



IONAL

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE BY DAN RUBY

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NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST LARRY GOOD

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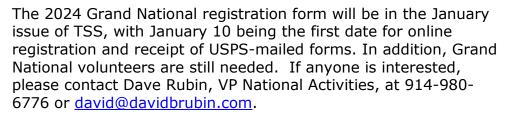
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA REGION LIAISON NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST RICHARD SILLS

You may have noticed that we have moved the Maryland meeting location and day of the week from the IHOP Restaurant in Rockville on Monday nights to the 198 Restaurant in Burtonsville on Sunday mornings. That gives members the opportunity to also participate in the Sunday morning "Church of the Holy Donut" cruise-in that takes place every week in the shopping center next to the restaurant before the meeting. Despite the gloomy weather this past month, I would say that members have responded well to this change based on the attendance (see photo in the meeting minutes). Moving the day of the week allows everyone to drive their car on a Sunday, when there is far less traffic than on a typical Monday night. At present, the Virginia meeting location and day of the week will stay the same (Silver Diner in Merrifield on Monday nights), but that could be subject to change as well. We want to provide members with as

many opportunities to drive their cars to meetings and events as possible.

The past couple of months we have encouraged everyone who plans to attend the 2024 Grand National in Gettysburg, PA to book their hotel rooms as soon as possible. According to Ronnie Hux's "President's Message" in the October issue of The Self-**Starter (TSS)**, a third hotel is being sought because the two main ones are

BILLYC & LASALLE nearly sold out (stay tuned for more information).



Hope everyone enjoys the events this month; it's the peak of the season!

Dan Ruby





IN MEMORIAM: BROOKS ROBINSON BY VINCE TALIANO PHOTOS BY SANDY KEMPER





Forty years ago, in 1983, the Baltimore Orioles won the World Series. Sandy Kemper attended the victory parade and took a couple of great photos that were published in the *Caddie Chronicle* in 2008.

The top one is a 1955 Eldorado with no parade boot, transporting Orioles Hall of Fame third baseman Brooks Robinson. The bottom one is Orioles owner, at that time, Edward Bennett Williams in a 1967 Deville convertible with a custom running board. The *Chronicle* story was picked up by David Traver Adolphus at *Hemmings* and published on their site.

On September 26, 2023, Brooks Robinson passed away at the age of 86. I don't have many "live" memories of him as a player, but who hasn't seen the replays of the 1970 World Series where he was the MVP, in addition to the famous photo of him leaping towards the pitcher's mound when they won the 1966 World Series! More importantly, the stories of his humility, kindness and generosity to the fans are as legendary as his performances on the field.

After he retired in 1977, Brooks became the color commentator for the Orioles' television broadcasts. That gave fans even more insight and visibility to the great person that he was. RIP, Brooksie!





SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 MEETING MINUTES BY VINCE TALIANO

PLACE: 198 Restaurant, Burtonsville, MD

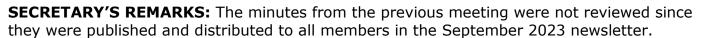
TIME: 11:10 a.m.

PRESIDING: Dan Ruby, Region Director

ATTENDEES: Sixteen attendees, including five officers: Franklin Gage (Membership Director), Bill Hilliard (Treasurer), Dan Ruby (Region Director), Vince Taliano (Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Website Manager), Christopher Winter (Activities Director), Gary Cameron, Ben Carter, Steve Clay, Larry & Maia Good, Bill Gibson, Greg Huver, Constantin Jiga, Daniel Jobe, Sandy Kemper and Barry Leese. Photo by Bill Gibson

DIRECTOR'S REMARKS: Dan thanked everyone for attending. He asked that everyone keep charter member Juan Aranda and past officer





TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Hilliard reported on the financials since the last meeting. Total revenue was \$405.92 and total expense of \$872.27 for the period, resulting in a net loss of \$466.35.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Franklin Gage announced that our 2023 membership is still at 170. The 2024 Membership Drive will begin in October with current members who haven't already pre-paid for 2024 receiving their renewal forms in the US mail by mid-October.

