



STANDARD OF THE WORLD

Cadillac LaSalle Club North Texas Region

January 2025



Awarded Best CLC Regional Newsletter 2008, 2020

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR MUSEUM

Members of the NTX club spent a great Saturday visit to the National Vietnam Museum near Mineral Wells, Texas. This is an appropriate place for this museum, just a few miles from old Ft. Wolters, where helicopter pilots were trained during the Vietnam activity..



One of the many outdoor displays is the workhorse of the Vietnam war, the UH1 Huey helicopter, this on a D-model slick.



Another important mode of transportation on display is the M151 1/4 ton truck or commonly called Jeep.



There are two floors in the current museum building, the lower floor with many interesting displays and historical items, and the second floor with paintings and artwork.



NTX member and 'nam veteran Alex Beloff III donated his dress class-A uniform complete with patches and ribbons to the museum



This brought back many memories, a twelve-meal case of C Rations. I used to eat these meals in my Otter aircraft while flying cover for Special Forces teams.



*Winner CLC Web Site Merit
Award 2007-2008, 2013,
2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018*

*Winner Old Cars Weekly
Golden Quill Award
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015,
2016, 2017, 2018, 2019,
2020, 2021, 2022, 2023*

Ft Wolters, Texas

Article by Lt Col Wm Levy, U.S. Army, Ret

After visiting the National Vietnam War Museum several of us drove a mile east to Fort Wolters. It was the Primary Helicopter Training Center for the United States Army, training pilots for basic and primary flight training. The training included learning basic flight maneuvers, formation flying, air navigation, and night flying. Fort Wolters covered 8,500 acres and leased an additional 1,700 acres to accommodate the 1,200 helicopters used at the camp. Over 40,000 helicopter pilots trained at Fort Wolters, with 95% of all helicopter pilots flying in Vietnam passing through the base.

Activated in 1925 as Camp Wolters and later, in 1956, Camp Wolters reverted to the United States Army to house the United States Army Primary Helicopter School. In 1963, it was designated a "permanent" military base and renamed Fort Wolters. In June 1963, the post was re-designated Fort Wolters, a permanent military installation and U.S. Army Primary Helicopter Center.

I was stationed there in 1967 as a Warrant Officer Candidate for fixed wing training. This was mostly ground school for me which all military aviators went through, and even though our class of 55 former sergeants did not fly the OH-23, OH-13, and TH-55 Mattel Messerschmitt, we had to clean the two choppers defending the gate when we had the most demerits..



This is still the entrance to what was the fort and now an industrial park.



WWII Army wooden two story barracks then and what is left. There were thousands of these built, which could burn down in under four minutes and usually-house 52 soldiers at a time.

A NIGHT AT THE THEATER

Story and photos by Doug Ashby. Produced by Kathleen Ashby

Saturday night, December the 21st, saw members of the NTXCLC attend the Pocket Sandwich Theater in Carrollton, to see an excellent rendition of Dicken's 'A Christmas Carol'. Featuring a large, enthusiastic cast, Ebenezer Scrooge came to life before us, and tried to spoil our evening, before getting his much-deserved spiritual comeuppance.

Jim & Judy Hanson, Harry & Judith Michalewicz, Neal Polan & Linda Mikyska, Doug & Kathleen Ashby, and Travis Dowel were treated to a front-and-center song & dance version of the beloved Christmas classic. The cold blustery weather, the pre-show meal, and warm camaraderie made for perfect get together. The only way the evening could have been better, would have been to have more of our members join us.



Doug and Kathleen



Judith and Harry



Judy and Jim



Neal and Linda



Travis

NTXCLC First Saturday Breakfast

Text & Photos by Lifer

Our 1st Saturday meeting and social get-togethers are a relaxed fun event with a breakfast meal and a group of classic cars in the parking lot. The gents share thoughts on old cars, collector cars, and more cars, and the spouses enjoy things that are just not very automobile related. Part of the car club experience is friendship, with those who have similar interests, and these friendships can grow and last for years. So, if the timing of the 1st Saturday meets your availability, come on in and break bread with us for a while. Bring your collector car, weather permitting. You will have a good time and food and conversation is good. Your spouses are invited. Next meeting is February 1st. It will be at Darren's American Grill, 7602 N. Jupiter Road, Garland, TX (972 414-4009).



Jim Hanson, Bill Levy, Doug Ashby, Neal Polan, Harry Michalewicz, Bill Sheldon, Steve Overby, Alex Beloff III, Dan Harrison, Ron Fishell, and Mark Kenning



Judith Michalewicz, Kathleen Ashby, Harriett Levy, Karen Fishell, Judy Hanson, Connie Beloff, Debbie Overby, Diane Gardner and Linda Mikyska

REGIONAL DUES

For all of the members of the North Texas Region, it is dues time again, \$20.00, due December 31st, for another whole year of membership. This is your local club dues.

