



# ***Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle July 2014***



## **DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE BY VINCE TALIANO**

### **2014 OFFICERS:**

#### **REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

#### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

#### **WEBSITE MANAGER**

VINCE TALIANO

#### **ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

#### **CAR SHOW COORDINATOR**

DAN RUBY

#### **NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

#### **NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST**

JACK MCCLOW

#### **SECRETARY**

#### **ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

#### **VALLEY FORGE REGION LIAISON**

SANDY KEMPER

#### **TREASURER**

HARRY SCOTT

#### **ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR**

#### **NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST**

R. SCOT MINESINGER

#### **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

DEBBIE TAYLOR

### **OTHER KEY POSITIONS:**

#### **SUMMER PICNIC HOST**

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

Congratulations to the Potomac Region's Jack McCLOW, recipient of the CLC's 2014 Distinguished Service Award. This honor was bestowed upon Jack at this year's CLC Grand National in Lake George, NY. In addition to Jack's service as a long standing member of the CLC Board of Directors, he has acted as Chairman of the Newsletter Awards Committee for the last 10 years. Finally, Jack graciously volunteered to step into the role of CLC National Treasurer, only the third person to serve in that vital capacity in our club's 56 year history!

Our Region's website was one of 22 CLC Region and/or Chapter websites to be awarded the 2014 Web Site Merit Award. Thanks to everyone who has submitted stories or photos. Congratulations to the other winners.

The August issue will include more coverage from this year's Grand National, but in the meantime please visit Jason Edge's July 2014 issue of the 1963/64 Cadillac Chapter Newsletter on the CLC Discussion Forum at <http://forums.cadillacclasalleclub.org/index.php?board=8.0>. For the second straight Grand National, Jason has done an incredible job of taking photos and videos and making them available to all to see. This year, Jason added a Live Web Cam from Lake George that provided real-time images for members, like me, who were unable to attend. Thanks, Jason!



**Lars Kneller (left) and Martina Butler (right) present Jack McCLOW (center) with the CLC Distinguished Service Award**



*Vince Taliano*



# ***Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle July 2014***



## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

July 15, 2014

Vince,



Returning from the Grand National at Lake George in New York, Judy and I took a shortcut thru Johnstown, New York. We spotted a small diner on Main Street named Pete's (in business since 1923) and decided to stop for some breakfast. You know the type of place, ten stools, three booths, several insurance company calendars on the wall and a pay phone. Of course all of the regulars say "Hello!" and want to know where you are from and why are you in Johnstown.



The conversations for the day were the broken-down street sweeper, the accident at the big intersection and knife sharpening. Of course when I mentioned that we attended a Cadillac event in Lake George, the talk turned to cars; how about that?

To my surprise the couple, about my age, sitting next to me, Terry & Barbara Warner, said that they belonged to the Cadillac-LaSalle Club, Potomac Region, in the late '80s. He rattled off a list of Cadillacs he previously owned, but now he is into muscle cars. They are now retired and living in Northville, New York. I thought to myself, what are the chances of meeting a CLC'er in a place like that? Small World!

Just thought you would get a kick out of the story.

Lee Herbermann  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

*[Editor's Note: If anyone remembers the Warners, please send me us an email. Thanks.]*





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## ***LETTER TO THE EDITOR***

July 24, 2014

Hi Vince,



On a recent trip to Savannah, Georgia, I spotted this open-air hearse used for ghost tours of historic Savannah (pictured below). Probably not the kind of "Cadillac luxury" GM has in mind for its discerning customer.

Robert Meekins  
Sykesville, Maryland





# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle July 2014**



**IN THE NEWS: 2014 HEMMINGS MOTOR NEWS GREAT RACE  
PHOTOS BY DANIEL JOBE**



**Daniel Jobe (left) and David Prueitt (center) receive their Third Place Award, Rookie Division**

In celebration of Capitol Cadillac Company's 80th Anniversary, Daniel Jobe participated in this year's Great Race. Driving a 1946 Cadillac Series 62 convertible 2,400 miles from Maine to Florida, the team

finished in 3rd Place out of 39 entries in the Rookie Division. Congratulations to Driver Daniel Jobe, Navigator David Prueitt and Support Team Member Brian Love.



To read more about the Great Race, visit [www.greatrace.com](http://www.greatrace.com).





