

THE SPARK PLUG

News to spark your interest

July/August, 2022

Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America



Jim and Lisa Hendrix with their award-winning 1935 Jaguar SS Airline Coupe at the 2022 Cincinnati Concours

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Director's Message

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful Summer and have participated in or are considering joining in one or more of the many activities in the Club this year with your Classic Car. The activities committee, chaired by Todd Tobiasz, has done yeoman's work this year in planning and organizing some spectacular events thus far. And, there's more to come!

It's become quite evident that many collector car aficionados, not only regionally, but around the country, are following what we do in our Region. Whether it's the 82 likes we got on our Facebook page last month, the hits on our award-winning website or simply the many inquiries I receive via email from interested parties, people want to know more about us. Why? I think it's a combination of things, but when SSR members like Jim Hendrix, Wendell Smith, Bob Abbott, John Gibson and others garner awards from major car shows around the country, our Region is certainly represented well and in the spotlight. Our editor, Jim Schild, often relates to me how often he hears from folks from other Regions who regularly receive and read our newsletter, *Spark Plug*, and how much they appreciate the interesting content in that publication. This keeps our Region in the spotlight. And, it only helps our Club stand out

when we are among the top three Regions in the country in the Publication Awards category at the National CCCA Annual Meeting. Folks like what they see!

Let's keep talking up our Club out in the public square, whether that be at a car show, or in front of some interested onlookers gathered around your parked Classic at the corner grocery store. There's some new members among them!

John



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Across the Editor's Desk

An interesting entry at the 2022 HCCM Father's Day Show—Larry Hassel Photos

As I walked up the long path to the top of the hill at the HCCM Father's Day Show at the MOT on 19 June, a small sports car caught my eye. At first glance I thought that it was a British Morgan but as I approached I realized that it was clearly not a Morgan but a BMW. Not just any BMW but a 1938 BMW 328 Roadster, a CCA Full Classic.

I doubt that most visitors to this show truly understood what this car was but it was familiar to me as my late friend Herbert E. von Fragstein once told me that he had owned a 1940 BMW 328 Mille Miglia (Thousand Mile Rally) Sports Roadster, one of only two such cars of five that actually raced in that event in 1940. His sold for \$1.6 million dollars and he thought that was an unreasonably low price.

For those who don't know, the 328 BMW had been selected as one of the most important cars of the 20th Century in 1999 and the most important Pre-WWII German Sports Car. Only 165 of this model were built in 1938 which makes this one especially rare and valuable.

The 1938 BMW 328 Roadster has an inline six-cylinder 120 CI engine that develops 80 HP and rides on a 94.5-inch wheelbase. It has a top speed of around 102 MPH. The body was designed by Peter Szymanowski, who became BMW chief of design after World War II (although technically the car was designed by Fritz Fiedler).

This car was owned and displayed by Mark Fredericks but apparently Mark's 90 year old father who was also at the show purchased the car in the early 1960s for \$600.00. I talked with Mr. Fredericks for a while about his car.

Moral: You never know what you might find at any local car show. **Jim**



This BMW 328 won Best of Show on Father's Day.





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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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Cars and events are now in full swing, in town and elsewhere. More than forty members and guests enjoyed touring the Hunter Classics Collection in May. What a special treat to have Steve Brauer give us his personal thoughts about some of his special items. In June twenty-five members and guests got a look at the Melba and Wayne Nolan collection of multiple pre-war makes and models. Truly a hidden gem with nearly fifty cars.

Members Bob Abbott, John Gibson, Jim Hendrix, and Wendell Smith have been on the road at the Cincinnati Concours with their cars. National meets provide the opportunity to see and share the show field with the most competitive Classics. Details are elsewhere in this publication. Although without his car, John Gibson attended the Pierce Arrow meet in California also. Kevin Wil

iams and I attended the Cadillac and LaSalle Club Grand National outside Chicago.