Let's put this \$20.00 dues in perspective so you can better understand what it buys you. First, you become part of a group of people that all have a mutual interest—classic cars and especially fine Cadillacs and LaSalles. Second, when you need help with repairs, parts, how-tos, and information, the club is a great venue to get this and other assistance. Also, you get this great newsletter monthly.

Now, there is a cost above and beyond. We do expect our members to participate in monthly events, many which are of no cost to members, or some costs paid for. There is the adventure aspect and of course, the social aspect of these events. And in order to pay for all these extras, we expect our members to help with our work at the Pate Swap Meet, the largest swap meet west of the Mississippi river. Whether you are helping with vendor space marking tiles, street signs, or just being a friendly person in our hospitality tent, your work is always appreciated.

And speaking of Pate Swap Meet, we earn a share of the profits based on our membership roster as of December 31st each year.

Note: If you are a new member in 2023 or 2024 your 2025 dues are already paid.

So, please make your checks out for **\$20.00**, payable to the **North Texas Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club** and mail to our Treasurer -

North Texas Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club c/o Jim Hanson
2622 Chevy Chase Dr,
Irving, TX 75062

Or you can send it on the internet for no extra fees to www.PayPal.com, account lifer@writeme.com, send as **Friends and Family (no fee)**.

National dues are invoiced from when due through the year. They are paid to:

Cadillac & LaSalle Club c/o Cornerstone Registration Ltd.
PO Box 1715
Maple Grove, MN 55311-6715
763-420-7829
Always include your CLC member number on your check.

Classified

Classified Ads – for 3 months Members: free, Non-members -\$35 for three lines for three months. \$50 for ad with photo. No credit for early cancellation. For additional rates contact Bill Levy @ (214) 563-1033

New Member



No new names this month...

North Texas Region

Hat Bands	\$10 + \$3.95 S&H U.S.
CLC Jackets	\$70 + \$9.95 S&H U.S.
Blankets	\$70 + \$9.95 S&H U.S.



Jacket available in adult sizes (S, M, L, XL). These can be special ordered in sizes 2X, 3X, or 4X at an additional cost.

Blankets are 60x48", all cotton, Jacquard mill woven, really nice




Make checks payable to
North Texas Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club

Send your orders to:
North Texas Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club
16734 Lauder Ln. • Dallas, TX 75248-1737

Cadillac Wheels



For Sale Four 2005 CTS nine spoke aluminum bright polish wheels with chrome lug bolts and TPMS senders. Condition is like new. Size—18 X 8.5 5X120 lug 48mm off-set. \$600.00 Shipping included.



For Sale Four Vogue Rio #190-67910 PVD Chrome Condition is like new. Size—17X7.5 5X120 lug 48mm offset \$500.00 Shipping included.

Make checks payable to **North Texas Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club**

NTXCLC, 16734 Lauder Lane, Dallas, TX 75248

Activities Calendar

2925

January 11th Holiday Lunch, Bessie Mitchell House Grapevine.
February 1st NTXCLC Meeting and First Saturday Breakfast Social.

PATE SWAP MEET 2025

Please plan accordingly

March 22nd Tile Party

April 19th Setup

April 24-26 Pate Swap Meet

April 27th Tear Down



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Pate Director Assistant: (open)

Historians: [Alex Beloff III](#)

Directors: [Richard Cross](#), [Ruby Hubbard](#)

Calling Post: [Karen Phillips](#)

Sunshine Report

Birthdays

Please inform me of members that were missed on the list.

Love, *Ruby*



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Send any corrections, complaints, compliments, discussions, and/or additions to:
Bill (Lifer) Levy lifer@writeeme.com (214) 563-1033

The North Texas Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club CLC is looking for a member to take on the duties of the club's Membership Chairman. Our current chairman, Bill Haesslein, retired as of December 31 after having this well-oiled position since 2006. He has done an outstanding job, keeping good records and processing new and current membership, and we will miss him.

Although the Constitution of the Cadillac LaSalle Club, North Texas Region, paragraph III requires this position to be elected and have Board voting rights, an exception is being made to paragraph IV, Club Management, Vacancies, for the appointment of a qualified volunteer.

Duties of the Membership Chairman: shall actively promote membership in the Club. He/she shall keep an up-to-date roster of the names and addresses of all Club members, send membership applications upon request, process membership applications, receive dues to be turned over to the Treasurer; and shall notify the Board of any Club member whose national dues have not been current for a period of six months.

Duties of our Webmaster—an open position: responsible for maintaining the CLCNTX website and maintaining the design, update the website, fixing website errors and posting club information and media for its members and running tests to make sure designs or updates function properly.

