

THE SPARK PLUG

News to spark your interest

March/April 2022

Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America



Rolls-Royce Silver Ghosts and V-16 Cadillacs are just some of the treats for our Meeting at Hyman, LTD.

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Director's Message

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SPARK PLUG NEWSLETTER

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Jim Schild
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Hello all,

It was extremely gratifying to see the excellent turnout at the Annual SSR Kick-off Meeting held recently at the venerable Hyman Ltd. facility, proof positive that vintage car aficionados are back and more than ready to whet their appetite of seeing great cars and rekindling old friendships in the hobby after a year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic. Special thanks to Mark, Shawn, Phillip and the rest of the team at Hyman for hosting and welcoming us with their special blend of gracious hospitality that keeps us coming back year after year.

Adding to the many SSR members in attendance were members of several local car clubs that we invited, most notably the Rolls-Royce Owner's Club, Cadillac-LaSalle Club, Moon Car Club, Jaguar Club and the Hudson Club. Outreach to others that share the same passion for vintage automobiles is a major tenant of our mission in SSR, simply stated as the promotion of good fellowship within the hobby that fosters new friendships. And, if you're like me, learning about other marques, their respective design features and technology, as well as their unique histories, is fascinating.

Prior to the meeting the Officers and Board of Managers met to discuss the business of the Club and to plan activities for the year, and I can tell you that

the Activities Committee, ably chaired by Todd Tobiasz, has cooked up some wonderful events.....a tour of the incredible Hunter Classics Collection in May, a proposed driving tour in May and a garage tour in the Fall, are just a few that are in the works, with more in the planning stage. Have an idea for an activity or event? Let us know what you're thinking.

Finally, the ever-popular Spirit Night is back! See inside for more details.....see you then!

John



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Across the Editor's Desk

I am sure that I am not the only person here that welcomes the warmer weather finally appearing this week of the beginning of March in St. Louis. We can only hope and pray that this extremely cold winter is finally gone and we can get on with the things that really matter such as working on and driving our wonderful Classic Cars. I know I am going to put a lot of time and effort into getting two of our Classic Cars running and the other (our 1936 Cord Phaeton) further along in its restoration.

Please take the time to check out the Calendar of events on the back page and read the email announcements that will be coming along during the year. Our First Spirit Night since March of 2020 is Next Tuesday 8 March, a week later than usual, so be sure to make plans to attend and have a good time with your friends and club members. See the information in this newsletter.

We have to thank Duane Wesche for his comprehensive report and pictures about the 2022 CCCA Annual meeting in Palm Beach, Florida. Although many of us did not have the opportunity to attend this great event, Duane makes us all feel a part of the activities he enjoyed.

We normally do not publish technical articles in the Spark Plug, but because we have not been able to do as much as we would like the past couple of years, I like to take that opportunity to tell our members about some of the interesting information I have encountered in my almost 40 years of working on and driving Classic Cars. One of my favorite subjects has always been interior trim so I think the piece in this issue will have some new information for those like, myself, who believe that is usually the highlight of any Classic Car.

If you wonder from the title what goats and sheep have to do with the interior trim of your Classic Car, I think you may be surprised to find the interesting connections and how they affect the luxury of your Classics.

I was always impressed by the materials and workmanship that went into these fine automobiles, but my education was enhanced greatly by the twenty years I worked with my late friend Hunter Bingaman in des Peres, Missouri. Hunter did most of the work on our cars from our 1928 Ford Roadster to both of our Classic Cadillacs, our 1940 Packard and three of our Rolls-Royce limousines. His last piece of artwork was the construction of the beautiful convertible top for our 1936 Cord 810 Phaeton. That top now resides in our living room at home until the rest of the Cord is ready for it. I was able to watch and help all of these years so I hope that the knowledge I got from him will allow me to do at least some of this work myself.

Don't forget the 20 April deadline for the next Spark Plug.

