



## *Wheels of Distinction - Issue 58, April 2012*

### **APRIL CAPITAL DISTRICT REGION UPDATE:**

OK, so perhaps we were a little too lucky to have had the warm March weather as now we entered back to reality with more seasonably cool spring weather. The road salt has washed away and preparations for the 2012 car show season is underway. Despite a few snowflakes that have flurried around a bit and for those in the hilltops, perhaps a few inches may have fallen; we are hopefully in the clear to enjoy another season.

Since our last club meeting, the Board of Directors met in Lake George to tour the Adirondac and the Lac du Saint Sacrament. If we were to use the Conference Center at the Sagamore Hotel, we could charter the Adirondac for transportation to and from the Sagamore. Another option, which seems more favorable, was to charter the Lac du St. Sacrament and hold the GN banquet on the boat! The open multi-tiered floor plan allows for the banquet to be hosted on the boat and would also include dock time before and after the cruise with an impressive food selection. Lastly, if a tent banquet were to be placed on the Fort William Henry grounds, pricing would need to be confirmed. There are some interesting options to be presented at the next meeting.

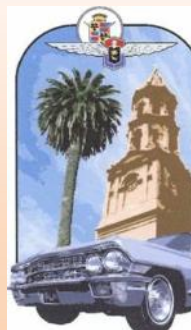
Don't forget our first club event of the season will be the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual New York/New England Inter-regional Meet** on **April 28**, at the Trolley Museum in East Windsor, CT. We again will need to establish a meeting time and place for those interested in going as a group.

**Rhinebeck 2012 Spring Car Show** will be **May 4-6** at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. The club as a group will meet for breakfast at the Kinderhook Elk's Lodge for breakfast, prior to heading to the Sunday Rhinebeck show. Ten dollars towards breakfast will be distributed to paid club members.

**Thursday, May 17** will be the first of the **Hemmings Cruise-ins** in Bennington, VT. Our club will plan to meet as a group to attend this event. The **Invitational at Saratoga** will occur **May 18-20**. The marquee this year's invitational is Cadillac and will be on **Sunday, May 20**. For those not in the invitational, the club will again meet prior to the show and enter the grounds as a group for spring show. We have a special guest attending this weekend, come to the next meeting to find out who it is!



2012  
Grand  
National  
St. Augustine  
FL  
June 13-17



### **2011 BOARD MEMBERS**

<b>Club President:</b>	
Al Patnode	273-3210
<b>Vice-President/</b>	
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	
Joe Roglieri	859-7209
<b>Treasurer:</b>	
Tony Simone	793-5414
<b>Membership:</b>	
Colleen Moak	438-1864
<b>Secretary:</b>	
Roxanne Tomak	863-8463
<b>Activities:</b>	
Frank Cottone	796-4652
<b>Ways &amp; Means:</b>	
Barry Cox	274-1799
<b>Past President:</b>	
Bill Tomak	863-8463
<b>Member at Large:</b>	
Norman Swanson	452-4392

## A STRANGE TALE OF A CADILLAC IN REPAIR AND A MAN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE

-as reported by Scott Waldman of the Times Union

ALBANY — Under a Hudson River bridge tonight, a man named Max will be sleeping.

Max says he won't be in town for long; just until he gets his Cadillac running. Then he'll take to the road and point it toward Utah again, where he likes the streets better.


A year ago, Max Melitzer was in news accounts around the world. The headlines screamed "Rags to Riches!" and "Inheritance May Deliver Man from Homelessness." Melitzer's brother, Morris, did not want his brother to be homeless, so when the Schenectady man died last year he left Melitzer \$100,000. It took relatives a year to track down Max on a street in Salt Lake City. When Melitzer arrived in the Capital Region last July, television cameras greeted him to report the feel-good story about a guy whose life had just changed for the better. The 66-year-old stayed at the Red Carpet Inn by Albany Memorial Hospital. He bought a Pontiac GT. And then he once again faded into obscurity.

That is, until Melitzer contacted the Times Union last month to say he had been beaten on a recent Sunday at the Washington Avenue Armory bus stop. He claimed a woman came out of nowhere and sprayed Mace in his face. Albany police said a complaint was never filed. Melitzer was outraged by the attack, and believed it merited mention. When Melitzer's relatives in Albany were contacted about his attack claim, they were shocked to learn he was still here — and even questioned whether it was an impostor. They had worked hard to get him his money, fought off law firms seeking to score a piece of the inheritance and succeeded in getting Melitzer an identification card and everything he needed to establish an independent life. But Melitzer told them nothing about his plans for the money, his cousin, Richard Goldfarb, said. He also told a lot of stories, some true, some impossible to verify, his relatives said.

