

# THE SPARK PLUG

News to spark your interest

May June 2019

Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America



Todd Tobiasz with his 1931 Cadillac 355A Seven Passenger Sedan, the poster car for the 2019 HCCM Easter Show.

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Rob Hosenfelt (2021)  
Duane Wesche (2021)  
John Groll (2019)  
Barb Knudsen (2019)  
Todd Tobiasz (2019)  
Robert Bruce (2020)  
Dave Groerich (2020)  
Larry Hassel (2020)

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## SPARK PLUG NEWSLETTER

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# Director's Message

Spring is finally in the air, and no doubt the milder temperatures have inspired many of you to get your Classic fired up and out for a spin around the neighborhood. It's always fun to see folks show up at an event in an old car, especially a Classic, and on that note it was great to see Todd and Amber Tobiasz's (new) old '31 LaSalle at last month's Spirit Night.

It's been a busy year leading up to the Spring events on our calendar, with great attendance at each of the last two Spirit Nights, touring with the Jaguar Club and the joint Club tour of the Missouri History Museum's Panoramas of the City exhibit. I hope we can plan more joint activities with other marque clubs during the year as these events bring so many diverse and interesting people together who share a common bond in their appreciation of vintage automobiles. More importantly, get togethers such as these foster great fellowship and new friends for life.

In early May the fabulous collection of automobiles, model cars, automobilia and other automotive artifacts assembled over a forty-year period by the late Fred Guyton will be up for auction. For years, Fred's collection has been known locally and nationally as one of the finest anywhere, and is unquestionably one of the gems in the St. Louis area. It's bittersweet indeed to think that this collection will soon be parceled out and auctioned at no reserve to the highest bidder on Saturday and Sunday, May 4-5, 2019. We in the St. Louis car collecting community, who know and love this collection, will be left with only our memories to cling to, as each piece is dispersed among collectors all over the world. I hope that many of you will consider attending the auction and registering to bid, if only to save just one car, just one piece of automotive history, from forever leaving our town.

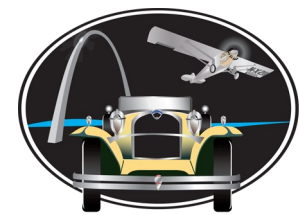
Also happening in May is the Spring tour to the Cabin in the Woods on Satur-

day, May 18, 2019, organized by Larry Hassel. Larry and I have driven the proposed route and scoped out some interesting stops along the way, culminating in a barbeque lunch at the Cabin prepared by a former model turned gourmet chef. Further details are forthcoming, but mark your calendars and save the date.

Last, but certainly not least, the May Spirit Night will be held at Three Kings Public House on Manchester Road, hosted by Jim Gormley. More information may be found on our website, [www.spiritccca.com](http://www.spiritccca.com).

Happy Spring!

John



Spirit of St. Louis Region  
Classic Car Club of America



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# Across the Editor's Desk

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There is not a lot left for me to say in this issue about the club since our members and officers did such a great job of sending in their columns and contributions. Thanks to Todd Tobiasz for his great book review and for his pictures from the HCCM Easter Show. Thanks to Larry Hassel for more pictures. Much thanks to member John Gibson for creating the well-organized calendar of events for 2019.

I thought about one of my favorite old movies that I have saved on our DVR and was reminded of how much automobiles, especially our Classics meant to the movie producers and public in the 1930s and 1940s. These impressive cars had an image that projected the high social level of the people with them. That is part of what makes our Classics special today. If you have not seen "*A Damsel In Distress*" from 1937 with Fred Astaire, George Burns, Gracie Allen, Joan Fontaine and Hoagie Carmichael, you should check it out.

Of course, Gracie's smart humor adds a lot of the story. As George was driving up to a castle in the Cord Fred noted, "Oliver Cromwell went through here in 1638." Gracie said, "That was pretty good time back then." Fred said, "No, he went through the castle." Gracie quipped, "Oh. He couldn't stop the car." Fred and George repeated together, "He couldn't stop the car." You had to be there!

This great B&W film has a funny story and features shots of a 1937 Cord Convertible Phaeton Sedan, a Bugatti and some cameos of Hispano-Suiza, Renault, Minerva, Isotta-Fraschini, Rolls-Royce and others along the way. The film also features great songs by George and Ira Gershwin. Here are two shots from this film of our wonderful Classics in action when they were new.



Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday Closed

## C & C Auto Parts

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## St. Louis Car Museum & Sales

Since 1994, we have provided motorcars, motorcycles, and airplanes to collectors and enthusiasts around the globe.