Jim



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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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Membership Musings



How wonderful to start the Classic year with a membership kickoff at Hyman Ltd. Around one hundred collector car enthusiasts, including 36 SSR members and associates, came together to enjoy each other's company, check out the offerings at Hyman, and check out the offerings of the Classic Car Club, Spirit of St Louis Region. SSR members got to catch up with friends from the Packard Club, the Jaguar Club, the Rolls Royce Owners Club, the Cadillac and LaSalle Club, the Moon Club, the Horseless Carriage Club of Missouri, the AMC Club, and the Hudson, Essex, and Terraplane Club. Thank you to all who attended. I hope you were able to check out a few cars between conversations.

We are down to a handful of members who have not renewed from last year. We stand at 73 members currently. You should have gotten a hard-copy renewal mailed to you by now, but you can also go to www.classiccarclub.org and renew online.

John has scheduled our first Spirit

Night for March 8. I'm sure he will have all the details in his column.

We have our first event on the SSR calendar for this year. Thank you to Steve Brauer for welcoming club members to the Hunter Classics Collection Friday, May 6, at 1 pm. Those planning to attend should contact me so that I will be able to share the names beforehand. Please get with me by May 1.

The Easter Concours d'Elegance, hosted by members of the Horseless Carriage Club of Missouri, is once again scheduled for the upper Munny parking lot. Be sure to bring your Classic out to join the Spirit Region.

We discussed a number of ideas for events this year. As we did last year, I've asked board members to plan an event for each month. If someone has an idea that he or she would like to organize, please contact me or John Gibson. We've just started assigning events to organizers and months. We are open to ideas and we'd love to help you organize your event suggestion. We had excellent attendance at the events last year and after what seems like a weekly progression of storms over the last month, everybody is ready to get out and do something.

Todd

Spirit Nights are Back in 2022!!



**Where: Basso
7036 Clayton Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63117**

When: Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 6:00 PM

Who's Invited: You are of course!

Hosted by: John Lowell/Todd Tobiasz

**RSVP Please: jlowell@lowellmfg.com
ttobiasz@sbcglobal.net**

2022 Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America Membership Kick-Off meeting at Hyman, LTD

After being postponed earlier due to more nasty winter weather in the area the Spirit Region was finally able to hold their Membership Kick-Off meeting. This meeting is always one of the best attended and popular events of the year and this year we were joined by the St. Louis Region Cadillac and La Salle Club, Jaguar Club and the Mid-America Region Rolls-Royce Owner's Club. There were also representatives from the Hudson-Essex Club, Horseless Carriage Club of Missouri and the Moon Motor Car Club, each presenting information about their group and events. Of course, we are always grateful to Mark Hyman and Shawn Dougan for opening up this wonderful facility for our meeting.



Hyman, LTD was kind enough to allow us to have one of their rooms for one of our board meetings that have been few and far between during the pandemic situation. This is where all of the club business is done and ideas are presented.



Spirit of St. Louis Region Board of Managers. Back row left to right: Kevin Williams (Treasurer), Dave Groerich, Thomas Quick, Bob Radel (Projects), Jim Schild (Spark Plug Editor), Duane Wesche, John Groll, Jim Gormley. Front row left to right: Larry Hassel (CCCA National Board), John Lowell (Region Director), Todd Tobiasz (Membership), and Robert Hosenfelt.

Larry Hassel Photo.



Bob Radel addresses the group about the new and existing projects to raise money for the club's needs.



Duane Wesche was able to attend the CCCA Annual Meeting in Florida and accepted two important awards for our region. The 3rd place Chuck Conrad Website Award recognizes the Spirit Region's Web Site accomplishments while the 2d Place McManus Award applauds our Publication quality and presentation. The region will continue to offer the best in benefits to our members.



Just a few of the fabulous automobiles offered for sale at Hyman, LTD. Whether it is Packards or a beautiful Chrysler Imperial as shown here on the left of a rare example of a V-16 Marmon as seen on the right, anything you can dream of in the realm of Classic Cars is probably here in this huge facility. The Spirit of St. Louis Region is indeed fortunate to have the membership and support of Hyman, LTD throughout the years.



Of Goats, Sheep and Teddy Bears

By Jim Schild

Part of any good Classic Car restoration process is the research involved with identifying and locating sources for the proper materials used when the car was originally built. One of the more interesting materials was that found on the rear compartment floor of our original 1940 Packard Custom Super Eight 180 Seven-Passenger Sedan. Since the original owner of this car (Now owned by Gerald and Sharmon Perschbacher in St. Louis) was carpet man, Henry Hartenbach, we assumed that whatever was on the floor was something that he installed. We learned later that this floor covering was called Silky Crushed Mohair in the Packard catalog description and was one of the details that differentiated the Packard 180 from the 160 and was very special.



