

# THE SPARK PLUG

News to spark your interest

July/August 2021

Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America



The 1936 Cadillac 7029 Fleetwood Convertible Sedan owned by Todd and Amber Tobiasz at the MOT Show.

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# Director's Message

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## SPIRIT REGION OFFICERS

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## BOARD OF MANAGERS SSR REGION

Larry Hassel (2020)

Robert Bruce (2020)

Dave Groerich (2020)

Jim Gormley (2021)

Rob Hosenfelt (2021)

Duane Wesche (2021)

Barb Knudsen (2022)

John Groll (2022)

Bob Radel (2022)

## COMMITTEES

### ACTIVITIES

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John Gibson  
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### MEMBERSHIP

Todd Tobiasz  
ttobiasz@sbcglobal.net

### WEBMASTER

John Lowell

## SPARK PLUG NEWSLETTER

### EDITOR

Jim Schild  
jschild@htc.net

Hello All

At our recent SSR Board Meeting, the first in a long while because of COVID, everyone in the group was upbeat and happy to be together again, but most of all really excited to get back to the business of the Club and plan some activities. We met at the home of long time member, Helen Cole Imbs, granddaughter of the founder of the Cole Motor Car Company. Helen loves talking about the history of Cole and has many historic artifacts related to the Company, including two magnificent sterling silver trophies and rare literature.

Getting back to activities, earlier this year Todd Tobiasz and John Gibson got together remotely to brainstorm some ideas for activities, and the list was quite varied and impressive. One that is now on the calendar and coming up soon is

a tour of member Charles Gallagher's extensive collection scheduled for Saturday, July 17th. If you've never seen Charles' automobiles this is a must see opportunity. Drive your Classic if you wish. More information on this tour can be found in this issue.

I was hoping that the ever popular Spirit Night would return in June, but since many places are still short of staffing it wasn't practical to have one. I'm working on one for July, but because of the close proximity to the 4th of July holiday weekend, it was decided to schedule it later in the month..... stay tuned for more details.

So come on out and let's enjoy the Club and one another's company. I look forward to seeing you soon! **John Lowell**



*Board Members and guests at the recent SSR Board meeting. John Groll, Robert Hosenfelt, Spark Plug Editor Jim Schild, Todd Tobiasz and Bob Radel.*



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# Across the Editor's Desk

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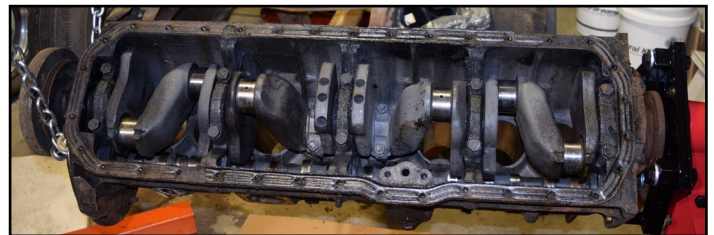
While our 1929 Cadillac Fleetwood Town Cabriolet is on display at the Museum of Transportation I have been taking advantage of the space now available in our big garage. Myrna's replica 1929 Duesenberg project (NC) has been slow because I have not had room to work on the engine and chassis. Now that more space is available before the end of October we are trying to get the Buick 320 cubic-inch Straight Eight engine rebuilt and finished. Although it is a 1952 version it is exactly the same as the Full Classic 1937-1941 Buick Limited and Roadmaster engines except for its insert rod and main bearings and higher compression ratio. We are also using the dual downdraft carburetor intake manifold from a 1941 Roadmaster and custom made exhaust headers. When finished in beautiful Duesenberg Green, chrome and aluminum it should be an impressive powerplant.

Since I have built a few engines including two 1928-1931 Model A Fords (NC), a couple of Rolls-Royce Silver Wraiths and a 565 horsepower 426 Hemi (NC) I considered myself an "Engine Builder". I thought I knew quite a bit about building automobile engines and I am familiar with hoists, engine stands, micrometers, bore gauges, dial indicators, ring compressors, torque wrenches and other special tools. I did not expect the new and interesting lessons I have learned working this big Buick. First, it has a 42-inch long crankshaft that weighs 116 pounds and has five main bearings of varying sizes. This engine weighs over 750 pounds when complete so we had to purchase a heavy duty 2,000 pound capacity engine stand at Harbor Freight to support its length. This Buick engine requires the engine hoist to safely lift the cylinder head.

