



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle April 2021



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE BY DAN RUBY

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
AUTOMOBILIA AUCTIONEER  
SUMMER PICNIC HOST  
DAN RUBY

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
CENTRAL VIRGINIA REGION  
LIAISON  
NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST  
CHUCK PIEL

TREASURER  
BILL HILLARD

SECRETARY  
DIANNA MOY

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR  
CHRISTOPHER WINTER

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR  
FRANKLIN GAGE

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
WEBSITE MANAGER  
VINCE TALIANO

NATIONAL DIRECTOR  
NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST  
JACK MCCLOW

### OTHER KEY POSITIONS:

ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
SANDY KEMPER

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST  
RITA BIAL-BOXLEY

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST  
CHRIS CUMMINGS

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST  
SUSAN DENCHFIELD

VALLEY FORGE REGION LIAISON  
NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST  
LYNN GARDNER

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST  
TOM MCQUEEN

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA REGION  
LIAISON  
NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST  
RICHARD SILLS

Looks like spring is here! It's a perfect opportunity to get your Cadillacs out of the garage and take some great photos to share with us. There are a lot of beautiful places in the DC metro area for photo ops.

As most of you know by now, the 2021 Grand National in Albuquerque, NM was postponed. Although disappointing, it's understandable given the impact of the pandemic. However, we are focused on an event in the planning stages, an inter-regional meet on Aug 21-22 at the AACA Museum in Hershey, PA. This will be a great opportunity for CLC members from multiple regions to attend. See the flyer on pages 6-7.

On a regional note, Lynn Gardner has stepped down as Car Show Coordinator. However, as our liaison with the Valley Forge Region, he will focus on the upcoming event in Hershey, along with Christopher Winter, Activities Director. The Car Show Coordinator position will be filled by committee in the short term.

We are hoping to have an in-person meeting at the Silver Diner in Fairfax, VA in June. A decision will be made when we get closer.

The April issue of *The Self-Starter* includes the election ballot for the CLC Museum & Research Center's Board of Directors. Region members Mark Brodsky, current CLCMRC Board member, and Bill Harrison are both candidates. I encourage everyone to vote for them.

Congratulations to Richard Sills, who recently retired after a distinguished career in law. Hopefully, he will get to spend more time with his hobby!



*Stanley & Mary Redlus traveled in their 1931 Convertible Coupe from Wainscott, NY to the grounds of the U.S. Capitol  
Photo by Franklin Gage  
2009 National Driving Tour*

*Dan Ruby*



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



March 3, 2021

Two different articles in the March issue of the [Caddie Chronicle](#) motivated me to find a couple of t-shirts in my closet that I wanted to share.

The article about the Pink Cadillac Diner in Rockbridge County, VA, reminded me of my visit there several years ago. We were driving north on US Route 11, avoiding the trucks and traffic on I-81 and enjoying the scenery. At the time, we didn't know about the Diner, but it was hard to miss the bright pink building as we drove by. Without hesitation, we made a U-turn and returned to the diner for a real roadside America treat: burgers, fries and a souvenir t-shirt.

Christopher Winter's article, "The 'Automagic' Transmission," opened with a reference to **Car Talk**, the long-running radio program on NPR. As a fan of the show, I couldn't resist buying a t-shirt from their website under the page titled, "The Shameless Commerce Division." I wore it to one of our car shows at Capitol Cadillac. And, if I recall correctly, I was surprised to see that CLC member Ron Threadgill from Richmond, VA, also attending the show, was wearing the same t-shirt.

Sandy Kemper  
Silver Spring, Maryland





# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle April 2021



## MARCH 15, 2021 MEETING MINUTES BY DIANNA MOY

**PLACE:** Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**TIME:** Open discussion started at 7:00 PM, meeting started at 7:35 PM and concluded at approximately 10:10 PM

**PRESIDING:** Dan Ruby, Regional Director

**ATTENDEES:** 19 attendees (which included nine officers): **Dianna Moy (Secretary)**, **Dan Ruby (Regional Director)**, **Lynn Gardner (Car Show Coordinator)**, **Bill Hilliard (Treasurer)**, **Franklin Gage (Membership Director)**, **Chuck Piel (Assistant Regional Director)**, **Vince Taliano (Newsletter Editor and Website Manager)**, **Christopher Winter (Activities Director)**, **Jack McClow (National Director)**, Dale Graves, Larry Good, Richard Sills, Grady McMahan, Harry Scott, Sandy Kemper, Ivars Jaunrubenis, Mark Brodsky, Steve Clay and Nick Deoudes

**DIRECTOR'S REMARKS:** Dan Ruby thanked everyone for attending. He emphasized that all members are welcome to attend these meetings, and looks forward to greater participation. Dan stated he had a phone conversation with Gibbs Fogarty, Sport Cadillac, about the possibility of co-hosting a car show and automobilia auction at their facility. The plan is for a small group to meet with him in person later this spring to discuss further.

**SECRETARY'S REMARKS:** Dianna Moy did not read the minutes from the February meeting since they were published and distributed to all members in the March newsletter.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bill Hilliard reported the financials for the time period from the February meeting to date. Total Revenue: \$71.86, Total Expense: \$142.93 and Net Income: **\$(71.07)**.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Franklin Gage informed everyone that we have 167 current members. Welcome to our newest member, Sue Romanic, of Ellicott City, MD. She inherited her dad's 1939 LaSalle 5019 Sedan w/Turret Top that is currently in the need of restoration.