# Cadillac & LaSalle Club

## Potomac Region

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#### 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Aug 2 Sat	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Rohrersville / Boonsboro Fire Stations Car Show	Route 67 in Rohrersville MD (Boonsboro)	Steve Mohl at <a href="mailto:steve.mohl@gmail.com">steve.mohl@gmail.com</a>
Aug 2 Sat	11:00 am – 4:00 pm	The Annapolis Car Show	Riva Road Annapolis MD	443-693-Show or <a href="http://theannapoliscarshow.com">http://theannapoliscarshow.com</a>
Aug 9 Sat	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	40th Annual Metro Chapter Buick Club All-GM Show	Montgomery College Rockville MD	Cory Correll at 240-686-0229 or <a href="mailto:corydraw@gmail.com">corydraw@gmail.com</a>
Aug 16 Sat	4:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Potomac Region Monthly Meeting followed by "Lost in the Fifties" Cruise-In	Olive Grove Restaurant Linthicum MD Marley Station Mall Glen Burnie MD	Vince Taliano at 301-258-8321 or <a href="mailto:vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org">vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org</a>
Sep 7 Sun	8:00 am – 3:00 pm	45th Annual AACA Sugarloaf Region's Activities Meet & Antique Car Show	Urbana Volunteer Fire Department Grounds Urbana MD	Rob Burchill at 301-371-0654 or <a href="mailto:robburchill@comcast.net">robburchill@comcast.net</a>
Sep 13 Sat	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	18th 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 20 Sat	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	39th 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 21 Sun	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	5th Annual CLC Raritan River Region Car Show	Gold Coast Cadillac Oakhurst NJ	Doug Lansing at 609-466-0687 or <a href="mailto:Doug.Lansing@Verizon.net">Doug.Lansing@Verizon.net</a>
Sep 23-27 Tue-Sat		CLC Driving Tour Northern Indiana	Kokomo IN to Hickory Corners MI	Jeff Shively at <a href="mailto:Cad19651941@yahoo.com">Cad19651941@yahoo.com</a> or 765-721-1659
Sep 27-28 Sat-Sun		Cadillac Fall Festival 2014! Grand Opening of CLC Museum & Research Center	Gilmore Museum Hickory Corners MI	Art Riley at <a href="mailto:art.riley@gmail.com">art.riley@gmail.com</a> or <a href="http://www.cadillaclasalleclub.org/images/clmrc_sept_2014.pdf">www.cadillaclasalleclub.org/images/clmrc_sept_2014.pdf</a>
Sep 28 Sun		CLC Valley Forge Region Annual Fall Car Show	Peddler's Village Lahaska PA	<a href="http://www.vfrccl.org/upcoming_events.htm">www.vfrccl.org/upcoming_events.htm</a>
Oct 2-5 Thu-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 5 Sun	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Down Right Spectacular Car Show	Keys Stadium Frederick MD	Denny Weikert at <a href="mailto:dweikert@friendsoffredco.org">dweikert@friendsoffredco.org</a> or 301-676-4420
Oct 8-11 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 18 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 Sun	8:30 am – 2:30 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)
Oct 26 Sun	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Annual Capitol Cadillac Fall Car Show  "Celebrating Capitol Cadillac's 80th Anniversary"	Capitol Cadillac Greenbelt MD	Dan Ruby at 301-894-8026 or <a href="mailto:danruby@clcpotomacregion.org">danruby@clcpotomacregion.org</a>



At the end of this year's Grand National, Lars Kneller's four-year term as CLC President came to end. As a thank you to Lars, the attendees of the CLC Board Meeting at the Grand National posed with Lars (seated left) for this picture. Thanks to Lars, and congratulations to Dave Ritchie, new CLC President, and Dave Rubin, new CLC Executive Vice President.



# ***Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle July 2014***



## ***JULY 21, 2014 MEETING MINUTES BY SANDY KEMPER***

**PLACE:** Silver Diner in Merrifield, VA

**TIME:** 7:30PM

**PRESIDING:** Sandy Kemper, Secretary

**ATTENDANCE:** Chris Cummings, Randy & Susan Denchfield, Pat DePasquale, Jeff Gurski, Jack McClow, Tom McQueen, Vern Parker, Scott Patton and Harry Scott

**DIRECTOR'S REMARKS:** Sandy thanked everyone for attending. In celebration of Capitol Cadillac Company's 80th Anniversary, Daniel Jobe participated in this year's ***Hemmings Motor News*** Great Race which was run on June 21-29, 2014, from Ogunquit, Maine to The Villages, Florida. Driving a 1946 Cadillac Series 62 convertible 2,400 miles from Maine to Florida, the team finished 3rd out of 39 entries in the Rookie Division. Congratulations to Daniel Jobe, his navigator David Prueitt and support team of Brian Love. Also, congratulations to Jack McClow who was awarded the CLC's Distinguish Service Award at this year's Grand National for his contributions to the National CLC such as serving as Newsletter Awards Committee Chair for 10 years and becoming the club's new Treasurer in 2013.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** The Minutes from the June 2014 meeting were not read since they were published and distributed to all members in the May 2014 newsletter.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report covered the time period from the June meeting to date. The Region's income was \$3.46. The total expenses for the same time period were \$225.86

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Our current 2014 membership total is 193 members. Happy 40th Birthday to Randy Edison!

### **ACTIVITIES REPORT:**

#### **1. Upcoming PR Events:**

- **10th Annual Pot-Luck Summer Picnic with Lincoln Mercury Friends, Sweet Virginia Bee Farm, Nokesville, VA, Sat, Jul 27, 12pm–4pm.** Please bring your favorite picnic food, and if you have a favorite dessert you want to share with others, please bring that as well. The club will provide soft drinks, water, ice, serving tables, plates, cutlery, etc. Feel free to bring special beverages of your choice. The event is free and open to all members, but we need a headcount on attendance. **RSVP to Scot Minesinger at [rscotm@cox.net](mailto:rscotm@cox.net) or 703-283-2021 by July 19th.** Also, please indicate what dish you will be bringing. More details about the picnic were published in the June newsletter.
- **Annual Fall Car Show, Capitol Cadillac, Greenbelt, MD, Sun, Oct 26, 9am–3pm.** This year's theme will be a celebration of the 80th anniversary of Capitol Cadillac. Randy Denchfield suggested that we encourage any owners of 1934 cars to attend.



