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Pat Howk: 636-282-1184 <phowk@earthlink.net>

### APRIL EASTER CAR SHOW

Date: Sunday, April 20th

Time: 8 AM to 4 PM

Where: Forest Park Upper Muny Parking Lot

Address: Summit Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112

**Note:** For those that registered their vehicle to participate, the showfield opens at 8 AM. Please have your vehicle in place by no later than 11 AM.

### **MAY CAR SHOW & MEETING**

Date: Sunday, May 4th

Time: 12 PM to 3 PM

Where: St. Martin's Episcopal Church

Event Link: Auto Show | St. Martin's

Address: 15764 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO

**RSVP:** To David Baker at <dkb9323@gmail.com> by April 24 (with lunch selection, optional).

**Note:** The show starts at 12:30 PM. For those displaying a car, please arrive by noon if possible.

When you RSVP you can let David know if you have interest in an optional delicious pork steak or chicken dinner for \$11—includes potato salad, coleslaw, and beverage. Partial meal proceeds go to the Circle of Concern, a local organization dedicated to feeding the hungry and assisting low-income families. Cash or credit card accepted at the show for meals.

This event sells "voting" tickets that attendees purchase and place in your vehicle's "ballot bucket". Top vote-getters win various items! This is a FUN event that you will enjoy! National Website: <cadillaclasalleclub.org> Region Website: <cadillaclasalleclubstl.org> (submit info to <contact@cadillaclasalleclubstl.org>)

Region Sponsor: ELCO Cadillac 15110 Manchester Road, Ballwin, Mo Cadillac Sales Manager - *Bill Pastor:* 877-590-6609



#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Our March 22nd meeting was held at the St. Louis Car Museum on Woodson Road in Overland, MO. John Faust and Sarah Boothby were our gracious hosts, providing coffee and doughnuts to an eager group of members. We had a good turnout of 27 members. John Faust stated that he had just clocked his 19th-year anniversary with the St. Louis Car Museum. Congratulations, John!

John gave an update on the state of the collector car market. Currently, it is very much a buyers' market. Springtime is often a good time to sell collector cars, as buyers want to enjoy them during the summer months, but this year may be an exception. John stated he had seen some motivated sellers. With the recent recession chatter, stock market ups and downs, and higher interest and insurance rates, vintage car buyers are scarcer this spring.

The St. Louis Car Museum does have two extremely-nice Cadillacs for sale. In the full classic pre-war era, they have a gorgeous 1931 Cadillac 355A Town Car. It is a multiple Concours award winner, fitted with every Cadillac accessory available. It has over 1,500 restoration hours toward meeting near-exacting Cadillac build standards.

The second Cadillac on hand would look exceptional in my garage, a beautifully-kept, white 1960 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz Convertible. 1960 was the final year for tri-carburetion, and the car has factory air conditioning and is loaded with full power accessories—just stunning!



Meeting agenda items included Treasurer Ted's report on our treasury balance that remains just under 5 Clevelands and a Franklin.

Secretary/Editor Craig reported that he is now able to produce the Club's **laminated car show placards** for members. In the near future he will send out an e-mail with picture examples of the placard and an order form that you can complete if you would like to design and purchase one. The cost will be \$5 each.

You likely received an e-mail from the Cadillac and LaSalle Club Museum and Research Center requesting donations needed for the **Museum's Silent Auction** at this year's Grand National in Murfreesboro, TN. The usual items that members typically donate include a full-size Cadillac or LaSalle (!), toy cars, memorabilia and literature, parts, artwork, and souvenirs. Another great idea is for donations of national-chain restaurant gift cards. Should you have an item you would like to donate and cannot locate the e-mail with donation information, please contact the Secretary who can forward the e-mail to you. The auction will be held on Wednesday evening, June 3rd.

The National Club experienced some delays in the **March** *The Self-Starter* being delivered on a timely basis. The US Postal Service has been implementing changes that have caused the delay. Fortunately, mine appeared in the mailbox, but about two weeks later than usual. Hopefully you have received yours. My April edition arrived on Tax Day, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

As the Region's 2025 dues collection is wrapped up, the **2025 Club Roster** should be distributed by the end of April to members in a PDF file.