**ACTIVITIES REPORT:** The following activities were discussed:

• **Upcoming PR Events:**

- **Tech Day.** Christopher Winter reported that two RSVPs have been received for the Sat, June 5 Tech Day. The event is limited to the first 10 Potomac Region members' cars. See the flyer in the April newsletter for more information.
- **Summer Picnic.** Dan polled the attendees on their interest on resuming the tradition of an Annual Summer Picnic at his home in Owings, MD. The response was favorable. More information will follow.
- **Inter-Regional CLC Meet.** Christopher and Richard Sills discussed the preliminary plans for an inter-regional meet at the AACA Museum in Hershey, PA on Sat-Sun, August 21-22. Stay tuned for more details as they are finalized.



# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club**

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- **Annual Car Show & Automobilia Auction.** Discussions with Sport Cadillac will be held soon for hopefully a show and automobilia auction in the fall.
- **Upcoming Non-PR Events:**
  - **51st Annual AACA Sugarloaf Mountain Region Parts and Swap Meet, Carroll County Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Fri-Sat, Mar 26-27.** Sandy Kemper will be directing cars to parking spaces on Friday. Visit [website](#) for more info.
  - **Classic Auto Mall Indoor/Outdoor Swap Meet and Car Corral, Morgantown, PA, Sun, Apr 11, 8am-4pm.** For more info, contact Paul Linkmeyer at [plinkmeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:plinkmeyer@yahoo.com) or 610-430-8432.
  - **Norman Heathcote Memorial Car Show, Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum, West Friendship, MD, Sun, May 16, 9am-2pm.** Hosted by the National Capital Region 36 Early Ford V8 Club of America. For more info, contact Al Zimmermann at [zimmco1@comcast.net](mailto:zimmco1@comcast.net) or 410-560-0237.
  - **29th Orphan Car Tour, Burkittsville, MD to Bluemont, VA, Sat, Jun 5.** Limited to "orphan" (discontinued-make) vehicles at least 25 years old. Visit [website](#) for more info or contact Jon Battle at [tourdirector@orphancartour.org](mailto:tourdirector@orphancartour.org) or 540-364-1770.
  - **57th Annual Das Awkscht Fest (featured marques: Cadillac/LaSalle), Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA, Fri-Sun, Aug 6-8.** Visit [website](#) for more info.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Dan proposed that we try to hold an in-person meeting in June at the Silver Diner in Merrifield, VA, pending the latest on the pandemic restrictions. It will be explored further as we get closer to the event.

**OPEN FORUM:** The floor was opened for general discussion from the attendees and there was a wide-ranging dialogue.

- Larry Good, Mark Brodsky and Dan led a discussion on 1953 Eldorados, including President Eisenhower's Inaugural Parade. An article will appear in the April newsletter.
- Chuck Piel mentioned that the 'Lost in the '50s' Saturday-night cruise-in will be resuming in Anne Arundel County, MD in April. Dianna mentioned one in Hagerstown, MD that will be restarting as well.
- Dianna shared a 15-minute Cadillac video on "[15 Things You Didn't Know About Cadillac](#)" that led to an interesting discussion.
- Vince Taliano informed everyone that George & Rita Boxley recently had a two-hour VHS tape of the 1993 Grand National in Lancaster, PA converted to digital. Harry Scott, Mark and Richard were also attendees of the event. A condensed viewing of the video would make a nice addition to a future meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** Our next meeting is scheduled to be held on April 19, 2021. This meeting will be held using the Zoom application. The official meeting will start at 7:30 PM. As with prior Zoom meetings, phone access will be available. Those who may wish to join the Zoom meeting with video on the smartphone; there is a Zoom app available in the Google Play Store as well as in the Apple Store. An email with the meeting access information will be sent in early April.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:10 PM.



# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle April 2021**



**2021 TECH DAY #1  
BY CHRISTOPHER WINTER  
PHOTO FROM [2017 TECH DAY](#)**



Saturday, June 5  
8600 Running Fox Ct.  
Fairfax Station, VA 22039  
10:30 AM – 5:00 PM (Followed by a cook-out)

Coordinator and instructor: Christopher Winter  
Host and instructor: Scot Minesinger

Limited to the first 10 Potomac Region members' cars to RSVP (Cadillacs/LaSalle only – more members are OK, but 10 cars is the limit). Bring your car's shop manual.

If you have a specific problem with your Cadillac/LaSalle, we will attempt diagnosis and repair on one to three cars (due to time and complexity). The instructors have direct experience with the cars of the '60s and '70s. We can discuss other model years' problems and offer guidance. We may be able to do some under-the-car work using a floor jack and stands. We will not have a lift available for this session, so we cannot do any extensive under-the-car work, but brakes, wheel bearings, tires and exhaust systems should be within the scope of our capabilities.

This will be mostly an outdoor event, and social distancing will be observed.

For more information and reservations, contact Christopher Winter at [christopherwinter@clcpotomacregion.org](mailto:christopherwinter@clcpotomacregion.org).



