



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle September 2013



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE BY VINCE TALIANO

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
WEBSITE MANAGER  
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CAR SHOW COORDINATOR  
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NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST  
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NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST  
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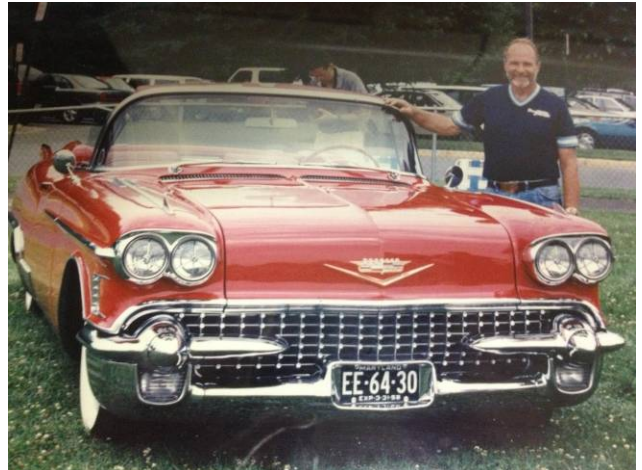
HONORARY MEMBER  
NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST  
VERN PARKER

CENTRAL VA REGION LIAISON  
NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST  
CHUCK PIEL

CAR SHOW MASTER OF CEREMONIES  
NATIONAL CLC ADVISOR  
NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST  
RICHARD SILLS

In honor of the late Henry Ruby, long-time CLC Potomac Region Car Show Coordinator, and the 60th anniversary of the 1953 Eldorado, the theme for this year's Annual Fall Car Show at Capitol Cadillac will be **Colossal Convertibles**, celebrating the long and storied history of Cadillac and LaSalle open cars.

Specifically, Cadillac and LaSalle roadsters, phaetons, open cars and convertibles from all model years will be the honored cars at the show to be held on **Sunday October 27th** at **Capitol Cadillac** in **Greenbelt, MD**. As a tribute to Henry, his 1958 Eldorado Biarritz will be on display (pictured top right), as well as the factory-built "super-charged" 1953 Eldorado (pictured middle right), one of the only two 1953 Cadillac LeMans concept cars remaining (pictured bottom right) and a 1953 Cadillac custom convertible from the Scott Milestone collection. See pages 5-7 for the show flyer.



*Vince Taliano*



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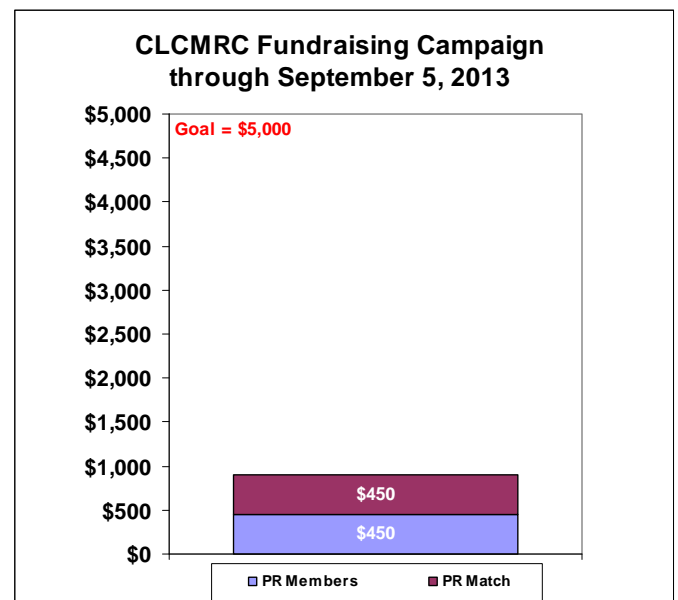
**UPDATE ON THE CLC POTOMAC REGION MATCHING FUNDS DRIVE FOR CLCMRC  
STORY BY VINCE TALIANO  
RENDERING BY THE CLCMRC**



Last month, the Potomac Region announced that it will match 100% of any Region member's contribution to the Cadillac LaSalle Club Museum and Research Center (CLCMRC) Building Campaign until a grand total of **\$2,500 is matched**. To track the contributions, we ask Region members to U.S. mail checks made out to the CLCMRC to Potomac Region Treasurer Harry Scott, who will then U.S. mail them to the CLCMRC along with the Region's contributions. That ensures that members receive the tax deduction, and we can track our progress.

Thru September 5th, **Lynn Gardner, Maurice Jones, Craig Perrotty** and **Vince Taliano** have donated a total of **\$450** (thanks, guys). However, that is still less than 20% of our overall goal of **\$5,000** total. **We challenge each Potomac Region member to donate a minimum of \$50 to this worthy cause.**

In the September issue of *The Self-Starter*, Paul Ayres' Museum Corner on page 33 listed three Potomac Region members who have now contributed **\$1,000 or more**. Specifically, **Rick Menz** has joined the Calais Club with his **\$3,000** donation and both **Bryce Frey** and **Harry Scott** are now Cadillac Contributors with their **\$1,000** donation, respectively.



For the rest of our members, let's follow the example of the aforementioned members and contribute to the CLCMRC Building Campaign.