"He talked intelligently, like he knew what he was doing," Goldfarb said. "He also picked up every (cigarette) butt he saw on the street." When asked about the \$100,000, Melitzer told the Times Union he wasn't sure if he ever got the money — yet he has spent thousands on cars in the last few months. He also claimed that he was brought to Albany, cuffed and blindfolded, by bounty hunters on a bus from Utah. He said the men wanted \$200,000 for damage caused when his brother's Schenectady home exploded in 2005 after a construction crew ruptured a gas line. Melitzer was out West at the time. His brother, who was not home when the explosion occurred, was never found to be at fault. A key to understanding Melitzer may be to know what happened to him many years ago.

Bob Lilla, owner of Better Body Works in Schenectady, said Melitzer worked for his father in the 1970s. He laughed a lot then. He was a joker and a talented body-work man. He moved out West to work on cars and make some real money. And then came Tuesday afternoon, July 10, 1990. Lilla thinks it changed Melitzer forever. Melitzer was driving on I-80 outside near Rock Springs, Wyo., with his wife, Janice, and friends Cindy Lee Jones and Glen Chrietdger. No one wore a seat belt. He swerved for some reason and then overcorrected his steering, according to news reports at the time. The car rolled over and everyone was thrown out. Max was rushed to the hospital. His passengers died. Janice was 44. Cindy Lee and Glen were 36. Before the accident, Melitzer had a home.

It is unclear if he still has the inheritance, but he doesn't have a home and it's not clear that he wants one. He said he slept under five different bridges, rotating every night so he wouldn't be found. Soon after contacting the Times Union, Melitzer stopped returning calls from the Albany shelter where he was staying. A day after Melitzer talked about his plans to repair the Cadillac and drive back out West, a Times Union reporter tracked it down at Lilla's shop. Business cards were left in the places where Melitzer said he spent time. Every day for a week, a reporter drove by the shelter where he stopped for a shower. But Melitzer could not be found. Every few weeks, Melitzer shows up at Better Body Works to plunk down some more money to pay for work on the Cadillac he bought with his inheritance money. He brought bottles he found on the street and stuffed them into the car until Lilla got him a storage unit nearby. Melitzer told Lilla he'll hit the road at the end of the month. "He's going to get bottles and cans and get butter from Denny's and put them in his pocket," he said. "That's who he is."



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### 2011 ADVERTISING RATES:

The NY Capital District Cadillac Club is asking its supporters to consider advertising in the Wheels of Distinction for a modest fee, to offset publication fees. The WOD is published monthly and is also linked to the CLC web page (over 7000 members have access to it). Advertising is free for club members.

**Text Ad only \$10 per year (12 issues)**

**Business Card Ad \$20 per year**

**Quarter Page Ad \$60 per year or \$6 per issue**

**Half Page Ad \$75 per year or \$10 per issue**

**Full Page Ad \$200 per year or \$40 per issue**



# From laundry room to world-renowned resto shop

**By Donna Kessler**

Times Herald-Record

Published: 03/26/12

Hidden behind the walls of a gray concrete building called the Castle in Wappingers is a well-kept secret. You would never know there is a restoration shop there in which the majority of vehicles they work on are Cadillacs. Fen Enterprises of New York is as classy as the cars that it brings back to life.

The lobby area has an array of trophies on the counter that were won from numerous Concours shows. These prestigious shows aim to present vehicles that are in the same, or better, condition than they were in when they left the production line. Only those vehicles that are judged perfect (or nearly) in every way are considered eligible for trophy class. With these strict guidelines, these awards certainly recognize the work done at Fen, and that's why it is world-renowned.

Even with their worldwide clientele and even some well-known clients, Fen owner Elsa Maur Nicodemus and her son Frank III, a restoration specialist at Fen, have maintained the mom-and-pop atmosphere that Elsa began with her former husband, Frank, back in 1984.

It started at her home in Wappingers. Elsa was a pattern maker in the Garment District in New York City. Her husband was an auto adjuster by trade for 20 years. Both shared a passion for 1959 and 1960 Cadillacs.