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle April 2021



The Valley Forge, Central PA and Potomac Regions of

*The Cadillac & LaSalle Club*

**Cordially invite you, your family, and friends to the First (hopefully) Annual  
Northeast Inter-Regional Meet and Car Show at the AACA Museum, Hershey, PA  
Saturday and Sunday, August 21-22, 2021**

The pandemic has wreaked havoc on car events for over a year! The Valley Forge, Central PA and Potomac Regions decided to organize a small, regional gathering where nearby regions could reconnect with friends and enjoy one another's cars. With the postponement of the 2021 Grand National, this event is rapidly expanding in size and scope. As state and local COVID-19 restrictions loosen, and as vaccinations continue, we are sure we can make this happen!



We will gather at the AACA Museum, Hershey PA on Saturday, August 21st. A concession will be available from 11:30AM until 2PM to buy lunch. Unique depictions of scenes representing New York, Route 66, San Francisco, and other famous American settings provide the background for 71,000 square feet of exhibit space, featuring classic and vintage cars, buses, trucks, motorcycles and model trains. You can tour the museum virtually by visiting <https://www.aacamuseum.org/> and clicking on "Virtual Visits."

The museum will host guided tours of its exhibits, detail/maintenance shop, and storage building (Jim's Place) starting at 1:30 PM. We will split into groups to conform to the museum's indoor capacity limits. Visitors are welcome to stroll the grounds and admire fellow CLC members' cars. After the tours, we will gather in the museum for a cocktail reception and hors d' oeuvres, followed by a buffet dinner. Out-of-towners may reserve a hotel room for the night at one of several hotels close to the museum.

**Please note:** there are **no host hotels, room blocks or group rates** for this event. AAA, AARP or Military/Government discounts may be available. **Reserve your room(s) as soon as possible**, as August is peak of tourist season at Hershey. Three hotels closest to the Museum:

- **SpringHill Suites by Marriott Hershey:** 115 Museum Dr., Hershey, PA, 717-583-2222, [Marriott.com](http://Marriott.com)
- **Quality Inn & Suites:** 181 Hershey Rd., Hershey, PA, 717-583-5151, [choicehotels.com](http://choicehotels.com);
- **Hampton Inn & Suites Hershey:** 195 Hershey Rd., Hershey, PA, 717-566-3369, [Hilton.com](http://Hilton.com)

Most hotels have flexible cancellation policies (e.g., up to one day before scheduled check-in). Get a good night's rest so you're ready to display your Cadillac, LaSalle or other make at our peer-judged car show on Sunday, August 22nd on the Museum's grounds. Open to all makes & models of road-worthy cars, trucks, commercial and military vehicles, pre-war through modern. No heavily modified, customs, rods, or racers; lightly modified vehicles that preserve factory-built appearance and features are welcome. Registration/check-in will start at 9 AM; peer judging will commence at 11 AM. Presentation of awards will start at 2:30 PM. Lunch will be available for purchase.

Register for the event by completing the form below and returning it with your check made payable to VFR-CLC. Join us for the tour, dinner, judged show or all three! Hurry! *Pre-registration is required for all activities* and **closes on July 30th**. For more info, contact Michael Stinson, Director, VFR-CLC, at [Michael.c.stinson46@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.c.stinson46@gmail.com) or Registrar: John Wood, [renopa@verizon.net](mailto:renopa@verizon.net). Visit <http://vfrclc.org/2021interregionalmeet.html> for more info.

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



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle April 2021



## Northeast Inter-Regional Meet and Car Show Registration Form Saturday and Sunday, August 21-22, 2021

Pre-registration is required for all activities; must be received by July 30th. No day-of-event registrations.  
Questions: Michael Stinson, 267-251-8588, [Michael.c.stinson46@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.c.stinson46@gmail.com)

Car Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children Name(s) and Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest Name(s), City/State of Each: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CLC Member #: \_\_\_\_\_ AACA Member # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Member of AACA Museum (circle)? Y / N

**Car Information:**

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Style (circle): Sedan, Coupe, Convertible, Other  
 Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Style (circle): Sedan, Coupe, Convertible, Other

Bringing a Trailer (circle)? Y / N

Car show open to all make and model cars, trucks, and commercial/military vehicles, pre-war to present. No heavily modified customs, rods, or racers. Lightly modified vehicles retaining features and appearance as delivered from the factory are accepted.

**Registration and Fees:**

Activity	Cost/ Person	No. Guests	Total
<b>AACA Museum Tour:</b> guided tour of exhibits, detail shop, storage building (Jim's Place). One Discount Ticket included with registration. AACA member is free. Cost for each <i>additional</i> Guest:	\$16.00		\$
<b>Buffet Dinner @ Museum:</b> (includes Hors d' Oeuvres, buffet dinner with salad, choice of entrée, two sides, dessert, beverage, coffee)	\$58.00		\$
<b>Car Show – Early Registration:</b> (per car; must be received on/before June 30):	\$20.00		\$
<b>Car Show – Late Registration:</b> (per car; Registration Deadline is July 30th):	\$30.00		\$
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED make check Payable to VFR-CLC:</b>			\$

Will you buy lunch at the Museum (circle)? Saturday: Y / N Sunday: Y / N How many persons? \_\_\_\_ (count for caterer)

**Nearby Hotels:** there are *no host hotels, room blocks or group rates* for this event. AAA, AARP or Military/Government discounts may be available. **Reserve your room(s) as soon as possible**, as August is peak of tourist season at Hershey.  
**SpringHill Suites by Marriott Hershey:** 115 Museum Dr., Hershey, PA, 717-583-2222, [Marriott.com](http://Marriott.com); **Quality Inn & Suites:** 181 Hershey Rd., Hershey, PA, 717-583-5151, [choicehotels.com](http://choicehotels.com); **Hampton Inn & Suites Hershey:** 195 Hershey Rd., Hershey, PA, 717-566-3369, [Hilton.com](http://Hilton.com). Check with hotels regarding their cancellation policy.