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club

## Potomac Region

### Caddie Chronicle

### September 2013



#### 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Aug 29 - Sep 1 Fri-Sun		CLC Grand European	Noordwijkerhout Netherlands	<a href="http://www.cadillacclub.nl">www.cadillacclub.nl</a>
Sep 1 Sun	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Vern Parker's 25th Annual Invitation Antique Car Show	Spring Hill Rec Center McLean VA	<a href="http://www.vernparker.com">www.vernparker.com</a>
Sep 7 Sat	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	10th National Cadillac Allanté XLR Car Show	Italian Embassy Washington DC	Johnny Monzo at <a href="mailto:itsonlyluv@comcast.net">itsonlyluv@comcast.net</a>
Sep 8 Sun	8:00 am – 3:00 pm	44th Annual AACA Sugarloaf Region's Activities Meet and Antique Car Show	Urbana Volunteer Fireman Department Grounds Urbana MD	Rob Burchill at 301-371-0654 or <a href="mailto:roburchill@comcast.net">roburchill@comcast.net</a>
Sep 14 Sat	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	17th Annual CLC Hampton Roads Region Car Show	Suttle Motors Newport News VA	Bob Geiger at 757-253-6501 or <a href="mailto:bobnlettygeiger@aol.com">bobnlettygeiger@aol.com</a>
Sep 15 Sun	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	4th Annual CLC Raritan River Region Car Show	Gold Coast Cadillac Oakhurst NJ	Doug Lansing at <a href="mailto:Doug.Lansing@Verizon.net">Doug.Lansing@Verizon.net</a> or 609-466-0687 (evenings)
Sep 15 Sun	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	21st Annual Alzheimer's Association Benefit Car & Truck Show	Motor Vehicle Administration Frederick MD	Earl Chesley at 240-446-6657 or Ed Zimmerman at 301-514-2207
Sep 16 Mon	7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Potomac Region Monthly Meeting	Capitol Cadillac Greenbelt MD	Vince Taliano at 301-258-8321 or <a href="mailto:vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org">vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org</a>
Sep 21 Sat	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Fallen Heroes Memorial Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show	FOP Lodge #89 Upper Marlboro MD	Paula Speiden at <a href="mailto:pdspeiden@co.pg.md.us">pdspeiden@co.pg.md.us</a> or 301-772-4760
Sep 21 Sat	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	38th Annual Edgar Rohr Memorial Antique Car Meet	Manassas Museum Manassas VA	Nicki Hudson at 540-522-6533 or <a href="http://www.bullrunaaca.org">www.bullrunaaca.org</a>
Sep 22 Sun	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	23rd Annual Northern Virginia Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show	Kena Shrine Center Fairfax VA	Burt Zwibel at 703-280-5222 or <a href="mailto:kustoml@cox.net">kustoml@cox.net</a> or Gary Binge at 703-282-9949 or <a href="mailto:a66burb@aol.com">a66burb@aol.com</a>
Sep 22 Sun	11:00 am – 3:00 pm	2nd Annual Stratford Hall Wine Festival Car Show	Stratford Hall Stratford VA	Jon Bachman at 804-493-1972 or <a href="mailto:jbachman@stratfordhall.org">jbachman@stratfordhall.org</a>
Sep 22 Mon	12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Potomac Region Fall Driving Tour	Northern Virginia Winery Tour	Scot Minesinger at <a href="mailto:rscoitm@cox.net">rscoitm@cox.net</a> or 703-283-2021
Sep 27-29 Fri-Sun		4th Annual CLCMRC Meet and Tour	Gilmore Car Museum Hickory Corners MI	Art Riley at 269-629-5713 or <a href="mailto:art.riley@gmail.com">art.riley@gmail.com</a>
Sep 29 Sun	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	All-GM Show Hosted by the Royal GTOs	King Buick GMC Gaithersburg MD	Bill Sandusky at 301-570-3517 or 301-801-7519 (Day of Show)
Sep 29 Sun		CLC Valley Forge Region Annual Fall Car Show	Peddler's Village Lahaska PA	<a href="http://www.vfrclc.org/upcoming_events.htm">www.vfrclc.org/upcoming_events.htm</a>
Oct 2-6 Wed-Sun	Gates open daily at 7:00 am	Fall Carlisle & Auction	Carlisle PA	717-243-7855 or <a href="http://www.carsatcarlisle.com">www.carsatcarlisle.com</a>
Oct 6 Sun	8:00 am – 1:00 pm	56th Annual Antique Auto Assembly	Armed Forces Retirement Home Washington DC	<a href="mailto:nicole.chappell@afrh.gov">nicole.chappell@afrh.gov</a> or <a href="mailto:mary.catherine.murano@afrh.gov">mary.catherine.murano@afrh.gov</a>
Oct 9-12 Wed-Sat	Gates open daily at 7:00 am	AACA National Eastern Fall Meet	Giant Center and Show Grounds Hershey PA	<a href="http://www.hersheyaaca.org">www.hersheyaaca.org</a>
Oct 19 Sat	8:30 am – 3:30 pm	City of Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show	Rockville Civic Center Rockville MD	240-314-5022 or <a href="http://www.rockvillemd.gov/events/carshow.htm">www.rockvillemd.gov/events/carshow.htm</a>
Oct 19 Sat	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	7th Annual Potomac Day Classic Car Show	River Rd Potomac MD	Jennifer at 301-299-2170 or <a href="mailto:jennifer@potomacpizza.com">jennifer@potomacpizza.com</a>
Oct 20 Sun	8:00 am – 3:00 pm	Annual Fall Spectacular Car, Truck, & Tractor Show	Fauquier High School Warrenton VA	Chris at 571-437-3752 or <a href="http://fhsbandcarshow@fauguierband.org">fhsbandcarshow@fauguierband.org</a>
Oct 21 Mon	7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Potomac Region Monthly Meeting	Silver Diner Merrifield VA	Vince Taliano at 301-258-8321 or <a href="mailto:vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org">vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org</a>
Oct 27 Sun	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Annual Capitol Cadillac Fall Car Show: <i>Colossal Convertibles</i>	Capitol Cadillac Greenbelt MD	Dan Ruby at <a href="mailto:danruby@clcpotomacregion.org">danruby@clcpotomacregion.org</a> or 301-894-8026





# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle September 2013



## POTOMAC REGION FALL DRIVING TOUR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2013 BY R. SCOT MINESINGER

Back by popular demand! This year's Fall Driving Tour is Sunday September 22nd and will include stops at two of Northern Virginia's finest wineries. Specifically, the tour will begin at the Paradise Spring Winery in Clifton, VA where members will meet at 12:00 noon. It is a relatively new winery, but the wine is great. I enjoy a glass of their famous "Cabernet Franc" 2009 often. We visited this winery last year and everyone had a nice time.

From Paradise, we will drive to the Barrel Oak Winery in Delaplane, VA. The photo caption to the right is just figuratively speaking as we will leave and drive somewhat independently to Barrel Oak. Everyone can depart and arrive at their own pace based on the schedule below. Also feel free to join us at either one of the two wineries if your schedule is challenged. Caravans are encouraged. Barrel Oak Winery is also a relatively new winery with an excellent product, and it features spectacular views from the large patio. Incidentally, this winery employs a geothermal heating and cooling system that I designed years ago. Barrel Oak Winery was the favorite last year, and I think everyone wished we could have stayed longer. This winery was featured on the front page of *The Washington Post* Metro section almost a year ago as a place where everyone was having a lot of fun. Barrel Oak is expecting us and will provide a roped off parking area.



**Follow Scot and his 1970 DeVille Convertible to the fine vineyards of Northern Virginia**  
Photograph by Bill O'Brien/The Washington Times

The Paradise Spring Winery and Barrel Oak both sell delicious food if a picnic is not your choice. At each winery there are tours, tasting, and hanging out with friends enjoying a glass of wine on the terraces. Use Map-quest or other software to obtain the directions that you need to join us at the winery of your choice. Note this event is dependent upon the weather. Rain will result in rescheduling the event. Please RSVP at [rscotm@cox.net](mailto:rscotm@cox.net) or 703-283-2021 so we can contact attendees in case we have to re-schedule.

12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM Paradise Springs Winery 13219 Yates Ford Road Clifton, VA 20124 703-830-9463	2:15 PM - 5:00 PM Barrel Oak Winery 3623 Grove Lane Delaplane, VA 20144 540-364-6402	After 5:00 PM: Drive home or enjoy a local restaurant
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**Attendees are encouraged to use good judgment.  
The Potomac Region is not responsible for the actions of individuals.**



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle September 2013



## **Annual Fall Car Show: Colossal Convertibles**

**Sunday October 27, 2013**

**Car Registration: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Show Hours: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**6500 Capitol Drive**

**Greenbelt, MD 20770**

**Phone: 301-441-9600**

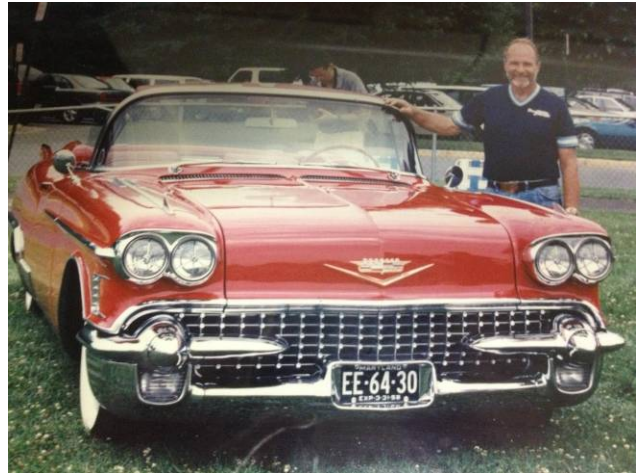
**[www.ecapitol.com](http://www.ecapitol.com)**

In honor of the late Henry Ruby, long-time CLC Potomac Region Car Show Coordinator, and the 60th anniversary of the 1953 Eldorado, the theme for this year's Annual Fall Car Show at Capitol Cadillac will be **Colossal Convertibles**, celebrating the long and storied history of Cadillac and LaSalle open cars. Specifically, Cadillac and LaSalle roadsters, phaetons, open cars and convertibles from all model years will be the honored cars at the show to be held on Sunday October 27th at Capitol Cadillac in Greenbelt, MD. As a tribute to Henry, his **1958 Eldorado Biarritz** will be on display (pictured top right), as well as the **factory-built "super-charged" 1953 Eldorado** (pictured middle right), one of the only two **1953 Cadillac LeMans** concept cars remaining (pictured bottom right) and a **1953 Cadillac custom convertible** from the Scott Milestone collection.