Coming up after the July fourth holiday, we will have a Spirit Night at Big Chief Roadhouse in Wildwood, Missouri, on July 12 hosted by Larry Hassel. We've enjoyed a Spirit Night at Big Chief in the past and if it is a pleasant night, we will enjoy a tasty meal and each other's company outside on their patio. I hope we will have a new and interesting location for August.

On July 16 members will have a chance to get hands-on experience with sheet metal fabrication. How many projects have we started where we need a one-of-a-kind replacement? Jack Pledger has the Ancient Grease Garage. He has the period tools and the experience to show us what's involved in recreating some of these unique pieces. Bring your ideas and an open mind.

We'd like have a big club turnout for the Kicks on 66 Show in Edwardsville September 10. The location again this year is the On the Hill Golf Course in Edwardsville. Money raised benefits local charities. Register online at the www.kickson66.org website. Check out the calendar to see other local events.

We are still looking for events for the remainder of the year that will allow us to get out, spend some time together, and maybe meet some new friends. Feel free to share your ideas

and host
an event.
Todd



May 3, 2022 SSR Spirit Night

The May 2022 SSR Spirit Night was held at the Trainwreck Saloon at 9243 Manchester Road in Brentwood. It was well-attended and everyone enjoyed a nice dinner and lots of fellowship as always. The meeting was hosted by long-time member Bob Radel. This place is known for its Bison Burgers and has a large example of one out front. The building dates to 1891 and is very interesting. Todd Tobiasz drove his 1931 La Salle coupe to the event.

June 1, 2022 SSR Spirit Night

Photos by Jim Schild & John Gibson

The June Spirit Night was held at the Post Sport Bar & Grill on Olive on Wednesday June 1 and as usual was well-attended by SSR members. This meeting was hosted by Wendell Smith. A special presentation was done by Wendell Smith on proper oil and lubricants for your Classic Car and it included lots of interesting and useful information. Bob Abbott, Wendell Smith and John Gibson also gave a presentation on the preparation and activities on CARavans and multi-day Classic Car tours that included videos and pictures. All three are well-versed on such events and have completed many of them.



Region Director John Lowell Addressing the group.



Bob Abbott provided lots of advice and information on CARavans and long tours for the group



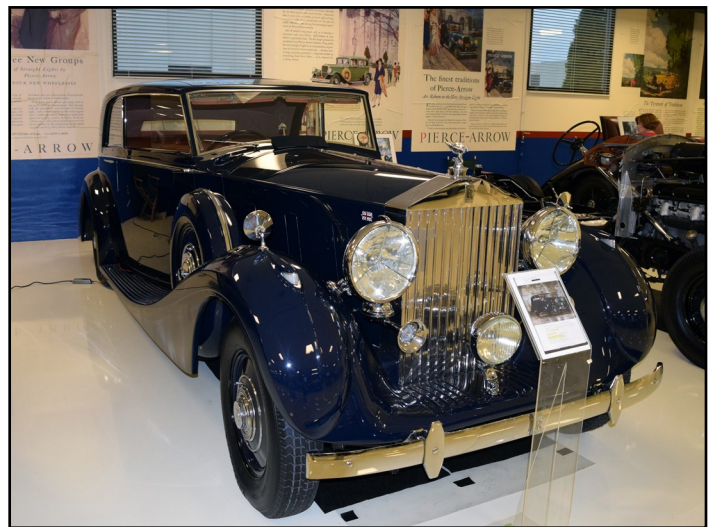
Wendell Smith talks to the Spirit Night Group about oil.

Hunter Classics Collection

Story & Photos by Jim Schild

SSR Activities Chair Todd Tobiasz again set up an amazing and very interesting May 6 tour, this time a rare opportunity to visit the world class Hunter Classics Collection in Bridgeton, Missouri, personally hosted by Stephen Brauer, CEO of Hunter Engineering. Reservations were required ahead of time and the attendance was very good.