I hereby release the CLC, CLC Regions, the AACA Museum, their officers and representatives from any liability, damage or loss arriving from my own, my guests' and family's participation in the 2021 CLC Northeast Inter-Regional Meet and Show, including, but not limited to, the risk of contracting COVID-19 virus. I agree to adhere to all pandemic mitigation practices in effect at the AACA Museum during this event, including wearing a mask, social distancing, and temperature / wellness checks. AACA Museum reserves the right to deny attendees exhibiting COVID symptoms entry into the Museum. I certify that I have public liability insurance for my vehicle.

**Member Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail a copy of this form along with check made payable to VFR-CLC and a SASE to receive confirmation to:**

CLC Inter-Regional Meet  
C/O: John Wood  
327 Bellevue Ave.  
Pennel, PA 19047-5310

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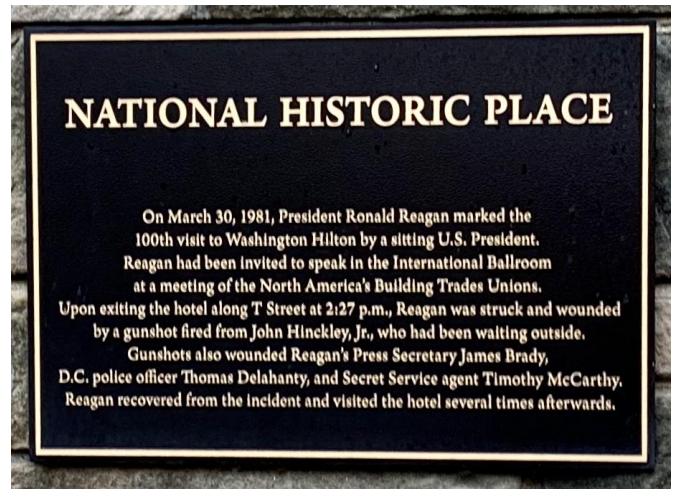


***I'M NOT A PRESIDENTIAL LINCOLN LIMOUSINE...BUT I PLAY ONE ON TV***  
**BY BREWSTER THACKERAY**  
**PHOTOS BY BREWSTER THACKERAY AND [IN THE SECRET SERVICE](#)**

The call from Vince Taliano was right up my alley – a documentary film group with Fox News was looking for a vintage limousine, and Vince thought my black 1992 Brougham Limousine Werks 60-inch stretch could fit. The opportunity sounded wonderful, though the event turned out to be rather chilling: a 40th anniversary recreation of the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan.

I recall that day. I was 11 years old, and terrified to learn that our newly-inaugurated president had been shot. This was less than three months since John Lennon had been murdered. As the news of another shooting spread that March 30, nobody could say if Reagan was going to survive.

After college, I moved to Washington and remember the first time attending an event at the very distinctive Hilton hotel where the shooting occurred. Later I worked for the National Organization on Disability, which Reagan's Press Secretary, Jim Brady, who was badly and permanently wounded by a bullet from John Hinckley, Jr.'s gun, served on our Board.



When explaining to the documentary producer, Kayvon Afshari, that I did not own a 1972 Presidential Lincoln limousine, he assured me that after weeks of looking, Vince's lead was the best one he'd had for an older car. At least the center part of my car was period-correct for Reagan's Presidency; and the car was similarly boxy to

the one in question. What my car does not have is "suicide" rear doors – the 1972 Lincoln limousine did, even though those doors had ended their run on standard Lincoln sedans.

I enjoyed talking about the events with the producer, and as a history buff, I went the extra mile. I found and printed Lincoln emblems to put on the hood, trunk, and wheels of the car in case they showed in the film. I also found online photos of the original 1981 Inauguration #1 plate that adorned Reagan's limousine. Since it had sold for an amazing \$14,000 at auction, I did not buy the plate, but I printed out color copies and taped them over my regular plates.





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Then I offered the producer a bonus. My other Cadillac, recently featured in the *Caddie Chronicle*, is an Innsbruck Blue 1976 Sedan DeVille. It happens that the secret service car that accompanied Reagan's limousine to the hotel that fateful day was a similar, then-five-year-old Cadillac. It is shown in a photo of the aftermath (see page 10). They liked the idea, so we used this as the chase car (see my Cadillacs below). I put flashing red bicycle lights behind the grill and a flashing emergency light on the dash, and mounted vintage DC license plates.



Finally, I recruited two friends to join me as Secret Service agents. Gordon McCracken is one of very few people I trust to drive my limo. Darrell Duane joined me as an agent in the chase car. Darrell and I both shaved our beards down to mustaches to fit the look of the period (pictured left). The day of the shoot dawned cool, overcast, and damp – exactly like the day Reagan was shot. We could not have gotten more fortunate on the weather. We also were fortunate that the hotel was shut. There is no way we could have filmed as readily otherwise.

