



Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle December 2023



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE BY DAN RUBY

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SUMMER PICNIC HOST
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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA REGION
LIAISON
NEWSLETTER COLUMNIST
RICHARD SILLS

As we come to the end of an exciting year for our Region, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all who have attended our monthly meetings, holiday party, car show, summer picnic and cars and coffee events this year. Thanks to all of you our attendance was up from the previous year.



Vince Taliano as an extra on the upcoming Apple TV+ series *Lady in the Lake* starring Natalie Portman, with his 1965 Sedan DeVille

We close out this year with the retirement of Vince Taliano as Newsletter Editor after 20 years of work, in addition to service as a past Director and current Secretary and Website Manager. He has passed the torch of producing the monthly **Caddie Chronicle** over to Josh Pinho, starting with the January 2024 issue. Not only did Vince put together and distribute our newsletter and serve in those other roles mentioned, but he has also always been a "behind the scenes" guy for many things. I want to personally thank him for all he has contributed to make this Region the success it has been.

Please keep the Aranda family in your prayers as Potomac Region charter member Juan (pictured right at the 2002 Grand National) is dealing with some serious health issues.



JoJo and I wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday season. Stay tuned for some exciting events in the works for 2024!

Dan Ruby



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



November 16, 2023

On Sunday, November 5, my 1936 Cadillac Series 85 V-12 Convertible Sedan won a Legacy Award at the Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance. It was an unexpected honor.

Kind Regards,

Tom Alsop
Beaufort, South Carolina



October 16, 2023

Thank you for all that you have done for the club, including the newsletter and website. You took a semi-moribund regional club and completely re-invigorated it. You stayed on and pulled much more than your weight, growing the club and involving it in activities that would have been impossible before. And all of that with a travel-heavy job and a young family! We all owe you a huge debt of gratitude.

With much admiration,

Chris Cummings
Manassas, Virginia



**Cadillac & LaSalle Club
Potomac Region**
"The Standard of the World Wide Web"

2024 CLC Museum & Research Center Calendars

Still only **\$15** each

SHIPPING FEES

United States:
\$3.00 for one calendar, \$4.00 for two,
\$10.50 three to five (Priority Mail)

Canada:
\$4.50 U.S. for one calendar
\$6.00 U.S. for two, \$9.75 U.S. for three

Mexico:
\$7.00 U.S. for one calendar
\$10.50 U.S. for two, \$15.75 U.S. for three

All other countries:
\$9.00 U.S. for one calendar
\$14.00 U.S. for two, \$22.50 U.S. for three

Please order your calendars at:
cadillaclasallemuseum.org

Or, order by phone with your credit card:
248-930-7726
(after 5 p.m. Eastern time and please leave a message)

Please do not contact the CLC Office
Proceeds benefit the CLC Museum & Research Center
Calendars are scheduled to be shipped in December



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NOVEMBER 19, 2023 MEETING MINUTES BY VINCE TALIANO

PLACE: 198 Restaurant, Burtonsville, MD

TIME: 11:15 a.m.

PRESIDING: Dan Ruby, Region Director

ATTENDEES: Eighteen attendees, including five officers: Bill Hilliard (Treasurer), Chuck Piel (Assistant Region Director), Dan Ruby (Region Director), Vince Taliano (Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Website Manager), Christopher Winter (Activities Director), Randy & Susan Denchfield, Lynn Gardner, Bill Gibson, Larry & Maia Good, Jeff Gurski, Bill & Anne Hilliard, Greg Huver, Constantin Jiga, Harry Scott and Richard Sisson

DIRECTOR'S REMARKS: Dan thanked everyone for attending. He also thanked Vince Taliano for his 20 years of service as Newsletter Editor. In addition, Dan asked everyone to keep charter member Juan Aranda, who has had recent medical issues, in their prayers and thoughts.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Hilliard reported on the financials since the last meeting. Total revenue was \$2,328.26 and total expense of \$206.39 for the period, resulting in a net gain of \$2,121.87. Most of the revenue was from 2024-25 membership dues.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: As announced last month, the 2024 membership drive has begun. To date, approximately eighty 2023 members who hadn't already pre-paid for 2024 have sent their dues for next year. The drive will continue through the end of the calendar year. In addition, two new members have joined the region: Ben Carter, Silver Spring, MD, 1968 Calais Coupe and Patrick Monahan, Washington, D.C., 1961 Coupe Deville. Welcome!

