

Fred Butalla Ends 20 Year Run as WOTLR Director



Bill Anderson retires as National Chief Judge, Fred Butalla steps in.
Special Fred Butalla Commemorative Edition

What's Inside:

Director's Message	2
Calendar of Events and Videos	3
Announcements	4
Crazy 80s Museum	5-8
The Butalla Years	9-13
Annual Pizza Party	14
Egyptian Theater Show	15
BOPC Swapmeet	16

Stay connected:

ON THE WEB:

www.westofthelakeclc.com

INSTAGRAM:

follow: [westofthelakeclc](https://www.instagram.com/westofthelakeclc)

E-MAIL:

westofthelakeclc@gmail.com

Columbus Day Parade	17
Cadillac News From GM	18
Club Apparel Store	19
Meeting Minutes and Seconds	20
Classifieds	21
A Word From Our Sponsors	22
WOTLR Board Nominations	23
Membership Application	24



**Fred Butalla as
Director in 2004**

The end of the line. I always knew this day would come. Originally, I thought it would come a lot sooner than this. As the years went by, I stopped envisioning this day ever coming. To be honest, I have served so many years as the Region Director that I don't remember when it all began. I think it was either 19 or 20 years ago, but since 20 is the more celebrated number, I'll just go with 20 years.

I first joined the Region in 2002 after meeting some of the members at the Grand National that summer. I had such a memorable time at the Grand National and the WOTLR members that I met seemed to be very nice and friendly, so I thought why not join the Region? Never did I imagine what that would lead to a couple years later, nor how that decision would impact my life. Now you might be wondering how it could possibly be life impacting? Well, I guess one thing leads to another. As the Region Director, I've received a little more recognition at that National level. That, in combination with attending the

Grand National meets, has allowed me to meet a lot of people that I think I might not have gotten to know as well as I have. The result is a lot of great friends and acquaintances from all over the country and the world. That my friends, is life impacting and I couldn't be more grateful.

Speaking of grateful, I am truly thankful for having the opportunity to lead such a wonderful region. During my time as the Director, I have seen other Regions dissolve into non-existence. I have seen Regions become politically charged where Board members bicker and fight. I've seen members leave because they don't find it enjoyable anymore. Next year, our Region will celebrate its 40th anniversary. I've had the privilege of being its Director for half of that time. We've had many great Board of Directors leading this Region, including the present one. A successful region all begins with the Board of Directors, and our Region has had great ones for many years. We've worked together to make the Region something that the members can enjoy and want to be a part of. I think we have been reasonably successful. Recently, while speaking to National President Ronnie Hux, he mentioned that our Region is one of the largest and most active regions! I think that is one of the greatest compliments we could possibly receive.

My number one goal as Director has always been to make this fun. If it's not fun, no one will want to be a part of it, myself included. I've taken the responsibility of Director seriously, but never more seriously than ever required. I appreciate our ability to make jokes, laugh, and help each other out. Now I won't say that it has all been smooth sailing, but a couple times when the water got rough, we stuck together and worked it out. Then it was back to the smiles and the laughs.

Any regrets? My biggest regret through the years has been that I could not give the Region more time and focus. When I first became the Director, it was only two years after I had been married and bought my house. My wife and I took over the newsletter and I was able to put a good amount of time into the Region. As the years went on, my life situation changed, my career evolved, my house required more maintenance, more car projects came along, and my time has become more limited. I know that being the Region Director is the only reason I have attended all the events that I have. The responsibility forced me to be active. So many times I said that I should be cutting the grass or fixing the car instead of going to a Region event, but duty calls. I am thankful for that. Otherwise I probably wouldn't attend much of any car events. It is amazing how fast summer and life pass us by.

