars that were stored vertically (to save space) in buildings in and around Detroit by Barney Pollard who started collecting in 1938. We owe a debt of gratitude to collectors who preserve the heritage and history of ancient automobiles.

Good evening everyone,

I hope you all had a fantastic holiday! Just a bit ago I received a phone call from an event director at the St. Louis Public Library who is looking to secure a few classics (2-4) to display at their upcoming 1940s – 1970s Prom Themed event on March 31, 2023. Those who wish to display their classics will receive FREE event entry while event security and patriicians will be protecting their vehicles on display outside of the building. Of course, you are welcome to sit with your vehicle to chat with anyone that may have questions about its history.

Sarah Boothby

Photographer/Marketing Manager, St. Louis Car Museum & Sales

314-993-1330 | sboothby@stlouiscarmuseum.com | [Visit Our Website](#)



EVENT: PROM @ SLPL (Adults only)

DATE: March 31, 2023

TIME: 7:30 – 9:30 (car display only expected (7:30-8:30))

LOCATION: Central Library, 1301 Olive Street St. Louis, MO 63103

BENEFITS: Those who display their cars receive free event entry. Magazine press will be present and club participation plugs for publication is an opportunity

EVENT FLYER: Attached

The night will include complimentary appetizers and drinks, along with, 40s – 70s-themed music and décor. I thought this would be a unique opportunity for a great night out for anyone interested while supporting local events! Tickets are \$60 a person with all proceeds going toward the St. Louis Public Library but again if you showcase your classic entry is free. (Vehicles are only expected to be on display for one hour from 7:30 to 8:30 while guests are entering but feel free to hang out and display your ride for as long as you would like!)

If interested, please contact Joe Schwartz with the STL Public Library at (314)539-0347 or by emailing jschwartz@slpl.org to learn more.

PROM @ SLPL

PROM @ SLPL celebrates the unique cultural relationship St. Louis has to the special four-year shared experience we all call "high school." PROM @ SLPL consists of two components - a prom event and a four month - long exhibit at Central Library in 2023.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Friday, March 31, 2023
Time: 7:30-9:30 P.M.
Location: Central Library, 1301 Olive Street St. Louis, MO 63103
Cost: \$60 individual / \$40 Friends of SLPL

EXHIBIT DETAILS

"PROM Magazine: Where did you go to high school?"

Location: Central Library, 1301 Olive Street, St. Louis, MO 63103

"PROM Magazine: Where did you go to high school?" highlights St. Louis Public Library's extensive collection of PROM Magazine. Published from 1947-1973, PROM Magazine was produced "exclusively for the youth of Greater St. Louis" and represented all the high schools - public and private - of the area.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT

Proceeds from PROM @ SLPL support St. Louis Public Library's exhibits and accompanying cultural programming.

Exhibits allow St. Louis Public Library (SLPL) customers to interact with their library in a new way, bringing to life history, art and culture.

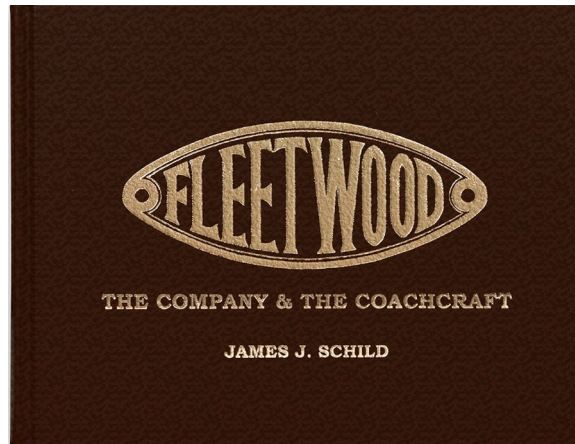
SLPL exhibits introduce first-time visitors to library materials and services. They draw visitors through the door and open up a world of enriching and transformative resources.



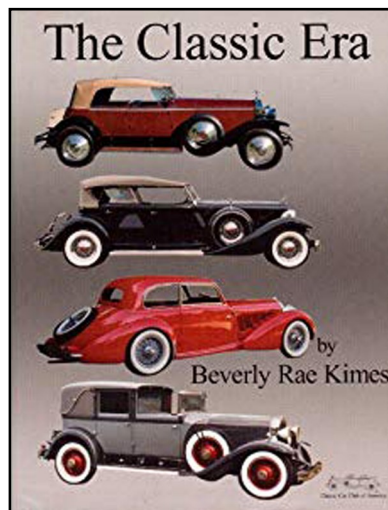
More cars from the Kirberg Collection. **Top:** A row of mostly Full Classic Cars. **Below:** A 1919 Locomobile..



THE CLASSIC BOOKSHELF



The SSR Region proudly announces a re-issue of the book *Fleetwood, The Company and The Coachcraft*, by Region member James J. Schild. Long out of print, and a must for all Classic Car enthusiasts, the book is printed on high quality paper, and is the authoritative work on Fleetwood coachwork supplied to the finest American and European car manufacturers. Awarded the prestigious **Maurice Hendry Award** for excellence in journalistic contributions by the Cadillac & La Salle Club in 2012, and the **Thomas McKean Memorial Cup** by the Antique Automobile Club of America in 2013. Brown leatherette cover with gold foil stamping, 464 pages, 1100 b/w illustrations. \$99.50 postpaid. International buyers, please contact us for a shipping quote. Order your copy today from the SSR Region via email at ssr.cca@yahoo.com, or via our webstore at www.spiritcca.com.



The SSR has a limited supply of the award winning book, *The Classic Era*, by the late Beverly Rae Kimes, available for sale. Hardcover, 8-1/2 x 11, 720 Pages. The top and bottom cover Classics are owned by SSR members. These books are brand new and a must for the Classic Car enthusiast. \$50.00. To reserve a copy, contact Bob Radel at 314-991-3590.

Jim Schild
5 Rowan Oak Lane
Columbia, IL 62236



Myrna Schild proudly displays her 1914 Model T Ford (NC) attendance prize at the 2022 SSR Annual Meeting. Larry Hassel Photo.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2023

Mecum Kissimmee Auction, Kissimmee, Florida	4-15 January, 2023
St. Louis New Car Auto Show, St. Louis Convention Center	13-16 January 2023
Barrett-Jackson Auction, Scottsdale, Arizona	21-29 January, 2023
RM Sotheby's Auto Auction, Scottsdale, Arizona	29 January, 2023

February 2023

>>SSR CCCA Board & Membership Kick-Off Meeting. Hyman, Ltd, St. Louis, MO	4 February, 2023
>>Spark Plug Deadline for submissions and ads, Editor Jim Schild	20 February, 2023

March 2023

>>SSR CCCA Spirit Night, Host, Date and time TBD	March, 2023
St. Louis Public Library Foundation PROM Event invitation.	31 March, 2023