

# THE SPARK PLUG

News to spark your interest

September/October 2021

Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America



John and Rose Gibson and their 1931 Pierce-Arrow Dual Cowl Phaeton at Smartt Field. Larry Hassel Image.

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# Director's Message

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## SPIRIT REGION OFFICERS

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## BOARD OF MANAGERS SSR REGION

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Robert Bruce (2020)

Dave Groerich (2020)

Jim Gormley (2021)

Rob Hosenfelt (2021)

Duane Wesche (2021)

Barb Knudsen (2022)

John Groll (2022)

Bob Radel (2022)

## COMMITTEES

### ACTIVITIES

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### MEMBERSHIP

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ttobiasz@sbcglobal.net

### WEBMASTER

John Lowell

## SPARK PLUG NEWSLETTER

### EDITOR

Jim Schild  
jschild@htc.net

Greetings!

I have to hand it to the Activities Committee who have dreamed up some fantastic events and tours for our members in the second half of this year, making up for lost time earlier in the year due to the pandemic. And, they have always....always, been mindful of taking every precaution to keep everyone safe in this second year of the pandemic.

Speaking about precautionary measures, and primarily due to the recent surge of the Delta variant of the Covid virus, I personally feel, as does the Board of Managers, that it is in the best interests of our membership that activities that place people in close proximity, such as Spirit Nights and the Annual Meeting, be cancelled or postponed until next year. I can assure you that decisions such as these are not taken lightly. It was questionable to how many would choose to attend anyway, so committing to a venue and caterer was problematic.

Tours to collections and places of interest give folks the flexibility of exercising their own level of distancing as they feel makes them the

most comfortable. Many are planned with other clubs joining in which promotes great fellowship. You'll read more in this issue about what's taking place for the remainder of the year. Its exciting stuff.....new and creative.....so plan on attending one or all of them.

On a final note, the 2021 SSR Member Directory will be out soon and in the mail. Great cover photo!

Stay safe and healthy!

John



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# Across the Editor's Desk

## In Memoriam Bill Davis

**William Maxwell Davis**, 89, died peacefully at his home in Charleston, on July 2, 2021.

Mr. Davis was born in Charleston, on March 21, 1932, the son of the late James Hornor Davis II and the late Martha Davis. He was preceded in death by his only brother, James Hornor Davis III; his sister-in-law, Ouida Caldwell Davis; and his stepmother, Eolyne Davis. He was the last of the 11 grandchildren of William Brent Maxwell of Harrison County.

He received his early education in Clarksburg and Charleston public schools and was a graduate of the Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, NJ and Princeton University.

His entire business career was spent with the Bank of West Virginia, where he stepped down as President in 1979. In this, he followed several generations of banking leadership.

He was a world traveler, and some of his earliest trips included the World's Fair in 1939 and the opening of the Olympic Games in Helsinki. He also served overseas in the U.S. Army.

He twice served as the head of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, appointed by the governor in 1968 a year after the commission's founding; he remained on through 2004. He also served on the foundation board of the Kanawha County Public Library and was eager to see the renovation through, which he hoped would be quite welcoming to all. His vast philanthropic interests included the Clay Center for Arts and Education (formerly Sunrise Museums), various music organizations — Chamber Music and WV Symphony, the University of Charleston, of which he once served as acting president, The Historic Glenwood House Foundation, for which he was serving his 41st year as president, WVU, his schools, Princeton and Lawrenceville, many auto related museums and his church. Retiring early from his banking career, he dedicated much time to serving on the boards of various non-profits across a broad array of interests throughout his state and the country.

A passionate automobile enthusiast from his very early days, he often recalled childhood events (and throughout his life) by the car that was involved. He was also among memberships and roles in a dozen different auto clubs, especially active with the Classic Car Club, the Classic Car Club of America Museum and the Rolls Royce Owners Club and Foundation, and he served as national president of all and judged the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance for over 30 years. He was the oldest continuous American member of the U.K. based 20-Ghost Club, the oldest Rolls Royce auto club in the world, and his cars often won best in class. An especially memorable event among many was his delight in taking an American built 1928 Rolls Royce Springfield (MA) roadster with left hand drive to England for a tour, creating some sensation on both continents, including New York Times photo coverage of it boarding the QEII for his Atlantic crossing.