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We did a number of on-site takes, with an agent pushing “Reagan” (for some takes played by yours truly) into the car, then groping me in search of any bullet wounds. Then we drove the route, from the hotel down Connecticut Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue. The road was already closed on that day in 1981, in anticipation of the Presidential motorcade. After the bullets flew, the initial plan was to rush Reagan back to the White House, until he began to spit blood and the agents realized he was injured. They diverted to George Washington University Hospital, a fortuitous choice as they had a new, state of the art trauma unit. Reagan walked into the hospital under his own power and then collapsed. He was in grave condition.



***Driving the same route taken in 1981***

As we drove two cars with flashing lights through the streets of Washington, D.C., it occurred to me – what if someone with no clue about cars and age thought we were a real Presidential motorcade? What if someone rushed or attacked my cars? People pointed and stared but thankfully, no would-be assassins were on the streets.



***The 1975-6 specially-built Secret Service Cadillac sedan prepared to follow the limousine from the hotel in the immediate and horrific aftermath of the Reagan assassination attempt***

Reagan was walking out of a speech he had given to an AFL-CIO gathering at 2:27 PM on March 30, 1981. He later shared that his plan had been to stand on the car's door sill and wave to the small crowd that had gathered to see him. Had Hinckley waited for that he would have had a clear shot at Reagan's head. Instead, he jumped the gun and fired six shots, wounding Brady and two others (pictured left). The sixth shot is said to have ricocheted off the bullet proof Lincoln (it would have penetrated a normal car), then bounced off the bulletproof window, and entered Reagan's body under his arm (although he often wore a bullet proof vest, that day he did not). It lodged an inch from his heart. His life was very much and truly endangered. He spent more than a week in the

hospital and the world was shaken by how close the would-be assassin came to success. Reagan kept good spirits during his recovery, famously telling his wife, “Honey, I forgot to duck.” His popularity surged as the nation rallied around its stricken leader.

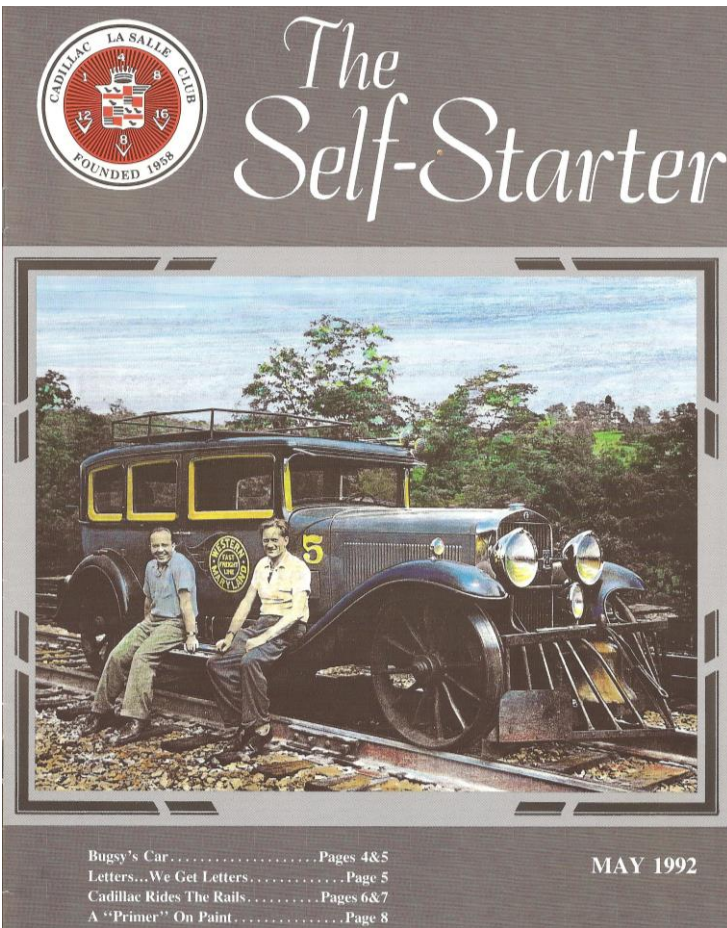
It was a fascinating opportunity to take part in the recreation of this historic day. My Cadillacs emerged unscathed and with some credits for their resumes. Look for the Fox News documentary to air on or around March 30.



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**RUNNING THE RAILS: MODIFIED CADILLAC RESTORED TO TRAVEL ON THE TRACKS**  
**BY ANTHONY GAYNOR**  
**[THE INTER-MOUNTAIN](#)**  
**JULY 11, 2020**  
**REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION**



[Editor's Note: In the May 1992 issue of **The Self-Starters** magazine, the article titled "Cadillac Rides the Rails" featured the story of the Western Maryland Railroad's (WMR) use of modified Cadillacs as rail cars. They were used by railroad employees to inspect tracks, transfer train crews and carry train workers. According to Jerry Miller's article in the **Blue Mountain Express** in the Spring/Summer of 1991, "someone in Western Maryland management during the 1930s must have had a weakness for Cadillacs." They had at least five and possibly six V-8 Cadillac sedans. In early 1946, the WMR purchased 17 assorted highway vehicles to "handle men and material over highways eliminating delays and expediting work," according to their documentation. Included in this group was a five-passenger Cadillac Sedan to be used as an Official Car. By 1955, the 1946 Cadillac was "no longer appropriate for official use" and converted to Rail Motor Car #6 in 1956 for a total of \$500.00. It was retired in 1968 and sold. #6 was purchased by the Museum from the estate of John J. Warfield of Washington, D.C.]