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

- **18th Annual Car & Bike Show, Sep 9, Upper Marlboro, MD.** Congratulations to Steve Clay (pictured right) who won an award for his 1949 Series 62 Club Coupe (photo by Bill Harrison).
- 47th Edgar Rohr Memorial Car Meet, Sep 16, Manassas, VA. Congratulations to Josh Pinho and Harry Scott for winning awards for their '92 Allanté and '41 Series 67 Imperial Sedan, respectively.









Upcoming Events:

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
Sep 27- Oct 1 Wed-Sun	Gates open daily at 7:00 am	Fall Carlisle	Carlisle, PA	717-243-7855 or <u>Visit website</u>
Oct 1 Sun	9:00 am - 3:00 pm	CLC Raritan River Region Annual Dealer Show See flyer	Gold Coast Cadillac Oakhurst, NJ	Jeff Montgomery at 732-406-9120 or <u>send email</u>
Oct 3-6 Tue-Fri	Gates open daily at 7:00 am	AACA National Eastern Fall Meet	Giant Center and Show Grounds Hershey, PA	<u>Visit website</u>
Oct 8 Sun	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	CLC Valley Forge Region Annual Fall Meet <u>See flyer</u>	Peddler's Village Lahaska, PA	Michael Stinson at <u>send email</u>
Oct 14 Sat	8:30 am - 3:30 pm	City of Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show	Rockville Civic Center Rockville, MD	240-314-5022 or <u>Visit website</u>
Oct 21 Sat	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	16th Annual Potomac Day Classic Car Show See flyer	Falls Rd. and River Rd. Potomac, MD	Jennifer Matheson at 301-299-2170 or <u>send email</u>
Nov 4 Sat	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	25th Annual Antique Cars and Trucks Show	Aspen Hill Shopping Center Silver Spring, MD	Call 240-529-4122 or <u>send email</u>

Visit website for a full list of events.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bill Gibson showed everyone a sign he had made of his 1967 Miller Meteor Combination Ambulance / Hearse by a company called Signs on the Cheap. He said that the steps were easy to do online: 1) Upload pictures and move them around / shrink or stretch them, 2) Add text and make larger or smaller / move around, 3) Choose multiple Fonts and 4) Choose the sign material. Bill picked aluminum.
- Attendees discussed the plans for the club's participation at the 2024
 Washington Auto Show in January, specifically the idea of displaying vehicles like the 1950s GM Motoramas. Stay tuned for more information.

1967 Miller—
Meteor
Combination
Coach
Commercial Chassis
by
Cadillac

Owner: Bill Gibson
Burtonsville, MD.

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Silver Diner in Merrifield, VA.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.





SINKHOLE SWALLOWS THREE CADILLACS AT MASSACHUSETTS DEALERSHIP DURING FLASH FLOODING BY HILLARY ANDREWS, <u>FOX WEATHER</u> SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

LEOMINSTER, Mass. – After almost nine inches of rain fell in just hours Monday, September 11 in northern Massachusetts and triggered flash flooding, a sinkhole opened up under three brand-new Cadillacs and swallowed them.

"I've been here 33 years and never seen anything even close to this," <u>Durand Cadillac</u> co-owner Joel Baker told FOX Weather. "I didn't expect the water to come rushing like this," he continued. "The water came rolling down from a hill about 200 yards away from the dealership. It kept coming down."

'THE GROUND LET GO UNDERNEATH'

Baker said the dealership is on the bank of the Nashua River, and he always assumed that would be the flooding danger. However, rain falling on a hillside was funneled down Main Street across a





bridge, just recently completed, and into the driveway of the dealership.

"We removed all of the vehicles that were in harm's way and thought we were going to be fine, and then the ground let go underneath the three vehicles," he said.





The cars dropped about six feet into the gaping hole. The front of the dealership washed away, and inches of floodwater rushed into the showroom. He said, thankfully, no one was hurt.

Baker told FOX News'
Kailey Schuyler earlier
that the damage
appeared to be "much
more minor than
originally thought." He
said he would need to
check the interiors,



though, to see if the water got in. In that case, the cars would go to auction, meaning a potential loss of \$140,000.

BACK TO NORMAL BY FIRST SNOW

As soon as the floodwater receded, Baker said employees were able to clean out the flooded dealership. He said that while most of the inventory survived, the dealership will take a little longer to get back to normal.

"Actually, we didn't really sustain that significant of damage to our inventory. We've got over 150 vehicles in stock, and with only three having any damage at all. I think we've done pretty well," Baker said.