This collection is made up of ultra high-quality automobiles of all types, many of which are CCCA Full Classics. The collection includes everything from Cadillac, Rolls-Royce, Packard, Duesenberg, Lincoln, Bentley (including two rare 8 Liter Bentleys) and much more. The Collection entails three buildings, only two of which are open to selected private tours. Since Mr. Brauer is a long-time member of the Spirit of St. Louis Region we are fortunate and grateful to have been invited to this wonderful experience.



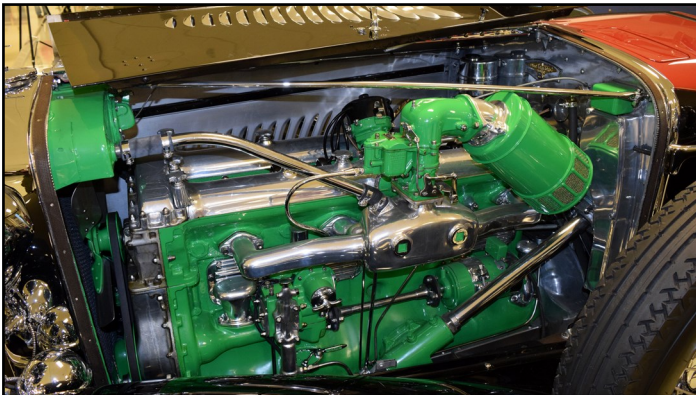
A very rare James Young Rolls-Royce parallel door coupe.





Stephen Brauer (right) personally told everyone about his passion and his fabulous collection during our visit. His enthusiasm for everything here was evident.

Myrna and I with a LeBaron DCP like the replica we are building. Below: A J Duesenberg 420 Straight Eight engine.



Hunter Engineering History

Hunter Engineering Company owes its beginnings to a discharged automobile battery. Lee Hunter Jr., a 23-year-old St. Louis architecture student, found himself frequently confronted with car battery failure in his Packard convertible.

When experts said it couldn't be done, Lee Hunter invented a way to quick charge automobile batteries. He then went on to build a highly successful company to manufacture and sell his other inventions that would soon after revolutionize the automotive service industry.

Today, Hunter Engineering Company designs, manufactures and sells a wide range of auto service equipment for a global market. Hunter products include PC- and Windows®-based wheel alignment systems, computerized wheel balancers, versatile tire changers, on- and off-car brake lathes, feature-packed vehicle lifts and money-saving inspection equipment.

Lee Hunter Jr. (1913–1986) was an automotive engineer. His inventions include the "Kwikurent" device for the rapid charging of a car battery, and a machine to balance car wheels while they spin. He founded Hunter Engineering Company in 1946. For his "dramatic impact on the development of the automobile and the automotive industry" he was inducted posthumously into the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn, Michigan.

Experiencing American Luxury Gilmore Classic Car Museum June 3-5, 2022—Text & Pictures by Duane Wesche

The CCCA Museum Experience for 2022 began in Auburn Indiana at the ACD with a reception and tours of the wonderful ACD Museum for those early birds who arrived on the 2nd of June. Friday morning the group had a driving tour north to the Gilmore Museum at Hickory Corners, Michigan.

Registration was at the CCCA Museum barn and at 4:30pm was the unveiling of the newly restored 1933 Stutz DV-32 Monte Carlo by Weymann that had originally been donated to the CCCA museum by **Spirit of St. Louis member, Bill Abbott**.

The welcome BBQ was served in a large tent outside of the CCCA Museum with great food and updates on the activities for the weekend. The food was good, the renewing of friendships and making of new friends went on all evening with many out on the field examining the classics parked outside the tent.

Saturday was a lovely day with sunshine and great weather. Donuts and coffee welcomed the attendees and more conversation and car viewing ensued. The art exhibit opened at 10:00 am and the driving tour departed at 10:30. The first stop was a tour to Bill Parfet's garages at his farm adjoining the museum. Bill has a collection of garages that hold beautiful cars of all ages, wonderful wooden boats and even his helicopter.