ELKINS — A West Virginia Railroad Museum project years in the making is coming to fruition and soon a 1946 Cadillac Rail Car may be running on local railroad tracks.

"It is quite a job to modify a 74-year-old car," Jim Schoonover, West Virginia Railroad Museum Board President, said. "It had a lot of modifications done when it was converted into a rail car." Pictured right is the 1946 Cadillac sitting on the tracks at a WMR facility during its prime (source: Western Maryland Railway Historical Society).





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The car took a trip down the rail lines for the first time in decades on July 3. "On Friday (July 3), we had the engine and transmission finished," he said. "It ran under its own power." He said a volunteer who assisted on the project made adjustments to the transmission before the vehicle was ready to roll. "It made a couple trips from the depot (Elkins Depot Welcome Center) to the old mill (the Darden Mill) to test it out," he said.

Schoonover noted one of the main chores left is to rewire the car's electrical systems. He said the car was converted from using a 6-volt battery to a 12-volt system. The car's interior has been re-upholstered. "Most of the pieces for the external chrome, we have found," he said. "We still need some items."

The goal is to restore the vehicle to its 1956 condition, as opposed to the original 1946 condition, so it will still be operational on the rails. "The car was originally an executive car for the railroad in 1946," Schoonover said. "In 1956, the railroad took the car and another '46 Cadillac — that we have — and converted them for rails only."

**Final adjustments are made to a restored 1946 Cadillac Rail Car along the tracks behind the Elkins Depot Welcome Center. The West Virginia Railroad Museum has been working for several years to restore the car to its former glory. The care made its first trips down the tracks in decades during a test drive July 3.**

**Photo by [THE INTER-MOUNTAIN](#)**



**Jack Sanford working under the car while Bryan Totten replaces the original fuel pump  
Photo by the West Virginia Railroad Museum**



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When the car was decommissioned in 1956 for highway use by the WMR, it was transported to Hagerstown, MD. While there, the vehicle was made to steer using the tracks. Additional modifications made to the car were to put sanders on it for traction when starting and stopping, a compressor was placed under the hood that runs off the V8 engine and an air ringer bell was installed.

"When the car had originally been put on rails, they put a turntable under the car so it could be jacked up and turned around," Schoonover said. "A turntable will be fabricated by the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad in their shop."

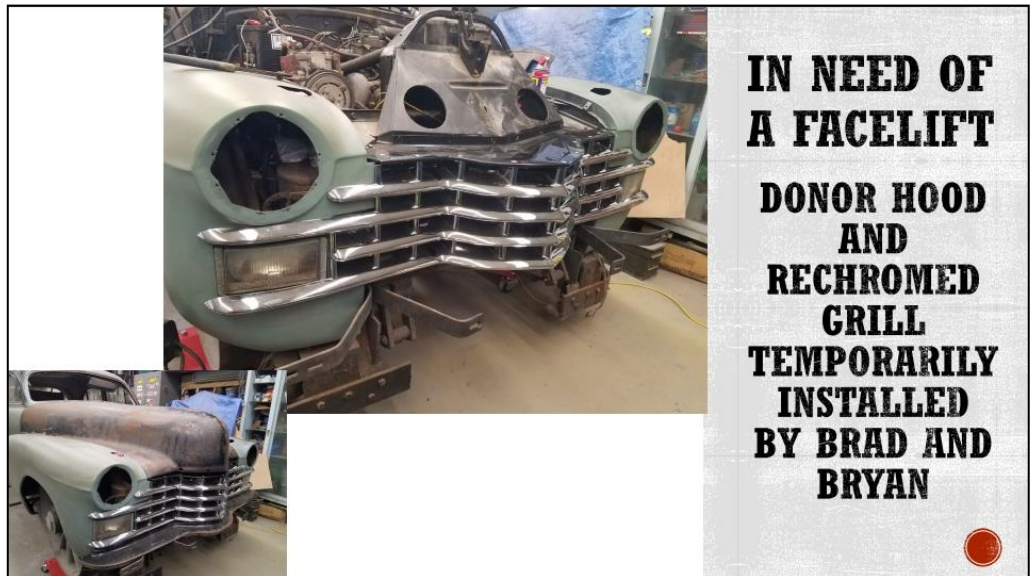
The turntable allows one person to turn the car around, and when the turntable is installed it must be directly in the center of the car. Schoonover said the original car featured air conditioning, but it was removed and the pump for compressed air was used for an air horn and the ringer bell.

"We are putting a compressor in the back of the car and will use that to blow the big air horn on top of the car and we will be able to ring the bell," he said.

Schoonover said the car was gifted to the museum by Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad (D&GVR) President John Smith more than a decade ago. The opportunity came about thanks to some tourists from Iowa who took a ride on the Durbin Rocket train. They told Smith they knew of a salvage company in their home state that had the rail car. Smith purchased the vehicle and it was later given to the museum.

WMR sold the car in the late 1960s to a small railroad company in Iowa. While it was there it was pushed on the tracks and was damaged in an accident. "We purchased a donor car and that is where we got the stuff for the front end," Schoonover said.

So far \$72,000 has been spent on the restoration and it is expected the cost to finish the restoration will run from \$4,000 to \$5,000. Schoonover said the museum has raised about \$30,000 for the restoration and the project is running a deficit of about \$45,000. "We would love to have donations," Schoonover said. "Any donations would be greatly appreciated."