When they decided to start the business, Frank used the laundry room as an office. Within six months, Elsa was working full time at Fen doing all the upholstery work. The business took off. "We built our reputation on quality workmanship and having the finest parts available," Elsa said.

They still maintain that quality workmanship today, and it doesn't matter if the customer is spending \$200,000 or just wants his Cadillac to look nice. All get treated the same.

"Our attention to detail and the fact that we specialize in Caddys is why people come to us from all over," Frank III said. Frank then uncovered a 1960 Coupe de Ville that they recently finished. There is no other word to describe it but gorgeous.

When the hood was lifted, it was amazing to see such a clean motor. This is one that I would say you could definitely eat off of. Even the bolts on the car were sandblasted. Elsa's experience making patterns in the Garment District really paid off. The interior in this Coupe de Ville is perfect.

In her seamstress shop is where Elsa cuts and sews the interiors. Cardboard patterns that she created hang on a rack in the corner while spools of material are everywhere. Some of the patterns date back to 1947. While arthritis has hindered her from making as many as she used to, customers still call and ask for her when they want their interiors done.

Fen is a one-stop shop. The only things that it outsources are chroming and automatic transmissions, and engine machine work. Its mail-order parts business is a huge part of the business, shipping Caddy parts all over the world. The facility also houses a paint booth, separate body shop area and sheet metal fabrication area.

A state-of-the-art climate-controlled storage room has heavy-duty lifts that hold 18 cars. The restoration shop is staffed by experienced and specialized craftsmen.

You can tell Frank III and Elsa enjoy what they do. They both love old cars, so they are very open to accepting anything besides Cadillacs. With their passion and their attention to detail they have set a high standard for Cadillac restoration that shows in every one that rolls out the door.

Call Elsa and Frank at 462-5959 or visit [www.fenenterprises.com](http://www.fenenterprises.com). Email [info@fenenterprises.com](mailto:info@fenenterprises.com).



**New York Capital District Region, Cadillac LaSalle club  
Minutes of March 21, 2012 Board and Membership meeting.**

Meeting was held at Route 7 Dinner, Latham, N.Y.

**Members present:** Al Patnode, Bill & Roxanne Tomak, Tony Simione, Barry Cox, Colleen & Herb Moak, Joe Roglieri, Carl Ricci, Dennis Kipp, Ellis & Bev Gershon, George Barr & Barbara, Steve & Sandy Bauch, Skip Springer, Roy Palmer, Mike Tuzzolo and Scott Hoeffler.

Al Patnode, President called the Board meeting to order at 6:35p.m. Al reported that several members of the board meet with Shoreline Cruises to check out the Adirondack for transporting people to the Sagamore. The boat was built in 2004 and was fantastic but would hold only 350 people. Next the Lac du Saint Sacrament was looked at and this larger boat would accommodate 450 people or more. The Sacrament was found to be the better deal and the Banquet would be held right on the Boat with 2 hrs. dock time and 3 hr. cruise. The charge to members for the Banquet will be similar to prices charged in previous Banquets. Prices for dinner at the Sagamore will still have to be acquired and Roberta will be getting back to the club on prices for a tent for Banquet at Fort Wm Henry. Welcome party will be at Ft Wm Henry as well as the Judge's Breakfast.

**Treasurer's report:** Tony Simione reported after deposits and withdrawals the checking balance. Bill Tomak moved to accept treasure's report and Scott Hoffler seconded.

**Membership:** Colleen reported we have 77 paid members. Welcome new member Richard Weinheimer!

**Sunshine:** Nothing to report.

**Activities:** Frank Cottone is checking into having car show at the Great Escape. The Cadillac Lawn show was discussed. We have an option to join with Oldsmobile and Buick club. Tentative date would be Aug 25<sup>th</sup>, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> or Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. Registration would be \$10. and 2 passes to the Museum. Will have to check with other clubs and discuss again at next meeting at the museum. April 28<sup>th</sup> we will be going to the Trolley Museum in Connecticut. Rhinebeck will be the following Sunday.

**Ways & Means:** Barry Cox reported no new ventures have been encountered. Al Patnode is setting up to have a show with Job Core.

**Old Business:** Host Hotel for GN will be getting back to us with prices on tent for banquet, hotel rooms and Towers Hall use for vendors. Prices need to be acquired for Sagamore dinning. We were informed by Joe Roglieri, that if the Sagamore can book a wedding when our Banquet would be they would go with the wedding since they would be booking rooms as well. This makes the Sagamore an unlikely prospect.

