



Cadillac & LaSalle Club

Potomac Region

Caddie Chronicle

March 2012



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE BY VINCE TALIANO

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

WEBSITE MANAGER

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ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR

DAN RUBY

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST

JACK MCCLOW

SECRETARY

ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

VALLEY FORGE REGION LIAISON

SANDY KEMPER

CAR SHOW COORDINATOR

CENTRAL PA REGION LIAISON

HENRY RUBY

TREASURER

HARRY SCOTT

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST

R. SCOT MINESINGER

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J. ROGER BENTLEY

AUTOMOBILIA AUCTIONEER

HAMPTON ROADS REGION LIAISON

GEORGE BOXLEY

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST

RITA BIAL-BOXLEY

SHOW WEEKEND COORDINATOR

SHELLEY CHADICK

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST

CHRIS CUMMINGS

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST

JIM GOVONI

CAR SHOW SPONSOR AND HOST

DANIEL JOBE & CAPITOL CADILLAC

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST

TOM MCQUEEN

HONORARY MEMBER

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST

VERN PARKER

CENTRAL VA REGION LIAISON

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST

CHUCK PIEL

CAR SHOW MASTER OF CEREMONIES

NATIONAL CLC ADVISOR

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST

RICHARD SILLS

Preparations are well underway for our 20th Anniversary Spring Car Show at Capitol Cadillac. The registration flyer is included in this issue.

Anyone who registers a car and brings the dash plaque from our 1st show (pictured right) will receive FREE REGISTRATION. Volunteers are still needed to help with the show, and donations are needed for our auction. To date over 50 items have been donated including books, posters, die-cast cars, shop manuals, parts, etc.

Our condolences go out to the Valley Forge Region on the recent passing of Lew Howells. In the 1970s, Cadillac and LaSalle owners from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, including Lew Howells, made the journey south to attend Potomac Region events.

Steven Sisson, who by then was the CLC's Eastern

Vice President of Regions, published an open letter to CLC members residing in Pennsylvania in the February 1975 *The Self-Starter*, promising that if they could start a CLC Region, the neighboring regions would provide assistance. From this appeal came the Valley Forge Region. Lew served as their first president from 1975-82. He eventually succeeded Steven as the CLC's Eastern Vice President of Regions in 1980 and served in that position until Richard Sills succeeded him in 1994. Lew was the last remaining charter member still active in the Valley Forge Region in recent years, to the point of serving as treasurer through the end of calendar 2011.

Our condolences go out to Bob Fangmeyer on the recent passing of his brother.

Vince Taliano



Lew at Lahaska in September 2011
Photo courtesy of John Barry



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2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Mar 10 Sat	7:00 am – 3:00 pm	39th Annual AACA Chesapeake Region Antique Auto Parts Flea Market	Howard County Fairgrounds West Friendship MD	Tom Young at 410-653-3108 or tbirdtom@comcast.net
Mar 17 Sat	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	"Roll With Cole" Car, Truck & Bike Show -- 100% of the proceeds go to Cole Sydnor, a 16 year old who broke his neck and is now a quadriplegic	Atlee High School Mechanicsville VA	Justin Spurlock at 804-514-5407 or cntwlk@yahoo.com
Mar 19 Mon	7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Potomac Region Monthly Meeting	Silver Diner Merrifield VA	Vince Taliano at 301-258-8321 or vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org
Mar 23-24 Fri-Sat	Gate opens at 6:00 am	42nd Annual AACA Sugarloaf Mountain Region Parts Meet	Frederick Fairgrounds Frederick MD	Robert Clubb at 301-831-0300 or smraaca@aol.com
Apr 14 Sat	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Trip to Seatco Upholstery Shop	Baileys Crossroads VA	R. Scot Minesinger at rsctm@cox.net or 703-283-2021
Apr 18 Wed	7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Potomac Region Monthly Meeting	Capitol Cadillac Greenbelt MD	Vince Taliano at 301-258-8321 or vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org
Apr 19-22 Thu-Sun		AACA Southeastern Spring Meet	Charlotte NC	www.aaca.org
Apr 22 Sun	10:00 am – 5:00 pm	3rd Annual Spring Car/ Truck/Bike Show	Adventure Park New Market MD	Erik Stottlemeyer at 240-357-6752 or www.adventureparkusa.com
Apr 25-29 Wed-Sun	Gates open daily at 7:00 am	Spring Carlisle	Carlisle PA	717-243-7855 or www.carsatcarlisle.com
Apr 28 Sat	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	4th Annual New York / New England CLC Inter-Regional Spring Meet	Connecticut Trolley Museum E. Windsor CT	David Rubin at 845-225-5990 or david.rubin@brewsterhillins.com or Chris Milici at 508-384-7578 or icilim@verizon.net
May 5 Sat	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	CLC Valley Forge Region Car Show	Faulkner Cadillac Trevose PA	Ronnie Hux at 302-745-8850 or cadiman59@aol.com
May 6 Sun	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	21st Annual Capitol Cadillac Spring Car Show/ Automobilia Auction	Capitol Cadillac Greenbelt MD	Car Show: Henry Ruby at 301-675-5438 Automobilia Auction: Vince Taliano at 301-258-8321 or vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org
May 12 Sat	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	54th Annual AACA Apple Blossom Meet	Jim Barnett Park Winchester VA	Duane Catlett at 540-869-6668 or www.sraaca.com
May 12 Sat	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	3rd Annual Car Show & Automotive Flea Market	Highlands School Bel Air MD	Peggy Castagna at 410-836-1415 or pcastagna@highlandsschool.net
May 17-19 Thu-Sat		AACA Eastern Spring Meet	Wyomissing PA	www.aaca.org
May 20 Sun	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	CLC Valley Forge Region Car Show	Delaware Cadillac Wilmington DE	www.vfrclc.org/upcoming_events.htm
May 20 Sun	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	PCS Northeast Chapter's 11th Annual Spring Meet and Car & Truck Show	Peddler's Village Lahaska PA	Bill Marcy at 201-342-4871 or bmarcy@optonline.net
May 21 Mon	7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Potomac Region Monthly Meeting	Silver Diner Merrifield VA	Vince Taliano at 301-258-8321 or vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org
Jun 2 Sat	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	CLC Central PA Region's 23rd Annual Spring Show	Kelly Cadillac Lancaster PA	Art Archambeault at 717-557-6974 or artarchambeault49@gmail.com
Jun 2 Sat		23rd Annual Orphan Car Tour	Starting from Harpers Ferry WV	Jon Battle at 540-364-1770, TourDirector@orphancartour.org or www.orphancartour.org
Jun 13-16 Wed-Sat		CLC Grand National Meet hosted by the Florida Suncoast Region	St. Augustine FL	https://www.cadillaclasalleclub.org/2012-grand-national?layout=blog
Jun 16 Sat	8:30 am – 3:00 pm	4th Annual Car Show featuring Buick, Cadillac, GMC, Olds, and Pontiac	Freysinger Buick Mechanicsburg PA	Tim Spigelmyer at 717-938-9368 or TLSPSU@aol.com or Dick Beckley at 717-395-7128 or dbeckley@epix.net