Every Cadillac and LaSalle convertible owner is encouraged to attend this very special show. To celebrate the event, each registered owner will receive a commemorative dash plaque illustration and a commemorative show program highlighting the history of Cadillac and LaSalle convertibles. In addition, the **Colossal Convertibles** owners who pre-register will receive a framed certificate of appreciation for participating. It is time for the convertible owners to take their place alongside the V-12 / V-16 Cadillacs, Eldorados, LaSalles, Fleetwoods, Capitol Cadillac Alumni Cars, DeVilles and Professional car owners who have been featured at the Potomac Region's past seven theme-related fall car shows.

The judging will be done by the owners of the vehicles registered. The registered owners will be able to judge cars in all classes, including their own, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards will be given to winning vehicles in each class, **including five special classes for the convertibles**.

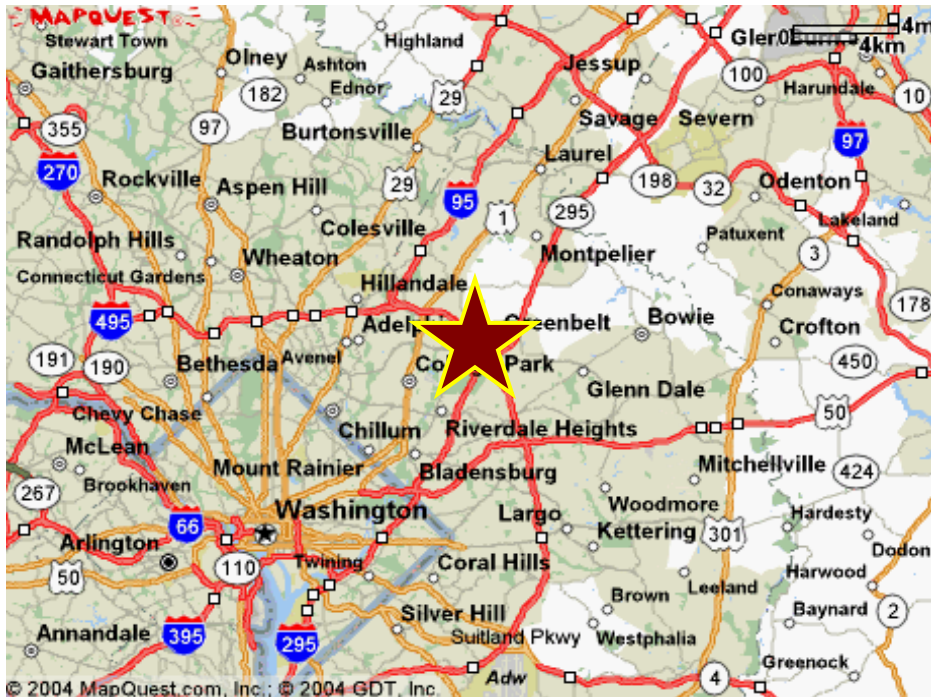
Capitol Cadillac is an easy five minute drive from the Holiday Inn Greenbelt where rooms will be reserved for Friday thru Sunday at the special CLC Potomac Region rate **\$94/night** (301-982-7000 – mention "Cadillac & LaSalle Club" when making reservation).







# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle September 2013



## 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 the 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 more information, contact Dan Ruby at 301-894-8026 or [danruby@clcpotomacregion.org](mailto:danruby@clcpotomacregion.org).



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle September 2013



## Car Show Rules

- **Rain or Shine:** The car show will take place rain or shine. No refunds.
- **Safety:** If a vehicle 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 to prevent 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.
- **Lunch Ticket:** Each registered car owner will receive one free lunch ticket. The lunch ticket will entitle the person to receive the following from Red, Hot & Blue BBQ, who will be on-site serving food:
  - 1) One Beef, Chicken or Pork Sandwich
  - 2) One Side order of Beans or Potato Salad and Cole Slaw
  - 3) One Drink including bottle water
 Anyone without a lunch ticket will pay Red, Hot & Blue cash directly at the time of their purchase.