**New Business:** President Lars Kneller may visit us during the Saratoga Invitational meet.

Joe Roglieri hopes to take him to the Hemmings cruise on Thursday, Friday to Taylor's collection and Saturday they will check out Ft Wm and the boats. Sunday will be the Spring Show. Joe also said the newsletter is now on the CLCI website and we should check out the CLC Facebook page.

The club will meet some time in May to take a picture of Lake George with Cadillacs displayed in the fore front to be used for the GN poster. Same picture may be used for Brochure and perhaps T-shirts.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm Minutes

Prepared by Roxanne Tomak, Secretary.

**MEETING INFO:**

Membership meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> **Wednesday** of every month at **7pm**. *Locations vary:*

**Jan-March, May, Oct, & Dec:** Rt. 7 Diner, Troy-Schenectady Rd, Latham, NY

**April, Sept, & Nov:** Saratoga Automobile Museum, Avenue of the Pines, Saratoga, NY

**Summer Meetings: June-Aug:** Pirate's Hideout, 175 Guideboard Rd Halfmoon, NY

**Board Meetings** (open to all members): Jan, March, May, Sept, Nov **6:30pm** (prior to club meeting)

**NY CAPITAL DISTRICT  
ITEMS FOR SALE**

T-Shirts \$18 (\$20 XXL)

Polo Golf Shirts \$30/\$32 XXL

Umbrellas \$30

Folding chairs \$32

-See Members of the Board for availability





# NEW YORK / NEW ENGLAND Cadillac & LaSalle Club Inter-Regional Spring Meet Saturday, April 28, 2012 10a.m. – 2p.m.



**Location:**  
Connecticut Trolley Museum  
58 North Rd.  
E. Windsor, Conn. 06088  
(860) 627-6540  
[www.ct-trolley.org](http://www.ct-trolley.org)

## For Meet Information:



David Rubin  
845-225-5990  
[david.rubin@brewsterhillins.com](mailto:david.rubin@brewsterhillins.com)