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## **2. Other Upcoming Events:** The following events were mentioned:

- **Chesapeake Region AACA Summer Show at Howard County Fairgrounds; Howard County, MD, Sun, Aug 3, 9am–4pm.** This show is being held on the opening day of the Howard Co fair at the same location as the popular swap meet held in March.
- **40th Annual All-GM Show, Montgomery College, Rockville MD, Sat, Aug 9, 9am–3pm.** This year's show celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Pontiac GTO and the Olds 442. Breakfast & lunch will be available for sale to attendees by Chartwell Caterers (as required by the college).
- **Francis Scott Key Car Club's Annual Antique Car Show, Rose Hill Manor Park, Frederick, MD, Sun, Aug 17, 11am–4pm.**
- **45th Annual AACA Sugarloaf Region's Activities Meet & Antique Car Show, Urbana Volunteer Fire Dept Grounds, Urbana, MD, Sun, Sep 7, 8am-3pm.**
- **39th Annual Edgar Rohr Memorial Antique Car Meet, Manassas Museum, Manassas VA, Sat, Sep 21, 10am–3pm.** CLC-PR Past Director Bill Sessler has issued a challenge for the club. At least ten Packards are expected at this year's show. Bill would like to see the same amount or more of Cadillacs.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Car Show "Best of" Award Time Periods:** At our May Region meeting Byron Alsop suggested that we consider changing the time periods of "Pre-War" and "Post War" for our "Best of" awards. One consideration is to make new "Best of" time periods (e.g. "1903 thru 19XX" and "19XX thru 2014") and retain two "Best of" time period awards. Another idea would be to add a third "Best of" period (e.g. "Pre-War," "Post-War thru 19XX," "19xx thru 2014"). We expect to make a recommendation to Daniel Jobe soon and obtain his opinion and approval before deciding upon a change to the "Best of" award time periods.
- **Emeritus Program:** After our Spring Show, the Region's officers voted to approve a change to our Car Show Guidelines to eliminate class awards for cars that win any of the "Best of" awards. During our review of our Car Show Guidelines at that time, we realized that we have not arranged for recognition of any of the four (4) Potomac Region Emeritus cars that may be brought to our shows. We are considering several recognition items for our "Emeritus" cars. These include wood plaques or grille badges that we could present to any of our Emeritus cars at our shows.
- **No Reserve, Silent Auction** for the 1992 Cadillac Sedan Deville that was donated to the club will run for two weeks starting soon. The starting bid will be \$1,000. More details will be provided soon in an auction flyer. The car will be available for display at the Summer Picnic on Saturday, July 28th.
- **Snyder's Willow Grove Restaurant** in Linthicum, Maryland, which has been the location for our Region meetings that is closest to our Baltimore Area members, has closed permanently. Another restaurant, Olive Grove Restaurant, is nearby on the same road (Hammonds Ferry Road) as Snyders. This restaurant will be the location for our August meeting, to be held on a Saturday, to afford the opportunity for members to attend the nearby Marley Station Mall cruise-in.



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- As reported last month the CLC Valley Forge Region and the Potomac Region submitted a proposal to co-host the 2017 CLC Grand National at the CLC Board of Directors Meeting held at the Grand National last week in Lake George, NY. The proposal was approved by the CLC Board. Marsha Redman, VP Tours and Meets, will contact the firm of Helms Briscoe to begin the process of locating hotels for our review. A planning meeting will be held in the Baltimore area sometime in the coming weeks.
- This fall we will conduct our election of officers for the term 2015-2016. Any Region member in good standing is eligible to be elected. Members who are interested in serving the Region in officer positions should contact Region Secretary Sandy Kemper via email to have their names placed in nomination.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- National Director Jack McClow provided a comprehensive summary of the CLC Board of Directors meeting held at the CLC Grand National Meet, Lake George, NY, July 8–12, 2014. Many of the details that Jack provided will be included in a forthcoming newsletter article. Some key highlights are: The Club membership total as of May 31st is 7,062. Dave Ritchie has become President and Dave Rubin was elected Vice President. GN facts that were announced are: the number of registrations was 381 and the number of guests was 812, representing 35 states and 5 countries. There were 278 cars from the 1910 model year through the present on display. Twenty-five (25) PR members and guests attended.
- Randy Denchfield suggested that the club consider a tour of the Bulgari Collection in Allentown, Pennsylvania. This could be a day trip or an overnight tour. The tour could include The America on Wheels Museum in Allentown also. This idea will be forwarded to Activities Director Scot Minesinger.

**NEXT MEETING:** Saturday, August 16 at 4:00 PM at the Olive Grove Restaurant in Linthicum, Maryland followed by the "Lost in the Fifties" Cruise-In at Marley Station Mall in Glen Burnie, Maryland

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.