Mention was made at the meeting of the **Saint Louis Art Museum exhibit** noted in the March newsletter. The exhibit, *Roaring: Art, Fashion, and the Automobile in France, 1918–1939* will be at the Museum April 12–July 27, 2025. The cost is Adults: \$20; seniors and students: \$16; children (6–12): \$11; children (5 and under): free; Members always free. Advance tickets are recommended.

Todd spoke of the potential of a group rate of \$14/ person. The Club may try to arrange a group-rate visit. Several members have already seen the exhibit, and it is outstanding. Displayed are 12 exquisite pre-war cars built in France, including several Bugattis, Delahaye, Delage, Hispano Suiza and Talbot. I definitely think this impressive exhibit will draw visitors from out-of-town. I plan to have an article on the exhibit in a future newsletter.

There was also mention at our meeting of the CBS TV news story broadcast Sunday morning, March 16<sup>th</sup>, about **McPherson College** and its auto restoration program. It was an excellent story, and I am providing this link if you would like to view it: Restoring classic cars in the classroom - CBS News. Prior to participating in the 2024 National Driving Tour in Wichita, KS, Cindy and I were able to arrange a tour of McPherson's restoration program. As I find time, I will prepare an article on that amazing experience for a future newsletter.

Upon completion of our meeting agenda items, members then enjoyed browsing the St. Louis Car Museum's cars on display and held for sale, along with the automobilia memorabilia (say that fast 3times) presented in a I-o-n-g row of display cases. Most members then proceeded to the nearby Fallon's Bar & Grill for a tasty lunch, beverage and gab—heavy on the gab.

**2025 Event Dates:** Our 2025 Calendar of Events will be a work in progress over the course of this year. Meeting and event ideas were solicited at our meeting and several great suggestions were made.

If you have ideas on meeting locations, events and drives, etc. please let Director Todd or Assistant Director David know. Better yet, if you are willing to assist by helping to plan and organize the suggested event, all members will appreciate your efforts and doing so helps immensely.

Current 2025 Club events currently planned or in the planning stages for save-the-dates are:

- June 14, 2025: Dave and Patti Van Berkel have graciously offered to host our June Club meeting at their home in Arnold, MO. They are located very near the I-55 and MO 141 intersection. The current plan is to purchase fried chicken from a nearby eatery, with members signing up to bring side dishes or desserts, their beverages of choice, and lawn chairs. The Van Berkel's have a beautiful home with plenty of off-street parking. This meeting will be rain-or-shine, as they have available a large partially covered patio that adjoins several acres of forest, as well as an impressive indoor, lower-level party room with access to the patio. More details to follow. We will need RSVPs in May along with side-dish and dessert sign-ups. A good time is guaranteed! Thank You, Dave and Patti!
- Sept./Oct.: Date to be determined, but we hope to host the Kansas City Region over a 3-4 day weekend to introduce them to the finer life in St. Louis! This event is similar to the St. Louis Region's visit to the Kansas City Region two years ago for the "Gateway to Fountains" Tour. I am tentatively naming this tour "B-B-Q to the Lou" or "Jazz meets the Blues". Please submit your name suggestions and your hotel and tour ideas to Director Todd Tobiasz.

Our Club received an invitation to participate in the following car show:

July 5, 2025: Legends & Liberty Car Show, Louisiana, MO. The city is shutting down historic Georgia Street, off Highway 79, and filling it with classics, imports, motorcycles, Jeeps, and wild custom builds. It happens alongside a full day of live music, vendors, food trucks, family activities, and an epic Fourth of July fireworks show. We'd love to see your Club display together. You're welcome to compete in multiple classes—and we even have a premium Legendary Showcase area right by the stage and vendors for just an extra \$10. Reserved group parking is available. Registration is open and spots are filling up. Contact is Bea Carnley, Car Show Coordinator, 636-288-9834. https:// forms.gle/5Z95eTsHtvii5V9BA.

