

THE SPARK PLUG
 News to spark your interest

July/August 2023

Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America



Phil and Lupe Taxman's 1939 Jaguar SS, 6, 2.5 L, Saloon graces our second stop on the garage tour at the Taxman collection.

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SPARK PLUG
NEWSLETTER
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Director's Message

There are many things to like about the Spirit Region and the Classic Car Club of America at large, but second only to the wonderful people in the Club, are in my view the diverse marques that the members lovingly maintain, restore and preserve for future generations to enjoy. It's one of the main reasons I joined the Club. Whether of American or European provenance, the automobiles of the Classic Era and the people and companies who created and engineered them, is a most interesting history, one that's masterfully told in the late Beverly Rae Kimes' book, *Pioneers, Engineers and Scoundrels: The Dawn of the Automobile in America*.

What's interesting too is the fact that many of us in the Club have gravitated to a specific marque and the car or cars in those collections represent that proclivity. You see it in the list of cars in the National and Regional Member Directories. I've often wondered what it is about that particular make of automobile, whether Cadillac, Packard, Pierce-Arrow, Lincoln, Rolls-Royce, Stutz, or the many other Approved CCCA Classics, that captures the imagination of that collector. Was there a family history of ownership in a specific make, unique custom coachwork, multi-cylinder motive power?.....I'm sure the reasons are as unique as the cars themselves. What is it that trips your trigger?

I'm drawn to Classic era automobiles, even non-Classics, that have survived in their original, unre-

stored condition. Don't get me wrong, I love seeing meticulously restored automobiles brought back to their formal grandeur in as good as or better condition than when they were new, but the aged patina of the first factory paint, a small rip or two in the upholstery or the smell of an original car, is a throwback in time for me. I remember the thrill of sitting in Alan and Nancy Strong's incredibly original 1915 Packard Indy Pace Car, driven in that race by Carl Graham Fisher, and the co-founder of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Alan said to me, "don't you just feel the DNA of Fisher." For me, it's the allure of an original car.

Let's hear what captivates you about the car(s) in your garage.....I'm sure there's a common thread among us all.

John Lowell



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Across the Editor's Desk



You will note that this isn't the normal Editor's Column from Jim Schild. I'm filling in for Jim as he and Myrna address his very serious medical challenges. He asked me to step forward and help him out with this issue. This is probably the toughest thing I've had to write...ever! Coming off of the COVID-19 Pandemic we have not returned to normalcy. We've seen the world in upheaval...Ukraine, South China Sea, so much rampant crime in our cities...it is as if folks have lost their minds. Yet I see good emerging with younger generations. That gives us hope that society will rebound. For myself, 2023 meant a lot of change...reconciling retirement from my main job and realizing that time has not stood still.

In this particular microcosm though, I have to think back on all of the good things in my life but I have a lot of sadness reconciling some of the reasons I am writing this. I think about the over forty years I've known Jim and Myrna Schild. I first met Jim while helping out another friend by driving his early 60s Cadillac Limousine for a promotional activity at the Fabulous Fox Theater...a series of old time movies starting with Casablanca. Jim pulled up in his 1931 Cadillac Seven Passenger Sedan which ultimately became mine and now resides in the collection of Todd Tobiasz. Jim and I became great friends and worked on so many projects together and had many long conversations, discussing history, technology, car issues, etc. Ironic how time passes so quickly. It was just yesterday and I was a kid wet behind the ears looking forward to getting an antique car to tinker with (let alone a Classic)...a way to get involved in this hobby. Jim

and Myrna helped me along immensely. Mom thought I needed my head examined as did others. Jim had faith along with a few of the same mindset. He helped me restore my 1928 Ford Model A Phaeton to nearly pristine show quality condition. Jim and the late, Hunter Bingaman, showed me the way and we got the car done. Jim taught me how to spray paint as well and served by example in so many instances. Jim is a man that was never deterred by the complexity of a project nor the naysayers that said he couldn't do something. He always finds a way to get things done. It might not be the best or accepted way but he always makes it happen. He once told me that he was going to write books and I questioned how this would be possible. I lost track of how many resource books he has prepared and he became a legend in the Cadillac and MOPAR communities as the definitive resource for that technology. Pretty much the same for Rolls Royce!.

