

The last car had hardly left the parking lot of Capitol Cadillac at the end of last year's Fall Show when the plans for this year's Eldorado Extravaganza began in earnest. Each known Eldorado owner in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast was sent a personal invitation to attend. Press releases were prepared and several major automobile publications were contacted. Flyers were distributed at our successful Spring Show at Capitol Cadillac and other car shows throughout the area. And Potomac Region members attending the Grand National in California in June made it a point to tell other Cadillac aficionados about the event.

With this advance publicity, it should have been no surprise to Director Vince Taliano and Car Show Coordinators Henry and Diane Ruby that telephone calls and e-mails began to besiege them by early October.

But then, the Oct. 12, 2006, issue of



ELDORADO

EXTRAVAGANZA

2006 Fall Capitol Cadillac/CLC Potomac Region Car Show 'Eldorado Extravaganza: 1953-1966'

by Sandy Kemper

Photos by Pat Caruso, Bob Crimmins, Alex Figueroa, Dave and Dora Forry, Jack McClow, R. Scot Minesinger, Aksel Olesen, Dan Reed and Michael Veilleux

Old Cars Weekly featured the Eldorado Extravaganza as the headline article on its front page! An unprecedented number of pre-registrations followed. Among them were 25 Eldorados, with all but two of the featured years represented. The enthusiasm was building!

Barbara Coleman, Valley Forge Region, arranged for a tour of nearby Annapolis, Md., on Oct. 21. Conducting a VFR event around our show was a compliment to us and guaranteed that some fine Cadillacs from Pennsylvania and New Jersey would be in attendance.

Continuing what has become a tradition, past CLC President Richard Sills and Shelley Chadick welcomed over 40 out-of-town guests and Potomac Region members to a dinner on the Saturday night before the show. The parking lot of the Holiday Inn Greenbelt was an exciting preview of what was to come with over a dozen vintage Cadillacs.

At Capitol Cadillac on Oct. 22, the



RICHARD SISSON of Potomac, Md., won a Second Place in Class F (1953-1958 Eldorado Only) with his 1954 Eldorado in luscious, elegant black. Distinctions separating it from the lesser "62" Series were special interior, wire wheels, extruded aluminum rear quarter panels, special gold side badges and green transparent sun visors. "Wind wings" on early '54 Eldorados gave way to standard vent windows as seen here. In '54, the price went down on the Eldorado and sales went up. A prime example of this year and model.

► **THE AZURE BLUE** 1953 Eldorado belonging to Bart and Beth Mitchell of Brooklandville, Md., took both First Place in Class F and Best of Show. This photo features the signature accessory of many '50s automobiles—a Continental Kit. The Mitchells' Eldorado is body No. 43 out of 532 '53 Eldorados made.



► **DAVID AND LINDA CICCARELLA** from Altoona, Pa., won First Place in Class H (1963-1966 Eldorado only) with their 1964 model. Shown here with Sabre wheels.





Sunday morning dawned gray skies, but moderate autumn temperatures. Excellent weather for a car show. As Potomac Region members began to set up tables, tents and banners, Mark McCourt from *Hemmings Motor News* arrived to cover our show. Before long, the automobile trailers and Cadillacs and LaSalles of every vintage started to pull in. It wasn't even 8 a.m. yet! It was going to be a good day.

By 11 a.m., the sun had broken through the clouds, and 101 Cadillacs and LaSalles were in attendance. This was our largest turnout ever. What a spectacle! There were a substantial number of cars from other Regions and states. In fact, our last five awards were won by cars from five different states. A true testament to the scope of the event!

To mark this very special show, every registered owner received a full-color commemorative show program highlighting the history of Cadillac Eldorados and featuring a personalized description of each 1953–1966 Eldorado pre-registered for the show. In addition, the Eldorado owners received a



framed certificate of appreciation for participating.

As 3 p.m. drew near, just about all of the attendees crowded into the show-room to listen to the venerable Richard Sills announce the winners. Richard began by recognizing the surprising number of CLC National officers and directors in attendance: Treasurer, Larry Lesiger and Southeastern Region Vice President Lee Herbermann, as well as Directors Jack McCLOW, Bob Crimmins and Randy Denchfield. Importantly, however, Richard extended the Potomac Region's utmost thanks to Daniel Jobe and Capitol Cadillac and to all of the Eldorado owners who brought their cars to the show. The crowd acknowledged their efforts with applause.

Judging for this show, as for every current Potomac Region show, was by People's Choice. And the voter turnout percentage would be the envy of politicians. Over three-fourths of the eligible voters submitted completed ballots.

As all of the owners and visitors drove away from the Eldorado Extravaganza, flooding the local roads with Cadillacs and LaSalles, it was clear that once again,

OPPOSITE PAGE, UPPER LEFT: The 1956 Eldorado Seville of Sal and Donna Buffa from Liverpool, N.Y., won Second Place in Class F. This remarkable car was featured in the February issue of *Hemmings Classic Car*.

CENTER LEFT: 1958 Cadillac Eldorado Brougham, Stephen Kirkwood, Falls Church, Va. Third Place Tie, Class F

LOWER LEFT: 1994 Presidential Limousine, Ati Kovi, Potomac, Md. First Place, Class N Commercial Vehicles

NEAR LEFT: A fine row of fins with the exception of the '66, extreme foreground. This was just a small portion of the many fine Cadillacs that appeared at the show.

► **1956 SEDAN DE VILLE**, Clarke Ansel, Alexandria, Va. Third Place, Class E (1950-1959 Cadillac)



NEWER ELDORADOS were well represented. The first year for the redesigned, last generation of Eldorados was 1992 and they ran through 2002. Here is a selection of nicely maintained late models.



THE 1966 belonging to Richard Castiello of Potomac, Md., is a fine representation of the last year for Eldorado's rear-wheel drive.





the Potomac Region had hosted a terrific car show. Of course, the Region couldn't have done so without the incomparable support of Capitol Cadillac's owner, Daniel Jobe and his staff.

It was a fitting end to the day that while Daniel's staff began to return his dealership to a place of business, he and Vince Taliano were already discussing preparations and checking their calendars for next year's Fall Show, which will be the Legacy of LaSalle: 1927–2007.

To see more pictures from the Eldorado Extravaganza, see: www.clcpotomacregion.org/2006fallcarshow.htm and www.rrrlc.org/06_Potomac_CapCad.htm. ■

Sandy Kemper is a CLC member from Silver Spring, Md.

TOP: The 1936 Cadillac 8529 V-12 5P Convertible Sedan was a show stopper that won both First Place in Class C (1930-1940 V-12 or V-16 Only) and the Ladies' Choice Award. Owner: Byron Alsop.

RIGHT: 1953 Cadillac Convertible, Jerry and Mary Parnes, Ardmore, Pa. First Place, Class E

BELOW: Close-up of Richard Castiello's 1966 Eldorado—a study of the front fender and '53-'54 Eldorado wire wheel.

BELOW RIGHT: 1958 Eldorado Biarritz, Mary Brill, Irvington, Va. Third Place tie, Class F