We drove back to the Museum for a box lunch and more catching up with friends. From there we went to see a golden age home undergoing restoration in Battle Creek, Mich. The homeowner has been restoring this exquisite home for several years and still has some finishing to make it complete. She had baked several car themed desserts for us and they were great!

Many of us returned to the CCCA museum to hear a talk by Dick Ruzzin, retired Director of Design at GM.

The cocktail reception started at 6 followed by a delicious dinner held at the Radisson Hotel. The Concours Field opened at 7am on Sunday morning. Judging began at 9am and later in the morning, a Western Michigan University artist demonstrated how to make auto mascots and encouraged participation by those who came to watch. There were rides in Full Classics, cigar rolling demonstrations, bourbon tasting and jazz music before, during and after the sit down luncheon.

At 2:30pm, the drive through automotive award presentation and Art awards were held. The weekend had great weather, wonderful tours and excellent Classic Cars to see. I would recommend this event to anyone and everyone who has a chance to attend in the future.





A rare Cole Touring on display at Gilmore.



A 1941 Cadillac 62 Coupe.



A Stutz convertible sedan.



This 1929 L-29 Cord was shown by Manns Restoration.



Some of the great cars featured in the Bill Parffet Collection.



Cincinnati Concours d'Elegance

By Wendell Smith June 12, 2022

Photos by Wendell Smith, John Gibson, and Bob Abbott

Each summer I like to participate in a Concours show that is approximately a day's drive from St Louis. Jan Yarbrough, John and Rose Gibson, Bob and Sonia Abbott also share this passion, and we typically travel together. This year we applied and were selected to participate in the Cincinnati Concours d'Elegance. This was our first year participating in this event; however, we learned that the Concours has been held for forty-four years. We also found others from the St. Louis area in attendance. Jim and Lisa Hendrix, for example, were participating in the event for the third time. The concours is the longest running show outside the West Coast and the fourth oldest overall concourse in the United States. The show attracts automobile collectors nationwide as well as from Europe, Canada and South America. I have not shown cars at what I consider the two best shows in the United States (Pebble Beach & Amelia Island), however, I have attended these events. In my judgement the Cincinnati Concours with its 250+ cars is comparable to the Amelia Island event and almost as good as Pebble Beach.

Our weekend started with a cocktail party at the headquarters hotel on Friday evening. On Saturday we participated in a 100-mile countryside tour that was sponsored by Hagerty Insurance. Sunday was the big show day.

The concours was held in a park on a mountain top overlooking the city. There were four show fields. The overall theme of the classic field, where we were located, was American Luxury vs. European Luxury. Our field was organized in seven classes of approximately ten cars each. A 1933 Isotta-Fraschini owned by Stephen Paster of Lebanon, Missouri was on one side of me and a 1939 Delahaye from the CCCA Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan. was on the other side. My group also included the 1935 Jaguar Jim and Lisa Hendricks showed at Pebble Beach last summer. Rounding out my group was a 1936 Packard Twelve from Cheyenne, Wyoming, a 1938 Adler from the Lane Motor Museum in Nashville, Tennessee, a 1938 Bentley from Nicholasville, Kentucky a 1939 Bugatti from Akron, Ohio, and a 1936 Horch from Savannah, Georgia.

I believe all of the sixty or so cars on the Classics field won ribbons reflecting various distinctions represented in these very high end automobiles. The Horch in my group of ten won the trophy as being the best car at the entire show. I won a nice trophy for having the best Rolls/Bentley and Jim and Lisa won the trophy for having the car with the most elegant closed coachwork.

If you are interested in having a fun weekend, regardless of whether or not you enter a car, I recommend you consider attending the Cincinnati Concours next summer. It is totally amazing to see over 250 of the best cars in the world in one location. Also, the show is extremely well organized involving approximate-

ly 300 volunteers that devote their time and energy in raising funds for juvenile arthritis.





Bob and Sonia Abbott and their 1928 Cunningham.



John and Rose Gibson and their Pierce-Arrow Phaeton.