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## ***10TH ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC WITH LINCOLN MERCURY FRIENDS STORY BY TOM MCQUEEN PHOTOS BY R. SCOT MINESINGER***

This year's Summer Picnic was held at Sweet Virginia Bee Farm on the banks of Lake Manassas in Nokesville, VA. It was a beautiful setting, and the barn, complete with restrooms, made a great staging area for food! Considering the new location, and the fact that it was well to the west of almost all of our membership, it was very well attended! Several of us stayed until the very end enjoying the weather and the views and followed up with an impromptu visit to Harry & Julia Scott's. The day turned out to be a mini-driving tour for Jack McClow and Bob Norrid, Randy Edison and Tom McQueen in keeping with some of their past adventures! So, a big "Thank You!" to Scot & Carolyn Minesinger and Carolyn's brother, Dan Price, the owner of the farm, for putting this together. Thanks to everyone who provided something to share, and who helped with the picnic. Those who didn't attend really missed a wonderful event with great friends, beautiful cars, perfect weather, a sylvan setting, and delicious food (enough for three or four times the number of people who attended).

Member who attended included Randy Edison, Frank Wilton, Bob Norrid, Jack McClow, Richard Sisson, Margo Sisson, Scot & Carolyn Minesinger, Chuck Piel, Sandy Kemper, Harry & Julia Scott, Tom McQueen, Tom & Marianne Alsop, Randy & Susan Denchfield and Chris Overcash, among others, along with Lincoln-Mercury friends, and other family members.



To see more photos, visit <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/2014pictures.htm>.





# ***Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle July 2014***



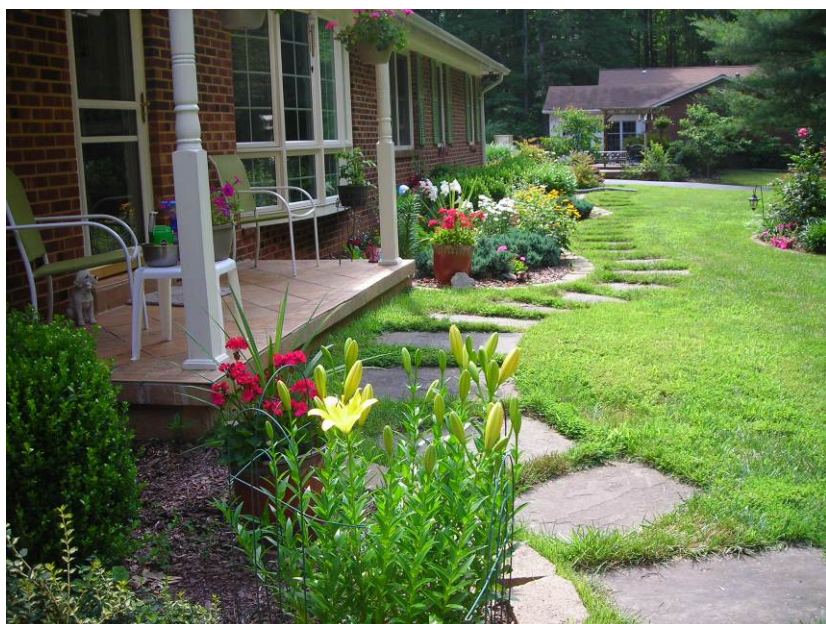
***TREASURE TROVE OF FLOWERS AND CADILLACS  
STORY BY RITA BIAL-BOXLEY  
PHOTOS BY GEORGE BOXLEY AND HARRY SCOTT***

## **The Visit**

Have you ever thought of what to plant in your flower garden? You don't need to look any further because Julia Scott has a treasure trove of blooming perennials in her yard. On Monday, June 23rd, George and I visited the Scotts to celebrate three of our birthdays that are around the same time. After driving what seemed like hours in the congested and never ending construction on I-95 South, we finally pulled into their driveway.