314-993-1330 or [info@stlouiscarmuseum.com](mailto:info@stlouiscarmuseum.com)

**Inaugural Charity Car Show June 2nd. from 10am - 2pm**

May 3rd, 2019

## PRE-AUCTION OPEN HOUSE

4PM - 8PM

Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres & Cocktails - 100+ Collector Cars on Display



1575 Woodson Rd. - St. Louis, Missouri



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## Membership Musings

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And then there were nine. Reminiscences of Agatha Christie's "And then there were none"? Being curled up with a good book on a dark and stormy night? An unforgettable performance by Barry Fitzgerald in the 1945 movie version. Or I'm just keeping track of the last few of our 80 or so members who have to renew. Please get your renewals in so we can keep you on the rolls and close out the start-up process for the year ... now that we are entering the fifth month.

The first club event of the year at the Panoramas of the City exhibit had a great turnout in February. Thanks to Wendell Smith for coordinating with Robert Bullivant and his team to put the event together and including the Spirit Region. They organized the lunch and docent-guided tour with the Rolls Royce Owners'

Club and the Spirit Region of CCCA, among others. We had three groups and three docents take us through the fascinating exhibit. There were plenty of references to transportation in St. Louis in the early part of the twentieth century.

I hope everyone notices that there are a number of events on this year's calendar. Thanks to everyone providing suggestions and helping to organize an activity. Many thanks to John Gibson for seeding several of the events. Next up is Larry Hassel's west county tour and visit to a Cabin in the Woods. There are more local opportunities to enjoy being outside with a Classic. Bring a friend.