“Jason Manns and Mike Kimrey from Manns Restorations go to these shows and take several cars so we are lucky enough to hitch a ride in their big rig. Pretty nice accommodations for the cars. They also took a 1929 L-29 Cord that they just finished as well. It also won a Specialty Award and class award as well. Jason purchased the company from his Dad when we started the restoration of our car. The '35 SS Cars Ltd, SS One Airline Saloon is the first car he booked and the first car that the company under his ownership finished from a ground up restoration. He and his team of artists brought our car back to life with plenty of challenges along the way. We are all enjoying showing it around the country”. **Jim Hendrix**

More Pictures from the 2022 Cincinnati Concours.



"The Specialty Award we received was "Most Elegant Closed Coachwork" sponsored by Samuel Adams and came with a Green ribbon as well as the "Pavilion Award" that came with a Red and White ribbon. Best of Class was also the Best of Show Horch so Wendell, Lisa and I were in good company. There were nine cars in the class. It was a fun weekend with so many St. Louis people there!"
Jim Hendrix



Wendell and Jan rolling in front of the crowd with the green and yellow ribbons awarded to Wendell's Rolls-Royce Phantom I.





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June 5, 2022 Wayne and Melba Nolan Tour at Imperial, Missouri.

On June 5, 2022 the SSR CCCA Region members traveled to the fabulous and diverse collection of Horseless Carriage Club of Missouri members Wayne and Melba Nolan in Imperial, Missouri. More than 45 antique and one Full Classic automobiles were displayed in this large and beautiful facility. The SSR was well-represented along with some additional local friends and members of other area clubs. Todd and Amber Tobiasz brought their 1936 Cadillac Convertible Sedan and Thomas Quick brought his 1941 Cadillac 62 Convertible Coupe (I did not get a picture). The primary focus of the Nolan collection is St. Louis area cars that were either based here or built here such as Moon, Gardner, Chevrolet and Ford, all non-Classics of course. One the newer acquisitions is the Full Classic 1935 Imperial C2 Airflow Sedan purchased from the Oliver C. Joseph Chrysler, Dodge, Ram dealer in Belleville, Illinois upon the sale of their business. OCJ was the oldest operating Chrysler Dodge business in the world. After visiting the collection members enjoyed great food at Frankie Gianino's, a local Italian restaurant. Thanks to Activities Chair Todd Tobiasz for arranging this fine event.



Above: A row of NC antiques and a NC 1932 Dodge.



Amber & Todd Tobiasz' 1936 Cadillac Convertible Sedan



A NC 1928 Oakland and below a NC 1927 Buick Sedan.





The Nolan's beautiful Full Classic 1935 Imperial C2



John Gibson, Myrna Schild and Wendell Smith.



This 1935 Imperial from the Oliver C. Joseph collection.



John Hartman, John Gibson and Wendell Smith

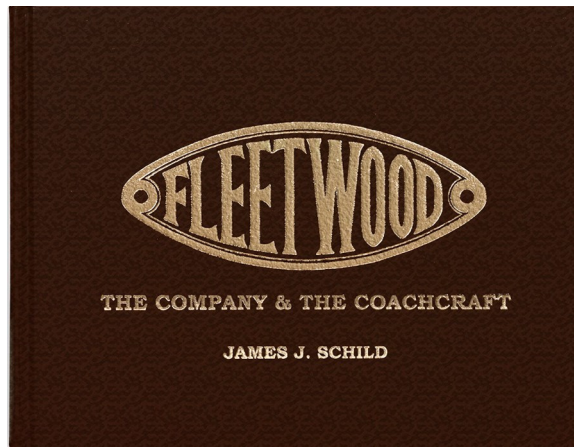


The engine compartment of this rare 1935 Imperial Air-flow C2 Sedan. It was formerly part of the collection of Oliver C. Joseph Chrysler Dodge in Belleville, Illinois, the oldest continually operating Chrysler Dodge dealer in the world.

