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### MARCH MEETING

Date: Thursday, March 14th

Time: 6:00 PM

Where: The Sports Cafe

Address: 579 Pennridge Dr., Bridgeton, 63044

**Note:** Please order your meal immediately upon arrival so that the kitchen does not get too backed up and all are served timely.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Our February 24th meeting was held at the St. Louis Car Museum (SLCM). Twenty-one members were in attendance. Jon Faust and Sarah Boothby with SLCM hosted our meeting. They set up a nice meeting area for us in the workshop and graciously provided coffee and breakfast sweettreats. Thank you, Jon and Sarah!



Jon provided an overview of the current collector car market. Prices have receded somewhat from the highs experienced in the 2020-2022 period. Normally, they desire to maintain 40 to 45 cars in 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



inventory, but during the pandemic years they were selling cars quickly and could only maintain 20 to 28 cars in inventory.

Prices and sales softened in 2023, and the start of 2024 appears even softer. Spring driving weather should help increase collector car interest and sales, but current loan financing rates are in a word, terrible. Collector car loan financing that they have seen is in the 9.95% - 12.5% APR range. Insurance rates are also at an all-time high. Thus, the cost to buy a non-necessity "toy" is currently greater than in the recent past. So, Cash is King!

The Cadillac "gem" they have is a 1-of-815 1958 Dakota-red Eldorado Biarritz convertible with red interior and factory A/C. The car was acquired from the estate of a CLC Potomac Region member. The car has been mechanically sorted, including the A/C and heater system, along with new tires and exhaust. The listed price is \$129K. Oh-oh, as I write this report, the car is now shown as "Sold" on their website. What a beautiful car, did YOU buy it?



Jon Faust is celebrating his 18<sup>th</sup> year with SLCM in March. Congratulations, Jon, on your 18 years with SLCM! Post-meeting, I learned that SLCM will be an advertiser in the 2024 CLC Grand National Official Program. SLCM is building a great national reputation!

Director Todd discussed several upcoming events including the Sunday, March 31st, HCCM Easter Auto Show at Forest Park and the Saturday, April 13th, Evergreen Auto Collection Tour in Lebanon, MO. Registration forms for both events have been distributed with this newsletter.

Barb Knudson, on behalf of the Oldsmobile and Vintage Chevy Clubs, has invited CLC members to attend the Danny Krumm Garage & Shop Tour on Saturday, May 18th. This event may become our May CLC meeting!

Please see the following additional information on these events and others, including dues dates for event registration and/or RSVPs:

- March 31st; HCCM Easter Auto Show: Sunday, Forest Park, St. Louis, MO. The renowned Horseless Carriage Club Easter Auto Show at Forest Park is fast approaching. Easter falls very early this year. Last year the Club had a formal presence at the show for the first time in many years with approximately 20 vehicles displayed. Director Todd is planning another Club display this year. Todd states we will have a similar display location as last year, with 11/2 spaces allotted for each registered vehicle. There will be plenty of room between vehicles to facilitate attendee viewing-more space than most groups obtain. If you desire to display a vehicle(s), please contact Director Todd by March 15th
- April 13th; Evergreen Collection: Saturday, ٠ Lebanon, MO. The HCCM is arranging for a tour of this large and impressive private automobile collection (400+ cars). The collection includes a recreated Duesenberg showroom housing about six Duesenbergs. The tour registration form has been distributed with this newsletter. Cost, which includes lunch, is \$40. Lebanon, MO is about a 2.5 hour drive southwest from downtown St. Louis on Hwy 44 (past Fort Leonard Wood). Mail your HCCM tour registration form by April 4th. Final tour details will be emailed to attendees by the HCCM prior to the event. This is a tour be missed! not to Evergreen Historic Automobiles and Classic Cars Lebanon MO.
- April 28th; CLC-StL Meeting/Car Show: Sunday, 11:30 am to 3:30 pm, St. Martin's

Episcopal Church, 15764 Clayton Rd., Ellisville, MO 63011. The CLC-StL has been invited to participate with several other car clubs in the church's Third Annual Auto Show & Festival. The Festival is a fundraiser for the church's food pantry, Circle of Concern. Vehicles will be vying for prizes to be awarded based on "votes" received from Festival attendees. Everyone receives one vote, but additional votes can be purchased, which is the fundraising component of the Festival. <u>An event</u> flyer has been distributed with this newsletter.