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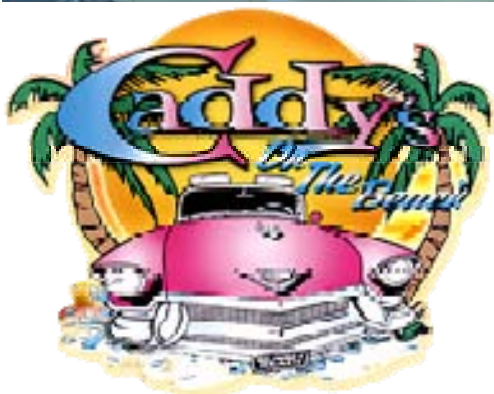


DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Jun 17 Sun	10:00 am – 3:30 pm	39th Annual Sully Plantation Father's Day Car Show	Sully Plantation Chantilly VA	Bill Worsham at 703-250-5474 billworsham@aol.com or www.gwcmodela.org
Jun 22-24 Fri-Sun	Gates open daily at 7:00 am	Carlisle GM Nationals	Carlisle PA	717-243-7855 or www.carsatcarlisle.com
Jun 30 Sat	11:00 am – 4:00 pm	8th Annual Picnic with Lincoln Mercury friends	J. Roger Bentley's Home Brinklow MD	R. Scot Minesinger at rsctm@cox.net or 703-283-2021
Jul 7 Sat	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	6th Annual CLC Inter-Regional Meet	AACA Museum Hershey PA	Art Archambeault at 717-557-6974 or artarchambeault49@gmail.com
Jul 13 Fri		3rd Annual Collector Car Appreciation Day	All across the USA	www.SEMASAN.com/ CollectorCarAppreciationDay
Jul 22 Sun	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	VCCA Free State Region's Annual Car & Truck Show	Meadowbrook Regional Park Lutherville MD	Hank at 410-377-8331 or dankerus@comcast.net or grand1917@comcast.net
Aug 11 Sat	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	38th Annual Metro Chapter Buick Club All-GM Show	Montgomery College Rockville MD	Cory Correll at 240-686-0229 or corydraw@gmail.com
Sep 2 Sun	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Vern Parker's Street Dreams Car Show	Spring Hill Recreation Center McLean VA	www.vernparker.com
Sep 9 Sun	7:00 am – 3:00 pm	11th Annual AARP-Wiygul Automotive Herndon Classic Car Show	Lynn & Station Sts Herndon VA	brent@aarpdulles.org

To see a full list of events and to download available fliers, visit
www.clcpotomacregion.org/eventslisting.htm.



*Jack McClow took this picture on a recent trip to Florida.
Caddy's On The Beach is a beach bar and grill on Treasure
Island, south of Clearwater, FL.*



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www.clcpotomacregion.org



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TRIP TO SEATCO UPHOLSTERY SHOP BY R. SCOT MINESINGER

Saturday, April 14, 2012

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Gourmet lunch will be served

Seatco

5610 Scoville Street

Baileys Crossroads, VA 22041

703-931-4800

Seatco is a convertible top and interior specialty shop featuring upholstery, carpet, and dashboards.

Please notify Scot Minesinger via e-mail (rsctm@cox.net) or phone 703-283-2021 if you plan to attend so we can prepare for the number of people to. Last minute guests are welcome too.

During this event, Seatco's owner, Neal, will be pleased to go over all vehicles driven to the shop or conveyed with pictures and answer questions about convertible tops, upholstery and carpet. He will give a demonstration of the work he performs on a Cadillac leather seat. Neal will identify what to look for in an interior specialty shop. Neal is also a gourmet cook and will serve lunch.

Seatco specializes in classic, high end luxury and specialty automotive interior and convertible top work. Neal enjoys business from local Porsche, Ferrari, and Rolls Royce dealers as well as classic car owners. The entire facility is spacious and all indoors. Every trip to Seatco is a mini car show, as half a dozen fine makes are in the shop. Neal restored the interior of a 1930's Bentley racer with a wood frame (one of three made) that won second place at Pebble Beach. He also replaced the carpet, upholstery, and top plus lined up the windows on my car. Weather permitting, I will drive it to this event and you will see the quality and durability of his work.

