



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE BY DAN RUBY

The Potomac Region extends a warm welcome to Charles Phoenix, who will be visiting the area in early November. Known as a midcentury pop culture expert, Charles entertained 2023 Grand National attendees in Albuquerque, New Mexico with his spirited live "slide show" performance (<u>watch promo video</u>) – pictured below from left to right are Jack McClow, Charles Phoenix, Bill Harrison and Bob Norrid.



With that said, members are encouraged to attend the last big show of the season on Saturday, November 4 at the Aspen Hill Shopping Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, where Charles will be there as Jack and Bob's guest. For more info, contact Jack at 301-330-5417.

The Central Pennsylvania, Potomac and Valley Forge Regions have been called upon to help organize and run events at the 2024 Grand National in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania next June. Many volunteers will be needed. Please contact Lynn Gardner at <u>lynnwgardnerusa@aol.com</u> or Dianna Moy at dianna.nicole.moy@comcast.net to discuss ways you can help.

Dan Ruby

2023 OFFICERS:

REGIONAL DIRECTOR AUTOMOBILIA AUCTIONEER SUMMER PICNIC HOST DAN RUBY

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR CENTRAL VIRGINIA REGION LIAISON NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST CHUCK PIEL

<u>TREASURER</u> BILL HILLIARD

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR CHRISTOPHER WINTER

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR FRANKLIN GAGE

NEWSLETTER EDITOR SECRETARY 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 LARRY GOOD

NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST TOM MCQUEEN

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA REGION LIAISON NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST RICHARD SILLS





LETTER TO THE EDITOR

October 27, 2023



Debbie and I wish to thank the Potomac Region members and our many friends throughout the CLC for the cards, flowers, gifts, prayers, well wishes and visits during Debbie's recent health scare. This level of concern and compassion is the essence of what our club and region are all about. Many, many thanks!

Debbie & Chuck Piel Ellicott City, Maryland



2019 CLC Grand National Louisville, Kentucky

2014 CLC Grand National Lake George, New York





OCTOBER 16, 2023 MEETING MINUTES BY VINCE TALIANO

PLACE: Silver Diner, Merrifield, VA **TIME:** 7:30 p.m. **PRESIDING:** Chuck Piel, Assistant Region Director

ATTENDEES: Twelve attendees, including three officers: Bill Hilliard (Treasurer), Chuck Piel (Assistant Region Director), Vince Taliano (Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Website Manager), Randy & Susan Denchfield, Jim Dilliard, Jack & Cher Gallagher, Jeff Gurski, Daniel Jobe, Dan Mullane and Scott Patton

DIRECTOR'S REMARKS: Chuck thanked everyone for attending. He thanked everyone for keeping charter member Juan Aranda and past officer Debbie Piel in their prayers and thoughts. Both have had recent medical issues.

SECRETARY'S REMARKS: The minutes from the previous meeting were not reviewed since they were published and distributed to all members in the October 2023 newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Hilliard reported on the financials since the last meeting. Total revenue was \$106.58 and total expense of \$271.11 for the period, resulting in a net loss of \$164.53.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Vince Taliano announced that the 2024 Membership Drive has begun. Current members who haven't already pre-paid for 2024 should have received their renewal forms in the US mail by October 15. The deadline to renew without interruption of the **Caddie Chronicle** is December 15.

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

- AACA National Eastern Fall Meet, Oct 3-6, Hershey, PA. Congratulations to the following members who won awards: Bill W. Harrison, Fulton, MD, Class HPOF Historic Preservation for his 1967 Cadillac Eldorado; James K. Govoni, Bowie, MD, Class 26D First Junior for his 1953 Cadillac Series 62 Sedan; Earl Zastrow, Middletown, MD, Class DPC Driver Participation for his 1949 Plymouth Special Deluxe; and Richard W. Sisson, Walkersville, MD, Class 36F Second Junior for his 1970 Pontiac Grand Prix SJ.
- **City of Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show, Oct 14, Rockville, MD.** Chuck reported that it was a bit of a wash out. Only one Cadillac was in attendance, Chuck's 1967 Deville Convertible. Overall, about 100 of the 660+ cars pre-registered were on site.

