

# THE SPARK PLUG

News to spark your interest

May/June 2021

Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America



1910 Cadillac (NC), Schild's 1929 Cadillac, 1921 Cadillc, & Tobiasz' 1931 Cadillac at the M.O.T. Larry Hassel Image

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# Director's Message

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I trust this message will find all of you well and healthy. I hope you are among the growing number of people that have received at least one, if not two of their vaccinations, and that daily life is returning to some degree of normal again.

The National CCCA has recently implemented a Regional Director's Forum via Zoom Meetings to engage the various regions around the country in a dialogue to share information about their respective regions on topics such as what's working for regions in the current Covid environment, membership, information from National, etc. The first Forum took place on March 31, 2021, and was attended by a high percentage of the Regional Directors, including yours truly. I felt the meeting and exchange of ideas was helpful and recommended these to continue. Our next Forum is scheduled for May 26, 2021.

If there is something you would like me to present at the next meeting.....let me know.

For those of you who may be ready and are comfortable with resuming activities within the club, how about starting with a Spirit Night, perhaps beginning in June? I'll plan and schedule it if you will come. What do you think? For newer members

who may be unfamiliar with Spirit Night, these are informal gatherings over dinner at a restaurant or pub in a relaxed atmosphere, to foster good fellowship among the membership.

Let's get together again socially and responsibly.....I'm ready if you are!

**John**





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# Across the Editor's Desk

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Spring is finally here but with the massive changes in our lives over the past year, it is difficult to recognize. It seems that everything that we have become accustomed to enjoying with our friends and our Classics has been taken from us. I hope that all of our Spirit of St. Louis Region members have found some way to make this situation at least tolerable and are maintaining their sanity and health. Myrna and I have both had our COVID vaccine shots and are doing well so I hope everyone else has been able to do the same.

I have managed to find a few new activities to keep me involved with our cars and keep my mind functioning reasonably well. Producing this newsletter every two months is helpful and keeps my skills and knowledge active, but additionally, in the past couple of years, I have taken on the interesting job of writing car descriptions and feature articles for Mecum Auctions for their catalogs and other publications for their three major auctions each year. The great thing about this job, beyond keeping up my writing skills, is that I am required to become very knowledgeable about many different types of collector cars that I might not normally encounter.

In addition to the great Classic Cars from the recent 1936 Duesenberg Rollston Berline Convertible sedan, 1947 Delahaye 135MS Fignon Et Falashi Narval Cabriolet and 1931 Cadillac V-16 Fleetwood Roadster there are also professionally built non-Classic Hot Rods and a number of interesting non-Classic collector Buicks, Fords and Chevrolets. They are all a positive learning experience for me. I am interested in all kinds of automobiles so although it is hard work meeting formats and deadlines, it is a rewarding experience.

More recently I have had the opportunity to work with another interesting Classic Car related project. My long-time

friend Malcolm Forest in Sao Paulo, Brazil asked me to help find someplace to move his two Classic Cars that are being stored in Colorado. I knew that he had some type of Isotta-Fraschini, as that is what he first contacted me about twenty years ago when the first edition of my Fleetwood book was published. I did not know until last week what kind and quality of Classic Cars he had. His 1929 Isotta-Fraschini is a beautiful Sedanca deVille that has been shown at Pebble Beach. The Rolls-Royce is a storied 1934 Phantom II Thrupp & Maberly Sedanca deVille that was famously owned by interior designer Elsie deWolfe and later sold to movie producer Jack Warner.

I was not sure I could help but I soon realized that our Classic Car Museum at Hickory Corners might be the answer to his problem. I contacted CCCA Museum President Howard Freedman and Executive Director Don Desmett about accepting these two cars for temporary loan to the museum. At this time communication and negotiations are underway with hopes that arrangements can be accomplished to bring these two fabulous cars to where the public can enjoy them. Don't miss the grand opening of the new 13,000 square foot facility at the Museum August 27-19, 2021 at Hickory Corners. Michigan.

**Jim**



Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
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### **Business Card Ad 3.5x2”**

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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.