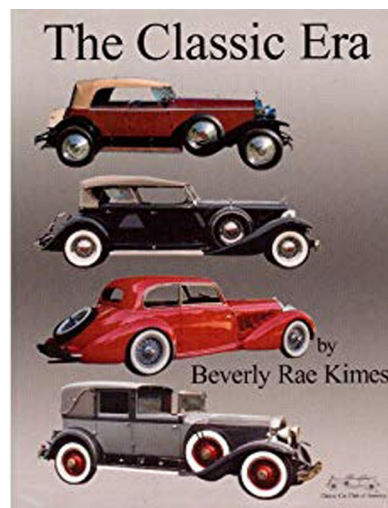


John Gibson, Kevin Williams, David Stephens, Todd and Amber Tobiasz discussing cars at the Nolan Collection tour.

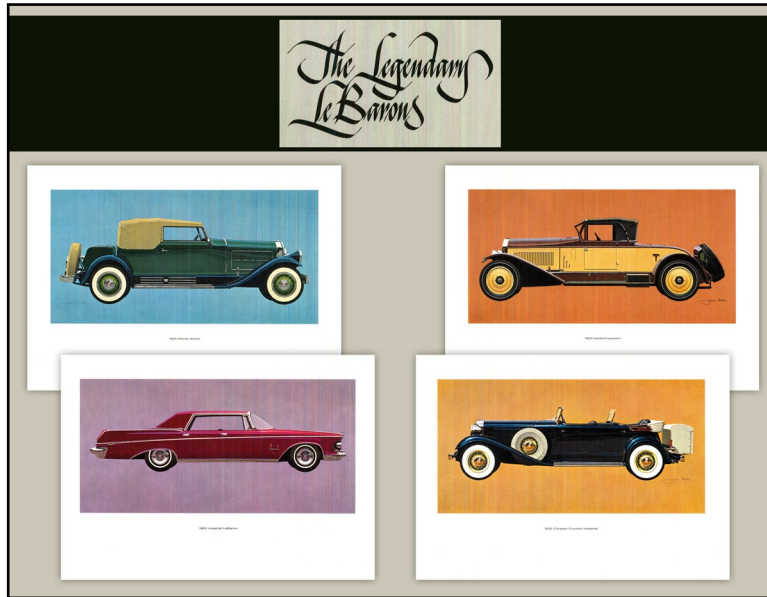
THE CLASSIC BOOKSHELF



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, or via our webstore at 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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**Spirit of St. Louis Region Spirit Night
Big Chief Roadhouse**

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Tuesday July 12, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Host—Larry Hassel



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Jim Schild
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A view of our HCCM Easter Concours Pre-WII Best of Show winning 1909 Auburn Touring (NC) toward-Wendell Smith's Classic PI Rolls-Royce at the HCCM Father's Day Show. Photo by Larry Hassel.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2022

>>Michigan Grand Classic, Dearborn, Michigan	7-9 July, 2022
>>Spirit Night, Big Chief Roadhouse, Wildwood, MO, 6:00 pm, Larry Hassel, Host	12 July, 2022
>>Jack Pledger Greasy Garage Tour and Seminar, O'Fallon, Illinois	16 July, 2022
Veteran's Car Show, North St. Louis County, Bill Albertin	17 July, 2022

August 2022

>>Spirit Night, Date, and Place to be determined	Date TBD
Mecum Monterey Auction, Monterey, California	18-20 August, 2022
>>Spark Plug Deadline for submission and ads	20 August, 2022
St. Louis Car Museum Annual Car Show & Open House, 1575 Woodson Road, St. Louis, MO	27 August, 2022

September 2022

Route 66 Charity Car Show, Edwardsville, Illinois	10 September, 2022
Des Moines Concours, Des Moines, Iowa	11 September, 2022
Wheels In Motion Charity Car Show, Westport Plaza, St. Louis County, Missouri	11 September, 2022
>>Frontier CARavan, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming.	18-26 September, 2022