Directions from all points:

From DC take 395S toward Richmond. From outside of DC, drive the Beltway towards the former mixing bowl 95S, 495W, 95N (or E) and 395N and take 395N towards Washington. From 395 take Seminary Road West. Seminary Road requires a left turn after traveling a few miles at an intersection with a traffic light to remain on Seminary Rd. Follow the signs. Turn left after another mile or two onto Scoville Street, Seatco is on the right.



**Follow me to Seatco and enjoy the day.
Photograph by Bill O'Brien/The Washington Times**



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21st Annual Capitol Cadillac / CLC Potomac Region Spring Car Show & Automobilia Auction Sunday May 6, 2012

Car Registration:

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

*Please read the Car Show Rules on
the following page*

Car Show Hours:

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Auction starts at 12:00 pm

***6500 Capitol Drive
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-441-9600***

LOCAL DIRECTIONS:

From Capital Beltway (I-495/95)

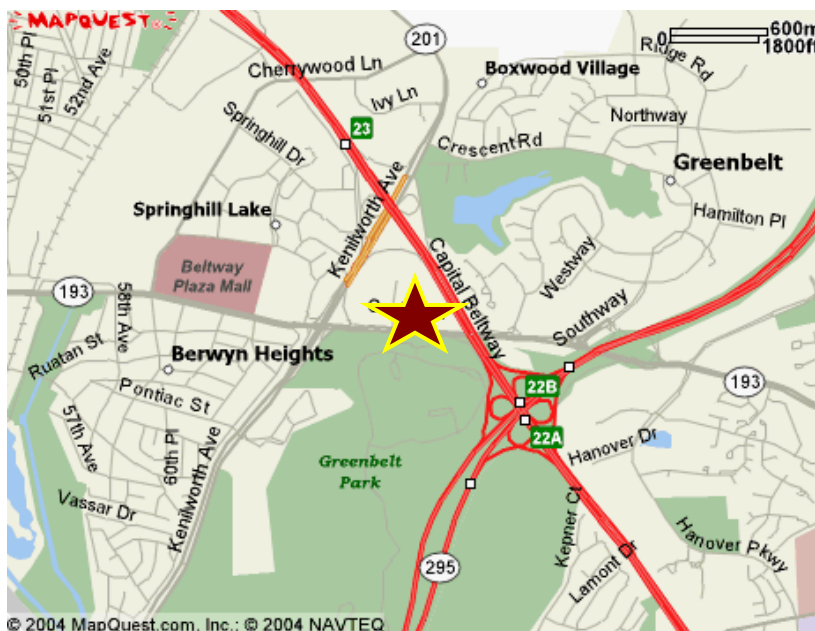
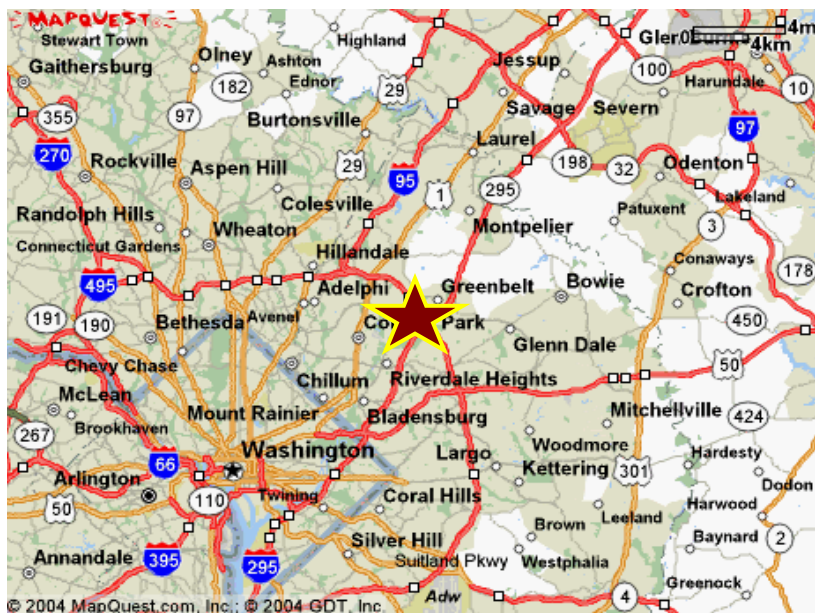
- Use Exit 23 - Kenilworth Avenue Rte 201, proceed South on Kenilworth Avenue to first exit - Greenbelt Road, Route 193
- At light, proceed East on Greenbelt Road - Rte 193 (left)
- At traffic light make left onto Walker Drive (**TGI Friday's** Restaurant on corner)
- Make an immediate right onto Capitol Drive (Dealership is on your left)

From Baltimore-Washington Parkway (Rte 295)

- Use Exit for Rte 193 (Greenbelt Road)
- Proceed West on Rte 193 - Greenbelt Road
- Make first right after underpass onto Capitol Drive (Dealership is on your right)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

**Henry Ruby
Car Show Coordinator
301-675-5438**



The Region has reserved rooms at the Holiday Inn Greenbelt 301-982-0863 for the night before the show at the special rate of \$94 (mention Cadillac & LaSalle Club when making reservations). Please notify Shelley Chadick at 717-368-4422 if booking a room.