Upcoming Events:

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
Nov 4	10:00 am -	25th Annual Antique	Aspen Hill	240-529-4122
Sat	3:00 pm	Cars and Trucks Show	Shopping Center Silver Spring, MD	or <u>send email</u>
Mar 22-23,	Doors open at	54th Annual AACA Sugarloaf	Carroll County	Jack Gallagher at 301-674-5431
2024	8:00 am	Mountain Region Parts and	Agriculture Center	or <u>send email</u>
Fri-Sat		Swap Meet	Westminster, MD	

• <u>Visit website</u> for a full list of events.



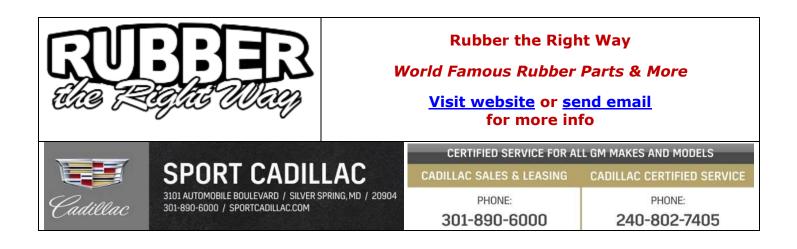


NEW BUSINESS:

- 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.
- Discussions are underway for an annual holiday party date and location.
- November will mark the 20th Anniversary of the *Caddie Chronicle* newsletter. In its first few months, the new publication included mostly basic information such as a Director's Message, Events Calendar, etc. However, the April 2004 issue featured an article by the late Paul Estaver that provided a prelude of the great stories that would be published from that point forward (see the November issue where it will be republished). Thanks to everyone who has contributed stories and photos over the years.

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be on Sunday, November 19 at 11:00 a.m. at the 198 Restaurant in Burtonsville, MD. Members are encouraged to attend the adjacent Cars & Coffee in Burtonsville Town Square before the meeting. It starts at 7:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.







"MINNIE S." BY PAUL ESTAVER ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2004

Over the past 58 years, I've owned fourteen Cadillacs and one 1933 LaSalle. Except for the LaSalle, which I bought in 1954 for \$400 with a loan from Beneficial Finance, I didn't think of these cars as classics. I just loved them the way you'd love a big dog. I'm a jackleg mechanic at best, so I patched them together with Gun-Gum and soup cans-plus-asbestos around the exhaust pipes and kept them running until they died or were stolen or otherwise broke my heart.

My first was a 1931 Cadillac V-8, a sevenpassenger black sedan that I found in a hayfield in Gray, Maine, bought from a farmer for \$75, and drove home to Massachusetts on plates off my late, unlamented '37 Plymouth. That wonderful monster and I lived together from 1946 to 1949, commuting from Newton to Boston where I was a day student on the G.I. Bill at Boston University.

At that time, Boston University was still in Copley Square in the old Harvard Medical School building, plus classroom space rented in office buildings wherever they could find it. I don't think there were meters there yet, but I do remember we had to park on the street wherever we could find space and move our cars every two hours if we didn't want to get tagged. At the end of the day, you did well to remember where you'd last left your car – even one as conspicuous as mine.



Paul Estaver with "Minnie S." 1931 Cadillac V-8 Circa 1946

But to move, you had to start the engine, and

therein lay the problem, because I never had the money to buy a new battery and got by as best I could on a series of used ones bought from junkyards for a dollar or two.

I lived on a hill, so I could pop the clutch to start in the mornings (after pushing it to get it rolling, then jumping into the driver's seat), and maybe if the battery was blessed it might hold the charge from the commute into town for the first two or three parking changes. But all too often, by the late afternoon, it would grind helplessly, and I would have to crank. I'd set the choke and hand throttle, grab the crank from the backseat floor and go to work.





On very good days I might get it to catch with one hard pull, but more often I'd have to go round and round with it, taking my chances on a broken arm. And when it began to catch, sounding like an asthmatic in death throes, I'd have to race to the driver's seat to coddle it to roaring life.