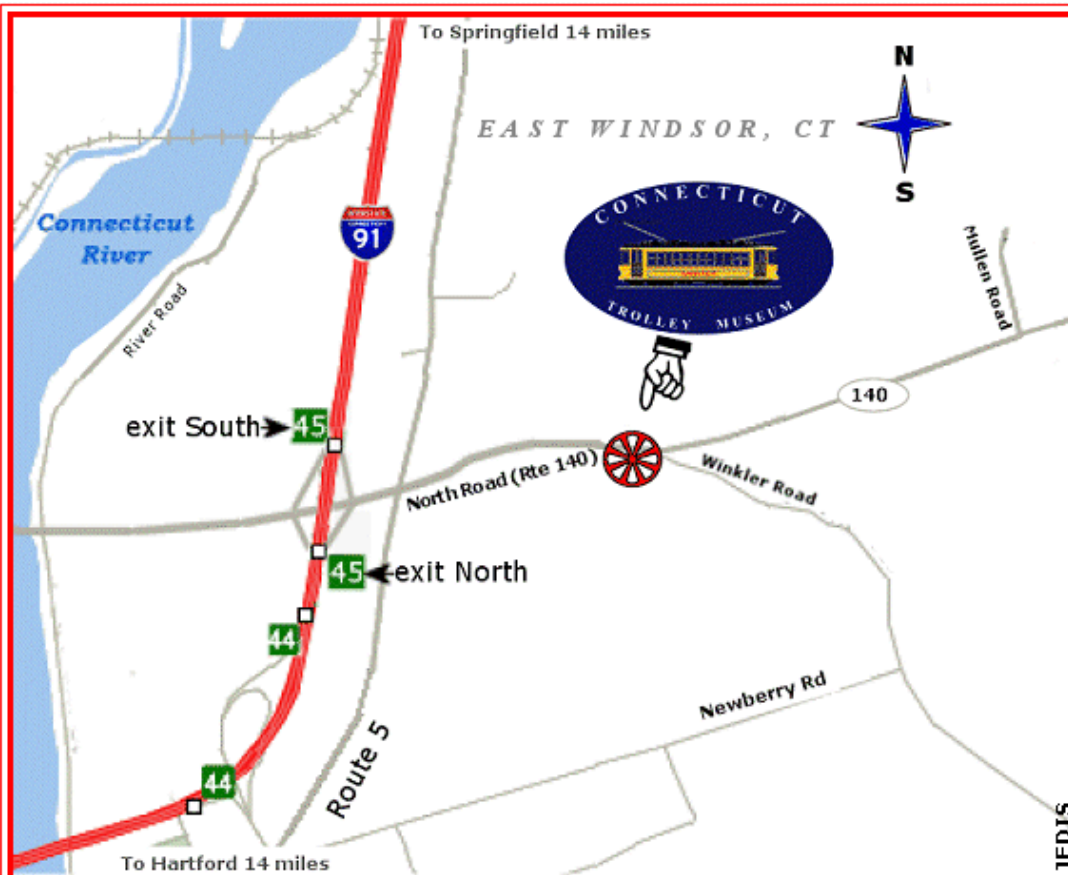


**New England Region  
Cadillac & LaSalle Club**

Chris Milici  
508-384-7578  
[icilim@verizon.net](mailto:icilim@verizon.net)

*Event is Rain or  
Shine*

\$10 per vehicle is requested. There is an additional charge for the museum.



## Directions:

**FROM SPRINGFIELD AND POINTS NORTH:**  
Take I-91 south from Mass. into Conn. Take Exit 45 for Rte. 140, Ellington, and Warehouse Point. At the bottom of the ramp, turn left heading under the highway. Stay straight on Rte. 140 (East). The Museum will be on the right about 1 mile from the highway after the third traffic light.

**FROM HARTFORD AND POINTS SOUTH:**  
Take I-91 north from Hartford. Take Exit 45 for Rte. 140, Warehouse Point, and Ellington. At the bottom of the ramp turn right and stay straight on Rte. 140 (East). The Museum will be on the right about 1 mile from the highway after the second traffic light.



Swap Meet : Friday May 4th - 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM Saturday May 5th - 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM Sunday May 6th - 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Car Shows: Saturday, May 5th - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Hot Rods Customs & Race Cars Compact Customs & Pickups  
 Sunday, May 6th - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Unmodified Antiques & Classic Cars to 1987 (Show Car Entry Gate Closes At 12:00 Noon)

**DON'T FORGET TO MEET US FOR BREAKFAST AT 830 AM AT THE ELK'S LODGE, RT. 9H KINDERHOOK, NY**

## Cadillac & LaSalle Activities for 2012

Date	Event
May 5th & 6th	Rhinebeck car show
May 17th	Hemmings Cruise-in with CLC Pres.
May 20th	Saratoga Museum car show & Invitational
May 27th	Musclepalooza Labanon Vally Speedway
May 31st	Hemmings Cruise # 2
June 11th	Guptills cruise night # 1
June 17th	Howe Caverns car show
June 9th	Flag day Parade in Saratoga ( 10 cars needed)
June 14th	Hemmings Cruise # 3
June 13 - June 17th	2012 CLC Grand Nationals ( St. Augustine, FL)
June 18th	Ace car show Queensbury NY
June 28th	Hemmings Cruise # 4
July 9th	Guptills cruise night # 2
July 10th	Curtis Lumber car show Ballston Spa
July 12th	Hemmings Cruise # 5
July 20th thru the 22nd	Syracuse Nationals
July 22th	CLC Summer Picnic at TBD ?
July 26th	Hemmings Cruise # 6
July 29st	Caddy Lawn show at Gideon Putnam (Member sign up)
August 5th	Ticinderoga car show (Big one)
August 4th	Honor our Vets car show
August 9th	Hemmings Cruise # 7
August 13th	Guptills cruise night # 3
August 23th	Hemmings Cruise # 8
August 25th	Proposed Cadillac Lawn Show @ Saraotga Auto Museum
September 6th - 9th	Adirondack Nationals
September 10th	Guptills cruise night # 4
October 7th	The way we were car show (Ballston car show)
October 21th	Mills Mansion car show
2012 Cruise-Ins	
Each Monday	Juicy Burger cruise-in Guilderland 5-9pm 10% off food
Each Tuesday	Mr. Ed's Cruise-In 588 Lake Ave Rt 29 Saratoga 6pm
Each Wednesday	Mr Bill Cruise In South Glens Falls 6pm
Each Wednesday	Leadfoot Lucy's Kohl's Plaza Central Ave 6-9pm
Each Thursday	Harbor House Cruise-in Clifton Park Rt.9 5-9pm
Each Friday	Latham Greens/Hoffmans Playland 6-9pm



