

THE SPARK PLUG

News to spark your interest

November/December 2021

Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America



Gerry and Sharmon Perschbacher's original 1940 Packard 180 Custom Super Eight 7 Passenger Sedan.

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**SPARK PLUG
NEWSLETTER**

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Director's Message

Hello all,

If you've been able to attend one or more of the great events this year planned by the Activities Committee, most recently the interesting tour of the Gerald and Sharmon Perschbacher collection of cars, literature and other vintage automotive artifacts, I'm sure you will agree that membership in the Classic Car Club, both Nationally and at the Regional level, is worth every penny. I clearly remember when I first joined the Club in the late eighties, and the then Membership Chairman, Bob Radel, telling me that in addition to the activities and the people involved, the publications from the Classic Car Club were in and of themselves worth the cost of admission. He was right and I've been a member ever since!

I know I'm probably preaching to the choir, for I know each of you that continue to enjoy the Classic Car Club feel that renewing your membership, even with the pandemic continuing to affect our activities schedule, is a dollar well spent. Speaking of renewal, no doubt you've received a notice from the National CCCA to renew your membership for 2022. Many have done so already, so thank you. But if you haven't yet gotten around to renewing, I hope you can find time to do so before year end. I'm betting that 2022 is a

year where things get back to normal, not only in everyday life, but insofar as club activities are concerned.....things like the popular Spirit Nights.

So, take a moment if you will, complete the membership renewal either online or mail it in, and strike a "to do" item off your list. You'll be glad you did.

John



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Across the Editor's Desk

I hope everyone has taken every opportunity to enjoy every possible tour and event of the past year. In addition to the three events noted in this issue there are a few extracurricular ones to mention.

On September 18, 2021, Wendell Smith won a Best in Class Award for his 1925 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost Brewster Buckingham Limousine at the 40th Annual British Car Show held at Creve Coeur Park. Myrna and I also won a third in Class with our Non-Classic 1948 Rolls-Royce Speedster at the same event.

On October 17, Todd Tobiasz brought his red 1936 Cadillac Fleetwood Convertible Sedan to the Brass & Nickel and Cadillac & La Salle Club Show at the Museum of Transportation. Myrna and I displayed our newly revived Non-Classic 1909 Auburn touring. Our Classic 1929 Cadillac Fleetwood Town Car was still on display inside the museum main building. It is home now.

Myrna and I enjoyed seeing the 1940 Packard 1808 we owned from 1984 to 1998 now well taken care of in the Perschbacher Collection.

Don't forget that December 20th, 2021 is the deadline for placing submissions and 2022 ads in the Spark Plug. See Page 6 for details and prices.

This issue was so packed full that I ran out of room for some pictures and captions from the Perschbacher Tour and Bluff Road Tour so here are a couple more for your pleasure and information.

Please note the Postcard in with those of you who get a hard copy. You must return this card if you want a hard copy next time or you will get only the email copy.



This picture by Todd Tobiasz is of the main entrance of Fort Chartres in Southern Illinois. This is an interesting historical sight along the Bluff Road.



A partial view of the Perschbacher Collection by Larry Hassel. An array of Classics and Non-Classics.



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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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Payment in full must be received before ads are published. Ads must be received prior to each deadline. If purchasing full year package the same graphics and or wording will be used each time unless otherwise notified before the next deadline. Deadlines are the 20th of every other month. Spirit of St. Louis Region CCCA reserves the right to refuse advertisement space. The Spirit of St. Louis region CCCA does not assume liability, either implied or expressed as to accuracy of any ad. The Spirit of St. Louis Region CCCA does not insure or endorse any product or services advertised.

Membership Musings



What a busy couple of months: Several car shows, CARavans, a collection tour. If there is not enough going on in the real world, there was something going on in the Classic Car world.

The Spirit Region sponsored a CARavan through the Illinois bluffs area along the Mississippi toward Chester and across the river to Perryville with the final stop at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial there. Thomas, Cayden, Jenny, and Richard Quick joined the Indiana Region tour of Route 66 and central Illinois and Indiana. Sonia and Bob Abbott, Rose and John Gibson, and George Randall took part in the Telluride Autumn Classic in Colorado and toured extensively in Utah and Colorado. SSR members were out and about, taking advantage of the late summer weather.

We had three members participate in the Kicks on 66/Randy Gori Memorial Car Show in Edwardsville. It was once again staged on a golf course for maximum spacing. We also had Classics and/or members represented at the Ok-

toberfest in St. Charles, the Cadillac LaSalle show and Brass & Nickel show at the National Museum of Transportation, the Horseless Carriage Club Swap Meet and Show in Chesterfield, and the Wheels in Motion/National Children's Cancer Society fundraiser at Westport Plaza. Pictures from some of those events are included in this issue.