I have so many good "Jim" stories...all about a self-made man. Yes, he talks a lot. Another friend of ours, the late Tom Holtgrave, and I got a shirt for Jim at a hot rod show in the St. Louis Convention Ctr....it said *"I've started talking and I can't shut up!"* This was a takeoff of the advertisement...*"I've fallen and I can't get up!"* The man has a lot to say and share...while we are often overwhelmed, what he has to say is truly golden and the world is a better place for his words of wisdom. Our prayers go out to this wonderful soul for renewed good health.

Larry Hassel



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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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July 1 was the date of our scheduled Garage Tour. Fingers were crossed for good weather. We also hoped we would be able to get a few Classics and collectibles out on the streets. Thanks to John Gibson for corralling Andy Dorris, George Dorris, and Phil Taxman and getting them to share their private spaces with us. Enjoy the pictures in this issue to relive this unique experience.

Jim Hendrix coordinated a tour of Manns Restoration shop in Festus, MO on July 22nd. Manns Restorations work has been featured in several high-end concours events. We are proud to have Jason Manns host us. This tour is with the Jaguar Club and the St. Louis Chapter of the AACA. Jim is planning a caravan from a West County Bread Co to Manns and then to lunch. Certainly a full day.

Sunday, July 30, is the Annual Car Show at the Missouri Veterans Home on Lewis and Clark Blvd. from 11 am to 2 pm, lunch provided. This event is organized by the Packard Club.

We had Spirit Nights at Bela Milano, O'Fallon, Illinois (May), Llywelyn's Pub, Webster Groves, Missouri (June), Dulaney's Grille and Pub in South County (July). Thanks to our team for organizing these events. Upcoming our August Spirit Night will be at Dulaney's Grille and Pub, CB's Chop House in Fenton, MO. More details to come. We are also potentially planning a return in September or October to Big Chief Road House on Historic Route 66 in West. St. Louis County, MO.

Planning continues on the Fall tour to Kansas City, October 13-15. We are getting a big hand from the Kansas City Cadillac and LaSalle Club and CCCA Oil Belt region. We've identified three car collections and other sites of interest. We are still working on a hotel in the Plaza area downtown. Members from Kansas City region clubs and the Oil Belt region CCCA would meet and tour with us. As we did last year, we will likely begin the drive to KC from Wendell Smith's Place in Chesterfield. Time to get a car tuned up for the trip.

As many of you who read Facebook may already be aware, our editor, Jim Schild, has been hit with a series of health setbacks. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jim and Myrna as they work through the illness, the diagnoses, and the treatments. A number of us had dinner with Jim at Bela Milano in May and we hope to see him again soon. In the meantime, to Jim and Myrna and other members whose health has not allowed you to be as active as you once were, if there is anything the Spirit Region members can do to help out or organize a visit, please don't hesitate to call. We miss you.

Todd Tobiasz



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Annual North County Veterans Car Show

Sunday, July 30, 2023



The Missouri Veteran's Home

10600 Lewis & Clark Blvd St.Louis, Mo 63136

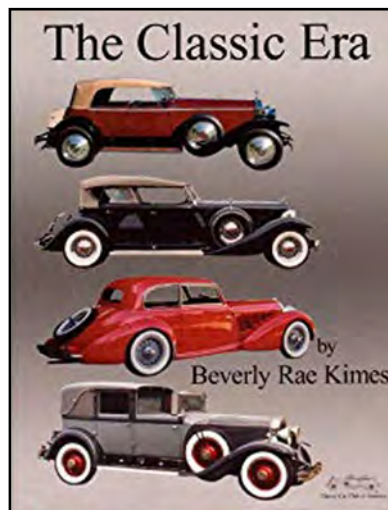
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Lunch Provided

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.