There are so many people to thank for their help and support throughout my years as the Director. Obviously, I need to thank our current Board of Directors; Paul, Dan, Ron, Valerie, and Dave, as well as all of our previous Board members over the past 20 years, those who are still with us, and those who are no longer here. I owe a tremendous thank you to Tom Orlando, our newsletter editor. If it wasn't for him, you'd likely be getting a boring and late newsletter produced by me still. I also have to thank Ray Bombeck, who also was newsletter editor for several years. Of course, I need to thank Glenn Brown for introducing me to the CLC and being a great advisor to me whenever questions arose. Then there are

all the volunteers who assisted with the 2022 Grand National and the 2017 National Driving Tour. There are more people there than I can even list. I also need to thank all the volunteers who helped at our different events; the shows, the picnics, the parties, etc. One person cannot do it alone, nor have I ever had to thanks to you, our terrific members who have always been willing to step up and help whenever needed.

So what's next? Well, first off, you will no longer have to read my ramblings each month. You've got that to look forward to. Our Region will have a new Director, who I'm sure will write much better than me, and likely do a better job of leading the Region than me. Our Region will be the same or better, I'm confident of that. As for me, well I'm not dying, even though it sounds like it sometimes when people talk about me not being the Director next year. As you all hopefully know by now, I am the new National Chief Judge. It's a tremendous amount of responsibility and time, thus why I need to step down from the Director role as I won't have the time to do the job to the level you the members deserve. As National Chief Judge, I have many plans and ideas to work on related to CLC judging. As I think about it further, you'll still get to read my ramblings in the Self Starter, it just won't be quite as often. Will this be the start of my next 20 year stint? I don't think so, but then again, I never thought so 20 years ago either. Never say never. All I know is that I'll still be seeing you again down the road.

For the last time (as Director),
Motor on, Fred

Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Time	Details
November	26	Monthly Meeting & Election	7:30 PM	American Legion Hall, Elmhurst, IL 310 W. Butterfield Rd., Elmhurst, IL
December	1	It's a Wonderful Life 35mm Movie	1:00 PM	Egyptian Theater DeKalb, IL
February	16	BOPC Swap Meet	8AM-2PM	Kane County Fairgrounds 525 S. Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL
March	25	Monthly Meeting	7:30 PM	American Legion Hall, Elmhurst, IL

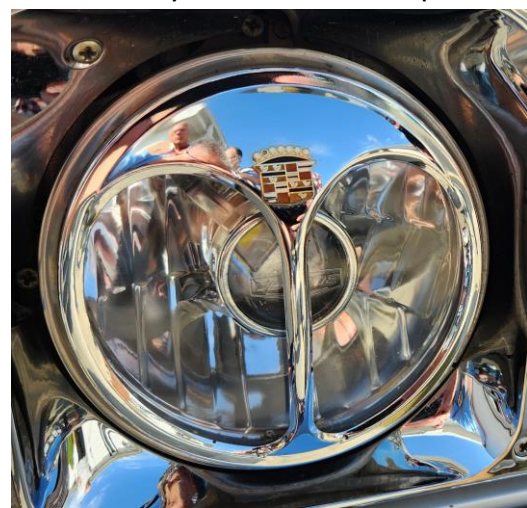
The Lead Sled



West of the Lake Region member Kevin Perkins has been reading our newsletter and watching for an activity that fit his schedule. Lucky for us, the Saturday October 5th Crazy 80s/Route 66 trip was the one!

Kevin showed up with his great 1971 Cadillac

Eldorado Convertible named the "Lead Sled". It fit in perfectly in our group and we hope to see a lot more of Kevin and the Sled. Check out the Cadillac detail on Kevin's LED headlights.



Just a reminder...

All CLC regional members are required to be members of the National Cadillac & La Salle Club as well. Among the many benefits that the CLC offers, they carry insurance coverage for all CLC events. This coverage will cover only members in the event that something happens. If you are not a National CLC member, please contact the National office today.

Welcome New Members:

New members (and long term members – notice I didn't say "old") feel free to reach out with your life/car story and photos of your cars. We want to keep our website updated and your car photos are just what we need!

Please remember to carry a couple of West of the Lake Region membership applications (at the end of this newsletter) in your glove box.

When you meet a fellow Cadillac enthusiast, invite them to join our club by handing them the application.

Spread the word, the more members the better!