Most recently, members received a tour of the collection of automobiles and automobilia assembled and led by Sharmon and Gerry Perschbacher. Dr. Perschbacher can always be counted on to weave a story and with the backdrop of about 30 automobiles from before, during, and after the Classic Era, this narration did not disappoint.

There are two more events that everyone is invited to participate in before we wrap up the year. On Sunday, October 31, the weather-rescheduled Still Kickin' on 66 show will take place at Colonial Hoffmeister Mortuary for cars 50 years and older. The weather looks more promising for the scheduled music and food trucks. I see they have signs advertising all around their parking lot on Chippewa. I'll probably have candy in case any ghouls show up.

Last to mention, but far from least, our own Barb Knudsen is having a party at Webster Community Park in St. Charles on Sunday, November 7. Gene Bossaller is the organizer. Please RSVP with Gene if you plan to attend and he encourages us to bring our Cars.

I hope to see many out and safely about. I keep being reminded that the cars don't work better with extended down-time. **Todd**

Centennial Beehive CARavan

Words and Pictures By John Gibson

The members of the Colorado Region of the Classic Car Club of America hosted a CARavan traveling through Utah and Colorado. This event started on September 19th and ended September 27th. Several members of the SSRCCCA region joined in the CARavan. Thirty-five vehicles participated in this excellent hosted event. Members attending included Bob and Sonia Abbott, John and Rose Gibson, and George and Sherry Randall. (right)> Bob drove his 1941 Cadillac 60S with the Gibson's as passengers and George drove his 1948 Jaguar DH Coupe. Both performed perfectly during the eight hundred miles of the CARavan, even when our elevation exceeding ten thousand feet at Telluride.

The CARavan began and ended in Grand Junction, Colorado. From Grand Junction we traveled to Moab, Utah for two nights, onto Durango, Colorado for three nights, then to Telluride, Colorado for two nights before we returned to Grand Junction.

In Moab we were in the heart of the southwest Utah's high desert. We toured Arches National Park with the dynamic landscapes of arches and rock formations which were formed from the erosion forces of wind and water over several million years. We additionally toured the Canyonland National Park with acres of colorful canyons, mesas, buttes, fins, arches and spires. We also had the option of visiting Dead Horse point State Park, which had a view that is considered one of the most photographed scenic vistas in the world. We had an evening boat tour on the Colorado River in which they provided a light show on the bluffs with a narrative, was well done and provided a very different view of the rock bluff verses how they are presented during the day.

In Durango we rode the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad traveling through the Cascade Canyon. We also toured the Mesa Verde National Park and viewed the ancient cliff dwelling of the Pueblo Indians.

Leaving Durango, we traveled to Telluride for two nights and the Telluride Festival Cars and Colors which is known as a world class celebration for automobiles. We displayed our cars in downtown Telluride on the main street and generated a good deal of interest in the CARavan and the historical nature of the vehicles. Leaving Telluride, we traveled to Gateway to see the Gateway Auto Museum and then continued to Grand Junction for our final night and banquet.

The CARavan reflects the Beehive name due to the state of Utah official State emblem is the Beehive. The Beehive stands for hard work and Industry. The Early Utah pioneers had few resources and had to rely on their own industry and hard work to survive.



Bob and Sonia Abbott's 1941 Cadillac 60S sedan.



George and Sherry Randall's 1948 Jaguar Drophead Coupe.



Bluff Road CARavan to Perryville, Missouri – Words and Pictures By Todd Tobiasz

On Saturday, October 2, the SSR joined the St. Louis Cadillac LaSalle Club and the Jaguar Association of Greater St Louis for a CARavan down the Illinois Bluff Road from Columbia to Chester and across the Mississippi to Perryville, Missouri. The weather was not ideal for a drive in a Classic car with inoperable windshield cleaners. As it turned out the raid was spotty and we only experienced a few short periods of windshield-covering rain. But Chad Thomas was undeterred and he brought out his 1940 Buick Limited.

Thirteen cars started out on the Bluff Road. Most of the corn harvest had begun so aside from the rain, the view was unobstructed from the bluffs on the left to the flood plain on the right. The route took us through Maeystown, Red Bud, and Prairie du Rocher before our stop at Fort des Chartres. At the fort we had a chance to get out and wander the grounds, looking into the museum and several open buildings.

From the fort we drove through Chester, hometown of E. C. Segar, creator of Popeye. We drove by several statues of the Popeye characters. Then we lunched at the banquet room at Mary Jane's on the square in Perryville, Missouri. After lunch we gathered at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall and Museum for a docent tour. The memorial is an exact reproduction of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington DC. We wrapped up about 4 pm. Thanks to Jim Gormley for organizing the trip, our visits, and lunch.



Chad Thomas brought the only Classic on the tour so his 1940 Buick Limited sedan was a hit.