*Photos by the West Virginia Railroad Museum*



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle April 2021

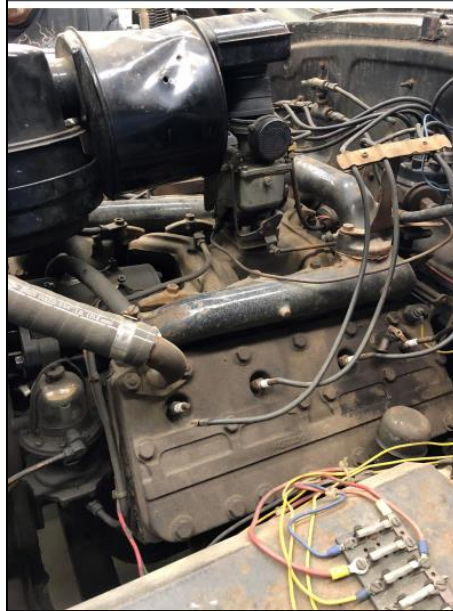


He noted the restoration project would have been much more difficult without the assistance of Museum board member Bryan Totten and local businessman Brad Curtis. "The bulk of the work was inspired by Bryan Totten," Schoonover said. He saw the vehicle in storage in Beverly. In March 2019, it was hauled to Curtis' body shop, where all the body work was completed.

When the car is finished, the Museum plans to enter into a partnership with the D&GVR so the car can be used as a tourist attraction and visitors will be able to ride in the classic machine.

*[April 2021 Update: COVID-19 delayed the Museum's progress on the project for nearly a year. As mentioned in the article, approximately \$72,000 was spent on the restoration including the extensive body work needed before painting it and the re-chroming. Other completed work included rebuilding the engine and transmission and purchasing a myriad of parts such as windows, weather-stripping, new radiator, etc., plus re-upholstering the interior.*

*Fabrication is still needed to complete the project including the turntable, which will be fitted to frame of the car, and the arm rests in the back seat. Also, the wiring and installation of the air compressor need to be finished. **The Museum now estimates the remaining costs will be approximately \$10,000**, so donations would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be mailed to the West Virginia Railroad Museum, PO Box 203, Elkins, WV 26241. More information can be found on their [website](#).]*



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CURTIS, AND  
BRYAN TOTTON  
THE WEEK OF  
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Photos by the West Virginia Railroad Museum



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Gibbs Fogarty  
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Email: [gforarty@sportautomotive.com](mailto:gforarty@sportautomotive.com)

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# **Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle April 2021**



**SCOTT'S 1976 CADILLAC COUPE DEVILLE  
BY SCOTT IN NEBRASKA  
[ROCKAUTO FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER](#)  
REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION**



[Rock Auto](#) has helped me fix all kinds of cars, which I enjoy doing in my spare time. One of my current beauties is this 1976 Cadillac Coupe DeVille D'elegance. It was sitting in a field before I restored it. I am a huge fan of Cadillacs and have owned nine from the '60s to '00s. Older

Cadillacs are big and easy to work on at home. With parts from [Rock Auto](#), I rebuilt the engine, transmission and suspension. Along with those parts, I also updated/repaired the interior and other systems with a dash cover, speedometer cable, ignition cylinder, u-joints, door strikers and lots of other little parts to bring this car back to its original glory.





# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle April 2021



**FORMER WASHINGTON WIZARDS PLAYER JOINS THE CLC**  
**BY VINCE TALIANO**  
**PHOTOS BY [COLLEEN DURKIN](#), [MICHIGAN AVE MAGAZINE](#), AND THE NBA**



As I was reviewing the list of new CLC members in the March issue of *The Self-Starter*, I came across a familiar name: Jabari Parker from Illinois. He is a current NBA player for the Sacramento Kings, who played 25 games for the Washington Wizards in 2019 after being traded from his hometown Chicago Bulls.



Jabari is well known on social media and in Chicagoland for his interest in classic cars. In a November 2018 article in [The Chicago Tribune](#), he was referred to as an “old soul” who could buy any car he wanted but chose a 1954 Coupe Deville as his latest purchase.

At 26 years old, he has accumulated an impressive collection of thirteen Cadillacs and one LaSalle, per the listing below from *The Self-Starter*. Hopefully he will be able to attend the 2022 Grand National in Lombard, IL, a suburb of Chicago, where members would have an opportunity to meet him and see some of his collection.

Member No.	Last Name	First Name	City	State	Year(s) owned
33160	Parker	Jabari	Chicago	IL	1928 Cadillac, 1929 LaSalle, 1930 Cadillac, 1941, 1948, 1950, 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1974, 1978, 1991





# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle April 2021



## NBC'S \$62,000 1952 CADILLAC BY LARRY GOOD



Studying Ike's 1953 inaugural parade, I found a picture of NBC's \$62,000 1952 Cadillac, just in front of the Jeep, with mounted cameras that was used to televise the event live (pictured left). Many parade pictures don't show the camera car.

A few magazine articles were published on the Cadillac in 1953, including one in [Popular Mechanics](#) (pictured below left). A March 1953 story in [Electrical Engineering](#) stated "it had a crew of five: the driver (who also operated a hand-held camera at stops along the parade route), the cameraman and microwave operator on the roof and an announcer and broadcast technician in the back seat. The dish portion of the microwave transmitter is missing in this photo. The unit transmitted to a receiver location on the dome of the U.S. Capitol."