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Car Show Rules

- **Rain or Shine:** The car show will take place rain or shine. No refunds.
- **FREE Registration:** Anyone who registers a car and presents the dash plaque from the first show in May 1992 will receive free registration
- **Safety:** If a vehicle(s) has fluid drips or leaks, the owner must bring absorbent material or drip pans to avoid slippery conditions and to protect the showroom floor or show field parking lot. **The Potomac Region reserves the right from preventing any cars with excessive fluid leaks from entering the show field.** It is recommended that a working fire extinguisher be in every vehicle.
- **Judging / Parking Rules:** The Potomac Region reserves the right 1) to determine each vehicle's judging class and 2) each vehicle's placement in the show field. **There will be no parking on the grassy areas whatsoever, due to sprinkler heads and possible rut damage.** Vehicles will be peer judged by the individual owners of the registered cars. Registrants will be able to judge vehicles in all classes, including their own. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards will be given to winning vehicles in each class.

<u>Judging Classes</u>	<u>Other Awards</u>
Class A: 1902 – 1942 Cadillac Class B: 1927 – 1940 LaSalle Class C: 1946 – 1958 Cadillac Class D: 1959 – 1964 Cadillac Class E: 1965 – 1970 Cadillac Class F: 1971 – 1976 Cadillac Class G: 1977 – 1986 Cadillac Class H: 1987 – 1996 Cadillac Class I: 1997 – Current Cadillac Class J: Professional Vehicles Class K: Modified Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dealer's Choice• Best Pre-War• Best Post-War• Best of Show• Ladies Choice• Long Distance (Driven Cars Only) <p>A vehicle receiving "Best of Show" may also receive an award in its class, but will not be eligible to receive "Best Pre War" or "Best Post War" at the same show.</p>

Registration Form

Make checks payable to **CLC Potomac Region** and mail this registration form to:

Harry Scott, Treasurer
14421 Aden Road
Nokesville, VA 20181-3122

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Vehicle Registration Fee: (Up to Apr 28th: \$15/per car - After Apr 28th: \$20/per car)

Circle Make: CAD LAS Model: _____ Year: _____ Class: _____

Circle Make: CAD LAS Model: _____ Year: _____ Class: _____

Circle Make: CAD LAS Model: _____ Year: _____ Class: _____

☐

Check this box if you do not want your vehicle(s) judged

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MARCH 19, 2012 MEETING MINUTES BY SANDY KEMPER

PLACE: Silver Diner, Merrifield, VA

TIME: 7:45 PM

PRESIDING: Secretary Sandy Kemper

ATTENDANCE: Byron & Alida Alsop; Chris Cummings; Randy Denchfield; Brenda & Jim George; Jeff Gurski; Sam & Karen Jackson; Dick Kettermann; Jack McClow; Tom McQueen; Vern Parker; Caleb Ruby; Henry Ruby; Steve Ruby; Richard Sills and Richard Sisson

DIRECTOR'S REMARKS: Sandy thanked everyone for attending. He welcomed Sam and Karen Jackson who joined the club last fall and were attending their first meeting. Sandy also acknowledged Steve Ruby and his son, Caleb. He reminded everyone that our **next meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, April 18th** instead of the usual 3rd Monday of the month. Sandy relayed that the Valley Forge Region has announced with deep regret the passing of Lew Howells, the last remaining charter member of that region who was still active in the club. Lew was one of the Philadelphia Area CLC members who participated in many PR events throughout the years.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Sandy Kemper reported that the Minutes from the February meeting were not read since they had been published and distributed to all members in the February, 2012 newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report covered the time period from the February meeting to date. The Region's income was \$30.00. The total expenses for the same time period were \$108.18.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Debbie Taylor continues to serve in this role until an official replacement is elected under our By-Laws. Our current 2012 membership total is 204 members.

ACTIVITIES REPORT: The following activities were discussed:

1. Recently Held Events:

- **AACA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia PA, Feb 9-11.** Richard Sills described this meeting for those who are not familiar with this event. At this meeting the CLC sponsors one of the many awards that are presented. This year's winner was a 1933 V-12 Town Sedan owned by Daniel Gernatt of Collins, NY.
- **Atlantic City Classic Car Show & Auction, Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City NJ, Fri-Sun, Feb 24-26.** Henry & Dan Ruby and Richard Sills were among those from our club who attended. Richard reported that Beverly Pinola sold her late husband Frank's 1954 Eldorado.
- **39th Annual AACA Chesapeake Region Parts Meet, Howard Co Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD, Sat, Mar 10.** Quite a few CLC members attended or worked at this meet. It was one of largest in attendance.



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2. Upcoming PR Events:

- **Visit to Seatco, Sat, Apr 14th.** Scot Minesinger has arranged a visit to Seatco, an auto upholstery supplier in the Bailey's Crossroads area, on Saturday April 14th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. They will provide a gourmet lunch for our group and discuss convertible tops and upholstery; perform demonstrations and answer questions.
- **21st Annual Spring Car Show & Automobilia Auction, Sun, May 6th.** Volunteers are needed to help on the day of the show with parking, registration, auction, and clean-up. The Show flyer will be published in the March newsletter.
- **8th Annual Picnic with Lincoln Mercury friends, Roger Bentley's Home, Brinklow MD, Sat, Jun 30th.**

3. Other Upcoming Events:

- **42nd Annual AACA Sugarloaf Mountain Region Parts Meet, Frederick Fairgrounds, Frederick MD, Fri-Sat, Mar 23-24.**
- **AACA Southeastern Meet, Charlotte, NC, Apr 19-22.**
- **Spring Carlisle, Carlisle, PA, Apr 25-29.**

Richard Sills mentioned the following events:

- **AACA Eastern Spring Meet, Wyomissing, PA, May 17-19.**
- **CLC Central PA Region 23rd Annual Spring Show, Kelly Cadillac, Lancaster, PA, Jun 2.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ronnie Hux, the Director of the Valley Forge Region CLC, is trying to put together a group of CLC members who would like to use the Auto-Train to transport themselves and their vintage Cadillacs or LaSalles to the Grand National Meet in St. Augustine in June. (The Auto-Train trip begins in Lorton, Virginia and ends in Sanford, Florida, about 85 miles/1½ drive from St. Augustine.) Anyone interested should contact Ronnie at cadiman59@aol.com. Ronnie and his wife Becky attended our Holiday Party in January.