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM: [westofthelakeclc](https://www.instagram.com/westofthelakeclc)

We post real-time pictures of events, cars spotted on the road and anything that might make you smile. If you can't be with us in-person, follow us at a socially safe distance using Instagram. It's FREE!

Hey! What's your story?

Have an interesting story about your car, your life or an event the club might find interesting? Share it with us. We are always looking for features for the newsletter. Don't be shy, share your story. You don't have to be a writer, we have word-workers who can put your words into print. Operators are standing by, contact Tom Orlando today: westofthelakeclc@gmail.com

SENDING OUT GOOD THOUGHTS:

Sorry to report the loss of Alexandria Dixon of Yorktown, VA. Alexandria and Spencer Chaplain attended our Grand National in 2022 and quickly became friends with members of our region. Alexandria passed away after a short illness at the age of just 27. Please keep Spencer in your thoughts.

Also, Lou Fiorentino "Lou-D-Ball", long time member of the West of the Lake Region known for his red 66 Cadillac Convertible, passed away last month. Lou had been missing from our events for the last couple of years while he suffered from Alzheimer's. Safe travels and eternal green lights Lou.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regional Director:

Fred Butalla
(815) 730-6044
fibutalla@sbcglobal.net

Deputy Regional Director:

Paul Casey
(630) 341-5131
partskc@sbcglobal.net

Membership Secretary:

Ron Schweitzer
(630) 833-3593
brghm58@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Dan Graziadei
(847) 707-4790
CadillacGuy35@sbcglobal.net

Recording Secretary:

Valerie Brown
(708) 386-6384
mouse61905@aol.com

Member at Large:

David Schumann
(847) 404-4250
uncledavid@comcast.net

Tour Coordinator:

Andy Derr
(708) 246-1638
a.derr@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor:

Tom Orlando
westofthelakeclc@gmail.com

Want to receive your newsletter faster, in color, & with more content? Have email? Then let us know and we will email you a PDF file of the expanded newsletter instead of sending you the abbreviated version through standard mail.

Want to advertise your business in the e-mail newsletter?

Please send a check payable to West of the Lake CLC:

\$25: Business Card ads; \$40 for a ¼ page ad, \$60 for a ½ page ad and \$100 for the full page (fees are for the full year).

Send your ads or business cards via email to CadillacGuy35@sbcglobal.net or mail to: Dan Graziadei, 962 E. Grant Dr., Des Plaines, IL 60016

Saturday October 5th was a warm sunny day, perfect for a drive down Route 66 from Joliet to Dwight to visit the Crazy 80s Museum.

Part of our group met in Joliet for breakfast, then caravanned down Old Route 66 through Wilmington, Braidwood, Godley and Braceville, then making a stop at the Two Cell Jail in Gardner. The WOTLR group was able to make bail and continue our trip south to Dwight.



Above: Captured criminals L-R Jason Yau, Tom Orlando, Dave Schumann, Andy Derr, Fred Butalla, Les Hackl, Vick and Dan Graziadei and Kevin Perkins do time in the big-house. Well, not THAT big.

Another part of our group drove directly from their homes to Dwight and we all met at the Crazy 80s Museum. True to its name, inside the museum, we found the craziest assortment of cars, TVs, radios, phones (both hard wired and cellular – as they were originally known), vintage furniture, games and tools.



Above: The nondescript, almost invisible Crazy 80s Museum

The crazy part was that there were no traditional museum-type cars on display; no Mustangs, Chevelles, Corvettes or anything else you would expect to find. The museum specializes in ordinary street cars that you would have driven in the 80s, but have long since been forgotten. Your author found at least three examples of cars he drove in the 80s, and was invited to have a seat behind the wheel of each of them. What a great memory jogger.



Above: Two Chevy Citations “The first Chevy of the 80s” welcome visitors.



Clockwise from Left: A Nissan Pulsar sits next to a Datsun B-210. A Ford Pinto Wagon hasn't been parked next to a Plymouth Reliant K car since they were together in a K-Mart parking lot in 1989, and when was the last time you saw a Mercury Bobcat?