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ELDORADO #55: THIS CAR GETS AROUND! LARRY GOOD

Some cars just don't quit, thank goodness! This story is an expansion of the extension of two earlier *Caddie Chronicle* articles about a 1953 Eldorado that keeps boosting its celebrity credentials.

Background:

- 1953 Cadillac produced red Eldorado #55 and delivered it to Wichita, KS. Later it went west.
- 1967 An episode of the TV show **Dragnet** featured an unidentified, red 1953 Eldorado.
- 2015 The Self-Starter featured a white Eldorado #55 in California in the June wedding issue.
- 2022 The <u>Caddie Chronicle</u> ran an article about the red, still unknown Eldorado in **Dragnet**.
- 2023 The <u>Caddie Chronicle</u> identified the red **Dragnet** car and the white wedding car as one and the same. It was Eldorado #55 before and after its color change.

Note: According to its build sheet, Eldorado #55 originally had paint 29 (Aztec Red), top 4 (black Orlon) and trim 38 (red & white). White paint came later.

We all go nuts for the Cadillacs we love when they appear in movies and TV, and the <u>Internet</u> <u>Movie Car Database</u> (IMCDb) points us to them. After looking into the <u>Dragnet</u> Eldorado, I searched for more movie '53s. IMCDb turned up a white one in the movie <u>L.A. Confidential</u> and another red one in a movie called <u>How Sweet it Is!</u> I rented the second one for \$4 and saw Debbie Reynolds and a slew of professional ladies of the night with their benefactor pile into a red '53 Eldorado near the end of the movie (see below). I thought I'd found #55 again because this film and the **Dragnet** episode were just a year apart, and the Eldorados were both red. Directors might pass the same car around from studio to studio. But that was a false alarm. Eldorado #55 never had an all-red interior like the car in this movie, so no cigar.



Screenshot: *How Sweet it Is!* (NOT Eldorado #55)

Debbie Reynolds (ctr.) with Friends in an Unknown 1953 Eldorado





Recently on a road trip through California I visited the current owner of #55, Bob Ballas. We talked for a long time about his Eldorado and other ones. At one point he casually said, "Number 55 was in the opening credits of **L.A. Confidential**." Really now!!! That was yours? This opened up a whole new line of interrogation, and Bob kindly played along.

Set in 1953, the 1997 movie opens with the white Eldorado parked in front of gangster Mickey Cohen's mansion as the police come to arrest him. Danny DeVito narrates the downfall of the suave Mr. Cohen but never mentions his Eldorado, the most desirable car in America in 1953. Where were Mr. DeVito's priorities? Don't blink because you only get three and a half seconds to see the car, and the camera only pans the grille. For this, Bob stayed on the set with his car all day and got \$1,500. Not bad. In "Hollywood," Maryland, and "Hollywood," DC, (CLC Potomac Region) we stay on the sets all day and all night for only \$250.

Trivia: The LAPD drove Fords in the movie, as usual. This time 1951s, but some of the heroes drove Chevys.



L.A. Confidential Screenshot Eldorado #55 on Set





Bob explained how he found Eldorado #55 parked outside an auction near Santa Monica back in 1977. The seller, Keith Fulkerson, had bought the car in 1955 from the Whiz Kids car lot for \$3800 + \$150 trade-in on a four-year-old Kaiser (less valuable than a Trabant). Thirty-eight hundred dollars was half the Eldorado's original sticker price two years earlier. (I'm working on a way to roll back the clock.) Bob could see right away that the paint job was not original because the inside rear quarters were painted all red instead of red and Alpine White, a common mistake back then. Leather had been replaced with Naugahyde, and the pleats were 90° off.

At first Bob didn't intend to do a full restoration on #55, but he took the fenders off, and one thing led to another. He felt the red color overwhelmed the body's lines, so he switched it to white. He did the job in short order. By the end of 1978 the restoration was finished.



1980 Long Beach Queen Mary Show Bob at Wheel of Eldorado #55 Takes 1st Place Wherever It Goes

In addition to appearances on TV and in an A-list movie, the magazine *Car Collector & Car Classics* ran a feature article about Bob Ballas' Eldorado #55 in the February 1983 issue. This car gets around!