OLD BUSINESS:

- As discussed at the February meeting, Sandy had a copy of the proposed amendment to the By-Laws available for review at the meeting. Also the proposed amendment to the By-Laws is available for review by any and all members of the Region by requesting a copy from Sandy or viewing on our website at www.clcpotomacregion.org/forms/CLCPR.BylawsRevision2012.pdf. A vote by the membership to accept or reject the proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws will be held at the April 18th meeting at Capitol Cadillac.
- CLC members Carol Yarnell and Franklin Gage testified in hearings before both the House Environmental Matters Committee and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee about the bills before the Maryland House of Delegates (HB550) and in the State Senate (S846) that are applicable to the collector car community. The bills proposed three primary changes to Maryland motor vehicle law that are somewhat more restrictive than the current statute for the registration of "historic" vehicles. Carol's husband, Harry, along with CLC members Chuck Piel and Sandy Kemper and other car club representatives were present at the House of Delegates hearing.



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Fortunately, the latest news is that the Maryland House Environmental Matters Committee is expected to set aside the bill for study after this legislative session ends and that the Senate will take similar action. Usually such actions mean that the bills will not be pursued further. Sandy also mentioned that in the current legislative session in Virginia, the Virginia House of Delegates introduced a bill to amend an existing law under the Code of Virginia that permits any locality to adopt an ordinance to impose a license tax, not to exceed \$100 annually, upon the owners of motor vehicles which do not display current license plates and which are not exempted from the requirements of displaying such license plates. The bill proposes to increase the tax amount from \$100 to \$500. The bill has been passed by the House, approved by the Senate and sent back to the House for concurrence.

- Regarding the Fall Car Show, look for a possible change in the theme name to something with "professional" in the title. Also, the Valley Forge Region is considering another drive and show at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum, possibly on the Saturday before our show.

GENERAL: Jeff Gurski had purchased a bulk lot of some excellent Cadillac model cars. He had several Converj Show Car and CTS-V models for sale at the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: **Wednesday, April 18th, 7:30 PM** at Capitol Cadillac, Greenbelt, Maryland.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

SPOTTED A CADILLAC STORY & PHOTO BY SANDY KEMPER

On a recent morning, I was driving to the brunch meeting of my Porsche 356 club in Galesville, Maryland, near Annapolis. On the way, I saw this red Cadillac in the driveway of a tire shop. Whoa! Stop the car. I jumped out to take a picture and suddenly realized that I've seen this car before. Indeed, it's George & Rita Boxley's "Big Red" – a 1938 Series 65 Five-Passenger Sedan!





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Remembering the Seventies!



Ron - Thanks again for inviting me to share some photos of my 1970 DeVille. I've attached four pics that show the car pretty well. If you like, you can use the following synopsis for your publication. Let me know if you need anything else.

This 1970 Cadillac DeVille Convertible is my first collector car. I've always loved the big classic American luxury sedans and fell in love with the 1969-1970 Caddies when I was a teenager. To this day I believe that the body style of the DeVille in those two years was one of the finest ever designed by Cadillac. Elegant rear quarter panel fins and a redesigned front end with horizontal headlights made this body style a "winner" in my view.

Green is my favorite color so when I saw this car I knew I had to own it. And, people seem to love the color as much as the car itself! The DeVille convertible in Cadillac's 1970 product brochure is shown in this exact color combination, Nottingham Green Fire mist with white leather upholstery. Where have all those great colors gone?

I've always held a tradition of naming my cars and I pondered this considerably for my first classic. I settled on "Greenfinz" which integrates one of the great Cadillac design concepts with, of course, my favorite color. I decided on "z" instead of "s" just for a modern hip sound. I think it works!

Since owning the car, I've received several show and parade awards and used the car in various parades to drive local government officials including Maryland's Governor Martin O'Malley and Baltimore City's Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake.

Happy motoring to all of my fellow Cadillac Club car enthusiasts in New Zealand and around the globe!

Best regards,
Robert Meekins

*I'm
green
with
envy!*

In keeping with the 70's theme I am on the hunt for 'all things seventies' so when I saw this amazing De Ville owned by Robert Meekins I just had to share it with you!

This is a fantastic example and thanks Robert for allowing us to share the "Greenfinz" with us.

Robert is a member of our Potomac Region in USA



THE NEWS SERVICE

FINZ
cadillacclubofnz.org

FEBRUARY 12

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Editor's Note: Congratulations to Robert Meekins, whose recent story in the Caddie Chronicle was re-published in FINZ ('Fins'), the monthly magazine of the Cadillac LaSalle Club of New Zealand. Ron Melville, FINZ Newsletter Editor, and I exchange publications monthly.