In addition to its massive size the Buick has some parts that are significantly different than any I have worked on before. The balancer on the crankshaft is attached as a slip-on unit

with a keyway rather than pressed on as many others are. The cam timing is set in an entirely different way on the crank and cam gears and chain than most other engines. The pistons are cast aluminum but they have a partial dome which visually sets them apart from any others. With all of these unusual features, it was amazing to find a detailed series of videos on YouTube presented by Hagerty Insurance about building a 1951 Buick Straight (NC) Eight. Without these videos there are details about the project that I would not otherwise have known. They are narrated and accomplished by Davin, who works for Hagerty and does a wonderful job of explaining every part and function of this project. Don't be surprised if you find help with your engine building project on YouTube and other places on the Internet.

The real lesson from this is if you have never built an engine don't be afraid to give it a try. There are lots of people to help and lots of information available. It is very satisfying and a place of great pride and accomplishment when you can tell someone that you built and gave birth to the powerplant in your Classic Car. **Jim Schild**



*The crankcase and 116 pound crankshaft of the 320 cubic-inch Buick Straight Eight Engine.*



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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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Payment in full must be received before ads are published. Ads must be received prior to each deadline. If purchasing full year package the same graphics and or wording will be used each time unless otherwise notified before the next deadline. Deadlines are the 20<sup>th</sup> of every other month. Spirit of St. Louis Region CCCA reserves the right to refuse advertisement space. The Spirit of St. Louis region CCCA does not assume liability, either implied or expressed as to accuracy of any ad. The Spirit of St. Louis Region CCCA does not insure or endorse any product or services advertised.

## Membership Musings

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Are you out and about? Several members participated in the Father's Day Show at the Museum of Transportation with a mix of Classic and non-classic cars. It was the debut for Larry Hassel's 1931 LaSalle coupe and Kevin Williams's 1950 Cadillac convertible (NC). Kevin's Cadillac made a big splash and it drove away with the People's Choice award. It was good to get out and see people out with their cars. Even with the forecast of oppressive heat, the show had about 65 cars present and lots and lots of visitors to the museum. I went down to the visitor building twice to renew my membership and the line was out the door most of the time I waited. So clearly a lot of people want to get out.

At our board meeting last week we discussed several events to help

get members out and together again. Board members signed up to schedule and sponsor an event. As we get more structure to these events we will get those dates and information out to everyone.

The Kicks on 66/Randy Gori Memorial Car Show and Cruise in Edwardsville is scheduled this year for September 11. The Abbotts, the Gibsons, and I enjoyed this show last year. Like last year it will be held on a golf course to spread out the cars and provide a lot of room for a wide variety of cars. Jeff Kennedy is the show field chair and is actively recruiting cars. He is particularly keen to have the Classic Car Club represented. Please look up the show website at [www.KicksOn66.org](http://www.KicksOn66.org). He had a designated area for CCCA and I expect he will do the same this year.

Membership status: Nearly all members have renewed. Our membership count is 77 with 27 associate members. Thank you. Please visit the Classic Car Club of America website

([www.classicarclub.org](http://www.classicarclub.org)) or contact me to recruit new members or renew at:

([ttobiasz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttobiasz@sbcglobal.net)).



## Mark Hyman and Hyman LTD at the prestigious 2021 Amelia Island Concours.

Although Spirit of St. Louis CCCA member Mark Hyman brings Classic Cars to the Amelia Island event, this year Mark showed a wonderful and unusual 1905 Columbia Electric Open Drive Brougham (NC).

## Missouri Veterans Home Car Show

Sunday, July 18, 2021

All Car Clubs are Welcome, and Lunch is provided

10600 Lewis & Clark Blvd

St. Louis, Mo 63136

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Contact Bill Albertin

Cell (314) 722-2381



**Above:** Mark Hyman and Terri Coppens just after receiving the Best in Class Award in the “It’s Electric” class with our 1905 Columbia XXXV Open Drive Brougham (NC). We also participated in the Fashion Show.

**Right:** An overview of the Amelia Island Concours field. Photos by Amelia Concours Media Gallery, Deremer Studios LLC.





**SSR Classic Car Club members attending the annual Father's day show at the Museum of Transportation in June. Some brought Classic Cars and some brought non-Classics.**

**Photos by Todd Tobiasz and Wendell Smith.**



**Larry Hassel's 1931 LaSalle Coupe.**



**Todd Tobiasz and his 1936 Cadillac Fleetwood 7029 Convertible Sedan.**



**Kevin Williams and his NC 1950 Cadillac Convertible.**



**Jim Gormley and his Volkswagen Karman Ghia (NC)**

**Left: Phil Taxman and his Jeepster convertible. (NC)**



**Cover Photo by Wendell Smith.**





*Charles Gallagher in his Mercury Convertible (NC)*



*Todd Tobiasz and his 1931 Cadillac Fisher Seven Passenger Sedan on display at the Museum of Transportation through October 31, 2021.*