Right top to bottom: The bridge at Chester, The Vietnam Memorial Wall, the tour dinner at Mary Jane's and the statue of Popeye The Sailor Man.

WHERE CAR HISTORY HITS THE BRIX – The Dr. Gerald and Sharmon Perschbacher collection

By Todd Tobiasz. Pictures by Jim Schild, Todd Tobiasz and Larry Hassel.

On a Saturday afternoon in mid-October Spirit Region members had an opportunity to tour a very unique collection of cars, artifacts, and documentation. Gerry and Sharmon Perschbacher led us through their collection, housed in a building that was once a major production site for Hydraulic Press Bricks, the paving stones that lined numerous St. Louis streets (the name BRIX is now used to reflect the past importance of the site).

For 40+ years the Perschbachers have been collecting significant historical autos and artifacts that reveal the local and regional advancement of the American automobile. Gerry led us down a path in the main viewing area that described about 30 vehicles starting with a 1906 Moon buggy and ending with a 1950 Packard sedan with a rare Egyptian mascot. In between there were examples of Packard, Peerless, Pierce-Arrow, Cadillac, Moon, Gardner, Chrysler, Cole, Windsor and more -- with insights on their part in history.

The cars themselves are only part of the story. In addition there are innumerable publications and periodicals dating back to the earliest part of the automobile era. There is a life-time of collecting represented and probably another life-time of organizing and cataloging. Thank goodness this appears to be a joint effort between Sharmon and Gerry. Room after room filled with packed bookcases. Published books, bound and loose-leaf periodicals, one-of-a-kind collections disposed by manufacturers and dealerships.

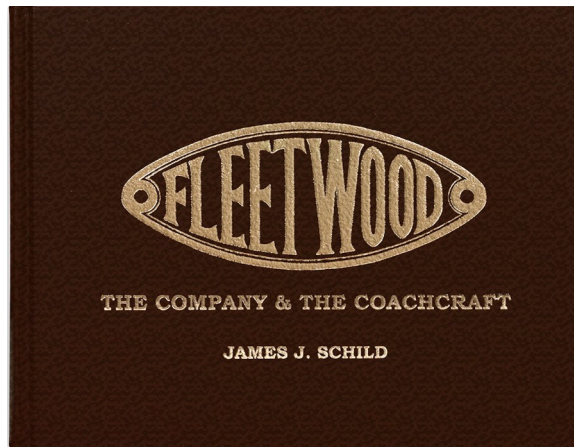
The pictures only tell a small portion of what's available. Gerry is glad to help research an enthusiast's need for information. Contact him if you'd like to see what might be available.



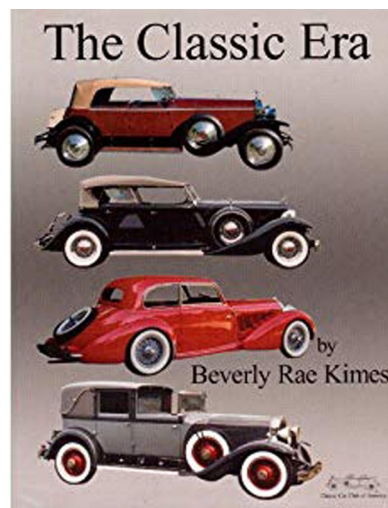
The display of handbuilt cars shown by Guy Randall>>



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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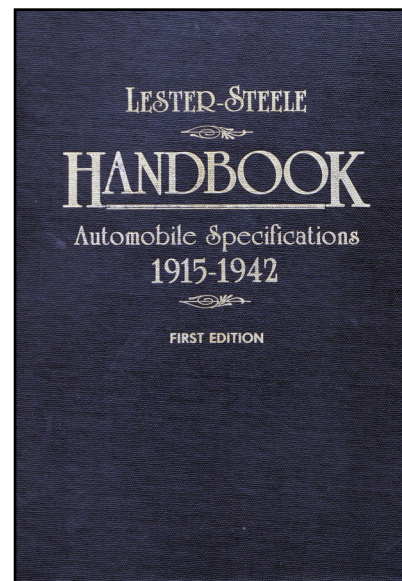
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Jim Schild
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Bob and Sonia Abbott and family in their annual Halloween Parade, this time in their non-Classic 1935 Ford Phaeton.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2021

Gasparilla Concours de Elegance, Lutz, FL	4 December, 2021
>>Spark Plug Deadline for submissions and ads for 2022	20 December, 2021
>>Deadline for Membership Dues to National CCCA	31 December, 2021

February 2022

>>2022 Membership Kick-Off Meeting at Hyman's Ltd.	5 February, 2022
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March 2022

>>Spirit Night. Location TBD. First Tuesday of March.	1 March, 2022
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