### CAR SHOW PRE-REGISTRATION

Mail reservations must be postmarked by April 25, 2012

\$10 Sunday (Limit 1987; 1930 & Older Cars are FREE)

Please check one box below:

SATURDAY: ☐ Rod ☐ Custom ☐ Other

or

SUNDAY: ☐ Antique ☐ Classic ☐ Barn Find

☐ Special Interest

Make \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_

Model \_\_\_\_\_

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**2012 PROPOSED EVENT SCHEDULE  
(TO BE REVIEWED AT NEXT CLUB MEETING)**

**- COURTESY OF FRANK COTTONE**



**THE CLUB, ITS OFFICERS AND MEMBERS MAKE NO REPRESENTATION ABOUT ANY LISTINGS HEREIN AND SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES THAT MAY OCCUR AS A RESULT OF ANY RELIANCE OR DISREGARD OF ANY SUCH LISTINGS.**

All classifieds welcome! Submissions can be made to the Board at our Club Meetings, via email to [NYcadillacclub@gmail.com](mailto:NYcadillacclub@gmail.com), or can call Joe Roglieri @ (518) 859-7209

**1973 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible** Yellow, Auto, AC, PS, Power top. New radiator, good tires. Nice interior. **Price lowered to \$9,500.** Contact Roy Palmer (518) 384-0759



**1990 Cadillac Allante** Gold+white. 149,000 miles. New brakes. Asking \$7,000. Contact Jo Milano (518) 355-9630

**1989 Cadillac Coupe DeVille** White with Vogue wheel package. Low miles (approx 40K). 2 owner car. Asking \$3,500. Info: call Dr. Gusten at (518) 857-2378 (evenings).

**Cadillac Parts!** Jim Derby has many parts for Cadillacs 1960-70's. List of cars on CLC International directory of Self-Starter. Contact Jim (518) 668-5354

**Buick dual snorkel air cleaner** \$150. Contact Carl Ricci 235-2159

#### **RWD FLEETWOOD BROUGHAM PARTS:**

*2 complete clean rust free noses w/ front bumpers for rwd Broughams .Light briar brown for an 85 the other is a silver for a 90-92, extra rear bumpers and a tan leather interior for the 85 and a gray cloth interior for the 90-92. Like to sell them complete. Make offers. Can help with delivery. Located on Long Island. Jerry Trapani (917) 355-5225 [shadbelly4@aol.com](mailto:shadbelly4@aol.com)*

**1973 Coupe DeVille**, Navy Blue w/ white vinyl top, aprox. 90k mi, perfect interior, some rust, needs brakes. asking \$1900 obo. contact Mike @ 518-817-2029 I would like to see it go to a good home. [mverrigni30@yahoo.com](mailto:mverrigni30@yahoo.com)

**1955 Cadillac Series 62 Sedan** Beautiful condition and always well maintained, this car is a great driver and crowd pleaser. Mileage is 61,000 with new Coker white wall bias ply tires. Original inside and out. No body rust. Power steering, brakes and windows. For more complete description or to see the car in Saratoga Springs, NY Contact Tom Chretien at (518) 496-7010, or [thchretien@aol.com](mailto:thchretien@aol.com). Asking \$29,000.



**1984 Eldorado** White, red/white interior, Alum wheels, Bose radio, needs restoration \$1200

**1982 Eldorado** White, blue interior, needs restoration \$1000

**1982 Eldorado** Cream/brown, Body work and paint DONE, 95% finished, needs tune-up \$3500

**1983 Seville** complete for restoration, two-tone brown or parts \$850

**Many 4100 Parts, call for needs.**

For info on above cars/parts, please call Mike Tuzzolo (518) 765-3670 or (518) 365-6105

**1992 Eldorado Touring Sedan.** Won't find any nicer. I just have too many cars. This one has everything, even a sunroof. Red with the tan interior. 121K miles. Everything works. \$3500 or best offer. Call Barry @ 518-542-2279

**1989 Eldorado** Tan with Tan Interior. 98K miles. I have too many cars and can't drive them all. I'm tired of seeing this car sit. Make me an offer!! I have Hundreds of Dollars worth of spare parts. Take it all for \$2900 or best offer! Call Barry @ 542-2279.





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