<u>Judging Classes</u>	<u>Other Awards</u>
Class A: 1902 – 1949 Convertibles Class B: 1950 – 1959 Convertibles Class C: 1960 – 1969 Convertibles Class D: 1970 – 1979 Convertibles Class E: 1980 – Current Convertibles Class F: 1902 – 1949 Closed Cars Class G: 1950 – 1960 Closed Cars Class H: 1961 – 1970 Closed Cars Class I: 1971 – 1989 Closed Cars Class J: 1990 – Current Closed Cars Class K: Modified Vehicles Class L: Professional Cars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dealer's Choice</b></li> <li>• <b>Best Pre-War</b></li> <li>• <b>Best Post-War</b></li> <li>• <b>Best of Show</b></li> <li>• <b>Ladies Choice</b></li> <li>• <b>Long Distance (Driven Cars Only)</b></li> <li>• <b>Henry S. Ruby Memorial Award</b></li> </ul> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">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 registration form to:  
 Harry Scott, Treasurer  
 14421 Aden Road  
 Nokesville VA 20181-3122

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vehicle Registration Fee: (Up to Oct 14: \$15/per car - After Oct 14: \$20/per car)**

Circle Make: CAD LAS    Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Make: CAD LAS    Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Visit us on the web!  
[www.clcpotomacregion.org](http://www.clcpotomacregion.org)





# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle September 2013**



**DRIVE'EM IF YOU GOT'EM  
BY VINCE TALIANO**

Congratulations to the following members whose Cadillac recently hit a 1,000 mile milestone.



**Bob Norrid's  
1962 Series 62 Convertible  
57k miles**



**Randy Edison's  
1968 Eldorado  
38k miles**



**Vince Taliano's  
1965 Sedan deVille  
123k miles**



**Chuck & Debbie Piel's  
1967 deVille Convertible  
74k miles**



**Richard Sills'  
1969 deVille Convertible  
32k miles**



**Scot Minesinger's  
1970 deVille Convertible  
121k miles**

If your car recently reached a 1,000 mile milestone, please send us a picture and we'll include it in a future installment.

**Visit us on the web!  
[www.clcpotomacregion.org](http://www.clcpotomacregion.org)**





# ***Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle September 2013***



**EVERY "NEW" PERSON IN OUR HOBBY NEEDS A MENTOR  
BY CHUCK PIEL**

We all know how rewarding our hobby is: the therapeutic value of that ride down a country road in our beloved car(s), the sense of achievement of restoring and improving our vintage wheels, and the camaraderie of our family and great friends that share these joys. But for someone "new" to the hobby (youngsters and oldsters alike), that first vintage vehicle experience, with all its inherent eccentricities, can be daunting. That was certainly my experience, and I was lucky to have several "veterans" in the Caddy hobby to show me the ropes.

I caught the Cadillac bug early – my first car at the age of 16 was a '55 Series 62 Convertible – black, with all red leather – it was a beauty. Unfortunately, the '55 was gone by the time I got out of high school, and upon college graduation, a new 1972 Charger SE with a 400/4BBL was my ride. However, I began to miss that old '55, and as I started earning a (very) few bucks in the computer industry, I started looking around. I couldn't find a good '55 convertible locally, so I put a want ad into *Hemmings Motor News*. After a year of looking at mostly rust bucket, almost derelict cars, I found a '54 Eldorado in Hyndman, PA (just north of Cumberland, MD) in October 1975. I wasn't looking for a '54, nor an Eldorado, but this car had essentially the same body as my '55 Series 62, and it looked cool with the somewhat grungy wire wheels it was riding upon.

This car came from Pittsburgh, but wasn't a rust bucket. It was crudely painted black, and had red/white leather seats. It ran OK, albeit a little rough at idle. Somewhere along the line it had been hit in the left front, with somewhat crude repairs to match the quality of paint, but the top went up/down, and the price was right – SOLD!



**The color combination of Chuck's '54 Eldorado resembled  
Richard Sisson's Eldorado pictured above  
Photo by Vince Taliano**



# ***Cadillac & LaSalle Club***

## ***Potomac Region***

### ***Caddie Chronicle***

#### ***September 2013***



As I drove it back to Ellicott City, MD – shortly down the road - I decided to try the Wonderbar radio. I turned it on, hit the Wonderbar, and it landed on a radio station playing “Rock Around the Clock” by Bill Haley and the Comets – a 1954 song. I looked around inside the car to see if Rod Serling was riding with me – this was really a “Twilight Zone” moment!

So my adventure with old cars began. It soon overwhelmed me how little I knew about '54 Eldorados. Also, I knew I would need a new interior, as my interior had a back seat from a '55 Series 62, and the front seat of a '56 Eldorado – both with leather that was very brittle. I advertised in *Hemmings* for a '54 Eldorado interior. **MENTOR #1** responded. Johnny Johnson of McLean, VA (one of the CLC Potomac Region's founding members in 1969 pictured standing third from right)



wrote me a letter saying he had a complete '54 Eldorado parts car, with a weatherproof top and intact interior, for \$100! I didn't know it at the time, but Johnny Johnson was legendary in the old car hobby in the '70's, particularly with Cadillac folks. He had an old Cadillac junkyard on his property, and also had a 10 bay cinder block garage next to his house trailer. Johnny was a very kind man in his '70's, and gave me a lot of advice. His parts car had all the special Eldorado trim, and was complete except for the top end of the engine. The frame and floors were completely rotted and the hood was pretty badly dented, but everything was there. I gave him the \$100, and he asked if I wanted to see some of his cars – I said “sure”.