Its other serious problem was a shimmy that started at around 52 mph and increased exponentially to 57, then went away. So, the trick was to keep it on the road until you got through that five-mph increment, yanking it left and right for a few seconds' respite. Oncoming cars sometimes found this disconcerting, especially in tunnels.

But what power! I swear I could have kids hanging all over that monster and drive it up the steepest hill in town to the Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, and it keep going in high gear down to four mph without a shudder.

My girlfriend, majoring in Sociology, named it "Minnie S." after a case study about a woman of the streets who was beyond redemption. And of course, that back seat in combination with the jump seats did constitute something like a queen-sized bed. The final touch was a huge hot-pink quilt we kept on hand, because "Minnie S." had no heater. I will not confess to any activities in that back seat beyond noting that a Boston cop once admonished us, saying over and over, "Have ye no shame!"

"Minnie's" other weakness was a bad wheel bearing in the back whose seriousness I didn't understand until it froze one dark night as I was driving over to West Roxbury to see her. My buddy Billy somehow got it towed to his shop, but the only new rear end he could find for it had wire-spoke wheels--not a match for the artillery wheels in the front.

And even worse, the junkyard part cost \$75, which was far beyond my reach; even with the G.I. Bill money and the grocery-delivery job I had on the side. So, Bill cut the back off the body, installed a crane, and made a wrecker out of poor "Minnie S."

But there remains one indelible memory from the year before. I'd innocently parked "Minnie S." on Marlboro Street precisely in front of my ex-girlfriend's father's dental office. I had no idea where his office was. And in plain daylight my buddy Kenny and his girlfriend had a conspicuous good time under that pink quilt. The only reason the dentist didn't call the cops was because he thought it was me.

I never saw Joannie (the ex-girlfriend) again, but I heard the story from my sister. When my name came up in conversation, Joannie's reaction was: "That SOB!"

[Editorial Note: Paul passed away in April 2005. This story helped to establish the Caddie Chronicle as an informative and entertaining publication. Since that time, we have received numerous articles and stories from many members, some of whom are now known as Potomac Region "Newsletter Columnists."]





1953 CADILLACS IN TEXAS BY LARRY GOOD

This past summer my wife, Maia, and I drove from Maryland to the CLC Grand National in Albuquerque, New Mexico, visiting 1953 Cadillacs along the way in Texas. Not many people can claim that. Discovering the early history of Cadillacs is my goal, and we came away with a few amazing case studies in Texas. Here are two of them.

Gary Pennington: A Rare Exception

After GM's catastrophic Hydramatic plant fire in August 1953, gospel has it that only Eldorados and Series 75s got the remaining Hydramatic transmissions. All other '53 models got Dynaflows. Then I met Gary Pennington. He owns an exception to that rule. Gary's build sheet is factory documentation that his Series 62 convertible came with a Hydramatic when it was shipped on November 23, 1953, long after the fire. Build sheets for cars with Dynaflows have a blank space in the "Hydramatic No." box, but Gary's is filled in with number C53 92700, the same way as on build sheets before the fire. That transmission is still in Gary's convertible. Since it has a very late 1953 serial number, it would not be one of the new 1954 Hydramatics built in the new factory.



Hydramatic C53-92700 installed at Clark Ave. assembly plant after the fire



Gary & Larry

This evidence suggests that at the end of the model year, just days away from closing out 1953 production, Cadillac was left with a few extra 1953 Hydramatics, so they used them, in this case in a convertible. We don't know how many more there were. The change took some effort because the Dynaflow and Hydramatic Cadillacs had entirely different drivetrains and other related parts. The engine (different crankshaft), flywheel, drive shaft, differential, header pipes, neutral safety switch and shift quadrant as well as the transmission itself were not the same. After gearing up for Dynaflows in August, Clark Ave. production had to change all these items back to their Hydramatic counterparts during assembly in late November.





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Gary's Build Sheet Showing Hydramatic #C53 92700



Gary's 1953 Series 62 Convertible Project, Body #8308







Above: Gary's 1953 Body Tag #8308 of 8367 Series 62 Convertibles Built

Right: Gary's 1941 Convertible Coupe – Beautiful!