## **The Gardens**



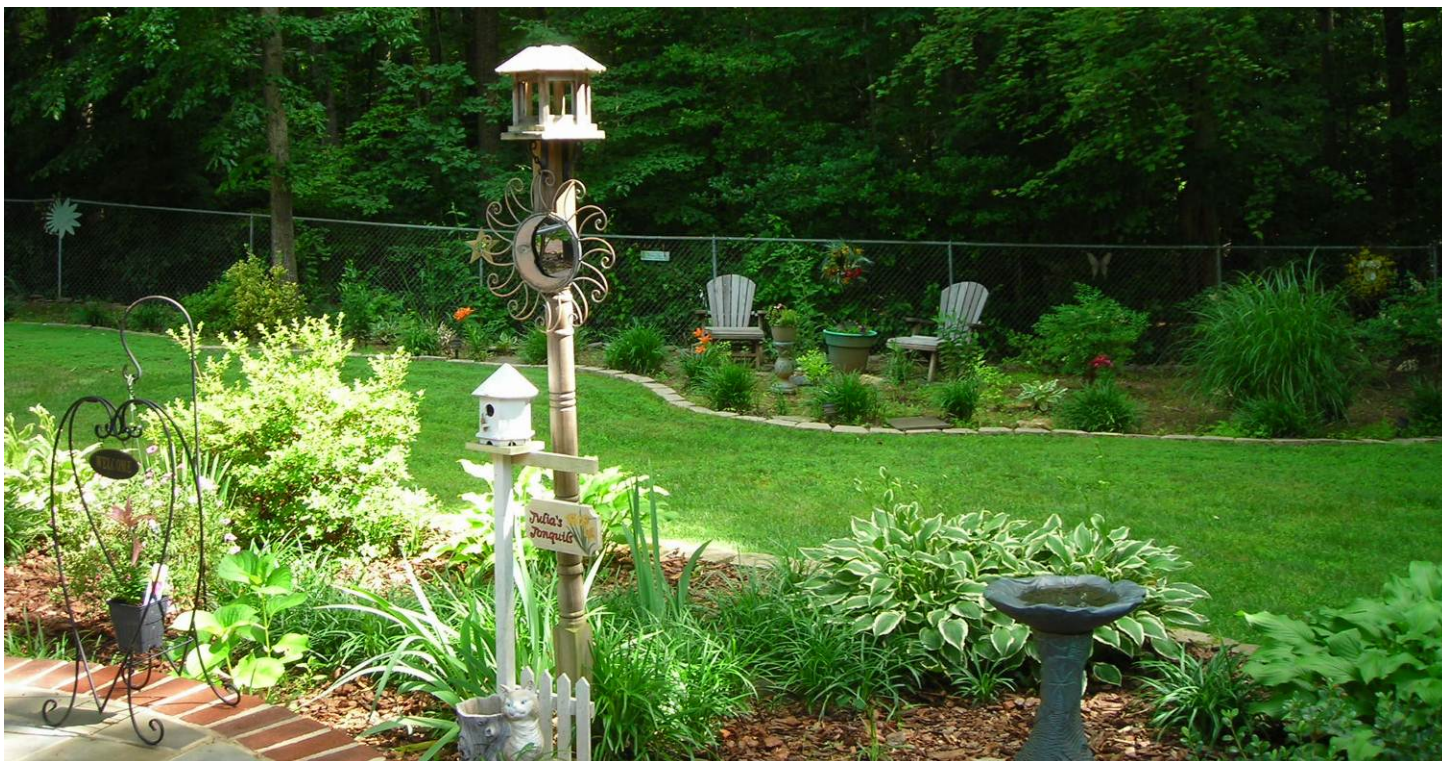
What a refreshing way to be greeted, because there was Julia in her flop hat (pictured above) in her Treasure Trove of blooming perennials. She gave us a grand tour of her yard and garden, pointing out to us the abundance of the Shasta, Easter, and Asiatic lilies throughout her yard. They are absolutely beautiful with their colors of brilliance in orange with maroon, white and, an orange lily so vibrant in color, it was as if you could pluck it and eat the flower like an orange. Incidentally, Julia knows the names, history and growing times of all the flowers in her garden. She could easily write a small directory about them. The scent of the roses and various fragrances are

nature's own perfume. All the flowers are so aromatic. Julia's garden and floral arrangements are her hobby and passion. She spends most days in her gardens and it shows.





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In the expansive area in the rear, the garden area theme continues around the patio and seating area with a beautiful ceramic pot of burgundy and lime Coleous bursting over with foliage. It just so happens, that the green matches the trim of the house shutters.