Clockwise from the top: 80s electronic gizmos line the walls. A Plymouth Horizon takes the stage. The Yugoslavian import, the Yugo was the least expensive car sold in America (until you had to service it – which was almost immediately). Vintage AC-GM diagnostic equipment was state of the art in the 1980s. A mineral oil filled table top center piece was ever present in suburban houses throughout the era.



The other interesting story of the Crazy 80s Museum is that it is technically NOT a museum at all. The Route 66 Association and local government geniuses couldn't help but look at something good and ask "How can we ruin this for everyone else and line our pockets in the process?" The answer was "You can't" so the owners don't have a "museum" but rather a "private car collection" in a building that can't charge admission (but can accept donations). They have no website or social media presence but they have visitors every Saturday and it is such a popular spot that they are expanding into an additional building. They have enough cars in storage to fill the new space, including a Cadillac Cimarron, so a visit next spring is a must for the region.



Above Right: Our WOTLR group at the Crazy 80s Museum. Seated L-R: Dave, Elaine and Frank Link, Standing L-R: Dave Schumann, Ron Schweitzer, Rich Daniels, Andy Derr, Dan Graziadei, Michelle & Paul Casey, Fred Butalla, Jason Yau, Les Hackl and Tom Orlando. John Pawlik was there too, but is hidden.

Following the Crazy 80s Museum, we stopped at the Ambler-Becker Texaco station for some vintage looking photos, then we walked across the street to the Old Route 66 Family Restaurant for lunch.

Below: L-R Vick Graziadei, Rich Daniels, Ron Schweitzer, Kevin Perkins, Tom Orlando, Dan Graziadei, Dave Schumann and Fred Butalla at Ambler-Becker Texaco.



Our Group of 17 had a fantastic day. We even met some new friends and are looking forward to returning to the Crazy 80s next year.

Photos by: Tom Orlando, Jason Yau & Fred Butalla

For two decades, Fred Butalla III stood as our fearless leader, technical guide, teacher and friend indeed. Now it is time to say so long.



**Our Leader and 1st Mate -The Skipper and Gilligan
(Fred Butalla and Dominic Graziadei)**



**X-RAY MACHINE AND FORGOTTEN
JOLIET PRISONER (FRED BUTALLA)**

Fred has accepted the assignment to be the interim National Chief Judge (the permanent naming is expected at the CLC Winter Board Meeting). The National Chief Judge Position will require many hours of work and will make it impossible for Fred to continue as the West of the Lake Region Director.

As we prepare to cast our ballots for the next era in WOTLR history, let's take a moment to remember: "The Butalla Years"



Fred led the region with a calm, timeless demeanor. By "timeless", we mean he didn't own a watch and could always be counted on to run a half hour late for everything. At one point, it was so bad that we began to refer to him as "The Late Fred Butalla", but seeing as how Fred's dad, Fred Butalla, Jr. was still very much alive at that time, he objected and thought people would think Fred the elder had died, so we just started calling it "Fred Time".

(Left) Randy Fierke and Fred Butalla at the WOTLR Spring Fling



Once Fred did show up for an event, he brought with him unparalleled wisdom. Fred had an amazing knack for being able to fix just about anything, an institutional knowledge of technical details and a willingness to participate in any car related adventure – no matter how crazy it seemed. Fred has an almost freakish ability to fix Rochester carburetors. **(Below)**

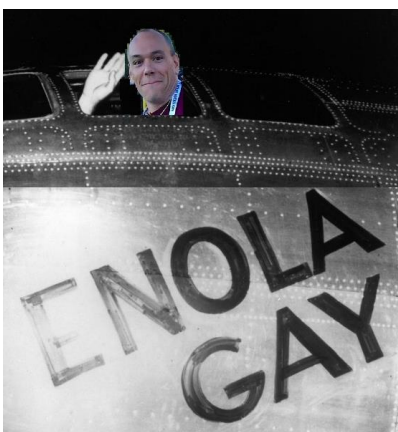
(Above) There was no event too formal or serious that Fred couldn't find a way to make it laugh-out-loud funny.