July 1, 2023...Triple Play Garage Tour (Dorris to Taxman to Dorris)

Spirit of St. Louis Region, CCCA is grateful to three members who graciously agreed to share their garages and their ongoing projects with the rest of us. There are works in progress and completed projects. The owners are ready to tell us about it all. We believe most of our members have not had the opportunity to visit these garages. After we've finished exploring the last location, we stayed at the last location and enjoyed a barbeque lunch. Thanks to Andy Dorris, Phil Taxman and George Dorris III! A special thanks to wives for enabling us to pull the "stuff" out of the garages!



The Andy Dorris Collection...Westminster Place...



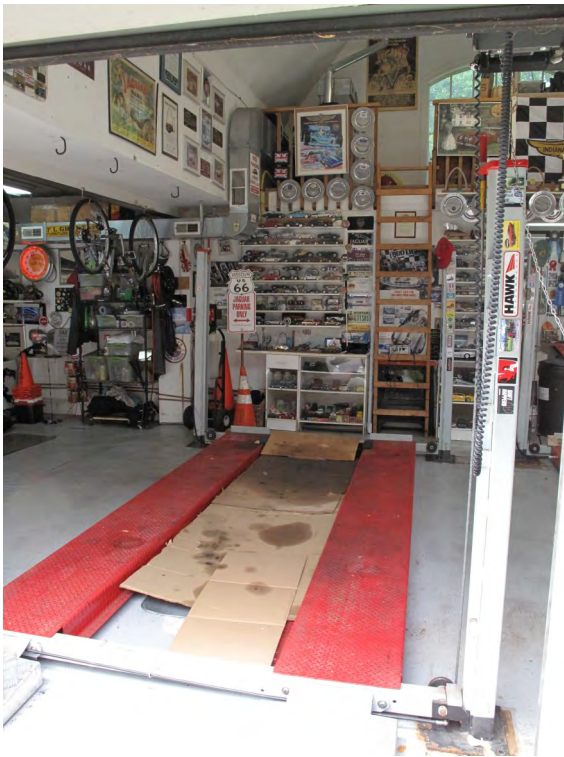
Photographs by Larry Hassel



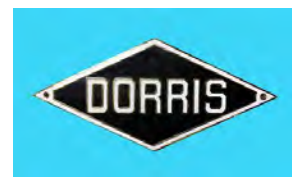


We got to see three marvelous collections where the owners showed us active hands-on commitments to preserving a bit of history while maintaining vehicles in such a state that they are driven and not just stationary museum pieces. We loved hearing the stories about acquisitions and adventures taken on the roads less travelled.