Rear Compartment of a 1938 Packard Brunn Cabriolet showing the Silky Crushed Mohair floor covering.

I did not really know what this type of Mohair was as I generally associate Mohair with the directional short nap upholstery used on seats and sidewalls in lesser automobiles of the 1930s and 1940s. This material was something altogether different and looked more like dense animal fur and had a glossy sheen to it. It was made from the fleece of the Angora goat which originated in Asia Minor near Ankara, Turkey (which had originally been called

Angora) at least 2,500 years ago. Mohair became a popular resource in the 19th century. The first Angora goats were imported into the United States in 1849, and today, South Africa and the United States are the largest producers of mohair.



An Angora Goat in its natural state.



Silky Crushed Mohair similar to that used on the rear compartment floor of Classic Limousines and Town Cars . The color is like that used in the 1940 Packard 1808.

With further research and talking with friend Sylvia Keller, she told me that she recognized it immediately. It is the same material used to make Teddy bears and it is actual Mohair. A visit to a Teddy bear shop in St. Charles confirmed this and through that information I was able to contact the manufacturers of this material and order samples. Most were similar but less dense. One of the responses turned out to be the very same manufacturer in England that produced this carpet material for the Classic Cars.



Another close up study of the texture and depth of Silky Crushed Mohair similar to that used in the rear compartment of Classic Limousines and Town Cars.

While studying more about Silky crushed Mohair I learned that it was not only used for a full rear compartment floor covering in Packard limousines and town cars, some used it combined with lamb's wool mouton as an overlay. An example was the rear floor of our Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith H.J. Mulliner limousine which came with standard Wilton Wool Velvet type carpet attached to the floor as in the driver's compartment. In the rear compartment an additional overlay was installed over the Wilton that had the silky crushed Mohair in its center surrounded by a wide border of Mouton, providing a very soft and plush appearance. Many Classic Era high quality formal limousines and town cars such as Packard, Pierce-Arrow, Cadillac, Rolls-Royce and others used this configuration for their rear compartment floor. All three of these materials are very stain and moisture resistant.

Mouton, more popularly known today simply as "Lamb Skin" or "Sheep Skin" is already well-known and available from U.S. suppliers who make custom throws for cars such as Rolls-Royce. Mouton is French for sheep. In the fur trade, Mouton refers to an extremely select pelt of a lamb that has been treated to offer some remarkable properties.

Virtually all sheep that are raised for meat in the USA are processed as lambs at about one year old. The pelts of all these lambs are used for shearling. The pelts that are of the very highest quality, less than 1% of all pelts, are selected for processing into Mouton. Mouton was originally developed as an alternative to wild furs such as beaver and seal.

There are several steps in the creation of a Mouton fur. First, the lamb must grade out to 'Mouton potential'. Only one in one hundred lambs will have the dense, soft, and uniform fleece necessary for Mouton. When the raw pelt is shipped to the tannery, it is graded again, and about 15% of the Mouton candidates are rejected at this point. Acceptable pelts are tanned, and then treated to make the wool fibers relatively water-resistant and straight,

and extremely soft and glossy. The fleece is also sheared to a uniform length of 5/8-inch (1.6 cm) and dyed. A favorite color is a rich brown, but black, tan, white and gray are also available.

After learning that I could have this Silky Crushed Mohair material available again for the owners and restorers of these Full Classic limousines and town cars, I placed ads in the appropriate club magazines stating that I could have this material made available. Surprisingly, I found that most owners of these cars had no idea what it was and that it was supposed to be in their cars. It is hard to describe without actually seeing it. I would have had to purchase about \$16,000 worth of the material to have it made and I would need pre-orders, it seemed like it could not be done at that time.

If you sincerely appreciate the plush and luxurious interiors of Full Classic Limousines and Town Cars then you might want to look into the application of these wonderful carpet and overlay materials.