It's a thrill to realize that I'm studying my own life. I watched live coverage of the 1953 inauguration when I was eight years old with no idea then that parade images were coming from a mobile station created in a 1952 Cadillac that cost \$62,000 (10 times as much today).

Half the cars in Ike's parade cluster were Cadillacs. That means a lot to CLC members because we are all a group of automotive historians focusing on this marque.

Another website had a forum with an interesting post by Bill Parinello, six years and eight months ago. "We used the Cadillac at the New Brunswick, NJ railroad station for Robert Kennedy's funeral in 1968. The body was transported by train from New York to Washington, D.C. We were on the air for as long as it took the train to slow down to pass through the station."



# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle April 2021



## CADDIE CLASSIFIEDS

### Cars For Sale



**1967 Fleetwood 60 Special Sedan** – 126k miles – Driven by the original owner until 1997 – After his passing, the original owner's son moved the Cadillac to a carport where it has stayed for 22 years – Although this storage was relatively dry, the back windows were left partially open and mud daubers/mud nests were found in the interior of the car – To get the car operable to sell, the points, condenser, battery & fuel pump were replaced and the car started – Rubber fuel lines above the fuel tank were cracked so to run a small plastic gas container was placed under the hood – Front brake cylinders are seized however the rear brakes work by using the emergency brake pedal – Car was driven approximately 1.5 miles recently and then returned to its original storage spot – Although everything is in rough condition, the drivetrain appears good – A lot of good original parts available – Last VA inspection sticker expired March 1998 – [See pictures](#) – **Asking \$2,850** – For more info, contact David DeJarnette at 540-718-3919 or [dejf5@comcast.net](mailto:dejf5@comcast.net) – Car is located in Culpeper, VA



**1968 Sedan deVille Pillared** – 41k miles – Sudan Beige (code 40) with medium covert cloth and leather interior – Ran and drove when purchased from son of original owner, but had been sitting in garage for more than 20 years following original owner's sudden death – Son got it running, made some repairs but needed the car out of his mother's garage – After purchasing it, the current owner drove the car for a couple months until the transmission started slipping, probably due to disuse – Since the car was straight and un-molested, it was decided to do a full resto-mod as this would probably be owner's last large-scale project – Car was completely disassembled, and firewall started to be smoothed as Vintage Air A/C was planned – Health issues require sale of the car as is – Everything is included – Rolls fine, doors were re-hung, and many boxes of parts stored inside, while more delicate trim pieces are stored in trunk – Car will never be finished by current owner, who can't bear to watch it just sit – Buyer could build, part out or whatever they choose – Lots of hard-to-find parts as the '68 has some odd pieces not found elsewhere – Not looking to recoup the thousands already in the car – [See pictures and details of work completed](#) – **Asking \$1,500** which would be considered a win all things considered – Buyer would have to transport the car and ALL the parts (e.g., fenders, hood, deck lid, etc.) – For more info, contact Joe at [sinfulsaint99@yahoo.com](mailto:sinfulsaint99@yahoo.com) – Car is located in Nokesville, VA



**1970 Sedan DeVille** – 41k original miles – Purchased in 2012 by the current owner from the original owner's grandson in Baltimore as a father/son project – Reliable Cadillac that runs and drives as new on four Diamondback radials with the correct white wall pattern (spare too) installed in 2020 – [See pictures and details of work completed](#) – **Asking \$19,000** – For more info, contact Scot Minesinger at 703-283-2021 or [rscotm@cox.net](mailto:rscotm@cox.net) – Car is located in Fairfax Station, VA



**1977 Eldorado Biarritz** – 67k miles – Drives and rides like an ocean liner – Second place winner at 2016 Jerry's Chevrolet Annual Show in Baltimore – Third place winner at 2013 Fall Capitol Cadillac Show in Greenbelt, MD – Owner is getting older and his vision is not as good as it used to be so he wants it to go to a person that will continue to keep it in excellent condition – [See pictures](#) – **Asking \$12,500 or best offer** – For more info, contact Jim McKoy at 240-310-6452 or [gmoneyflowing@gmail.com](mailto:gmoneyflowing@gmail.com) – Car is located in Baltimore, MD

### Car Wanted

**1959 Cadillac Hardtop** – Maryland resident looking for a quality car – Leads would be greatly appreciated – For more info, contact Max at [mzaporo@gmail.com](mailto:mzaporo@gmail.com)

### Parts For Sale



**1950s Wire Wheels** – Three mid 1950s Cadillac 15" Chrome Kelsey Hayes 15 x 6 Wire Wheels – Condition varies as shown – These will fit many years from 1940s to early 1960s – Many more photos available – **\$150 for all three** – **NOS Headlight Bezel for a 1976-77 Oldsmobile (passenger side)** – New Old Stock, original GM part in original box – Perfect in every respect – GM part #1607004 – **\$50** – For more info, contact Ryan at [john@ryanweb.com](mailto:john@ryanweb.com) – Parts are located in Bethesda, MD

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# Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle April 2021



### Parts Wanted

**1938 Cadillac Model 65 Hubcaps (four) and 1949 Radio and Sun Visor** – For more info, contact George & Rita Boxley at [ritabialboxley@verizon.net](mailto:ritabialboxley@verizon.net)

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**Cadillac & LaSalle Club  
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