### **The Garage – Toy Box**

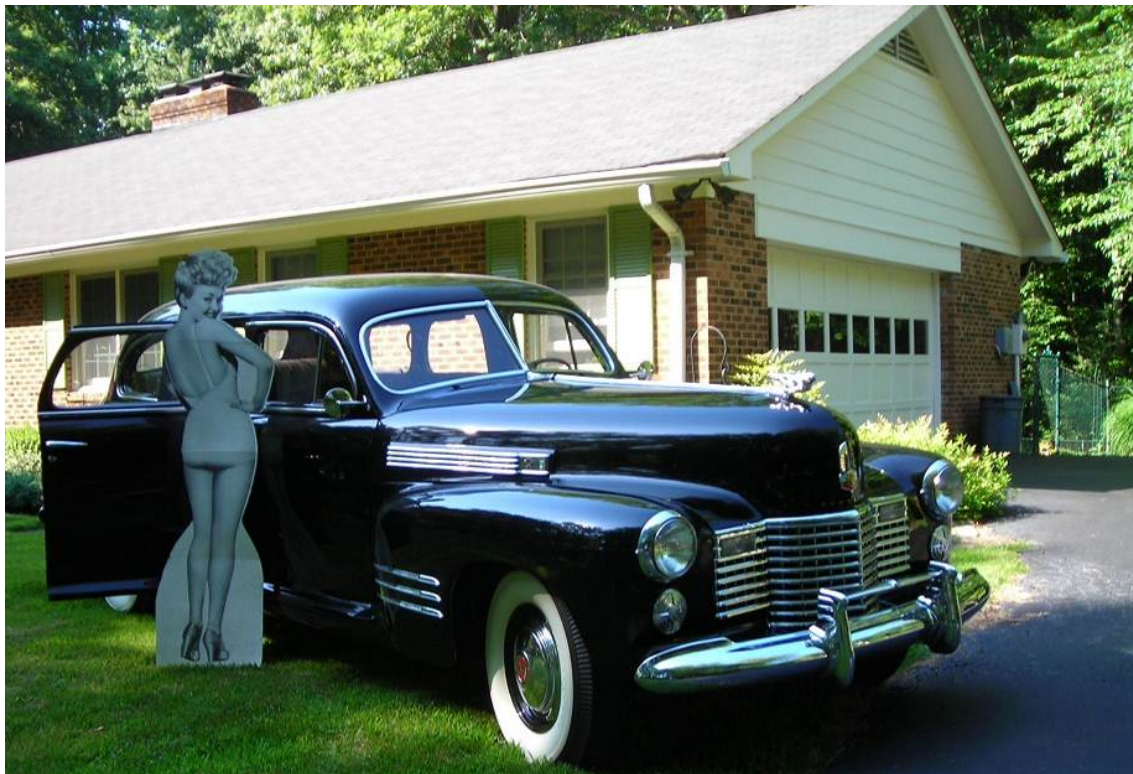


Now, after taking in all the beauty the flowers, shrubs, and yard art provided, George and Harry finally got a chance to check out Harry's classic car and truck collection in his garage. Harry's garage sits on a slight knoll on the left side of their home. This is not your usual ordinary garage that sits in the back of from a house. This building is like a mini-cathedral dedicated to the art of classic car collections. When Harry raises the overhead doors, the first thing you see is the bright yellow color and massive chrome and steel grille of his award winning 1960's B61 Mack truck. It stops you in your tracks. Harry recently finished a seven-year restoration and has driven it to several nearby shows.





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Located to the right side of the truck is Harry's drop dead gorgeous 1941 Cadillac 67 Series believed to be owned by the 1940's era movie actress and pin-up girl, Betty Grable. Harry informed us this was a long term complete ground up restoration that he had worked on and now was proud to say it was finally completed.

George asked Harry, "Now that it was completed, when would it be show time and where?" Harry replied, "Capitol Cadillac, of course." George stated that the interior was the best he had ever seen. The black leather on the front seats and the correct fabric were supplied by Bill Hirsch. On the exterior, the black paint job was clearly up to Harry Scott's standards. In addition to this gleaming beauty, on the left side was a majestic 1948 Cadillac Series 62 Convertible painted in a rich maroon color. It is complete with chrome, stainless, and molding. He is currently working on this cars interior with restoration still to be completed.

In the rear of the garage over the car lift and before you get to Harry's tool and shop area, complete with a sand blaster and an enormous tool box with drills, buffers, polishers, and motor mounts for engines out of cars, stood the nearly completed 1937 Cadillac Series 75 Convertible Sedan. He is currently repairing and reassembling this car from an accident caused by a deer years ago.

Harry has a great collection of classics. We probably will see one of these cars or truck, at an upcoming show in the near future.



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### **Dinner and Tour of The Salamander Resort and Spa**

Our twice a year visits with our friends the Scotts are always memorable. However, this visit was special because we learned that Harry & Julia planned to take us on a tour of the historic town of Middleburg, Virginia. We were going to dinner at The Salamander Resort and Spa located just outside Middleburg. This newly completed resort that could accommodate conventions and celebrities from all over the globe with all the amenities one would expect. For equine enthusiasts, one of the main attractions is the stable where 13 resident horses have a permanent home. Each stable has the horse's name engraved on a brass plate. The stalls are well-kept and the horses have many acres to graze. The resort itself is awesome with the color scheme of beige with blues. The library is paneled in dark wood hues. Within it are hard-bound books, no e-books here.



There are window benches where one can imagine a wintry night nestled on one of the window benches reading a favorite author's selection just picked from the library shelf. A chess game is ready for players. A fireplace is nearby ready to be lit on a cold day. The landscaping is well manicured. I can imagine a day trip, driving a classic car on the winding roads to enjoy what Mother Nature has to offer. Now is the time to smell the roses, to coin a familiar phrase. Father Time doesn't wait. This new Salamander Resort and Spa is a place to feel revitalized.

Until the next car show or touring adventure, have a pleasant, fun-filled summer. Before we know it, Hershey time will be here.

***Rita Bial-Boxley***





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**END OF AN ERA?  
STORY BY MIKE DOWNEY  
ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN S. DYKES  
SOURCE: AMERICAN WAY MAGAZINE  
JULY 2014**

Although some models survive and a few new ones are planned, mass production of convertibles has slowed to a trickle.

(Voice in the background) "In the spring, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of ..." (young man eyes a pretty woman) "... a new Plymouth convertible. And small wonder, for just look at this long, low, lean, excitingly styled automobile. You just want to get in this car and go! ..." (They get in.) "... And only in a convertible can you ride in the open air with the sky alone as your ceiling."

— TV commercial, 1957



This is how we roll. Or how we once did. In a convertible. With the top down. In the hot summer sun. Or in a cool autumn breeze. Or in the winter, even, with a coat. A convertible was a way of life, even when it meant folding back the car's ragtop yourself, then buckling it down. The entire sky was our moonroof.

Quite a few of us still fancy driving one — a small, affordable one. For others among us (ahem), our fantasy could be a Bentley Continental GT Speed model, which has a top speed of 202 mph and comes in Orange Flame, St. James' Red, Havana, Dark Cashmere, Damson (a dark purple) and other exotic colors. It will set you back somewhere in the neighborhood of, oh, \$241,000 to \$275,000. (Ah, yes. May I have two, please?)

Could the convertible be coming to the end of the road, though? "Convertible Car Sales Have Plunged as Image of Fun and Freedom Dims" was the headline of a recent article from Bloomberg Businessweek, which reported that worldwide sales of convertibles (465,800 in 2013) were down 44 percent from what they were 10 years before, whereas sales of sport-utility vehicles doubled during the same period to 15.4 million.