Fred took the stage to emcee every Region event and was almost always the top cock-of-the-walk everywhere we went, although he sometimes had to be second tallest.



(Left) Fred Butalla – second from the right – with family and friends during the White Fence Farm dinner at the 2022 Grand National. **(Right)** Frank Amadeo and Fred Butalla at the Ettleson Cadillac Show.



Wherever his travels took him, Fred was always thinking about the West of the Lake Region and what kind of interesting experiences he could bring back to share with the group.





(Left) Dying to be the center of attention.

(Below) Teaching us new skills.



(Below) Ready for a road trip adventure at any time, there was nothing Fred wouldn't do for the West of the Lake Region.



Fred was admittedly no cook, but he never refused to take the tongs at our many WOTLR picnics. **(Left and right)**



(Left) Occasionally on the grey side of the law, but never convicted, Fred was always willing to take the lead in front of our gang of car lovers.

Frank Link shares his memories of Fred Butalla's early days with WOTLR:

When Fred was relatively a new member of our community, our monthly meeting used to be held at the Yorkville Civic Center. During one of those meetings Fred stood up and raised questions challenging elected board members.

Right: Frank & Elaine Link



In my judgment he was completely justified doing so because it was my impression the elected officers were abusing the office by using the treasury to pay their personal expenses for Club activities.

I don't remember how long after they were removed from office, probably by a new election, and we were on our way to the current Community we now enjoy.

Elaine and I joined the Cadillac Club nationally in 1982. Sometime after that we met and joined with a group of other club members.

That group held a car show in Des Plaines for the members at that time. All the people Assembled discussed forming our own region which we did. That was the foundation of the West of the lake Region. A collection was taken establishing the first Treasury.

To my memory the only other current members there were Ron and Marilyn Schweitzer.

One man made the difference, that man is Fred Butalla. What a great difference Fred made.

Frank Link

Glenn Brown finally confesses to being the cause of: The Butalla Years

I met Fred and his ex-wife many years ago, before he had his own Cadillacs, and before he had the house which houses most of the FLB3 collection. I had a propensity to go to car club marque events with a car of a different marque. I attended a "Herd" (94-96 Impala Club) event with my 1965 Eldorado convertible. (I also attended WOTLR events with my '96 Super Sport from time to time). I met Fred at a Herd meeting where he had expressed an interest in getting a Cadillac convertible. I told them about the Club and I gave them a ride. They were enthused. I invited Fred to attend a meeting. The first meeting he attended was a raucous event during tense times between the Club members and recently deposed Region Officers. The meeting was tense with much shouting and some name calling, even having one of the hold-over Club Officers suggesting stepping outside to resolve an issue. Surprisingly, despite that discord, Fred stayed, came to another meeting, and soon joined the Club. Fred mentioned he was considering buying a 1959 Cadillac. He bought the dusty rose Biarritz and has been active ever since. He eventually became the Region Director, staying in that position for 20+ years. So, if you have a problem with Fred, I guess you are going to have to blame me 😊.

Glenn Brown

During our 2022 Lombard Grand National, Fred **(Right)** was quick to iron out any problems and make sure everyone had a great experience.



No matter what the event, we could always count on Fred to make it a hair-raising experience.

From all of us in the West of the Lake Region, thank you Fred Butalla. We know you will go forward and make us proud.

Above: Photo Courtesy of A.L.I. (Artificial Lack of Intelligence)

At the October WOTLR monthly meeting, nominations were submitted for the 2025 club board of directors. You will find the ballot on page 21 of this newsletter (page 11 of the print version). Please look over the list of candidates and cast your ballot either by mail or by bringing your signed ballot to the November WOTLR meeting.

Thank You For Another GREAT Year

This issue of the Standard of the World marks the final newsletter of the 2024 season. We had a great year with incredible events including our Patrick Cadillac Show and the Crazy 80s Museum tour; thank you to everyone who helped to make this a memorable year. Mostly, my personal thanks to everyone who contributes to this newsletter to make it more interesting by sharing your photos and stories, without your help, this would be a very short newsletter.