David Kaner: An Original Gem

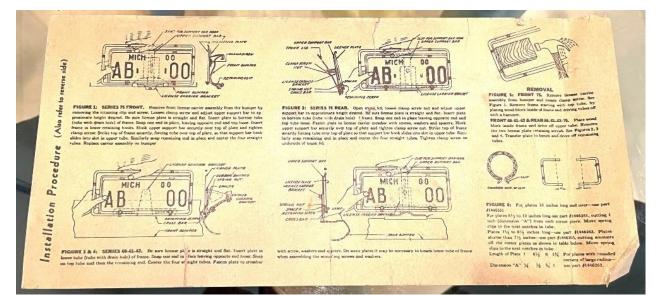
The best thing about meeting David & Carole Kaner was making friends with them. The secondbest thing was their 1953 Series 75 Cadillac, a beautiful unrestored survivor with factory A/C. It's been well preserved in the Kaner family since the mid-1960s. It took hours to photograph it all. The incredible documentation includes such things as a factory template for positioning the Autronic Eye footswitch; a clean, original, under-hood owners ID still with its plastic holder; the Cadillac Owner Service Policy issued on the date of delivery to the original customer; and complicated instructions for installing the license plate frames. (How complicated can that be?)

David's Cadillac Identification (ID) Card in Plastic Holder; Note Perforated Edges; Outstanding Specimen Worth Reproducing

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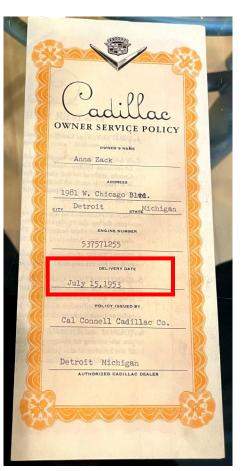


License Plate Frame Installation Procedure - Follow That!



Above L to R: David & Carole Kaner, Retired Physicians Larry & Maia Good, Retired Engineers

Right: Delivery Date July 15, agrees with the ID Card







This Cadillac's history is as follows:

July 6 – Body left Fleetwood Fisher Plant per body tag (right)

July 10– Finished car released from Clark Ave. Assembly Plant per build sheet (below)

July 15 – Dealer "delivered" car to first owner per Owner Service Policy and Cadillac ID Card (as pictured on page 9)

Money can't buy factory documentation of this quality. The rest of us can only wish.



Date Code on Body Tag indicates July 6

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David's Build Sheet - Date Shipped "Jul 10 53"







An outstanding unrestored survivor!

Left: David's 53-7523, Front view like all 1953 four-door models

Below: Back & interior views define the Fleetwood Seven-Passenger Sedan



Stay tuned for more stories in future issues!





2023 ROCKVILLE ANTIQUE & CLASSIC CAR SHOW STORY BY SANDY KEMPER PHOTOS BY CORY CORRELL, SANDY KEMPER AND KEN VISSER

Cadillacs 1, Packards 1. That was the tie score of the unofficial attendance contest between the early to mid-20th century luxury brand automobiles. Despite pre-show registration numbers nearly double that of Packards (and Lincolns, by the way), there was only one Cadillac driven onto the show field for the annual City of Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show: Cadillac & LaSalle Club member Chuck Piel's 1967 DeVille Convertible, while a 1958 Town Sedan, 58L, was the only Packard on the show field. Both cars were parked in the areas on the show field designated for their brands, about four rows apart. But the distance between the cars was, sadly, empty of other vehicles.

It was a rainy day in Rockville on Saturday, October 14th for the long-running event. Several years ago, the City of Rockville changed its weather policy regarding rain. Rather than holding a rain date for the show, Rockville, with agreement from its Car Show Committee, adopted a course of action in which the show would be held rain or shine or cancelled completely in the event of inclement weather. The expense and logistics of postponing the show from its scheduled date to another were too costly.

Intermittent showers were forecast for the morning and early afternoon, with the chance of rain and winds increasing during the afternoon. So, the Rockville Special Events Staff moved the mid-afternoon events to an earlier time (1:30 p.m.) and decided to hold the show. Sadly, this year's show was about the worst in terms of weather conditions. The rain showers were mostly constant throughout the morning with varying degrees of intensity. There were only brief breaks in the precipitation.