**Make checks payable to:  
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## Membership Musings



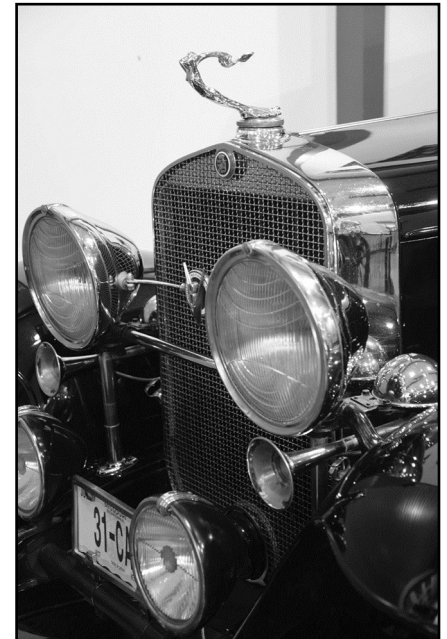
Got vaccine?

The CDC has started relaxing some of the anti-interpersonal measures instituted to slow the spread of the virus for those vaccinated twice and whose bodies have been allowed to percolate the antibodies for two additional weeks. I imagine that likely includes many of our members. Are we ready to get together in an outdoor venue that would allow folks to get together or stay in smaller groups as you feel comfortable? The next Spirit night may actually be a Saturday afternoon picnic.

The Father's Day Show sponsored by the Horseless Car-

riage Club of Missouri is still scheduled to take place at the National Museum of Transportation in Kirkwood on Father's Day. Visit the HCCM website for details. It should be a good opportunity to dust off a car and blow out the cobwebs.

Membership status: We are down to 10 members that I have not heard from for 2021 membership renewal. Please visit the Classic Car Club of America website ([www.classiccarclub.org](http://www.classiccarclub.org)) or contact me to renew ([ttobiasz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttobiasz@sbcglobal.net)).



1931 Cadillac –Larry Hassel Photo



## American Design, Performance, and Luxury-

**A Snapshot of the Cadillac representing ten decades of Cadillac history is open in The William R. and Laura Rand Orthwein Education and Visitor Center through October 31. Photos by Larry Hassel**

Spirit of St. Louis Region CCA members Todd and Amber Tobiasz and Myrna and Jim Schild are presenting an outstanding opportunity for the general public to see what real Full Classic Cadillacs are in the special display at the National Museum of Transportation in west St. Louis County from now until October 31.

Jim & Myrna's 1929 Cadillac 341B Fleetwood Transformable Town Cabriolet is just out of over 22 years of storage and has been in their garage at home since 1985. It is one of three 3512 Transformable Town Cabriolets known to exist and was used in their now-closed Antique Classic Limousine Service until 1998. It has a 140-inch wheelbase and is powered by an L-head 341 cubic-inch V-8.

Amber & Todd's 1931 Cadillac 355A Fisher Seven Passenger Sedan has been in this area since brought here from Columbus, Ohio in 1983. It has been owned by four Spirit of St. Louis Region members since and shown many times. It has a 134-inch wheelbase and is powered by a 353 cubic-inch L-head V-8.

The Museum display also includes their 1921 Cadillac Series 59 Seven Passenger Suburban Sedan. It has a 132-inch wheelbase and a 314.5 cubic-inch L-head V-8. They also present their 1941 Cadillac 60 Special sedan with a 346 cubic-inch L-head V-8. All are CCA Full Classics.

Be sure to visit the Museum this summer and enjoy all of their wonderful automobile displays and the finest collection of locomotives and railroad equipment in the world. They are on Barrett Station Road just south of Dougherty Ferry Road and west of I-270 in St. Louis County.



# Servicing Hubs and Wheels

By Wendell Smith

With the Covid situation we experienced during the past year I did very little servicing on my vintage cars. I am planning to attend a couple of concours shows and a major tour this year; consequently, I have started the process of getting cars ready.

I am a member of the Silver Ghost Club. The members of this club enjoy extensive touring. In the fall of 2019 I participated in a ten-day 1,700 mile tour of southern Illinois and Indiana with the Ghosters. The tour consisted of twenty-two Silver Ghosts. This model of Rolls Royce was manufactured between 1906 and 1926. This fall I am signed up to participate in a two-week tour of West Virginia and Virginia with the club, consequently, I need to make sure my 1925 Ghost is in proper mechanical condition and well serviced.



I started working from the ground up. My first and only major surprise thus far has been a discovery that a front wheel that was slightly loose on the hub. Surprisingly, even when driving as fast as seventy miles per hour this problem went undetected.

My Ghost was made in Springfield Mass; unlike the British made cars with multispline Dunlop hubs, the Springfield Rolls of this era has Buffalo hubs. Other classic cars of this period including Duesenberg, Cadillac and Lin-

coln also used the coarse spline Buffalo wheels and hubs.