ACTIVITIES REPORT: The following activities were discussed:

Past Events:

- **25th Annual Antique Cars and Trucks Show, Nov 4, Aspen Hill Shopping Center, Silver Spring, MD.** A larger than normal number of region members attended, mainly thanks to Charles Phoenix's attendance. Charles, a mid-century pop culture expert, entertained 2023 Grand National attendees in Albuquerque, NM with his spirited live "slide show" performance ([watch promo video](#)). He was in town and attended as Jack McClow and Bob Norrid's guest. Many members who were unable to go to New Mexico took advantage of the local opportunity to meet Charles in person. Congratulations to Barry Leese and Richard Sisson for winning the top two awards for their 1937 LaSalle Series 50 Convertible Coupe (pictured above) and 1953 Buick Skylark, respectively. Barry's car is an original Capitol Cadillac car that was formerly owned by charter member Ellwood Brown and then region co-founder Steven Sisson.





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• **Upcoming Events:**

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
Jan 24-27, 2024 Wed-Sun		CLC Winter Board of Directors Meeting See flyer	Sheraton DFW Irving, TX	Ronnie Hux at 302-745-8850 or send email
Mar 22-23, 2024 Fri-Sat	Doors open at 8:00 am	54th Annual AACA Sugarloaf Mountain Region Parts and Swap Meet	Carroll County Agriculture Center Westminster, MD	Jack Gallagher at 301-674-5431 or send email

- [Visit website](#) for a full list of events.

OLD 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.
- Discussions are underway for an annual holiday party date and location.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Lynn Gardner gave an overview of the plans for the 2024 Grand National in Gettysburg, PA next June and encouraged attendees to volunteer. For more information, please contact Lynn at lynnwgardnerusa@aol.com.
- Dan Ruby informed the attendees of the new USA Caddy Parts business in Kearneysville, WV. See their ad in the December newsletter.

NEXT MEETING: There will not be a December meeting in observance of the holiday season. The first 2024 meeting’s date and location have not been determined yet. Stay tuned for more information. Happy Holidays!

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

	<p>Rubber the Right Way</p> <p>World Famous Rubber Parts & More</p> <p>Visit website or send email for more info</p>						
 <p>SPORT CADILLAC 3101 AUTOMOBILE BOULEVARD / SILVER SPRING, MD / 20904 301-890-6000 / SPORTCADILLAC.COM</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="background-color: #cccccc;">CERTIFIED SERVICE FOR ALL GM MAKES AND MODELS</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #cccccc;">CADILLAC SALES & LEASING</td> <td style="background-color: #cccccc;">CADILLAC CERTIFIED SERVICE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PHONE: 301-890-6000</td> <td>PHONE: 240-802-7405</td> </tr> </table>	CERTIFIED SERVICE FOR ALL GM MAKES AND MODELS		CADILLAC SALES & LEASING	CADILLAC CERTIFIED SERVICE	PHONE: 301-890-6000	PHONE: 240-802-7405
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**ELDORADO AT ECHO STAGE AND ASPEN HILL
BY STEPHEN CLARK
PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CLARK AND JACK MCCLAW**

Echo Stage in Washington, D.C. was looking for a magenta, pink or white classic Cadillac for an event on November 2, 2023. Thank you to Vince Taliano and Dan Ruby for informing me of this opportunity. I immediately sent a picture of my white 1972 Cadillac Eldorado, and they replied that they wanted my car for the event.

On November 2, I drove down from Baltimore to the venue and parked the car in front of the Echo Stage. My good friend Susan took me away to let the car be alone in its glory. I inquired as to who was performing, being curious who

wanted my car there. The event coordinator said it was "Top Secret" and could not divulge the name. That made me even more curious. So, I did a little googling and discovered that A-Trak, a Canadian DJ (Alain MacLovitch) turntablist and record producer was going to be at Echo Stage. I'm not familiar with his music but saw that Echo Stage has lots of lights and lasers. The coordinator took a picture with the billboard that read: PACBIO SOLD OUT (see below). Thank you to the Lyft driver Leslie for bringing me back to my car at the end of the event. Lyft was a lifesaver. I did not get to see the "sold out" show but was excited that my car was selected and liked.