As a result, the number of show cars attending the show was likely less than one hundred in total. Since 622 vehicles had registered, it was a disappointing turnout. Nevertheless, the viewing public appeared to be less daunted by the constant drizzle than the show car owners. As the 11:00 a.m. hour approached for the show to open to spectators, there was a steady line of visitors' cars driving into the parking areas and soon thereafter a surprising number of people were traversing the soggy grass of the show field to look at the cars.

Besides the one Cadillac and Packard, the attendance numbers of most of the other brands were small, e.g.: zero Oldsmobiles, two Pontiacs, seven Buicks, five Chevrolets (including two Corvettes) nine Fords and four MOPARS. Surprisingly, VW and BMW had almost a dozen cars each on the field. And Lotus automobiles, which were the feature cars of the Special Display, were well-represented by most of the twenty cars expected. This included a remarkable 1955 Lotus Mk IX race car which was selected as the "Mayor and Council Award Winner."

This year notwithstanding, in terms of vehicles on display, the Rockville Show has been the largest antique and classic car show in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Let's hope for better weather for the Rockville Show in October 2024!







Richard Sisson's 1953 Buick Skylark looks great, rain or shine. Sandy Kemper and Richard making the best of the rainy day!



Chuck Piel's 1967 DeVille Convertible with a 1958 Packard in the background. Safe travels home, Chuck!



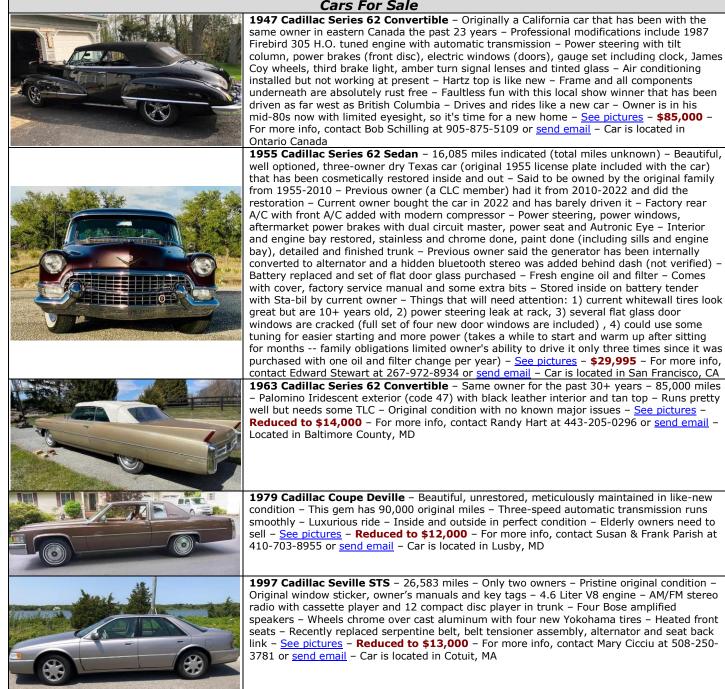
Here's a view of the show field where the featured Lotus cars were on display.





CADDIE CLASSIFIEDS

Cars For Sale



















2023 OFFICERS

NAME	POSITION(S)	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Dan Ruby	Regional Director Automobilia Auctioneer Summer Picnic Host	301-343-1463	danruby@clcpotomacregion.org
Chuck Piel	Assistant Regional Director Central Virginia Region Liaison Newsletter Columnist	240-888-5115	chuckpiel@clcpotomacregion.org
Bill Hilliard	Treasurer	301-622-3651	billhilliard@clcpotomacregion.org
Christopher Winter	Activities Director	410-869-8619	christopherwinter@clcpotomacregion.or
Franklin Gage	Membership Director	703-869-8434	franklingage@clcpotomacregion.org
Vince Taliano	Newsletter Editor Secretary Website Manager	410-598-0488	vincetaliano@clcpotomacregion.org
Jack McClow	National Director Newsletter Columnist	301-330-5417	jackmcclow@clcpotomacregion.org