November Meeting is the last one until March of 2025. Join us for Pizza Night at our November Meeting. Make sure to sign up at the link below so we can be sure to have enough food for everyone. See you in November!

[WOTLR Pizza Night](#) ← Click this link



West of the Lake Region

November Meeting Pizza Night

Please let us know that you will be attending the November meeting on 11/26 so that we order the right amount of pizza. Please sign up by 11/24.

Date: 11/26/2023 (Tue)

Time: 7:30pm-9:00pm

Location: American Legion Hall Elmhurst

Have a warm winter, great holidays and stay healthy and be ready to join us again in the new year!

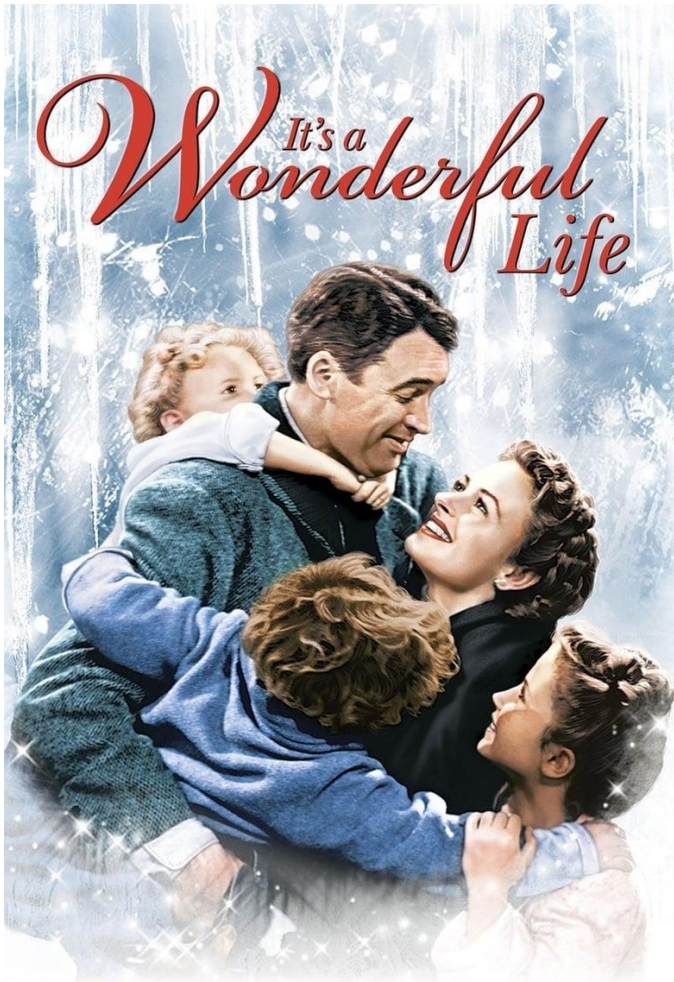
Tom Orlando
Editor

It's a Wonderful Life on the big screen in 35mm



Sunday, December 1st at the Egyptian Theater in Dekalb.

We'll meet at 1:00 at the Egyptian Theater for a 35mm screening of *It's a Wonderful Life* (tickets \$10 per person), movie starts at 2:00PM.



Following the movie, we'll pick a local restaurant in Dekalb for an early dinner (self pay).

Click this link to sign up so we can reserve enough seats. If you can't click the link, contact Fred Butalla.

[It's a Wonderful Life Movie Night](#)

West of the Lake Region member Dave Schumann joined the Allante-XLR Club driving in the Columbus Day/Indigenous People’s Day Parade in downtown Chicago.

The annual parade featured seven Cadillacs including two Eldorados and five Allantes. Two of the Allantes were pink because they were originally Mary Kay cars. There were over 150 entries. The cars staged on Wacker Drive and paraded south on State Street.

The weather was a little brisk but sunny, a perfect day to show off some beautiful Cadillacs.