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Charles Phoenix talking to Scott Patton about an 8-track tape from his 1974 Sedan Deville while Bill Hilliard looks on

Since I was already in the Washington, D.C. area, I decided to stay and attend the Aspen Hill Shopping Center Car Show on Saturday, November 4th. I had heard that Charles Phoenix (classic car [JOYRIDE](#) videos) was going to be attending as a guest of Potomac Region members Jack McClow and Bob Norrid. I really wanted to meet Charles, as I follow him on Facebook. Several CLC members and their Cadillacs were well represented at the show. I had a wonderful time conversing with the club members and numerous car show spectators, and did get to meet and talk with Charles. Although my 1972 Eldorado is too new for his JOYRIDE series, he took time to personally view my car and sit in the driver's seat. He had many nice comments about my ride and that made my day!

This is the second time this year that my Eldorado was used as a feature for an event. After Echo Stage and Charles Phoenix, I can't imagine what's next? Life with my Cadillac is beyond great!



L to R: Bob Norrid, Bill Hilliard, Scott Wardinski, Bill Harrison (standing), Charles Phoenix, Tom McQueen, Dan Mullane, Mike Kerwin and Scott Patton (standing)



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ELDORADO OF THE MONTH: #533, THE LAST OF THE FIRST BY LARRY GOOD

This past summer, my wife Maia and I started our drive to the 2023 Grand National on the Lincoln Highway, America's first cross-country roadway. When dedicated 110 years ago, it was not a limited access highway posted at 70 mph. Today, just a stone's throw north of the old Lincoln Highway in Barberton, OH is Cole's Classics, LLC, an amazing restoration shop full of '53 Cadillacs and other models. At the top of my prioritized personal list of material possessions are 1953 Eldorados, and Aaron Cole has them. Notably, Aaron and his team at Cole's Classics are actually restoring 1953 Eldorado #533. That's where the numbers stop. There are no more.



Eldorado #533 is the 532nd of 532 made. (We lost a number somewhere between #283 and #285.)

Eldorado #533

Left: Arrival at Cole's Classics

Below: Body Tag, Date Code "18"



This Cadillac's 1953 manufacturing history is as follows:

Early August (est.) to August 18, 1953 (per body tag, above):

Construction of basic convertible body at Fleetwood Fisher Plant

August 18 to September 24, 1953 (calculated), including GM downtime due to a fire:

Hand customization of Eldorado body at Fisher Plant 21

September 24 to October 7, 1953 (per build sheet, next page):

Assembly & inspection at Cadillac Clark Ave. Plant; shipment to distributor in Philadelphia

Being the highest sequential body number, #533 was the last Eldorado started by the Fleetwood Fisher Body Plant. Bodies normally spent a couple weeks there. This one was assigned its number some time shortly before the August 12 Hydramatic Plant fire and, we think, transferred from the Fleetwood Plant to Plant 21 on August 18. Six days after the fire, the Fleetwood Fisher Plant was still working to complete the orders already started.



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In studying 1953 production, there always seems to be a missing time period with Eldorados. While it took normal Cadillacs a couple days to get through assembly, testing and inspection at Clark Ave., it seemed to take Eldorados a month, and in this case even longer with the fire delay. CLC Past President Alan Haas offered an explanation. He worked at Cadillac in the 20th century and remembered that limousines and other special bodies were crafted at Fisher Plant 21. That would explain it. Maybe someday records will turn up to prove it, but Alan was there. That's good enough to explain the time gap and conclude that Plant 21 did the custom body work on '53 Eldorados.