Mr. Davis is survived by his nephew, James Hornor Davis IV (William Hague); his niece, Frederica Davis; and his five great-nieces: Frederica Morgan Davis, Faith Maxwell Davis Iselin (Alex), Tilden Davis Arnold (Alex), Warren Davis and Baird Davis. He was predeceased by his nephew, Lewis Caldwell Davis.

He will be remembered for his great charm, and for his genuine devotion to West Virginia, his community and his family — and for his bow ties.



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

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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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Columbia, IL 62236-4148**

**[jschild@htc.net](mailto:jschild@htc.net)**

**For more information con-  
tact: 618-281-3311**

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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



If you are ready to get out, there is a Spirit Region event for you. Twenty-three Spirit Region members and guests toured Charles Gallagher's collection of Classic and collector cars and religious icons in July. Charles does a wonderful job of showing his cars to our club. He and his grandson, Neal, are great hosts, showing and sharing generously. A great way for us to start breaking out of our pandemic quarantine in friendly surroundings. Details and photos of our trip are being covered in this issue.

We had twenty-two members and guests visit the Commemorative Air Force, Missouri Wing, on August 21. Jim Gormley organized this event to tour Smartt Airfield in northern St Charles County, home of three WWII era aircraft that they maintain and fly. The weather cooperated, aircraft maintenance schedules cooperated, and the docent-led tours were informative. Three aircraft at the field were available for inspection and photos. All three were running and two of them flew and passed overhead.

We are taking a bit of a break in September. Please remember the Kicks on 66/Randy Gori Memorial Car Show and Cruise in Edwardsville is

scheduled this year for September 11. The Abbotts, the Gibsons, and I enjoyed this show last year. Like last year it will be held on a golf course to spread out the cars and provide a lot of room for a wide variety of cars. Jeff Kennedy is the show field chair and is actively recruiting cars. He is particularly keen to have the Classic Car Club represented. Please look up the show website at [www.KicksOn66.org](http://www.KicksOn66.org). He had a designated area for CCCA and I expect he will do the same this year. A great way to get the car out and enjoy an outside event.

We have two events scheduled for October. Saturday, October 2, is the CARavan from Columbia, Illinois, to Perryville, Missouri, along the Bluff Road. We will be stopping Ft. de Chartres and the Vietnam Memorial with lunch on the square in Perryville. See the forthcoming flyer for more details. If you've not done a CARavan, don't be shy. The trip will be about 90 miles down the Illinois side of the Mississippi River with a pit stop, some touring, and a catered lunch. We'd all love to see Classics on the tour, but that is certainly not necessary.

**Perschbacher Collection:** Saturday, October 23, we are invited to enjoy a narrated tour of the automobiles and automobilia of the Sharmon and Gerry Perschbacher collection. In addition to the focus of Gerry's collection being brass and early Classics, he has a special interest in St. Louis cars. The event will have a limited participation to keep it safe and manageable in the building. I will send a follow up email soon with details. RSVP will be through the event coordinator, Larry Hassel.

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**

Join us  
for a **CARavan** though  
historic Southwest Illinois along  
the **“Bluff Road”**...  
...to Perryville, Missouri  
Saturday October 2, 2021

- **Departing the Walmart parking lot**, Telegraph Road at 1-255/270, at 8:30 am, cross JB Bridge to first exit “Quarry & Palmer Roads”
- **Our first stop** The Shell Gas station just to the right of exit to meet up with other CARvaners. (approx. 5 mi)
- **Then turn on the Bluff Road** at 9:00 am, and enjoy the rural scenery. We will detour to **Red Bud Illinois** for a quick fuel & restrooms stop. (approx. 45 miles)

Then onto the **Bluff Road** to historic sites of:

- **Prairie du Rocher**, (approx. 15 miles)
- **The Colonial Fort de Chartres Historical Site**. (approx. 4 miles)
- **Back on Bluff Road** through **Chester Illinois** to visit Popeye & friends, (approx. 25 miles).
- Cross the Mississippi River on Ill-151/MO-51 to **Perryville Missouri** (approx. 10 miles)
- **Lunch on the town square at Mary Jane Burgers and Brew.**
- Following lunch we will have a guided tour of the **Missouri’s National Veterans Memorial & Vietnam Wall & Museum**. Admission is individual donations to the Museum. (4 miles)

*We have arranged a buffet for lunch, \$25.00 per person. Reservations are necessary to insure enough lunch is prepared. Please RSVP by email to Jim Gormley at gormley867@yahoo.com or by phone at 314-962-8220 by Sunday, September 19, 2021. Make checks for lunch payable to “Spirit of St. Louis Region, Classic Car Club of America” and mail to Kevin Williams, 6257 Rhodes Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63109.*

Returning on your own you might find these historic sites interesting along highway 61:

- St. Mary, MO has the antique mall (open until 6:00 pm)
- Kaskaskia Island, ILL & “The Bell”, reached from St. Mary, MO
- Ste Genevieve, MO, has wineries and gift shops
- Or Stay in Perryville for the Saturday evening free car show on the town square, starting 5:00 to 11:00 pm

*Come and enjoy this fall historic CARavan tour.*



# The Charles Gallagher Collection

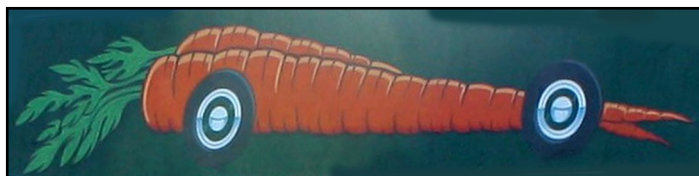
Spirit of St. Louis Region members had the unique opportunity to visit the beautiful and diverse collection and Pro-duce Row facility of member Charles Gallagher on July 17, 2021. It was a great day of old cars, fun and fellowship with sandwiches and drinks provided by our host. Charles introduced his collection with a brief history of himself and his cars that was appreciated by all present.







*This upstairs room (above) displays Charles Gallagher's fabulous collection of religious artifacts and relics.*



## Wendell Smith and Bob Abbott attend the RROC Lake Michigan Region Concours.

Wendell and Bob drove up to the Chicago area to participate in the Rolls-Royce Owner's Club Annual Concours. Bob won second place in his non-Classic Bentley Continental GT Convertible and Wendell won First Place in Pre-War and Best of Show in his Classic 1927 Rolls-Royce P1 Windovers All Weather. *(Below photos by Wendell Smith)*



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DESIGN BY zeal

Larry Hassel was able to get some pictures of Todd and Amber Tobiasz' new Full Classic acquisition. This restored 1929 La Salle 328 Phaeton (Left) joins the stable with Todd and Amber's 1931 La Salle Coupe, 1931 Cadillac 355 V-8 Seven Passenger Sedan and 1936 Cadillac V-8 Fleetwood Convertible Sedan.

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# Wheels in Motion Day



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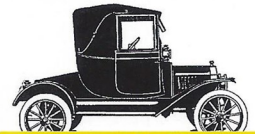


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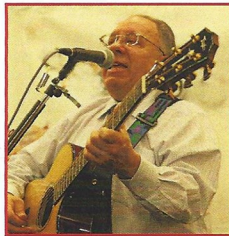
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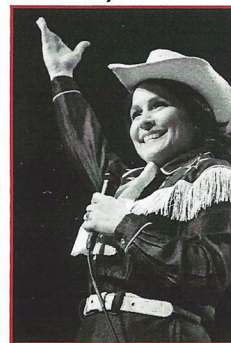