When researching my hub situation, to my surprise, the most comprehensive article I found was written in 1956 by the late Norris Allen. Norris lived on Westmoreland Place two doors down from the home of our former member Fred Guyton.

Servicing instructions provided by Norris and others are to take the wheels off the car annually and thoroughly clean both the hub and the wheel. Earlier articles suggested re-lubing the mating surfaces and hub nut threads with grease. I use a combination of two modern lubricants that are available today: anti-seize compound and motorcycle chain lubricant.

When tightening the wheel back on the hub it is recommended that the single hub nut be driven home with three heavy blows of a heavy hammer. It is also recommended that the hub nuts be checked for tightness after driving the car 250 miles.

If you hear a clunk in your rear axle when starting it is likely your hub nuts are loose. If I am not planning to drive a car for two or more weeks I usually jack up the front of my cars to take the weight off the tires to help retain balance. This also presents an excellent opportunity I will not pass up in the future to check wheel tightness.



*The dirty and untouched Buffalo hub.*





*Buffalo Wheel showing splines before lubing.*



*Buffalo hub cleaned and lubed with anti-seize.*

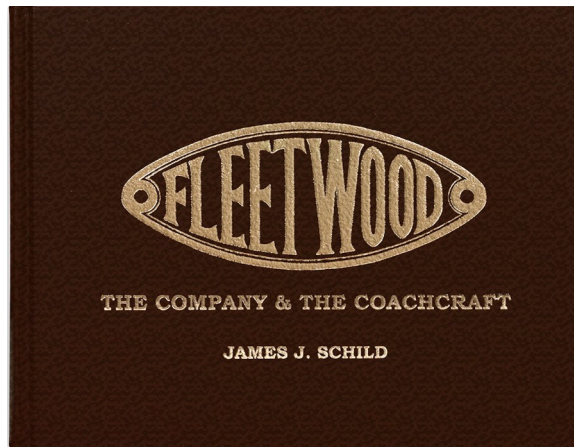


*Buffalo hub cleaned and ready for installation.*

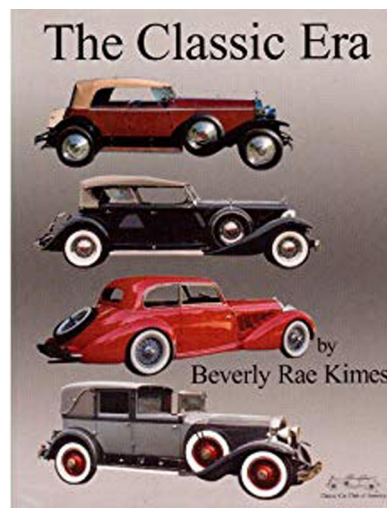


*The Rolls-Royce Buffalo wheel with special hub wrench and locking lever in place. A similar wheel and hub assembly was used on Classic 1926-1929 Cadillacs and Model J Duesenbergs.*

## THE CLASSIC BOOKSHELF



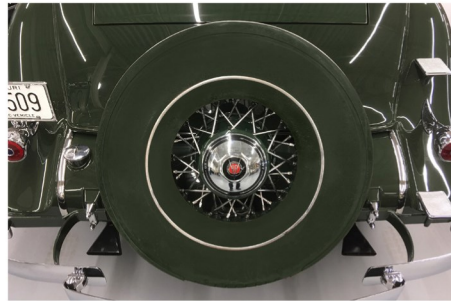
The SSR Region proudly announces a re-issue of the book *Fleetwood, The Company and The Coachcraft*, by Region member James J. Schild. Long out of print, and a must for all Classic Car enthusiasts, the book is printed on high quality paper, and is the authoritative work on Fleetwood coachwork supplied 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**



*A recent meet and tour of the RROC Silver Ghost Society, John Gibson and Wendell Smith center.*

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Jim Schild  
5 Rowan Oak Lane  
Columbia, IL 62236



1926 Cadillac Town Sedan

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### May 2021

**Museum of Transportation All Ford Show**

16 May, 2021

### June 2021

**HCCM Father's Day Car Show at the M.O.T.**

20 June, 2021

**>>Submission deadline for the Spark Plus**

20 June, 2021

### August 2021

**>>CCCA Grand Opening at the CCCA Museum, Hickory Corners, Michigan**

27-19 August