**CLC-StL Vendor List**: We are moving forward on the development of a recommended-vendor list for both parts and services based on member knowledge and experience. Many have already submitted recommendations. If you have vendors that you would like to submit, either local, national, or international, please submit as much of the following vendor information listed below as possible:

Vendor Information Vendor Name: Vendor Contact: Full Address: Phone Number: Vendor Website: Vendor Specialty:

Please submit your vendor recommendations to Mark Ellison at <u>maellisonod80@gmail.com</u>.

Mark will compile the vendors list into categories for quick lookup. The categories contemplated are listed below. Please feel free to chime in with any thoughts and/or ideas:

Cat.# Category Description

- 1) Accessories (radio, antenna, cruise control, clock, etc.)
- 2) **Body & Chassis** (sheet metal, bumpers, emblems, glass, emblems, trim, etc.)
- 3) Brakes
- 4) Convertible, Vinyl Top, etc.
- 5) Driveline (transmission, driveshaft, differential)
- 6) **Electrical** (lighting, wiper/washer, instrument panel, power seat/window, etc.)
- 7) Engine (cooling, electrical, fuel system/tank, mechanical)
- 8) **HVAC** (A/C, heater, and controls)
- 9) **Interior** (upholstery, carpet, headliner and trim)
- 10) Metal Plating/Coatings (chrome, zinc, cadmium, zinc phosphate, etc.)
- 11) Restoration-General
- 12) Suspension, Steering, and Wheel Bearings
- 13) Wheels and Tires
- 14) General Vendors

Please contact Mark Ellison or Craig Masterson with any questions or suggestions. Thanks!

**Member News:** As previously reported, **Steve Colesworthy** has volunteered to visit the local Cadillac dealers and ask them to display our CLC

National Club brochure in their showroom to generate interest in club membership. Steve purchased clear Lucite brochure stands to display the brochures, presenting a very professional Club appearance.



**Cindy Masterson** worked her magic and produced labels with our St. Louis Region logo and contact

information that have been affixed to the brochures and brochure stand. Thank you, Steve and Cindy!

**Philip Mueller** recently had surgery. Philip, we hope all went well and are wishing you a speedy and successful recovery!

**Dennis Leiendecker** reported that he has sold his 1959 Metropolitan convertible. What a fun car to behold and a total contrast to our Club's cars. Dennis, did you decide to sell it once you determined it would not fit in the trunk of your 1958 series 62 convertible?

Some of you sharp-eyed readers may have noticed a new icon at the top of page one. The **Fleetwood Flyer** (*FF*) has won a 2024 *Old Cars* magazine Golden Quill



Award. As I have stated previously, the *FF* is very much a team effort. I would like to send a BIG THANK YOU to **Cindy Masterson** and **Doug Birk** for their unrelenting support of the *FF*—assisting with editing and article submissions. Are <u>YOU</u> feeling left out? Well, JOIN the TEAM! Submit an article this year to the *FF*, then post it on your refrigerator door and add it to your resume.

This month we have several great articles. **Barb Knudsen** and **Gene Bossaller** have provided pictures from the tours they attended at this year's CLC Winter Reunion and Board Meeting in Chattanooga, TN. Thank you, Barb and Gene!

Next, we have two articles on Cadillac Roadside Assistance. The first article is about the vehicles originally used to deliver roadside assistance, and is provided by CLC national member Vince Taliano from MD. Vince is also a member of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America (VCCA), and the Editor for Generator & Distributor, VCCA's national magazine. Upon reading Vince's article, Jeff Baehler, Director-St. Louis Region of the VCCA, just knew he had to write a follow up article. You see, Jeff is a friend and former neighbor of CLC-StL member Pat Howk, aka, "Mr. Cadillac Roadside Assistance" in the St. Louis area! These articles originally ran in the VCCA Generator & Distributor national magazine and the CLC Potomac Region's Caddie Chronicle newsletter. Great articles, Vince and Jeff, thank you so much for sharing with us! And, Pat, YOU DA MAN !!! I know all of you will enjoy these three great articles.