He led me up to the 10 bay garage, and one-by-one opened the doors – before me was a “who's who” of 1930's classic cars – '31 Cadillac V12 Roadster, '37 Packard V12 Open Front Town Car, a Pierce Arrow, Rolls Royce, Lincoln KB – I forget the others. He asked me if I wanted to drive one of the cars – to this day I regret that I refused – I was afraid because I had never driven a car that old (and still haven't). He told me to sit in the driver's seat of the '37 Packard Town Car – a HUGE car. Even my skinny (back then) 25-year-old body couldn't squeeze behind the wheel – it was too cramped. Johnny explained that wealthy owners hired their chauffeurs to fit the car – all the space was in the rear passenger compartment. Johnny offered advice on dealing with fixing up my car and said to call him anytime I needed assistance. His kindness and generosity encouraged me to hang in there with my car, and that old car people have a real heart and help each other. I still have many of the unique Eldorado parts off that parts car, and I am indebted to Johnny for his patience, generosity, and consideration to a very young and inexperienced hobbyist.





# ***Cadillac & LaSalle Club***

## ***Potomac Region***

### ***Caddie Chronicle***

### ***September 2013***



As I got into fixing up my '54, my dad mentioned that a high school friend had married a Cadillac mechanic. Maybe he could help me "sort out" my old bucket of bolts? His name was Charlie "Pee Wee" Poblits, who had been a mechanic at Chesapeake Cadillac in Baltimore since 1948. **MENTOR #2.** Pee Wee knew the '54's well; he worked on them when they were new. His first question was "are the heads cracked?" The car idled rough but otherwise ran OK, so I didn't think the heads were cracked, a common problem Pee Wee said the '54 331 engines had. WRONG! Upon his close inspection (at his home garage at night), we found both heads on my 331 had hairline cracks. I called **MENTOR #1** (Johnny) to see where I could find a pair of uncracked '54 heads, and *voila* – he had a pair – he had taken them off my parts car before I bought it! Pee Wee and I spend many nights in his garage going through my '54 Eldorado – he taught me all I know about the early Kettering engine and related running gear – all for beer money. Thanks to his inexpensive, but top notch work on my car, I had many years of fun in my old drop-top Caddy.

Marriage and kids changed my priorities, and I sold the '54 in 1988. But the old car bug stayed with me, and now as I ogle Richard Sisson's pristine '54 Eldorado, I wish I had simply stashed the car in a barn somewhere like Jack McClow did with his first car – a '57 Series 62 convertible. (I still have the badly cracked steering wheel off the '54 Eldo parts car hanging in my garage, a souvenir of those "good old days".)

I should also note that I joined the Cadillac & LaSalle Club shortly after I bought my '54, but there was little material on the mid-'50's Cadillacs in ***The Self-Starter*** of the time, and I was unaware of the Potomac Region. Too bad, because as it turns out, some of my current friends were members back then and undoubtedly would have helped as well.

We, in the Potomac Region, are very fortunate to have some very knowledgeable folks that are "experts" across a broad spectrum of our beloved Cadillacs and LaSalles. My friend and CLCPR mate, Scot Minesinger, has been incredibly helpful in getting our current '67 DeVille Convertible sorted out. As we welcome new members, or encounter folks having their initial old car or Caddie experience, I know I will remember the kindness of folks past and present that have been a big help to me.

#### ***Footnotes on my '54 Eldorado***

Sadly, somewhere during the numerous job-related moves I made in the late 1980's and '90's, I lost almost all pictures of my car and its records – I don't even have the name of the man in PA who I sold it to. (The sole surviving picture, taken when I bought the car, was too blurry to include in this article). I DO still have a bunch of parts off the parts car. My car was originally Azure Blue with a blue/white leather interior – the same configuration of the parts car! It was a late '54 build, having been delivered new in Pittsburgh on July 7, 1954. It had the vent windows that are similar to the windows in the Coupe deVille - emblematic of all but the earliest '54 convertibles that came equipped with wind wings instead of vent windows.



# ***Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle September 2013***



**1959 CADILLAC CONVERTIBLE  
BY VERN PARKER  
MAY 8, 2013  
<http://www.vernparker.com/>**



**Bob Brown's 1959 Cadillac convertible at Vern Parker's 25th Annual Car Show  
Photo by Vince Taliano**

Starting in 1948 Cadillac stylists began offering, at that time, what were called fish tails on the rear fenders. The terminology later changed to tail fins but Cadillac's identity was locked into the rear fender treatment until the final subdued tail fins on the 1964 Cadillacs 17 years later. From the first tail fins in 1948 the fins grew until the fins achieved outrageous proportions culminating in the 1959 Cadillac models. There was nothing at all conservative about the 1959 Cadillac tail fins. That "in your eye" stylish statement is exactly what appealed to Bob Brown who was fresh out of high school. For years Brown searched for an affordable 1959 Cadillac convertible.

In the spring of 2010 he found a Series 62 convertible not far away in Millburn, New Jersey. Brown went to inspect the car and liked what he saw. The odometer showed only 52,000 but he didn't know if that figure was accurate. He drove the Cadillac around town for about 45 minutes and it seemed to be functioning properly so the papers were signed and he became the new owner of the 18-foot, 9-inch-long car. The 390-cubic-inch V-8 engine delivers 325 horsepower which is more than sufficient muscle to propel the 4,855-pound car in Cadillac style on its 130-inch wheelbase. Brown set off on the 260-mile trip home to Leesburg, Virginia.