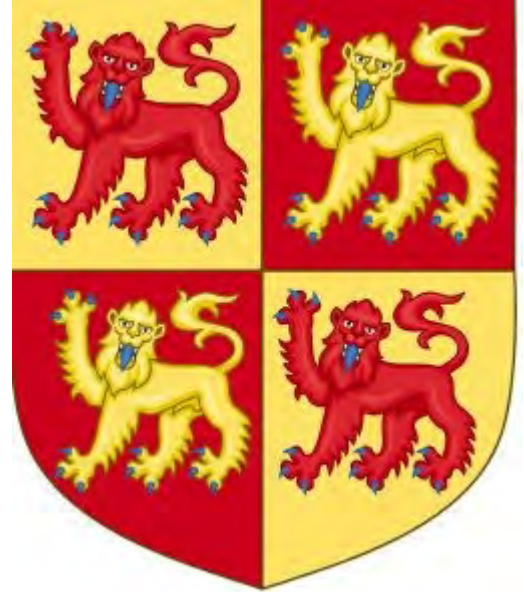








SPIRIT NIGHT...LLYWELYN'S CELTIC PUB...WEBSTER GROVES, MO







July 22nd... We made a swift but leisurely direct caravan route so that we had time to enjoy the presentation and tour of Manns Restoration by the 4th Generation owner Jason Manns. We saw restorations in process, including: CLASSICS – Auburn Boattail, Bentley, Cadillac V-16, Columbia Electric, Cord, Delage, Duesenberg, Jaguar, Packard's, SS Cars, Stutz; ANTIQUE – Amphicar, Buick race car, Chevrolet, Norton motorcycle with Swallow sidecar; CUSTOM – Chuck Barris cars, Spohn; MUSCLE CARS – Camaro, Corvette, Mustang; and SPORTS CARS – Alfa Romeo, Allard, Jaguar XK120 LT3 Works Lightweight race car, E Type all in process of restoration.

Lunch was at Syberg's Arnold Bar & Grill.



Recent Manns Restorations honors and awards: 2023 selected as a Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance participant in August (Manns with their customers have been selected at least 12 times to participate with many St. Louis attendees), OTHER HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 2023 Best European Closed Boca Raton Concours d'Elegance, 2022 Best in Show St Michaels Concours d' Elegance, 2022 Best Closed Classic Cincinnati Concours d'Elegance at Alt Park, 2021 Best in Show Keeneland Concours d'Elegance, 2021 Most Elegant Radnor Hunt Concours





Many surprises in a series of different buildings in which many stages of restoration were occurring.







*Photography by
Larry Hassel*



GATEWAY TO FOUNTAINS: A CLASSIC CAR TOUR OF KANSAS CITY SITES

OCTOBER 13-16, 2023

Fall driving tour from St. Louis to Kansas City along US route 50. Leave St. Louis on Friday, Oct 13, with lunch along the way. Arrive in KC late afternoon. Host hotel is The Fontaine, 901 W. 48th Place, in the Plaza district. Our team is still talking to the hotel about a group rate. Planning to have a welcome reception that evening, giving arriving travelers a chance to meet the KC host clubs: KC region of the Cadillac LaSalle Club and the Oil Belt region of CCCA. As with last Fall's event, this tour is being planned with Spirit region CCCA, St. Louis region of CLC, and the St. Louis Rolls Royce Owners Club.

Current plan is to visit three car collections and the Steamboat Arabia Museum on Saturday and Sunday. Car collections are planned to be the Ehinger Collection, Armacost Collection, and the Kansas City Automotive Museum. Option for the group will be to return to St. Louis on Sunday afternoon or explore individually and return Monday.

We expect to have the plans firmed up and registration materials available in the next few weeks.



Larry Hassel
646 Woodhill Est. Dr.
Ellisville, MO 63021



We harken back to the Roaring 20s and F. Scott Fitzgerald's famous novel, *The Great Gatsby*...featuring Wendell Smith's 1927 Phantom I Windovers Allweather. Model is Ms. Olivia Willingham. *Photographic image is by Larry Hassel.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2023

- >>Spirit Night—CB Chophouse—1005 Majestic Dr., Fenton, MO 6:00 PM (John Hartmann—host) August 10, 2023
- >>Fabulous Fox Theater Tour (combined HCCM and others). Pending announcement (email separate cover). Cost: \$7.00 per person, Lunch at Fountains on Locust (Stutz Dealership) August 12, 2023

September 2023

- >>Spirit Night. - Big Chief Roadhouse Revisit...Host—Larry Hassel, 17352 Manchester Rd. September 14, 2023
- >>Wheels In Motion car show at Westport Plaza benefiting the National Children's Cancer Society 9am - 4pm September 10, 2023
- >>Horseless Carriage Club Car Show and Swap Meet—Old Sears Lot...Chesterfield September 17, 2023

October 2023

- >> HCCM "Brass, Nickel and Prewar Car Show" at National Museum of Transport October 08, 2023
- >>Spirit Night. Host, location and date TBD (Early October)