For interested persons in these openings please contact me at lifer@writeeme.com

CADILLAC DUAL SISTER DIVISION DEALERSHIPS

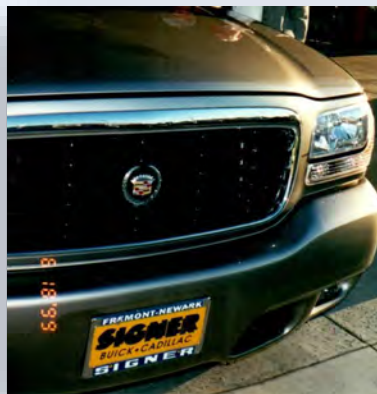
Alex Beloff III



In 1972, Pontiac Chicago zone manager Fred C. Ressler and Cadillac National Asst GM Carver Hendrix, signed me the new Pontiac Cadillac dealer in Peru, Indiana, at the age of 31—the youngest known unencumbered owner in America. I purchased an unwanted antiquated, non-compliance OSHA dump, lousy service with sales exodes and owner mutiny. In 18 months, the Peru Chamber of Commerce stated we broke every sales record in Miami County and qualified as a coveted “Master Cadillac Dealer” almost impossible in a DUAL DEALERSHIP. GM awarded me the GMC truck franchise. Dual dealership means that Cadillac is with one or more sister GM divisions. A phone call from retired logistics specialist, past Lone Star POCI president, Tom Brackett, inquiring how many Cadillac “dual store” past and present.

At Cadillac’s zenith, about 1160 Cadillac franchised locations existed I think. As of the 5th of November, 2024, 590 Cadillac dealers are listed. California has the most at 53. Not sure how many are stand alone “exclusive”. Cadillac Motor Car Division requires dealers to invest \$300,000 to sell and service electric vehicles. Those who refuse are given \$100,000 buy-out termination opportunity. Many great loyal Cadillac dealers said “good bye!”

Don Signer Buick Cadillac, Fremont, Newark, California . . . Ronnie Mitchell Oldsmobile Cadillac, Pensacola, Florida . . . Currie Andrews Cadillac Land Rover, Brentwood, Nashville, Tennessee. The three featured dealers were hugely successful, accomplished car folks. All had impeccable reputations, glowing credentials. All three were voted to leadership roles for the National Cadillac Dealer Council. Signer and Mitchell had new facilities. Andrews invested \$500,000 remodeling plus built a new stand alone Land Rover store. I was top sales producer at Mitchell 1987, Andrews 1996, Signer 1999.



Tile Party

Estes Kefauver, March 1958: “One out of every seven American workers are dependent upon the automotive industry for his livelihood. Deeping recession decrease automobile sales. Today U.A.W., rail strikes, plant closings, discontinued models and brutal weather all hurt.



“The most cash hungry business on earth is new car and truck dealerships requiring owners to prevent turnover and intensely guard against aged inventory.

“Marginal locations, antiquated facilities, depressed economies, highly competitive markets, brutal weather, and two feet of snow can put you temporarily “out of business.”



“You need happy owners and profit and plenty of both. Hot new inventory sparks interest! You are our guest. The place was built for you!”

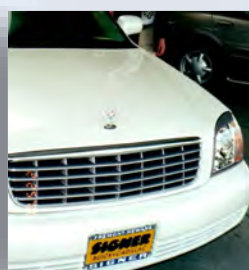
The next time you pass a new vehicle dealership, even at 60 mph, every vehicle on most lots are . . . floor planned! That means the vehicles are owned by the bank or GMAC at the cost to the dealer \$100 to \$300 per vehicle, per month until sold. Dealerships are also the largest collector of state and federal taxes in the country.



Generous Motors axed Oldsmobile, Pontiac, Saturn, and US government bailed-out Chevrolet. Analyst and engineers created self destructing Vegas. Hummers (axed) are reminiscent of my Vietnam square wheeled 6-by. Huge “H” buildings are embarrassingly empty. Air cooled Corvairs got the 1965 death rattle. Air cooled Volkswagen in 1965 sold 383,978 units. Don’t forget, Corvair Ralph got \$600,000 for his trouble.

13th annual *Automotive News*: “Best dealerships to work for in 2024 honoring 150 leading dealerships. Roger Penske Automotive has 79 dealerships listed and none are Cadillac.”

Email me (alexbeloff@verizon.net) if you have a future topic?





The secret to success - dual dealerships help. A Cadillac franchise was always a plus to develop the “carriage trade.” New Cadillac, Buick, Oldsmobile, Pontiac, Chevrolet, Saturn, and even pre-owners all influence the buying habit of others. Note the Andrews sign height restriction compliance.



You will never have a successful new car dealership unless you have a successful “used car, truck” pre-owned, pre-loved operation. When I was a dealer, we were “not allowed” to floor plan used cars. Why? That’s your money out there! Used cars do not improve like fine wine. Neglected aged inventory generates lost or missing keys, fobs, owner manuals, floor mats and worst of all creates lot damaged vehicles, even requiring respraying and extensive detailing. Used inventory over 45 days is fatal and so is employee turnover.

Andrews re-styled 1996 (FWD) Eldorado Biarritz



Andrews Cadillac Land Rover showroom



Andrews 1996 (FWD) Cadillac Seville with 1947 (RWD) Chevrolet in enclosed service drive



May God bless the trails you ride. *Alex*



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Parting Thoughts