CADILLAC MOTOR CAR DIVISION GENERAL MOTORS CORP., DETROIT 32, MICHIGAN				FORM 1018-G		PARTS DEPT.	
ORDERCAST NO. 69047 PH11790E	ORDER NO. PH1 1790E	ENGINE SERIAL NO. 3362 89047	TYPE MD	ENGINE UNIT NO. 48 71433	HYDRAMATIC NO. 053 84184		
PHILADELPHIA PA SHIP TO				IGNITION KEY NO.	COMPT KEY NO.		
TRUCK				FREIGHT CAR NO.	BILL OF LADING NO. A 19110		
62675	533		3181.12	ROUTE			
STYLE NO.	BODY NO.	CAR	LOH	DECIDED ON FLOOR UNDER DECK			
27-435			51900	DATE SHIPPED			
COLOR TRIM			207	IN PRICES AS CHARGED			
US							
AF							
HYDRAMATIC							
				INVOICE NO A 23033 Oct 753			

Eldorado #533 Factory to Dealer Invoice, a.k.a., Build Sheet, Dated "Oct 7 53"

Finally, Eldorado #533 spent a week in assembly, inspection and testing at Clark Ave., longer than average, but not as long as some of the other post-fire 1953 Eldorados. The worst case was the last one out the door, #489, which shipped to a distributor in Vermont on October 20. There was a month from entry to exit of #489 at Clark Ave., and its number lagged far out of sequence. It must have failed inspection miserably and been sent back for rework.



L to R: Larry, Richard (a Cole's employee) and Aaron looking at Eldorado #533. There's not much to see, the body is out for sandblasting!



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Another '53 Eldorado at Cole's Classics now is #37 (pictured left with Richard and Larry). Aaron got it as part of a package, and it presents a restoration challenge. (I thought *mine* was bad when I bought it!) No doubt, though, if Aaron decides to go for it, it will earn 100 points.

I like the way Aaron highlights the Engine Serial Numbers (a.k.a. VINs) on his restored frames. In 1953, Cadillac stamped each VIN twice on the right frame rail (pictured below right), once visibly next to the engine and

once further back, hidden under the body. The second stamp was for law enforcement or insurance purposes.



Above: Hidden VIN Location: Mid-Length and Right Rail



Above: Two VIN Locations on 1953 Chassis



Left: Larry, Aaron and Richard at Cole's Classics



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Cole's Classics Workshop & Private Collection



Correct Colors on 1953 Cadillac



1958 Eldorado: How Spectacular Can it Get?



Jordan
Motor Car
Company
Policy:
Style First



1929 Franklin Rumble Windscreen



1/3 of the 1953 Trifecta:
'53 Eldo, '53 Skylark and '53 Oldsmobile Fiesta

Stay tuned for more stories in future issues!

Visit us on the web!
www.clcpotomacregion.org



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TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE

BY HANS DECKER

PHOTOS BY MARIA WATKINS

While I was growing up, my dad had 1960 and '67 VW Beetles. So, in the beginning, I had no particular affinity for Cadillacs. However, I had always wanted an "old" car after seeing antique car displays on the local fairgrounds. I liked the big luxury cars of the mid-fifties, still on the road when I was a kid. Finally in 2011, I decided to purchase a 1956 Coupe Deville from a local gentleman. Soon I found the car had more problems than I originally thought but, undaunted, I left her with Doug, my ace mechanic, over the winter to perform the needed mechanical work.

I assisted Doug as much as possible by sending the clock and power antenna out for restoration and hand carrying the radio to Richmond for repairs. There the radio was delivered into the capable hands of a Russian named Yuri. (I noticed a label inside the radio that read "Made in the United States of America." How times have changed!)

By late spring of 2012, my Cadillac was ready for a road trip! I had already decided to take her to a small diner in Belington, WV, about 40 miles away. I had driven by a few times in the past and thought it looked interesting. Despite a pretty bad head cold, I was determined to take this first opportunity, so I started her up and headed south on WV 92. This is a mostly straight and flat road, a relative rarity in West Virginia. Along the way are some farmlands, rolling hills, and a surviving "Chew Mail Pouch" ad painted on the side of a barn. In some areas the trees form enough of a canopy that one is inclined to turn on the headlights even on a sunny afternoon.



L to R: Hans and Charlie in November 2020 – note the pandemic haircut!

After a very enjoyable drive, I reached my destination without incident and went inside to place an order. After a short time, a gentleman walked in and asked, "Who's got this Cadillac out here?" I raised my hand and he said, "I probably built that car when I worked on the Fleetwood line from 1954 to 1969." Of course, this started a conversation with Charlie, a regular at the diner. I had worked for Ford Motor in Dearborn in the 1980s, and it turns out that we were familiar with some of the same southwest Detroit bakeries, restaurants, and bars.