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**1975 CADILLAC SEDAN DEVILLE
STORY & PHOTOS BY VERN PARKER**



Records show that a new 1975 Cadillac Sedan deVille was purchased at the Lindsay Cadillac dealership in Virginia by an Oxon Hill, Md., man. The roof of the Jennifer Blue Cadillac was covered with white vinyl. The owner enjoyed his car for only a brief period before his death. His widow kept the Cadillac and upon her death in 2004 the car passed to a younger member of the family who promptly traded it for a pickup truck.



When new the lengthy Cadillac had a base price of \$8,801. The car dealer who took the car in trade was so impressed by the original condition that he kept the car for himself. Soon word got out about the incredible low-mileage Cadillac and Lynn Gardner wondered if the car could be for sale. Between the twin two-foot snow storms in January 2010 Gardner paid a visit to the owner of the Cadillac to ascertain if the car was, indeed, available for sale. It was. Before the owner could change his mind Gardner bought the car that had only 24,670 miles recorded on the odometer and took it, on its 130-inch wheelbase, to his Arlington, Va., home.

Once the car was at his home Gardner delved into the intricacies of the Cadillac. He found that his acquisition left the factory equipped with a tilt/telescopic steering wheel and an AM/FM Wonderbar stereo radio. The antenna is a power feature. The front seat of the 5,146-pound four-door pillarless hardtop Cadillac is split 40/60 percent and is a six-way dual power seat. White leather upholstery covers the spacious seats and door panels.

For a 36-year-old car the Cadillac remains a well-appointed luxury vehicle. Near the outside mirror on the left front door is a small thermometer to register the outside temperature. There is no right side mirror. The Cadillac is also equipped with a twilight sentinel to automatically operate the four rectangular headlights. Atop each front fender a lamp monitor is easily visible to the driver. Air conditioning on Cadillac cars was for years an extra cost option but by 1975 the air conditioning unit on this car is listed as standard equipment.



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Cadillac designers were safety conscious in 1975. When any door is opened a small red light in the lower part of the door is directed at oncoming traffic while a small white light illuminates the area below the door where the occupant is about to step. A total of 15 red wires are embedded in the rear window to keep it free of fog. At each end of the L--O--N--G Cadillac is a 5 mile per hour bumper mounted on horizontal shock absorbers in order to prevent damage in low speed collisions.



Gardner says 63,352 Cadillacs were manufactured during the 1975 model year. With government regulations in place the gigantic 500-cubic-inch V-8 (8.7-liter), fed by a four-barrel quadrajet carburetor, develops a relatively small 190 horsepower which is transferred to the rear drive wheels through a three-speed automatic transmission. The Cadillac rolls on LR78x15-inch Uniroyal white sidewall tires. Enormous rear fender skirts hide the upper half of the rear tires and full wheel covers. Behind the rear license plate is the filler cap to the gasoline tank. It has not seen much use because Gardner reports his Cadillac has been driven only 25,060 miles.



**L to R: Daniel Jobe presents Lynn Gardner an award for his 1975 Sedan deVille at the 2011 Capitol Cadillac Spring Car Show
Photo by Franklin Gage**



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UPDATE ON MARYLAND BILLS TO RESTRICT ELIGIBILITY FOR HISTORIC VEHICLE REGISTRATION BY FRANKLIN GAGE



On February 3, 2012, Maryland Delegate Kirill Reznik introduced a bill to change the Historic Vehicle Registration law in the state, and it was bad news for hobbyists. It would have increased eligibility for historic registration from 20 to 25 years, eliminated "Occasional use" language from existing law, eliminated eligibility of vehicles of ANY age (including heavy trucks, ambulances, hearses, limos, etc.) and made special collector insurance mandatory. Although such insurance is a benefit for most of us as it recognizes our cars are driven less, cared for better and generally worth more with age than "Daily Drivers" (thus resulting in lower premiums), it almost always requires a garage which some collectors don't have for all their cars. The bill (HB 550) was referred to the House Environment Committee, where hearings were scheduled February 28, 2012. A companion bill (SB 846) was introduced in the Senate by Senator Nancy Long and referred to the Judicial Proceedings Committee for a hearing on February 29.

Thanks to the ever-vigilant Specialty Equipment Manufacturers Association (SEMA), word started to spread and it wasn't long before Delegate Reznik, Senator Long and in fact the entire Maryland Legislature started hearing from unhappy hobbyists across the state (and, it turns out, the nation) opposing the bill. The only support seemed to be from a few cosponsors and the O'Malley Administration's Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and State Police. Del. Reznik promptly introduced three amendments that met hobbyists' objections; they restored the 20 year rule, "occasional use" and eligibility for most classes of vehicles (the heavy trucks, including fire engines, were addressed favorably in another seemingly uncontroversial bill), and actually improved existing law by clarifying cars could be driven for charitable fundraising and maintenance/repairs. The amendments imposed only one new restriction: To be eligible for historic registration, an applicant would need to have a regularly registered vehicle in his household. SEMA and other hobbyists agreed this was a non-burdensome, reasonable requirement to deter abuse, and so our opposition turned to support of the amended bill.

At the House hearing, Delegates expressed amazement at the volume of communications they had received opposing the unamended bill. Del. Reznik testified in favor of his amended bill. He explained he had introduced the original bill in response to a complaint by a constituent who had been to the Emissions Inspection Station and overheard an employee (e.g. a state representative) tell the owner of a beat up car that didn't pass to just go and get historic plates for it to avoid inspection (historic registered vehicles are exempt from emissions and safety inspections and have a slightly lower registration fee, but are not supposed to be primary transportation).