"Wind-in-your-hair motoring becomes passé," Businessweek writer Chris Reiter concluded.





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Why the downturn? An increased awareness of the dangers of melanoma from exposure to the sun could be a factor. And air pollution, increasingly worse around the globe, certainly would seem to explain why convertibles now account for a mere 0.7 percent of the cars sold in the world.

Evidence seems incontrovertible. The giant automaker Toyota currently manufactures only one convertible — the Lexus IS C — production of which appears to be in its last year. The Chrysler 200 Drop-Top has been discontinued. So have the Volkswagen Eos Lux and Volvo C70. While iconic vehicles like Corvette Stingrays and Ford Mustangs still exist — as do models from Porsche and Mercedes — consumers have an increasingly diminished number of options. A few new cars are on the drawing board but not yet on the market. Do not count them out though.

"I feel there will always be a demand for a convertible," says Jim Dunn, vice president and general manager of JM Lexus in Margate, Fla. "I love them. We are getting a new Lexus sport coupe called the RC 350, with an RCF, a 450-horsepower monster that is being compared to the Porsche 911. That will come with a convertible option in two years, I am told. That will be an in-demand car, one that I will buy for myself."

Oh, such beauties we have beheld. In Hollywood, there are topless legends galore:

- A red 1979 Ferrari 308 GTS that a hunky Tom Selleck tooled around a tropical isle on ***Magnum, P.I.***
- A turquoise 1966 Thunderbird that a distraught Susan Sarandon drove off a cliff in ***Thelma & Louise.***
- A huge, yellow 1949 Buick Roadmaster that took Tom Cruise and Dustin Hoffman west in ***Rain Man.***
- A tiny 1966 Alfa Romeo that carried Hoffman up the coast in ***The Graduate.***
- Agent 86's cherry Sunbeam Tiger in ***Get Smart.***
- A creamy 1929 Duesenberg driven in ***The Gay Divorcee*** by Ginger Rogers.
- A yellow 1951 Chevrolet Styleline Deluxe that even Steve McQueen could barely handle in ***The Hunter.***
- A flag-painted Jaguar that a randy ***Austin Powers*** referred to as his "shaguar."

There are also stately real-life examples:

- JFK's custom-made 1961 Lincoln Continental, known to the Secret Service as "the X-100," kept in service even after his assassination in 1963.
- FDR's 1939 "Sunshine Special," a car specially modified for the disabled president to drive. (Both of these can be seen at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich.)



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Oh, and infamous ones:

- A 1955 Porsche 550 Spyder in which the young movie star James Dean lost his life.
- Or the 1937 Cord 812 Supercharged Phaeton in which the old cowboy hero Tom Mix lost his.

In the America of the '60s, approximately 6 percent of all vehicles sold were convertibles. So many of us wanted to get our mitts on a machine that literally let us reach for the sky. Dunn remembers that as a boy in Steger, Ill., there was a '62 Ford Sunliner convertible he couldn't wait to own. "A lot of memories in that car," he still savors, a half-century later.



**The last 1976 Cadillac convertible (a Bicentennial Eldorado) rolls off the GM assembly plant. Riding in the car, from left, H. B. Brawner, Cadillac general manager, manufacturing; Detroit Mayor Coleman Young and Ed Kennard, Cadillac's general manager, driving. In back are representative employees of final assembly, engine, and paint divisions.**

The convertible has been diagnosed in the past to be headed for that big junkyard in the sky, only to return like new. On April 21, 1976, a gleaming, insanely long Cadillac Eldorado convertible came off the assembly line and was strongly hinted by General Motors to be "the last convertible made in America," or words to that effect (pictured above). Customers bought it — the campaign and the car. As a story in The New York Times explained, "Certain that the Cadillac was destined to become a classic and expecting that its value would soar, collectors and speculators snapped up the cars and tucked them away like bags of Krugerrands."



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Made-in-the-USA convertibles didn't die that day. Many a model returned. Not boat-length ones, like the Chrysler Imperial or the Lincoln Continental that lawyer Perry Mason drove around Los Angeles, but quite a few cute, compact models, ever-popular on college campuses or in warm-weather climes. A coed in Florida or California in a BMW drop-top was not an uncommon sight. The best-selling two-seat convertible in history, according to Guinness World Records, is the Japanese-made Mazda MX-5 (called a Miata on this continent), introduced in 1989. Who knew?

Now You Know: Mazda rolled its 900,000th MX-5 (Miata) off the line in 2011 and is still going strong.

Times and trends change. Saab made a popular convertible, but the brand went out of business in 2012, although it is being revived. Pontiac went defunct in 2010, its Solstice dying with it. Saturn sold only 3,399 of its Sky Roadster in 2009, the company's farewell year. Plymouth and its retro Prowler met their maker in 2001. Chrysler keeps trying — LeBaron, Sebring, PT Cruiser, Crossfire — but can't quite get it right. Toyota dropped its Solara open-top in 2009.

Nostalgia only goes so far.