Craig Masterson





A friend of Todd Tobiasz's neighbor has a 1970 Cadillac Coupe de Ville for sale that was acquired in an unusual manner. The owner, Gordon Carlson, acquired the car when he purchased the garage it was stored in as part of a property tax delinquency auction. Todd and Gordon surmise that the vehicle was last licensed in 1984 and has likely been sitting in the garage since then. Gordon will be applying for a title for the car with the state of Missouri. The car is gold with a black vinyl top and gold cloth interior. It shows 84K miles on the odometer. The body appears virtually rust free, although there are some nicks and scratches in the gold paint. No asking price has been determined yet. My hunch is that Gordon may be a motivated seller. He can be contacted at (314) 727-4960 if you are interested and would like to view the car.



## TOOL REVIEW Holt Industries Self-Adjusting Oil Filter Pliers (By: Craig Masterson)

I have virtually every type and size of oil filter wrench in my tool chest needed to service both domestic and "furr'n" cars. I bought these to try so that I did not have to hunt around for the correct size wrench needed. These are spring-loaded and self-adjusting, quickly adjusting to the filter size at hand. The jaw-teeth really bite in and can handle

filters from 2.25" to 4.75" in diameter. I have found these also work great in the kitchen to open those stubborn jars! Due to their spring-loaded action, they are always wide open, making compact storage difficult. I solved that issue with an old pharmacy bottle slipped over both handles. They are sold at Harbor Freight for under \$20.



# **2025 CLC WINTER REUNION TOURS**

(By: Barb Knudsen and Gene Bossaller)

Three CLC-StL Region members attended the 2025 CLC Winter Reunion and Board Meeting held at the Embassy Suites at Hamilton Place in Chattanooga, TN, January 28th to February 1st. Present were Board Member and Central Regions Vice-President Kevin Williams, member Barb Knudsen, and associate member Gene Bossaller.

A tour and banquet were held at the Coker Museum, founded by Corky Coker of Coker Tire fame. The museum contains over 130 vintage vehicles, from cars to airplanes. There was a Saturday evening banquet, and the guest speaker was a representative for The Hemmings Great Race of 2025. This year's race is scheduled to take place from June 21 to June 29, 2025. The event will start in St. Paul, Minnesota, and conclude in Irmo, South Carolina, covering approximately 2,300 miles over nine days. This prestigious vintage car rally will feature 120 antique automobiles and will make several stops along the route. Coker Tire is also a sponsor of the race.





Above: Corky Coker's race cars (left and right), museum work shop (center)



Above: Corky's 1947 Cadillac (left), the collection's "Crown Jewel" 1927 Isotta Fraschini (center), Thomas Flyer, built in Chattanooga, TN (right)

Then, we were on to the International Towing Museum. The museum opened in 1986 when a group of dedicated towing professionals, the Friends of Towing, decided to recognize outstanding individuals in the towing and recovery industry worldwide, record the industry's history, and collect and display artifacts and memorabilia in a museum setting.

In its humble beginnings, the Friends of Towing displayed the Hall of Fame and Museum in a semi-trailer and drove it to and from towing and recovery industry trade shows across the country. In 1995, the organization decided on the scenic city of Chattanooga, TN. Chattanooga had been credited as the birth-

place of the tow truck thanks to inventor Ernest Holmes, Sr. Holmes and his son Ernest Holmes, Jr., who would go on to establish a major towing manufacturer named the Ernest Holmes Company.

Ernest Holmes, Sr., is credited with inventing the first U.S. tow truck. Holmes modified a 1913 Cadillac to pull cars and transport them to his garage by affixing an iron chain, a pulley and several poles to the back of his Cadillac. Holmes quickly patented his invention, and thus the U.S. towing industry was born.