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The MVA and State Police sent representatives to support the (bad) unamended bill, but the State Policewoman said "Me Too" in agreement with Del. Reznik's testimony. **Several hobbyists, including Potomac Region members Carol Yarnell and Franklin Gage (supported by more hobbyists in the audience, including PR members Sandy Kemper, Chuck Piel and Harry Yarnell) testified in favor of the amended bill**, although one from the Lotus Club seemed to support the unamended bill. We made several points, among them that the collector vehicle hobby is an important contributor to the economic and cultural life of Marylanders, resulting in preservation of automotive history and increased tax collections from such entities as hotels, restaurants, gas stations, tour destinations, repair and restoration shops, parts suppliers, etc. One Delegate (Herb McMillan) expressed opposition to the existing 20 year rule, saying he didn't think his 19 year old Saturn was particularly collectible. Since 20 year old cars are now routinely crushed, their protection is important if there are to be cars of that era (and their parts) available in the future. Potomac Region member Carol Yarnell memorably introduced her testimony by telling the Committee she had met hubby Harry because of their interest in old cars and reminded the Committee we are a family oriented activity they should be encouraging.

The next day at the Senate hearing, interestingly the MVA representative expressed support of the amended bill, and the State Police sent no one to testify. Sponsor Senator Nancy King wasn't there, but her assistant testified well in favor of the amended bill. When told her time had expired, Carol started to leave the podium but Senator Nancy Jacobs asked her to stay because Ms. Jacobs wanted help in locating a 1965 Seafoam Green Mustang Convertible with a 390 engine to purchase. Carol was also asked by the then-Presiding Senator Lisa Gladden to assist in finding a good home for the 1985 Cadillac currently resting behind Ms. Gadden's home.

Following the hearings, the House Committee (presumably to be followed by the Senate Committee) referred the bill to "Summer Study," often a way to kill a bill for the current year. So for now the status quo seems to be the order of the day, but the bill may be reintroduced next year and we need to be vigilant to help pass a good bill or kill a bad one.

Virginia also has had a close call; a bill there would have allowed municipalities to charge up to \$500/year for unregistered vehicles stored on private property. SEMA and hobbyists have worked, apparently successfully, to exempt vehicles 25 years and older. These episodes have some lessons for us - but for the opposition hobbyists mounted, the *bad legislation probably would have routinely passed!* The good news is that though collectors are a minority, there are enough of us **if organized** to make democracy work and stall bad legislation. Regular contact with legislators is important, and because things can move quickly hobbyists need to be 'in the loop' by signing up for free email alerts from the "SEMA Action Network" (SAN) at san@sema.org.



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DAD'S CADS STORY & PHOTOS BY CHUCK PIEL

When he passed away last year, my younger brothers and I had plenty of chances to reminisce about our beloved Dad, Dr. Richard "Dick" Piel. Invariably, the topic came to Dad's cars, and his most beloved cars were Cadillacs. Dad's love of Cadillacs in the '50's spawned my own interest which became a life-long hobby.

Dad was born in 1930, and upon legal driving age, owned (in succession) a 1935 Ford Tudor, 1935 Chrysler Airflow, and a 1937 Packard 120 coupe/roadster. Dad bought a spotlight for his Ford, but the guy who mounted it put it in the middle of the roof over the windshield, rather than the windshield post. Dad said it looked like "Cyclops" and quickly got rid of it. The Airflow was one fast car with a straight 8, but he burned up the motor while driving through Tappahannock, VA on his way to visiting a girlfriend. He had to take a bus home with the money the local mechanic gave him for the car.

The Packard was beautiful, but was an oil burner and leaked badly as well. After it got so bad that he had to "check the gas and fill the oil", he decided it was time to move on – rumble seat and all. However, none of these cars lit Dad's fire like a Cadillac. Good Cadillacs were expensive and in short supply, and Dad was now putting himself through Optometric school while supporting mom and me, so instead he "regressed" to a '39 Ford Tudor "that had dents over every square inch." Upon graduation in 1952, he worked a deal for a '49 Ford Club Coupe in good shape, and began his Optometric practice at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds – about 40 miles from home.

In early 1953, Dad was T-boned in the '49 Ford and miraculously escaped unharmed. The Ford wasn't as lucky as it was totaled. Two days later, on post at Aberdeen, he encountered a well-heeled Army Major who was shipping out and wanted to sell his '49 Cadillac Convertible. His price was reasonable, considering this Caddy had 90K miles on it. Dad bought it and now owned his first Cadillac!

THIS WAS NO ORDINARY CADILLAC!

It was Pale Blue with a special Navy Blue Canvas top and a continental kit. Most of the visible parts of the engine were

chrome plated. Needless to say, Dad burned up Rt. 40 to and from Aberdeen, MD every day in the blue '49 and was well known to the state and county police! As a 3-year old, one of my earliest memories was in this car. He foolishly left me in the car one day in my little car seat while he ran back into the house to fetch something. He left the keys in the car, and I leaned over and hit the starter button. Wow, did I get a scare, and Dad came running out and really yelled at me too!



**Dick Piel's '49 Cadillac Series 62 Convertible
Circa 1953**



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**Chuck Piel, age 5 1/2, in front
of Dad's '55 Series 62
Convertible
Circa 1956**

Those 80-100 mile round trips every day mounted up on the Blue '49, and soon Dad was looking to upgrade. In June, 1954, he traded the '49 convertible for a green '51 Coupe deVille at Chesapeake Cadillac on Charles Street in downtown Baltimore. It didn't take long for Dad (and our family) to miss dropping the top, so in early 1956, he went shopping again.