*Non-Classical 1950 Cadillac 62 Convertible and Classical 1936 Cadillac Fleetwood Convertible Sedan.*

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## Visit the Charles Gallagher Collection

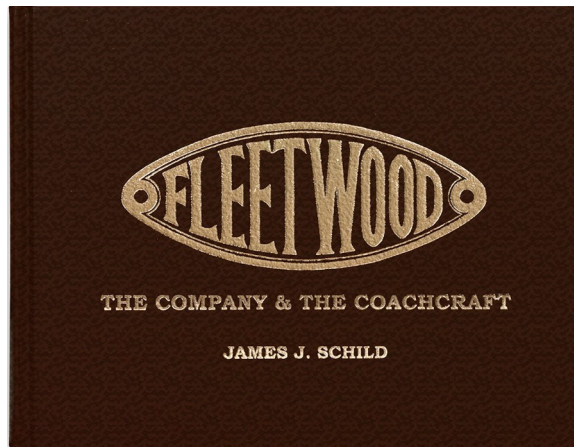
On Saturday, July 17, Charles Gallagher will open his car and religious icon collections to the Classic Car Club Spirit Region. If you are not familiar, Charles's cars run the gamut from (a heavy emphasis on) Classics to later twentieth century models and he has added a few new items over the winter and spring. The program will start at 1:30 pm with sandwiches. The collection is located just north of downtown St. Louis. Mark your calendar and plan to RSVP to Todd (314-540-2431 or [ttobiasz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttobiasz@sbcglobal.net)). I will send additional information, including location and directions, by email. Please contact Todd if you have any questions or no access to email.

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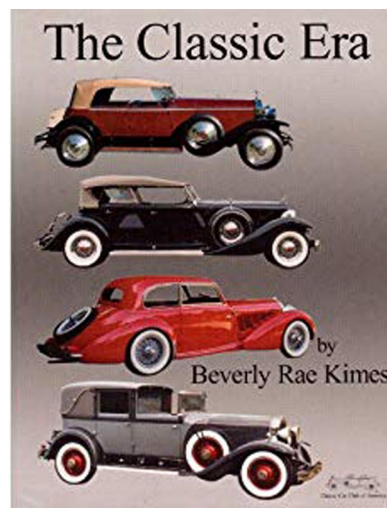
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## THE CLASSIC BOOKSHELF



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.ccca@yahoo.com](mailto:ssr.ccca@yahoo.com), or via our webstore at [www.spiritccca.com](http://www.spiritccca.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.



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**HUNTER CLASSICS**



*John Lowell and Helen Cole Imbs at the June SSR Board meeting at her home.*

*Right: The instrument panel of Helen's 1919 Cole 870 7-passenger Touring. Photos by Larry Hassel.*



**For Sale.** Collection of various car books that I have collected over the years. Would like to sell all as a lot. Art of the auto, Adler, 232 pages; Encyclopedia of the American Automobile, Ludvigsen, Wise, 224 pages; Great Cars from Ford, Langworth, 96 pages; American Motors Album, American Motors, 146 pages; Cars of the Stars, Clymer, 152 pages; Cabriolets, Thevenet, Vann, 208 pages; Early American Clymer, 213 pages;; Roadside Relics, Shiers 205 pages; Sports Cars of the World, Halmi, 120 pages; Sports Cars 1928 to 1939, Nicholson, 125 pages; Chevrolet Story, Published in 1963, General Motors, 80 pages. All books in excellent to very good condition with dust covers and no pages missing. Sell all! \$100 bucks! Call **Bob Radel: 314-991-3590.**



Jim Schild  
5 Rowan Oak Lane  
Columbia, IL 62236



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### July 2021

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| European Car Show, Charity, Mini St. Louis, Maplewood, Missouri | 11 July, 2021 |
| >>Tour of Charles Gallagher's Collection in North St. Louis.    | 17 July, 2021 |
| Missouri Veteran's Home Car Show, North St. Louis County.       | 18 July, 2021 |

### August 2021

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Mecum Auctions, Monterey Auction                                   | 12 August, 2021    |
| >>CCCA Grand Opening at the CCCA Museum, Hickory Corners, Michigan | 27-29 August, 2021 |
| >>Submission deadline for the Spark Plug Newsletter                | 20 August, 2021    |

### September 2021

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Kicks on Route 66 Car Show and Cruise, Edwardsville, IL                  | 11 September, 2021 |
| Wheels In Motion Car Show, Charity, Westport                             | 12 September, 2021 |
| British Car Show, Creve Coeur Park                                       | 18 September, 2021 |
| HCCM Car Show and Swap Meet & CLC STL Region Car Show, Chesterfield Mall | 19 September, 2021 |