Above: Holmes Wrecker (left), 1974 Ford Vulcan Cradle Snatcher (center) Above: 1946 Chevrolet (right), Immediate Right: 1948 Chevrolet/Holmes COE (cab over engine) Below: 2002 International H 430 – Pink Wrecker (left)

Below: 1961 Auto Car (right)



A private car collection garage and shop visit was also on the tour agenda. This gentleman made his money from boat dealerships and large boat slip rentals. Some of his collection shown below included high performance and drag cars from the 1950s and later, plus boats and motorcycles.



We have attended several CLC Winter Reunion events and we highly recommend them to members!





# Cadillac's Roadside Service Vehicles: GMC Sierra Classics

By Vince Taliano, VCCA #55473, North Potomac, Maryland Images by Dave Smith, Hartford, Connecticut



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Cadilla



SPECIAL ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

BRUSHES WITH GREATNESS

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\* "Brushes with Greatness" technicians have at roadside. Please write us in care of the "Letters to the Editor" address on the



BEFORE CADILLAC INTRODUCED THE ESCALADE

in the 1999 model year, many of its dealerships relied on GMC SUVs for their Roadside Service vehicles. Here is a late 1980s GMC Sierra Classic pictured on the cover of *Cadillac's Roadside Service Review's* June/July 1989 issue. This one was used by Martin Cadillac of Los Angeles, CA, and provided service to celebrities like the late Betty White. According to the article, "Roadside Service helped *The Golden Girls* star when she locked her keys in her 1989 Eldorado." Lou Nanos, Dealer Coordinator at Martin Cadillac, states that she loved the service and recommended customers to the dealership. Other celebrities who received Cadillac Roadside Service in the Los Angeles area from the GMC included Danny Thomas, Smokey Robinson, and Rosie Greer, in addition to John ("Bo Duke") Schneider and Larry ("John Ross "J.R." Ewing, Jr.") Hagman's wife. Cadillac dealers in Tennessee and Texas are also mentioned in the article. If anyone has any information on what happened to the fleet of GMC service vehicles that Cadillac used in the late 1980s, please send me an email at editor@vcca.org.

# CADILLAC ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

#### BY: JEFF BAEHLER (Director, St. Louis Region, Vintage Chevrolet Club of America)

The Cadillac Roadside Assistance program started nationwide in 1987 and reached St. Louis, MO the following year. It is commonplace now, but at that time guaranteed emergency service included with the purchase of a car was a new idea. To this day it is one of the few roadside assistance programs run directly by a brand name manufacturer/dealer and not an independent contractor.

Pat Howk (pictured right) was a shop mechanic at Lindburg Cadillac in St. Louis when he started his career in 1977. He was selected to operate a service vehicle for the new Cadillac Roadside Assistance program in June 1988. A new blue GMC Suburban was purchased by the dealer for the program. In 1988, the GMC Suburbans were still the old 'square bodies' prior to the full model changeover in 1992. The light duty pickup trucks were all new starting in 1988.



The setup of the vehicle was also Pat's responsibility. Two rows of passenger seats were removed and the rear was filled with tool boxes, parts, batteries, tires and test equipment. He drove the vehicle every day and answered service calls 24/7 using a pager and a very expensive cell phone. In 1988, few people had personal cell phones.

He continued as the roadside assistance mechanic through the 1990s with Plaza Cadillac in St. Louis. Up until 1998 the program used GMC Suburban/Yukon XLs. Pat used four different GMC vehicles from the beginning of the program. All started the program as new vehicles and were retired after about four-five years of service. Typical mileage at retirement was 150,000. After their life as a service vehicle, the passenger seats were replaced and the graphics identifying it as a Cadillac Roadside Assistance vehicle were removed. Then they were sent to the auction. It's unlikely any subsequent owners would be aware of any history as a service vehicle.

One feature of the roadside assistance program is supplying full size wheel and tire replacements for many of the Cadillac models. This started a few years ago when many new luxury cars did not include a spare tire. Many used 'run-flat' tires on all four wheels. This reduced the total weight of the car for better fuel efficiency. Most Cadillac owners would not be changing their own flat tires anyway. Also, most did not want to drive on a spare "donut" due to looks along with speed and distance limits. Pat would put a full-size spare wheel on and take the customers flat tire back to dealer for repair. He would then take the repaired wheel and tire directly back to the customer, so they never even had to go to the dealer.