We look back on the models that first caught our eye and sigh. For some, a '57 Bel-Air, maybe, or a '62 Triumph Spitfire — what a ride! Or a first-off-the-line '64 Mustang or a '53 'Vette. Or a totally exotic Excalibur, like the one Kathleen Turner drove in ***Prizzi's Honor***. Or a wood-paneled Town & Country type, such as one a surfer would take to the beach. Or the beauty — a 1936 Alvis — that King Hussein of Jordan once drove that is on display in Amman at the Royal Museum of Automobiles.

Open-air automobiles were the norm when this industry was born more than a century ago. Today, well, we can joke about them. It is no laughing matter, however, if there is any truth to the story that convertibles are about to drive off into the sunset. But don't blow your top just yet — the 2020, 2025 and 2050 model convertibles could turn out to be really cool.





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#### CADDIE CLASSIFIEDS

##### Cars For Sale



**1979 Eldorado Biarritz** – 73k miles – Stunning car with great color combo – Highly desirable 350 c.i. engine – Stainless steel roof with the alloy wheels – Always garaged and serviced regularly by first class automotive shop – Recent mechanic updates include all brake work – Recent cosmetic updates include door panels and quarter panel fillers – New exhaust and tires – Receipts available on all recent work completed – All electrical components – Car has lots of class and pep and is completely roadworthy to drive anywhere – Mostly driven to car shows and Sunday dinners by current owners – Pleasure to drive or show – See pictures at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/79cadillac2forsale.htm> – **Asking \$5,000 obo** – For more info, contact George Boxley at [ritabialboxley@verizon.net](mailto:ritabialboxley@verizon.net), 301-261-5634 (h), 410-279-3882 (c) or 301-699-2033 (w) – Car is located in West River, MD and is ready to be shown for ready, willing and able buyers



**1983 Eldorado** – 19k Original Miles – 2nd Owner – ORIGINAL EVERYTHING – Originally from Portland, Oregon – Garage kept its whole life – Never driven in snow! – Cameo Ivory w/white Cabriolet top and a perfect yellow leather interior – Digital dash – Climate Control, Bose AM/FM cassette stereo, Cadillac wire wheel covers – Brand new American Classic tires – Spare never out of trunk – Original dealer leather key Fobs & license plate bracket – Full power – Every option and best of all EVERYTHING WORKS! – **Asking \$9,500** – For more info, call Nick at 973-418-4571 – Car is located in New Jersey



**1987 Eldorado** – One owner – Approximately 100k miles – 4.1L V-8 OHV 16V engine with automatic w/overdrive transmission – Runs well and gets 16 mpg city, 23 mpg hwy on regular fuel – Minor scratches on finish – Options include air conditioning, AM/FM radio w/cassette, bucket seats, center console, cruise control, front wheel drive, leather seats, power door locks, power mirrors, power seats, power steering, power windows, rear defrost, tilt steering and tinted windows – Always garaged, not used in winter – No smoking – Great access to front seats for persons with disability – See pictures at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/87cadillacforsale.htm> – **Asking \$4,500 obo** – For more info, contact Ken at [klhark46@gmail.com](mailto:klhark46@gmail.com) – Car is located in Potomac, MD



**1987 Fleetwood Brougham** – Purchased from the original owner in 2001 – Approximately 120k miles (odometer shows 20,000 miles) – White with white top, white pearl leather interior and red dashboard and carpet – V-8 engine with automatic transmission – Full power equipment – Cold A/C – Excellent vehicle in all original condition – See pictures at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/87cadillac2forsale.htm> – **Asking \$2,500 obo** – For more info, contact Dick Redding at 703-765-1549 or [rsredd@cox.net](mailto:rsredd@cox.net) – Car is located in Alexandria, VA



**1993 Cadillac Allanté** – One of 30 stock 1993 Allantés sent by Cadillac for use as a festival car for the 1992 Indianapolis 500 race – Stenciled "Official Pace Car" (both sides) and "Al Unser, Jr" (passenger side only because it faced the grandstands) – Given to Al Unser, Jr ("Lil Al") to drive at the opening parade and closing ceremonies for the 1992 Indianapolis 500 race ("Lil Al" won that historic race by just .048 seconds with Scott Goodyear coming in second and "Lil Al's" father, Al Unser, Sr finishing third – almost an all-Unser family race with Bobby Unser as the Pace Car driver, his nephew winning the race and his brother coming in third) – Two weeks later was used again by "Lil Al" to open the brand new Belle Isle Raceway for the Detroit Grand Prix XI parade (makes this Allanté special because not only was it driven on the brickyard track at Indy but was also driven around the new Belle Isle track in Detroit) – Dash above the glove box is personally signed by both Al Unser, Jr and Bobby Unser – Car comes with many display items – Currently has personalized Texas 10 year plates "LIL AL" – 36,775 miles – Excellent condition – Four owners but the current owner is the third owner as it had to be registered in Florida before he could register the car in Texas (gaps in ownership when it was displayed in a museum) – See pictures at <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/93cadillacforsale.htm> – **Asking \$32,000 obo** – Buyer is responsible for all shipping costs – For more info, contact Nick Ferrantino at 713-802-9393 or [pregomio@outlook.com](mailto:pregomio@outlook.com) – Car is located in Houston, TX

To see more classified ads, visit <http://www.clcpotomacregion.org/caddieclassifieds.htm>



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## ***2014 OFFICERS***

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