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# ***Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle September 2013***



At the southern end of the New Jersey Turnpike a push rod in the engine became bent. From that point the car was towed the remainder of the 122 miles home. Once at home the engine was overhauled as was the automatic transmission.

Brown discovered that his red car had left the factory wearing a coat of tan paint. He says that whoever applied the current red paint on the car did a wonderful, professional job. The convertible top is white and features a plastic rear window. The upholstery is red and white with everything resting on a red carpet. The red padded dashboard houses the window controls on the dogleg beneath the left end of the wraparound windshield.

Both optional and standard equipment on the well-appointed car includes:

- Power brakes.
- Power antenna.
- Power steering.
- Power windows.
- Air conditioning.
- 6-way power seat.

In a day when the majority of the populace smoked tobacco products the Cadillac folks accommodated them by providing them with four ashtrays along with four lighters. When new in 1959 the Cadillac sold for a base price of \$5,455. The Series 63 model found 11,130 buyers. Of course, very few Cadillacs were sold at the base price.



**L to R: Bob Brown receiving Best in Class from Daniel Jobe  
at the 2013 Capitol Cadillac Spring Car Show  
Photo by Vince Taliano**

Brown's Cadillac features chrome covered spoked wheels as well as a tinted windshield. All 1959

Cadillacs were equipped with rear fender skirts. The speedometer can register speeds up to 120 miles per hour. While seated behind the two-spoke two-tone red and white steering wheel Brown can listen to music coming from the rear seat radio speaker. Now that the flashy red convertible is his, Brown couldn't be more pleased. The odometer now has recorded about 53,000 miles and the car is running fine. He reports gasoline mileage of about 12 miles per gallon which is comparable to what the car delivered in 1959.

"It's a car that I've always wanted," Brown says happily.



# ***Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle September 2013***



**1956 CADILLAC SEDAN**

**JULY 9, 2013**

**BY VERN PARKER**

<http://www.vernparker.com/>

Only the two-door hardtop models of the 1956 Cadillac sold at the dealerships went for less than the four-doors. Regardless, any Cadillac in 1956 was still a Cadillac which translated into desirability. Records show that one of those 1956 four-door Cadillacs was sold to a man who lived in Flint, Michigan, about 30 miles from the factory where the car was assembled. The base price for the Cadillac, with few extras, was \$4,296. A total of 26,660 of the 10 window sedans were manufactured.



**Chris Overcash's 1956 Series 62 Cadillac  
on the 2011 Potomac Region Fall Driving Tour  
Photo by John Guazzo**

The buyer was pleased with the hand-crank operated windows and the E-Z-Eye tinted glass. Upon taking ownership of the car a complete set of heavy duty plastic seat covers were installed. After 14 years the original owner sold his Cadillac to his neighbor who kept the car 41 more years. When he died his grandson posted the car for sale. It was only a mere 55 years old.

That is when Chris Overcash noticed on the internet the for sale ad. He contacted the seller and over the telephone the description of the car sounded great. However, to be on the safe side Overcash hired an inspector to check out the Cadillac. The inspector reported back to Overcash saying, "If you don't buy this car, I will." The car was sold.

A convinced Overcash flew to Michigan, and relying on the inspectors report and the owner's assurance, he drove his Cadillac home to Warrenton, Virginia. "It should be okay," he thought, "and it was." Under the giant oil bath air cleaner the four-barrel carburetor fed premium grade gasoline to the 365-cubic-inch V-8 at the rate of 10 to 12 miles per gallon.

As Overcash motored along in his 17-foot, 11-inch-long Cadillac he marveled at the extreme comfort afforded by the 8.00x15-inch white sidewall tires supporting the 4,430-pound car on a lengthy 129-inch wheelbase. There is room inside because the Cadillac is 80 inches wide. It stands 62 inches high.

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# ***Cadillac & LaSalle Club***

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#### ***September 2013***



The General Motors gear shift pattern used in 1956 was from the left: Park—Neutral--Drive 1—Drive 2—Low—Reverse.

Overcash says he discovered that power brakes were standard equipment on all Cadillacs in 1956. His car also is equipped with power steering and the radio antenna can be raised and lowered from inside the car while the driver is seated behind the three-spoke steering wheel. The AM radio has a signal-seeking function enabling the driver to keep his eyes on the road while switching stations.

One option the original owner did get was a unique package deal that included:

- \* Spot light.
- \* Wheel covers.
- \* Chrome valve covers.



As soon as Overcash got his white over beige Cadillac home he removed the plastic seat covers. They had done their job, preserving the gorgeous green cloth and vinyl upholstery. Today the interior appears as if nobody has sat in the car in the last half century.

When Overcash bought his car the odometer by the 120 mph speedometer in the padded dashboard had registered 69,000 miles. Today the dashboard still appears to be new but the odometer has recorded a few more miles. It now reads 76,000 miles. "I've been enjoying my car," Overcash says. Very few parts on the car have required attention like typical items such as some soldering on the radiator and rebuilding the generator.