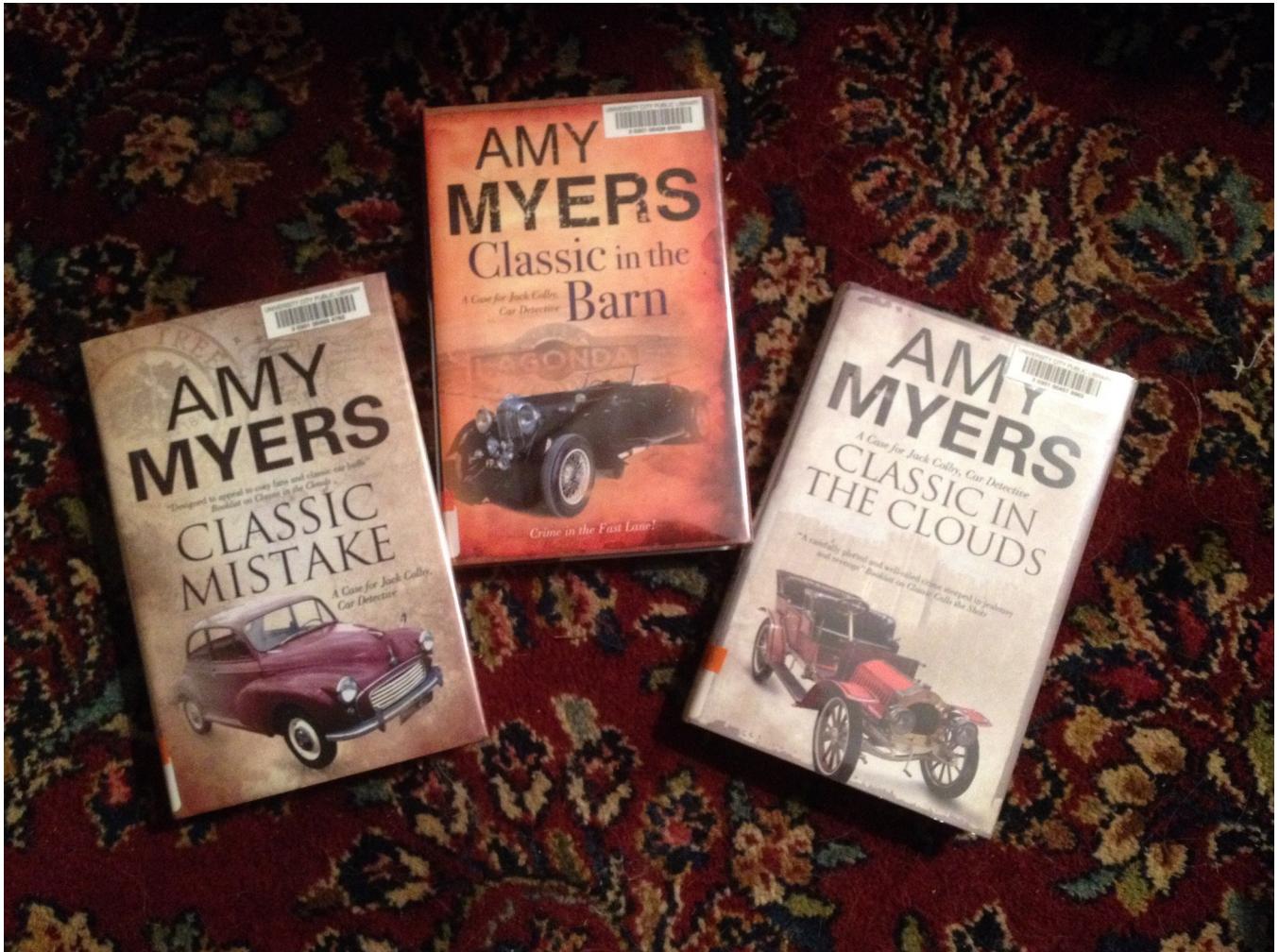
**Todd Tobiasz—Membership  
Chairman**



## Book Series Review:

By Todd Tobiasz

Jack Colby – Car detective and classic car collector and restorer; author Amy Myers



I recently came across a topical murder mystery author. Amy Meyers has written a number of mysteries with a story line that intertwines a good old-fashioned murder with the collector car and restoration hobbies. Her main protagonist is Jack Colby, a car collector, hobbyist, and owner of Frog's Hill Restorations. Jack consults with the car crimes division of the local constabulary to help pay the bills. Collector cars, many of them Classics, figure in the stories. The setting is Kent, England, and apparently the collecting community there is a more bloodthirsty crowd than I've met been exposed to in St. Louis. Plenty of murder and mayhem to keep me engaged for 200 pages. Some of the cars included in the series are a 1935 Auburn Speedster, a 1938 V12 Lagonda, a 1907 De Dion Bouton, or a 30's Packard Saloon or Alfa Romeo. These are good vacation reads and a bit quicker than those by Dame Agatha. No one does mystery like the English and adding the car themes is the whipped cream on the sundae. There are eight books so far in the series and the titles include: Classic in the Barn, Classic Mistake, and Classic in the Clouds.

# Spirit Night May 7, 2019

**Location:**



11925 Manchester Road, Des Peres, Missouri 314-858-1067

(North side of Manchester Rd east of I-270)

Web Site and Menu at: <https://threekingspub.com>

(Best Parking on east side lot of restaurant)

Gathering 5:30 to 9:00 (Happy Hour Drinks 5:30 to 6:00)

Hosted by Trish & Jim Gormley







## GRAND ARMY ROAD TOUR..."

# W

ark your calendars for **18 May**... We'll begin our trek at Ballwin Plaza (Parking Lot) - 15425 Manchester Rd, Ballwin, MO 63011, at 9:00 AM. We will head westward out Highway 100 (diverting to sections of Old Route 66) to Washington, MO. Our first destination will be the Iron Spike Model Train Museum... a truly amazing place occupying an old car dealership. This place is any kid's dream with miles of model trains and highly details layouts. We'll stay here for about 1.5 to 2.0 hours. Admission is \$5.00 a person, but Veterans are free. From Iron Spike, we'll continue our journey about 10 miles further down the road to New Haven, MO. New Haven is a quaint town that time forgot. Here we're going to visit Astral Glass and you can see beautiful objects of glass art being hand blown. There beautiful glass objects for sale at reasonable prices. If glass is not your cup of tea, then we have something a bit stronger just around the corner... that is Pinkney Bend Distillery. They will give you a quick tour and you can sample for a nominal fee (they have great products for sale).

By now, you should be getting hungry. We'll return back to Washington, MO for lunch... our destination is a place that time forgot... The Old Dutch Tavern and Hotel... everyone raves about this place and I understand the Chicken Pot Pie is to die for!!! You will order off the menu... many great treats (<http://olddutchhotelandtavern.com>) to appease your appetite. However, enter the front door and go back 100 years... all of the ceiling fans below the tin ceilings are belt driven like in the old days! After a scrumptious lunch,



we're heading out to the most exciting portion of our journey... we're going to visit famed model and gourmet chef (<https://cabininthewoodsblog.com>) Ruth Guerri and her antique barn... modeled after an old English barn. The setting is rustic, but extremely beautiful. We will do a photoshoot of your vehicles because this is the ideal setting.

All roads on our trip will be extremely scenic, rambling through rolling hills of the Missouri River Valley countryside. Expect beautiful vistas and surprises around each corner. It should be a pleasurable morning and afternoon with a great lunch.