Above: Pink Italian designed Cadillac Allantes.



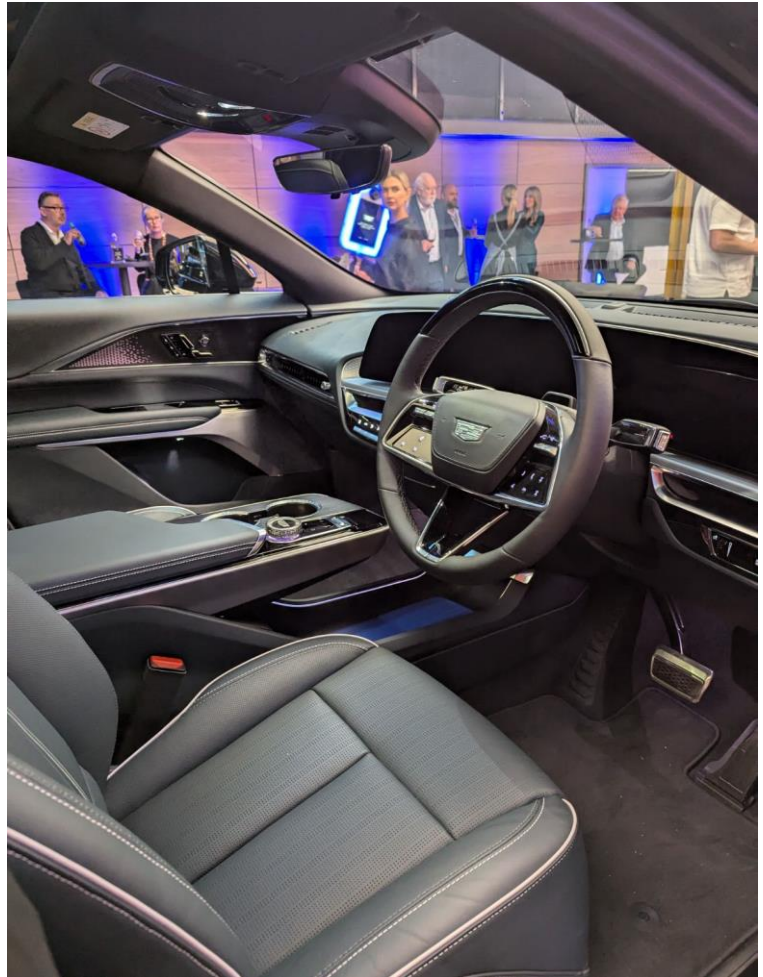
Left: Dave Schumann’s NIDE CDY 1988 Eldorado on Wacker and LaSalle in Chicago’s Loop.

First Right-Hand Drive Lyriq unveiled in Australia

Lyriq V Series announced for 2026

Cadillac unveiled the right-hand drive Lyriq for the Australian market last week. West of the Lake Region friends were on hand for the special event that included GM President of Global Markets, Rory Harvey. The Lyriq on display was equipped with Super Cruise.

Later that same day came news that 2026 will bring a high performance Lyriq-V to the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.



Above: Right-Hand Drive Cadillac Lyriq at the Australian unveiling.

Left: Australian Lyriq shows minor sheet metal adjustments for the international market.

Photos: Peter Spoto

The Standard of the World is published monthly. Stories, technical papers, calendar events, ads, classifieds, and photographs are gratefully accepted. All information and copy must be received by the 15th day of the month prior to the month you wish to have the item appear in. We do reserve the right to edit all incoming material. When sending in material, please be sure to include a phone and/or e-mail with the proper contact. We need to be able to contact you if there are any questions regarding what you have submitted.

Please send all material to:
Fred Butalla

20751 Rock Run Dr., Joliet, IL 60431

Questions? Call (815) 730-6044

Or e-mail Tom Orlando, Editor: westofthelakecl@gmail.com

The club does not assume liability, either implied or expressed, as to the accuracy of any ad. It is the buyer's responsibility to check out the quality and reliability of the products advertised.