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Over time, I kept returning to the diner. Charlie was almost always there, and we struck up a friendship. Each time Charlie would come outside, look over the car and point out things that needed work or had been fixed or replaced incorrectly – things I may never have known without his expertise. What were the chances of finding such a resource as Charlie on my very first drive?

I diligently worked to fix everything he showed me by locating original parts and making correct repairs. After a few years of doing that, he looked over the car one day and said, "Well, now that doesn't look too bad". I was very pleased and proud, and felt that was likely high praise from him! Sadly, Charlie passed away this fall, just short of his 90th birthday. However, I know he lived a good long life and touched many other lives along the way. I'll always remember Charlie for his kindness, sense of humor, and knowledge of the auto industry in general and Cadillacs in particular.





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THANK YOU BY VINCE TALIANO

It is hard to believe that my role as editor has come to an end. Since I published the first issue of the **Caddie Chronicle** in November 2003, contributions and submissions have been received from over 800 people/organizations world-wide, resulting in over 1,400 articles. Neither the publication's longevity nor success would have been possible without these enthusiasts sending announcements, stories, photographs, encouragement, suggestions, constructive criticism and appreciation. Thanks to each one of you and special thanks to the ones listed below, especially Franklin Gage, Sandy Kemper and the late Steven Sisson for their proofreading efforts.

Aksel Olesen	Dave & Mary Crawford	Mary Moscati & Buddy Abell
Alan Clark	Dave Ritchie	Maurice & Dianne Jones
Alex Figueroa	David Traver Adolphus	Michael Veilleux
Americo & Maria Oliveira	Derrick & Barbara Fisher	Michele Hauf
Angelo Van Bogart	Dirk Van Dorst	Mike & Kathy Fahey
Barton, Beth & Jim Mitchell	Don Michaels	Mike Kerwin
Barry & Gay Wheeler	Doug & Barbara Bailey	Mike & Vicky Barruzza
Bee & George Hamlin	Ed Haase	Morgan Yeh & Chia-Hua Lu
Bernie Cooney	Ezekiel Armstrong	Nick Ferrantino
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Bill Gibson	Frank Lindberg	Paul Estaver
Bill Golasinski	Franklin Gage	Paul Friggens
Bill & Anne Hilliard	Gary Cameron	Paul & Jeff Sevag
Bill Harrison	George & Rita-Bial Boxley	Pete & Sharon Sanders
Bill & Jay Ann Edmunds	Glen & Pat Cole	Phil Hole
Bill & Joan Thomas	Glenn & Valerie Brown	Randy & Susan Denchfield
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Bob & Sandy Mantz	James & Pam Gregg	Ronnie & Becky Hux
Bob Ruckman	Jeff Malo	Sandy Kemper & Anne Gavin
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Cory Correll	Lou Commisso	Tom Orlando
Cory Kulibert	Lou & Dana Monette	Tom & Sarah McQueen
Dan & Heather Reed	Lou Harrington & Cathy Schairer	Trent Plungas
Dan & Jo Jo Ruby	Lynn & Helen Gardner	Vern & Karen Parker
Dan Mullane	Marc & Sylvia Tuwiner	William Kost & Noralee Frankel
Daniel & Lisa Jobe	Mark & Nan Brodsky	Williamson Henderson
Daniel Strohl	Martina & Frank Butler	Yann Saunders



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CADDIE CLASSIFIEDS

Cars For Sale



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 – 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](#) – Located in Baltimore County, MD



1979 Cadillac Coupe Deville – Beautiful, unrestored, meticulously maintained in like-new condition – This gem has 90,000 original miles – Four speed automatic transmission runs smoothly – Luxurious ride – Inside and outside in perfect condition – Elderly owners need to sell – [See pictures](#) – **Reduced to \$11,000** – For more info, contact Susan & Frank Parish at 410-703-8955 or [send email](#) – Car is located in Lusby, MD



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

SOLD



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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 – [See pictures](#) – **\$11,500** – For more information, contact Karen at 724-388-1989 or [send email](#) – Car is being stored in Frederick, MD

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USA Caddy Parts
Kearneysville, WV

From Bumper to Bumper, we've got what you need!

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December 2023



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