**We will limit the tour to 36 persons... so get your RSVP to me early (directions to be provided)... Larry Hassel – [martinhas-sel@att.net](mailto:martinhas-sel@att.net) or 636-484-0227 (cell) or home... 636-391-8783. I guarantee a fun journey through the countryside.**



## Pictures of SSR Classic Cars and members attending the 58th annual HCCM Easter Concours d'Elegance in Forest Park.



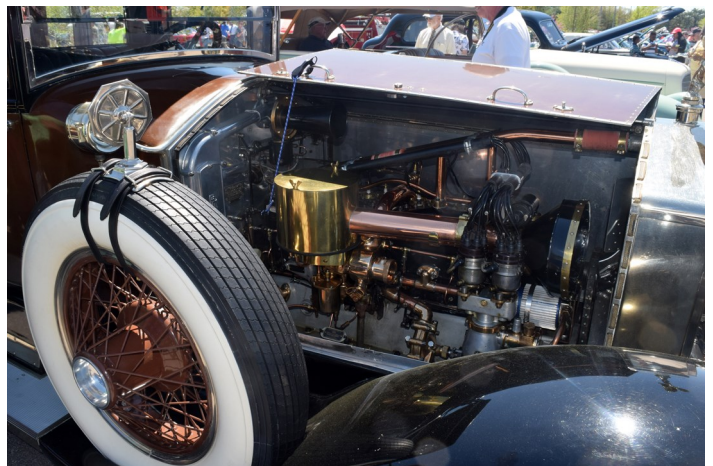
*SSR members John Gibson and Duane Wesche with John's 1938 Packard Super Eight Sedan.*



*SSR Treasurer Kevin Williams brought his restored 1938 Cadillac 75 Series Seven Passenger Sedan.*



*Wendell Smith's Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost Limousine is always a big hit at any show.*



*The big six-cylinder engine in Wendell's Silver Ghost is a piece of automotive artwork in copper and brass by itself*



*Glenn and Janice Pykiet's beautiful blue 1925 Franklin 11 A Sedan.*



*The beautiful rear compartment of Kevin Williams' 1938 Cadillac is equipped with a custom lap robe.*





*Todd and Amber Tobiasz brought the poster car for the show, a 1931 Cadillac 355A 7-Passenger Sedan.*



*Bob Abbott and his family have owned this 1936 Lincoln 12, Model K Touring for more than 50 years.*



*Bob Abbott's 1936 Lincoln provided a shady place for John Gibson to sit and talk for a while with Bob. Todd Tobiasz*



*Even Wendell Smith found Bob's Lincoln a great place to relax out of the sun. Todd Tobiasz Photo*

## **Scenes from the April Spirit Night at Schlafley's in Maplewood**



*A fun time at Schlafley's Brewery in Maplewood. Photographer unknown.*



*Todd and Amber Tobiasz brought their newly-acquired restored 1931 La Salle Coupe. This La Salle was from the recent auction of the Richard Muehlmann collection.*



Jim Schild  
 5 Rowan Oak Lane  
 Columbia, IL 62236



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### May 2019

<b>Fred Guyton Collection no-reserve auction by RM Sotheby's</b>	May 4-5, 2019
<b>Model T Club Swap Meet, Gateway Motorsports Park</b>	May 5, 2019
<b>&gt;&gt;Spirit Night, Trish &amp; Jim Gormley, Three Kings Pub, Des Peres, MO</b>	May 7, 2019
<b>AACA Chickasha Swap Meet, Chickasha, Oklahoma, AACA</b>	May 9-11, 2019
<b>&gt;&gt;Spring Drive &amp; Cabin in the Woods Tour. Labadie, MO, Larry Hassel</b>	May 18, 2019
<b>&gt;&gt;CCCA Museum Experience &amp; Grand Classic, Hickory Corners, Michigan</b>	May 31-June2, 2019

### June 2019

<b>&gt;&gt;Michigan Region Grand Classic, Hickory Corners, Michigan</b>	June 1-2, 2019
<b>Orphan Car Show, Hudson/Essex/Terraplane, Museum of Transportation</b>	June 2, 2019
<b>&gt;&gt;Spirit Night, Location and Host TBD</b>	June 4, 2019
<b>The Elegance at Hershey, Hershey, PA.</b>	June 7-9.,2019
<b>Cadillac La Salle Club Grand National. Louisville, KY.</b>	June 11-15, 2019
<b>Pierce-Arrow Club Annual Meet, Angola, IN.</b>	June 11, 2019
<b>Cars With Class Father's Day Show, HCCM, Museum of Transportation</b>	June 16, 2019
<b>Spark Plug Newsletter Submission Deadline</b>	June 20, 2019

### July 2019

<b>&gt;&gt;Spirit Night, Location and Host TBD</b>	July 2, 2019
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