Since automobile designers ruled the day in the 1950s cars didn't have to perform as long as they looked good. There is an 18-inch space between the radiator and the grille. The only thing in that space is a pair of horns. At the rear of the car are the famous tailfins incorporating the taillights atop the rear fenders. Every gasoline station attendant in 1956 knew that the left taillight hid the gas cap.

"I love the styling," Overcash says. "It's different."



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle September 2013



## 25TH ANNUAL (AND FINAL) VERN PARKER "STREET DREAMS" ANTIQUE CAR SHOW SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 STORY & PHOTOS BY VINCE TALIANO

The weather could not have been nicer for Vern Parker's 25th annual, and final, antique car show. The cars on display were all featured at one time or another in Vern's *Out of the Past Revue* in *The Washington Times* or his website -- [www.vernparker.com](http://www.vernparker.com). A large group of Potomac Region members' cars have been featured over the years so it was no surprise that our members turned out in droves for Vern's last show. Pictured below are some of the Cadillacs and LaSalles that were on display.

Vern, thanks for all the shows, and stories.



To see more pictures from the show, visit <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/2013vernparkercarshow.htm>

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# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle September 2013

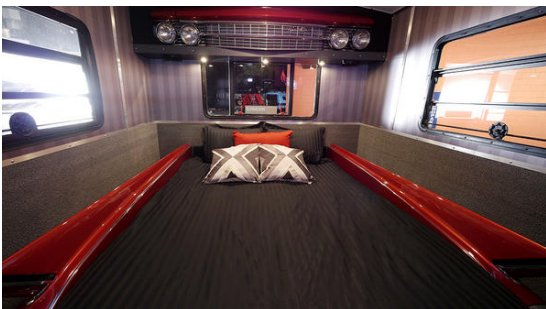


## ROCK MY RV 1962 CADILLAC STORY & PHOTOS BY THE TRAVEL CHANNEL



On a recent episode of *Rock My RV* on the Travel Channel, Bret Michaels and his crew transplanted parts from a 1962 Cadillac into a 1990s RV that they restored for a customer. When cruising around town, this full-body Cadillac wrap creates an eye-catching illusion that is sure to turn heads.

Check out the newly-upholstered couches patterned after a 1962 Cadillac, and cockpit seats, as well as the new bar top, stools and dashboard. A fully functional custom dash was cut straight out of the real 1962 Coupe de Ville, and looks perfectly at home in this Cadillac-inspired RV.



In addition to a one-of-a-kind bed made from the Coupe de Ville's quarter panels and fins, the bedroom received a fitting centerpiece: the entire Coupe's grille hangs above the bed.



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle September 2013



## CADDIE CLASSIFIEDS

### Cars For Sale



**1929 Cadillac 341-B Phaeton** – Been sitting about 10 years since some restoration work completed by White Post Restoration – See picture at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/29cadillacforsale.htm> – **Asking \$80,000 obo**



**1959 Series 62 Six Window Sedan** – Car was originally Pinehurst Green (Code 30) but was repainted to its current dark green – Body is solid, fender skirts missing, otherwise complete – Chrome is good, not great – Only option is six-way seat which works – Dash top is pretty bad, and of course the horn ring is broken – Carpet is fair to good with original rubber floor mats – Driver's seat showing wear, headliner is discolored – See picture at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/59cadillacforsale2.htm> – **Asking \$7,000 obo** – For more info, contact Dave Long at 301-302-9634, 301-766 8058 or 301-582-3819 – Cars are located near Hagerstown, MD



**NEW ARRIVAL 1963 Series 62 Coupe** – Current owner's grandmother was the original owner – Restored in the late '90s – Featured in Vern Parker's *Out of the Past* column in *The Washington Times* (<http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/forms/CLCPR.MicheleHauf.pdf>) – 2002 CLC Grand National participant in Michigan – Factory ordered two-tone car, Briar Rose with Ebony Black top – Original motor with 130,000 miles – Excellent overall condition – See pictures at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/63cadillacforsale.htm> – **Asking \$20,000 obo** – For more info, call Michele Hauf at 443-463-1101 or [haufhauf@gmail.com](mailto:haufhauf@gmail.com) – Car is located in Pasadena, MD (southern suburb of Baltimore)



**1965 Pillared Sedan deVille** – 11K original miles – Some rust – Needs restoration except for interior which is in immaculate condition – Three-owner car – Original owner was a Vice President for Baltimore Gas & Electric – Current owner has had the car for approximately 15 years – See pictures at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/65cadillacforsale2.htm> – **Asking \$3,500** – For more info, contact Bud Gahs at 443-695-4417 – Car is located in Nottingham, MD (northeast suburb of Baltimore)



**1991 Brougham** – Midnight Blue – 5.0 liters – Approximately 193K miles – Excellent running/mechanical condition – Work done over past two/three years includes brakes, front end/suspension, exhaust, replacement steering column, power windows, and more (have documentation for repairs) – Needs cosmetic attention to bring to show condition – See pictures at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/91cadillacforsale.htm> – **Asking \$2,150** – For more info, call Adam or Nate at 301-762-6917 – Car is located in Potomac, MD



Congratulations to Dan Ruby who won Best Cadillac with his 1953 Coupe de Ville at the All-GM Show at Montgomery College.





# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club**

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