The original Silky Crushed Mohair and Mouton bordered overlay as used in the rear compartment of our Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith H.J. Mulliner Limousine. The remainder of the trim in this commercial livery model is tan Connolly leather seats and West of England cloth on the headlining and sidewalls..

2022 CCCA Annual Meeting at Palm Beach, Florida

Text and pictures By Duane Wesche

The 2022 annual meeting of the Classic Car Club of America was held January 5th through the 9th at the incredibly beautiful Breakers Hotel at Palm Beach Florida. Over 100 members registered plus their guests were treated to wonderful weather and exquisite venues, even though the Covid pandemic had caused several changes in the schedule.

Those who arrived on Wednesday were welcomed at a fine reception on the patio, overlooking a pool and the ocean. A steel drum musician and DJ provided music all night long with heavy hors d'oeuvres were served, members renewed friendships, new guests were welcomed and a good time was had by all.

Thursday started bright and sunny with a delicious breakfast was served in an elegant banquet room overlooking the ocean. Promptly at 9am, the general membership meeting began. There were several members who had not yet voted, including one of the board members! After all the votes had been collected, the reports began after a moment of silence to honor Bill Davis.

Financially, the club is in good shape. For the year 2021, membership dues and club income increased about 11% while expenses decreased about 10%. Net income was about \$138,000, club assets are about \$744,000 and equity is \$362,000.

Questions to the Master Judge were all referred to the judging videos.

Classifications reported that all LaSalle's from 1934 through 1940, all Cadillacs from 1919 through 1947 and a custom body 1931 Hudson were approved as full classic.

They are reviewing the inclusion of foreign cars that had chassis built before 1948 but not finished or sold until later, even into the 1950's, to be included as full classic.

The Packard series 120, except approved custom bodies, were not approved.

There will be 3 caravans in 2022, Ohio, a route 66 Lincoln/Indian and a Colorado-Utah tour.

We had 3,626 members at end of 2021 a decrease of about 2% even though there were 275 new members. Amazingly 2850 members have already renewed for 2022, way more than seen in the past.

The national website continues to be improved. All publications are now available online. Quarterly regional director meetings are all now held online.

The results of the elections were reported as: Steve Babinsky, Joe Pirrone, Vicki Zeiger, (then 2 names I couldn't hear or remember but sounded like Darren Carre and Lon Peterson).

After some bus confusion, the group was split into two sections. One group went to Classic Stable Car Collection in West Palm Beach. The other group went to lunch at private club Mar-a-Lago. The Classic Stable is owned by Nine West, the Fisher family. Seldom seen marques but most with some racing heritage including Lancia, Citroen, Ferrari, Bugatti, Alfa Romeo, Delahaye and others. The lunch at the private Mar-a-Lago club was in a theater room, impeccably served and delicious. At the conclusion of the meal, a longtime employee explained the history of the place from Marjorie Merriweather Post to Donald Trump.

After returning to the Breakers, many of the group took a tour of the Lehrman collection that contains some of the world's most rare and significant American made cars.

Friday morning started with various meetings until we all boarded buses for a lunch at the Benvenuto Restaurant that concluded with a historical talk about Alexander Hamilton. The speaker was very entertaining and put an interesting perspective on Hamilton, his life and world.

After the luncheon, we all boarded the buses and headed to Fort Lauderdale and an evening cruise on the yacht Catalina. We had drinks and snacks while cruising along the Intercoastal Waterway, viewing the other beautiful boats, homes and sunset.

After the cruise we bused back to the Breakers.

Saturday morning dawned beautiful but very breezy. The cars were all in place by 9AM and the judging began promptly at 10:30. At the conclusion of the judging, many of the cars stayed in place for the guest to inspect and ogle. The afternoon had a short technical session.

The cocktail hour, which was generously underwritten by Hyman Ltd, preceded the delicious banquet of surf and turf with a slide show on a loop of all the activities from the Annual Meeting.

Following the dinner was the Grand Classic and Regional Awards.

There were four 100 point cars: 1929 Duesenberg Lehrman collection, David Gano's 1931 Cadillac 355A, 1941 Cadillac 62 convertible sedan from Dennis Manieri and the Warshovsky Award winner 1934 Packard 1108 Dietrich coupe Lehrman collection.