AMELIA EARHART'S 1936/37 CORD BY GARY CAMERON DOWN THE ROAD PHOTOGRAPHY



Having a history minor and being a car nerd, especially historic cars, is a good thing. What else would make me want to go down to The Mall in Washington, D.C. on a hot (90F at 10 p.m.) Labor Day evening, dodging the rat population, to see an 87-year-old mystery? And what a magnificent mystery and story it is.

For those of you who aren't fascinated by history, let me introduce you to Amelia Earhart, aviator, who was the first woman to cross the Atlantic by air, and the first person to cross it twice. Take that Charles Lindbergh!

Pilots are very precise and orderly people. This character trait comes in handy if they are 25,000 feet off the ground after taking off and wanting to land. There is no side of the road up there. There are no emergency blinkers. They are on their own.

Therefore, it is easy to see why Ms. Earhart chose a 1936/37 Cord 810/812 Phaeton convertible for her movements on land. You might wonder how a Cord can be both a 1936- and a 1937-model year? The reason is the company was going into receivership and mixing and matching model years and parts. It's the same way an 810 became an 812. The Cord automobile was so ahead of its time, along with its Duesenberg and Auburn siblings, but so were the costs of buying one. These are premium cars that started out in 1929, and if you remember any history, that was a bad year in America to start anything associated with money. There was so little of it.







Amelia's Cord had front wheel drive and doors that opened forward, so you could not see the hinges. It had headlamps that were hidden until you needed them. Her Cord was designed by Gordon Buehrig, who created beautiful cars that were art in motion, groundbreaking in design and function and ones that few could afford.



In May 1937, Amelia and her navigator, Fred Noonan, took off from Oakland, California to fly around the world in her Lockheed Electra dual engine, propeller-driven airplane. They landed in New Guinea to refuel, took off on July 2, and were never seen again. A nation mourned.

Amelia's husband, George Putnam, set up several searches for them, but nothing was found. In 1939, he had her declared officially dead, and began the process of selling off her estate, which included the Cord. The car was bought in the 1950s when a 1936/1937 Cord was just an old car, not a classic, Amelia Earhart or not. Over the years, it was parted out, distributing one car into many places.

Enter Roy Foster, who had looked for Amelia's Cord for years to at least get the original engine from her car (found and purchased in 1992)

and chassis (found and purchased in 2004). Foster painstakingly went through documents to

ensure that the parts were correct to the aviator's car. From there, Foster handed over the Cord to Jack Boyd Smith, Jr., who hired Travis LaVine of LaVine Restorations to bring back Amelia's Cord to its factory condition glory. 10,000 hours of research, just research, went into this car; it took 18 months to restore it!



Amelia's Cord now has a place in the National Historic Vehicle Register, and

fittingly so. A woman, a pilot and her car, that were all so far ahead of their time.

[Editor's Note: Check out more car stories and photos on <u>Gary's website</u>, under the PORTFOLIO section.]





CLASSIC GM CADILLACS TAKE CENTER STAGE AT GILMORE CAR MUSEUM BY SAMANTHA MAY | <u>NEWS CHANNEL 3</u> SEPTEMBER 22, 2023



Well, a popular event makes its to return to Western Michigan this weekend. The Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners is hosting the All-GM Cadillac Fall Festival car show. Organizers say it's a great way to learn about all the old brands formerly under GM, and you can even go for a spin.

"Yes, you can get rides in Cadillacs on our over three miles of our beautiful historic campus at the car museum. Our restaurants, grill and frozen custard will be open," Ken Fischang, Director of Commercial Operations at Gilmore Car Museum, said.

Sounds like fun! This event is today and tomorrow with trophies given out to the winners of the Show and Shine.

[Editor's Note: Read all about the Fall Festival and see pictures of the over 120 cars in attendance in an upcoming issue of The Self-Starter.]