It just so happened that the wife of the owner of Pimlico Race Track drove a new Cadillac convertible every year. Her new '56 Series 62 convertible came into Chesapeake Cadillac, and they delivered her new car to her, returning with her '55 Series 62 convertible trade-in. The car had just over 6K miles on it. Better yet, it was Baby Blue with a Navy Canvas top, a 6-year newer clone to Dad's beloved '49. He had to have it and bought it before they even washed it.

By this time Dad had set-up a local practice in Woodlawn, a Baltimore County suburb where we lived, so the miles he put on the car were minimal. As such, he kept the '55 Convertible for six years, during which time my 3 younger brothers were born, finally selling it to the local Sinclair gas station owner in 1962 to buy a station wagon.

My brothers and I had many good memories of the '55, especially with the top down. One time we went to the movies and Dad left the top down, only to find when the movie was over that it had rained. We laugh now because today we'd have our cars locked up with the alarms activated – not back then!

Another time, not long after Dad bought the '55, my friend from across the street and I were waiting in the car one morning for Dad to take us to elementary school. When I wasn't looking, my friend pushed in the cigarette lighter, and when it popped out, he took it and pressed against the colored grip of the steering wheel – burning an ugly black mark into the plastic wheel. (The stench of the burn in the plastic lasted for days.) Dad didn't believe the other kid did this on his own, and held me responsible for the damage. I'll never forget it cost \$36 to get a replacement steering wheel from Chesapeake Cadillac, not counting the cost to install it. Having a .10 cent a week allowance, that \$36 sounded like a LOT OF MONEY! I think I finished paying it off just before I went to college!



**Piel boys (L to R: Chuck, Rick and David) ready for
another ride with the top down in the '55. Check out
David's "Little Boy Blue" jacket.**



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Dad really loved the understated elegance of the '55, and wasn't really enamored with the big fins of the late 50's and early 60's Cadillacs. So in the mid '60's, he did the unimaginable, he switched to Lincolns! However, Dad's oldest son (yours truly) had been bitten by the Cadillac bug, and starting with a Black '55 Series 62 convertible acquired when I was fifteen, I've been a life-long Cadillac nut. But that's another chapter.

Epilogue

In the mid-70's, I drove a white '73 Eldorado convertible. (With its red interior, this car was a clone to the '73 Pace Cars, but wasn't an "official" Pace Car replica). Dad liked it so much, he went out and bought a used '73 convertible in gold. However, he had problems with the front CV joints, and traded it on another Lincoln a year later. I still have the hard boot off his '73.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Chuck for submitting this great story and photos. Below is a picture of his current Cadillac, a 1967 DeVille convertible.





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CADDIE CLASSIFIEDS

Cars For Sale

1932 Buick 8, 90 Series – Excellent Condition – Tan - **\$48,000 or best offer**

1933 Cadillac V-12 Victoria 5 Passenger Town Coupe – 34 made – 368 c.i.d. engine – Tan and brown – Excellent condition – See picture at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/33cadillacforsale.htm> – **Asking \$87,000 or best offer**

1979 Chrysler Cordoba – 2 Door Coupe – V8 – Fair condition - **\$1,600 or best offer**

For more info, contact Ruth Synodinos at 410-821-8580 – Cars are located in the Baltimore, MD area

NEW ARRIVALS - JACK NOLL'S CADILLACS – We all remember Jack's outstanding Cadillacs, and now his widow Pat is interested in selling them.

1942 Series 62 Deluxe Coupe – Model 6207D (according to the directory listing) – "Fastback" model, and the Series 62 Deluxe is the most high-line version of a closed two-door Cadillac in 1942 – One of only two 1942 6207Ds listed in the 2011 CLC Directory – Jack described this car as needing a complete restoration

1947 Series 62 convertible – Black with black interior and white convertible top – Winner of "Best of Show" awards at several CLC PA Region events, and top AACA awards as well – Jack acquired this car many years ago from an estate in Lancaster, and it can be shown or driven with pride – CCCA recognizes this car as a "Classic", so it can be used for CCCA events as well as CLC and AACA – Professionally appraised at \$65,000

1968 Coupe deVille – An extremely original car in every respect, with a little over 31,000 miles – Dark Green (perhaps Ivanhoe Green, code #36) with black vinyl roof – Jack and Pat enjoyed driving this car on many long-distance tours.

For more info, contact Pat Noll at JNoll39136@aol.com – Cars are located in Harrisburg, PA area

NEW ARRIVAL 1973 Coupe Deville – 46k miles – All original, two-owner Cadillac – Garage kept until this past year – Exterior is a 7 out of 10 and needs a little TLC – Interior is a 9 out of 10 – Power locks and windows – Working clock – Working 8 track tape player (included in sale will be around 35 8 track tapes) – Back window area needs some care; vinyl top around window is leaking – Car cover included – See pictures at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/73cadillacforsale.htm> – **Asking \$6,000 or best offer** – For more info, contact Frank Triploi at dinosfree@verizon.net or 301-275-3783 – Car is located in Connellsville, PA

Parking Space For Rent

Parking space for rent in a well secured and nicely kept building in the Chevy Chase Village-Friendship Heights area, off Wisconsin avenue – Two and half blocks to a Metro stop – Space is located close to the elevator which is very convenient and is secluded – Great place to keep your Caddie – Owner desires a long term tenant, if possible **Cost is \$70 per month** – For more info, contact Mrs. Ein Winthrop at 301-652-8230 or ewinthrop@verizon.net – Previous tenant kept a 1948 Packard there so there is plenty of space for a Caddie.



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