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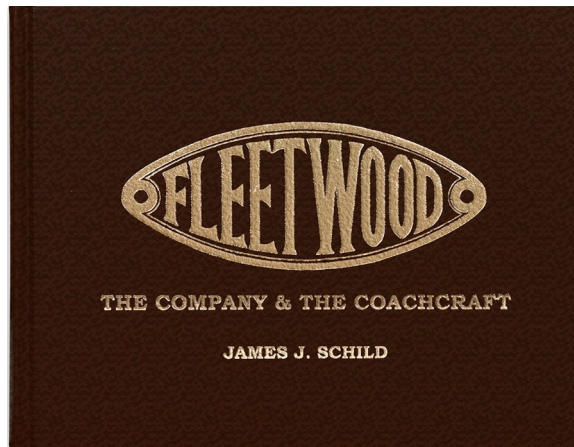
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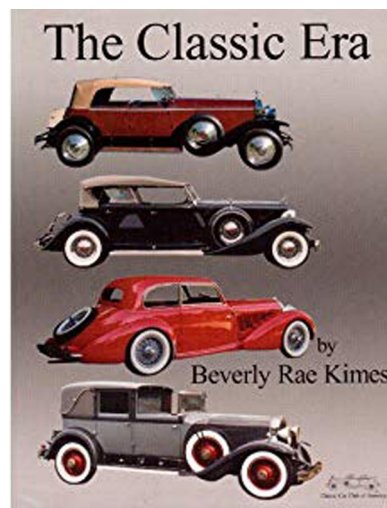
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## THE CLASSIC BOOKSHELF



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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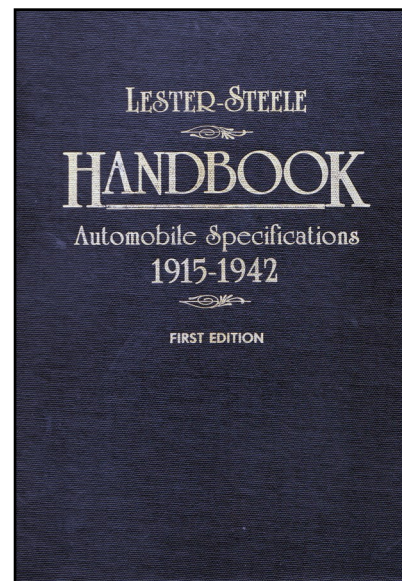
Not concerned with make or model. Center hole must be 16 inches or larger. Outside diameter of face plate around 31-32 inches. Please call or email if you have one for sale.

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Sell all! \$100 bucks! Call **Bob Radel: 314-991-3590.**

**The Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America** enjoyed a memorable visit to the Commemorative Air Force Missouri Wing on Saturday August 21, 2021 at St. Charles County Smartt Airport, St. Charles MO. The visitors were treated to a tour, talks and a flyover of the WWII aircraft including a TBM3-E Avenger, B-25J Mitchell bomber and an L-3 Bird Dog. Pictures provided by Larry Hassel, Wendell Smith and Todd Tobiasz.





*The impressive B-25 in glorious flight above our group.*

*Bob and Sonia Abbott with their 1935 Ford Phaeton (NC). Jim Gormley and Phil Taxman also attended in non-Classic Volkswagen and Willys collector cars*

*Below: The business end of a B-25 Bomber like the ones that attacked Tokyo from a carrier deck in 1942.*



Jim Schild  
5 Rowan Oak Lane  
Columbia, IL 62236



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September 2021

<b>Kicks on Route 66 Car Show and Cruise, Edwardsville, IL</b>	11 September, 2021
<b>Wheels In Motion Charity Car Show, Westport</b>	12 September, 2021
<b>British Car Show, Creve Coeur Park</b>	18 September, 2021
<b>HCCM Car Show and Swap Meet &amp; CLC STL Region Car Show, Chesterfield Mall</b>	19 September, 2021
<b>St. Charles Oktoberfest, Main Street St. Charles, Missouri</b>	26 September, 2021

### October 2021

<b>&gt;&gt;SSR CARavan driving tour, Columbia, Illinois, to Perryville, Missouri</b>	2 October, 2021
<b>&gt;&gt;Submission Deadline for Spark Plug</b>	20 October, 2021
<b>&gt;&gt;Gerry Perschbacher Collection Tour</b>	23 October, 2021
<b>Hoffmeister Colonial Mortuary Car Show, St. Louis, Missouri</b>	24 October, 2021

### December 2021

<b>Gasparilla Concours de Elegance, Lutz, FL</b>	4 December, 2021
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