CADDIE CLASSIFIEDS

Cars For Sale



NEW ARRIVAL 1947 Cadillac Series 62 Convertible – Originally a California car that has been with the same owner in eastern Canada the past 23 years – Professional modifications include 1987 Firebird 305 H.O. tuned engine with automatic transmission – Power steering with tilt column, power brakes (front disc), electric windows (doors), gauge set including clock, James Coy wheels, third brake light, amber turn signal lenses and tinted glass – Air conditioning installed but not working at present – Hartz top is like new – Frame and all components underneath are absolutely rust free – Faultless fun with this local show winner that has been driven as far west as British Columbia – Drives and rides like a new car – Owner is in his mid-80s now with limited eyesight, so it's time for a new home – See pictures – \$85,000 – For more info, contact Bob Schilling at 905-875-5109 or send email – Car is located in Ontario Canada



1955 Cadillac Series 62 Sedan - 16,085 miles indicated (total miles unknown) - Beautiful, well optioned, three-owner dry Texas car (original 1955 license plate included with the car) that has been cosmetically restored inside and out - Said to be owned by the original family from 1955-2010 - Previous owner (a CLC member) had it from 2010-2022 and did the restoration - Current owner bought the car in 2022 and has barely driven it - Factory rear A/C with front A/C added with modern compressor - Power steering, power windows, aftermarket power brakes with dual circuit master, power seat and Autronic Eye - Interior and engine bay restored, stainless and chrome done, paint done (including sills and engine bay), detailed and finished trunk - Previous owner said the generator has been internally converted to alternator and a hidden bluetooth stereo was added behind dash (not verified) Battery replaced and set of flat door glass purchased – Fresh engine oil and filter – Comes with cover, factory service manual and some extra bits – Stored inside on battery tender with Sta-bil by current owner - Things that will need attention: 1) current whitewall tires look great but are 10+ years old, 2) power steering leak at rack, 3) several flat glass door windows are cracked (full set of four new door windows are included), 4) could use some tuning for easier starting and more power (takes a while to start and warm up after sitting for months -- family obligations limited owner's ability to drive it only three times since it was purchased with one oil and filter change per year) – See pictures – \$29,995 – For more info, contact Edward Stewart at 267-972-8934 or send email – Car is located in San Francisco, CA 1963 Cadillac Series 62 Convertible - Same owner for the past 30+ years - 85,000 miles



1979 Cadillac Coupe Deville – Beautiful, unrestored, meticulously maintained in like-new condition – This gem has 90,000 original miles – Three-speed automatic transmission runs smoothly – Luxurious ride – Inside and outside in perfect condition – Elderly owners need to sell – See pictures – Asking \$18,500 – For more info, contact Susan & Frank Parish at 410-703-8955 or send email – Car is located in Lusby, MD

Palomino Iridescent exterior (code 47) with black leather interior and tan top – Runs pretty well but needs some TLC – Original condition with no known major issues – See pictures – Reduced to \$14,000 – For more info, contact Randy Hart at 443-205-0296 or send email –



1997 Cadillac Seville STS – 26,583 miles – Only two owners – Pristine original condition – Original window sticker, owner's manuals and key tags – 4.6 Liter V8 engine – AM/FM stereo radio with cassette player and 12 compact disc player in trunk – Four Bose amplified speakers – Wheels chrome over cast aluminum with four new Yokohama tires – Heated front seats – Recently replaced serpentine belt, belt tensioner assembly, alternator and seat back link – See pictures – Reduced to \$13,000 – For more info, contact Mary Cicciu at 508-250-3781 or send email – Car is located in Cotuit, MA

Located in Baltimore County, MD







NEW ARRIVAL 2001 Cadillac Seville SLS – One owner car with 60k miles – Personally ordered and leased for three years before purchasing – Pristine condition overall and recently detailed – Original paperwork available including sales documents, service records, owner's manual, window sticker and sales brochures with leather swatches used by Cadillac dealers – Also includes never used 10 CD disc changer in original packaging – Owner is retiring and doesn't have room to keep it – Looking for a new caretaker – <u>See pictures</u> – **\$11,500** – For more information, contact Karen at 724-388-1989 or <u>send email</u> – Car is being stored in Frederick, MD

2006 Cadillac DTS – 82k miles – Really nice overall condition – Current owner changed the coolant, oil and trans fluid when he first acquired the car and then repeated the process four months later – Amsoil 5w/30 oil used – White Diamond exterior with Shale interior – Sunroof and chrome wheels – Radio will sometimes not shut off, so have to turn it off – See pictures – **Reduced to \$5,500** – For more info, contact Jim Canada at 804-545-1803 or send email – Car is located in Midlothian, VA

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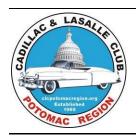














2023 OFFICERS

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