Pat recalls his first call was a tourist at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis whose electric window would not go up. One of his most memorable calls was a cold Christmas morning when he replaced a water pump at a customer's home. This was a later model Cadillac, so replacement was complex, requiring many of the components on the top and front of the engine compartment be removed and the cooling system refilled and tested. The customer assumed it was a temporary fix and asked Pat when they would have to take it back to the dealer for the repair to be completed. He told them that it was a permanent repair and fully guaranteed so they would not have to return with their vehicle.

Pat's favorite comment from a customer was when he was changing a flat tire on the "suicide side" on the highway with cars and trucks whizzing by. He did it so quickly and efficiently the customer told him he should work on a NASCAR team!

One of the current challenges is unlocking Cadillacs that have dark window tint that is so popular now. It is very difficult to see what you're doing. Lockouts are actually more common now with keyless ignitions.

In 1999, the service vehicle was changed to the Cadillac Escalade (pictured below). That was the first Cadillac SUV which debuted in the Cadillac lineup that year based on the GMC Yukon Denali.



From 2011 to today, Pat continues to serve as the Roadside Assistance mechanic with Elco Chevrolet / Cadillac in St. Louis. The latest vehicle is a white 2023 Escalade XL (pictured below), put into service in June 2023. That marked 35 years since the program started in St Louis in 1988. For most of those years, Pat was the only full-time Cadillac Roadside Assistance operator in St. Louis.



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			Laure L		2025	
			<b></b>		Louis Region	
		v		uis Region <b>Calend</b> a	ar of Events	FOUNDED 1958
	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Notes
	1/11	Sat	1:00 PM	Monthly Mtg & Holiday Party	Favazza's Restaurant, 5201 Southwest Ave.	
	2/27	Thur	6:00 PM	Monthly Mtg - The Sports Café	579 Pennridge Dr., Bridgeton, 63044	
	3/22	Sat	10:00 AM	Monthly Mtg - St. Louis Car Museum	1575 Woodson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63114	Lunch out afterwards
	4/20	Sun	8:00 AM	HCCM-Annual Easter Car Show	Forest Park-Muny Opera Upper Parking Lot	
1	5/04	Sun	11:30 AM-3:30 PM	Monthly Mtg & Car Show	St.Martin's Episcopal Church, 15764 Clayton Rd., Ellisville	Circle of Concern Food Pantry Benefit
	6/2-7			CLC Grand National	Murphysburo, TN	
	6/14	Sat	TBD	Monthly Mtg & Lunch	Van Berkel home, Arnold, MO	Bring side dishes/desserts
	July	TBD	TBD	Monthly Mtg		
	Aug.	TBD	TBD	Monthly Mtg		
	Sept.	TBD	TBD	Monthly Mtg		
	10/15-18			CLC National Driving Tour	Central New York state	
	10/11	Sat	9 AM - 3 PM	Annual CLC Car Show & Monthly Mtg	12481 Ladue Rd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141	Elks Lodge #9, w/Jaguar Club
	11/19	Wed	6:00 PM	Monthly Mtg	ELCO Cadillac, 15110 Manchester Rd., Ballwin	Final 2025 meeting
				Other Local (	Car Related Events	
	6/15	Sun	10 AM-3 PM	HCCM Father's Day Car Show	Museum of Transport., 2967 Barrett Station Rd.	
	9/13	Sat		Kicks On 66/R.Gori Memorial Car Show	Ray M. Schon Park, Glen Carbon, IL	
	9/14	Sun	8:30 AM	HCCM Show & Swap Meet	849 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold MO 63010	Fox School District Service Center
1	Oct.	Sat		Archway Oldsmobile Charity Trivia Night		Amer.Legion #312, \$20/person
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