Most original award to Edgar Minnie for 1917 White

touring that was at the New York Auto Show in 1917.

The regional awards seem to go on forever but the Spirit of St. Louis Region did collect two awards, both for publications. Second place for the McManus Award and third place for the Chuck Conrad Website Award.

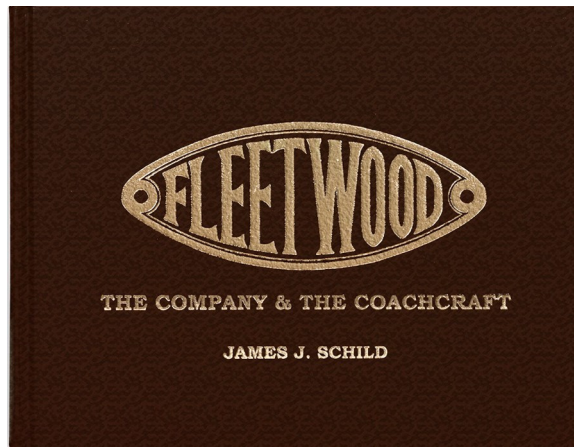
Overall the meet was delightful with beautiful cars, places and people to be seen at a hotel that takes a person back to the gilded age where the Classic Cars fit right in!



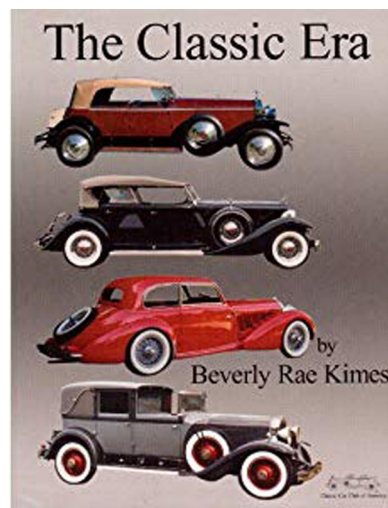
Duane Wesche and friend at the CCCA Annual Meeting in Palm Beach, Florida.



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.



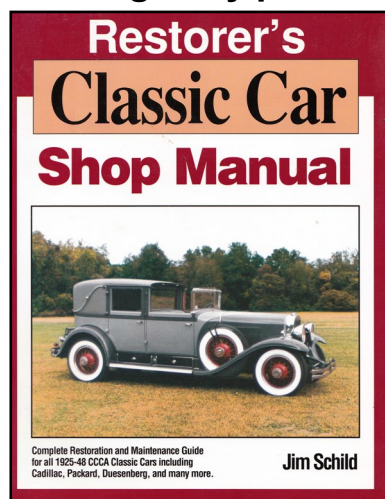
The SSR has a limited supply of the award winning book, *The Classic Era*, by the late Beverly Rae Kimes, available for sale. Hardcover, 8-1/2 x 11, 720 Pages. The top and bottom cover Classics are owned by SSR members. These books are brand new and a must for the Classic Car enthusiast. \$50.00. To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



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Jim Schild
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Spirit of St. Louis Region
 Classic Car Club of America



*Todd Tobiasz, Chad Thomas and Kevin Williams took part in the Jaguar Club tour this spring. Here is Chad's 1940 Buick and Todd's 1936 Cadillac lining up for lunch.
 Kevin Williams Photo.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2022

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| >> Sprit Night at Basso, 7036 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, MO | 8 March, 2022 |
| Norwood Hills Country Club Display | 5 March, 2022 |
| >> Rancho Santa Fe Grand Classic, SD/PS Region | 18-19 March, 2022 |

April 2022

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| >> Spirit Night TBD | 5 April, 2022 |
| >> Deadline for Spark Plug Submissions and ads. | 20 April, 2022 |
| Cadillac & La Salle Club Show, Elco Cadillac, Ballwin | 23 April 2022 |

May 2022

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| Model T Club Swap Meet, GCS Credit Union Ballpark, Sauget, Illinois | 1 May, 2022 |
| >> Spirit Night, TBD | 3 May, 2022 |
| >> Tour of Hunter Classics Collection, Stephen Brauer 1-3, lunch prior | 6 May, 2022 |