- May 5th; Diamond Mineral Springs Restaurant (DMSR): Sunday, Highland, IL. Clayton Patterson is arranging a dine and wine tour as a joint-club event with the Lambda Car Club. Participants will start in Collinsville, IL for a one-hour leisurely drive to the DMSR for lunch, then proceed a short distance (7.5 miles) to the Copper Dock Winery in Pocahontas, IL. Past tours have been VERY popular. RSVPs will be required to assure sufficient seating. See the provided flyer.
- May 17th-19th; HET Route 66/Pontiac, IL Tour: Friday-Sunday. The Gateway Chapter of the Hudson Essex Terraplane Club is sponsoring an overnight Route 66 Cruise to Pontiac, IL. Pontiac has several museums including those devoted to Pontiac-Oakland Automobiles, Route 66, Military/War, and Gilding (gold-leaf). More details to follow.
- May 18th; Fisher House Car Show & Live Music: Saturday, WWT Racetrack., Madison, IL. This is the "CAR-ing for Veterans" charity fundraiser for St. Louis Fisher House. Fisher House provides lodging, food, and transportation to the families of veterans and active military while they are being treated by the VA Medical Center in St. Louis. As this is a fundraiser, there will be a fee to attend for all attendees, not just those displaying a vehicle. A flyer has been distributed with this newsletter.
- May 18th; Danny Krumm Garage Tour & BBQ (and CLC May Meeting?): Saturday, Sunset Hills, MO. See Danny's Mustang and wife Sharon's Mopar collections, farm tractor and hit-and-miss engine collections, plus auto memorabilia and a die-cast model car collection! Danny's family has built a minirailroad in the front yard and will offer rides around the property. There will be a lunch of brats, hotdogs and chips around noon. Bring your own favorite drinks. Tables and chairs are

provided. Stay as long as you want and enjoy the fun. <u>Please drive your collector cars</u> as Danny and his friends like to view the variety of hobby cars on the driveway. Collector cars will park on the pavement, and modern cars will park on the grassy yard. We will meet at the Park-and-Ride lot at Gravois and Hwy 270 across from the Chestnut Rehab. Center at 10:30 and depart at 10:45, then drive across Gravois onto Weber Hill Road to West Watson Road to the Krumm's property. RSVPs will be required for food planning purposes by May 9th to Director Todd or Secretary Craig.

 June 8th; Freyja Bax Benefit: Car Show, Lutheran High School, 5100 Mexico Road, St. Peters, MO. The Eastmans

Peters, MO. The Eastmans bring this benefit to our attention for a baby diagnosed with Haddad syndrome. Please scan the QR Code or see the flyer distributed with the newsletter for more information.



 August 27–31; "Cadillacs in Kansas": The CLC National Driving Tour will be a five-day



Hub-and-Spoke tour of the wonders of central Kansas, with Wichita, KS as the hub. One of the events will be a tour of McPherson College's Automotive Restoration Department. The tour is sponsored by the Missouri

Valley Region and the Central States Region. The event is a very-reasonable 6½ hour drive from downtown St. Louis. The link for Cadillacs in Kansas is: <u>Cadillacs in Kansas: National Driving Tour</u> <u>August 27–31, 2024 | Cadillac Club of Kansas City</u> (kccadillacclub.org).

 August 31st; CLC-StL Meeting: Saturday, 9am to Noon, Gateway Classic Cars (GCC), O'Fallon, IL. The Club will participate in GCC's monthly Caffeine & Chrome Car Show. Our

Club will be a "Featured Club". As the Featured Club, GCC will contribute \$10 to CLC-StL for each Club vehicle displayed. This event is GCC's annual Cause for Paws Charity Event. The spotlight charity will be Stray Rescue of St. Louis.



 September 8th; CLC-StL Meeting & Picnic: Sunday, Tilles Park, 2 pm-dusk. The picnic is back! We will join with the Spirit Region of the CCCA for an old-fashion picnic. There will be lots of automobile eye-candy to drool over! The picnic site is a shelter overlooking a lake; so, bring your fishing poles! Sushi anyone?

 October 5th; Fall CLC-StL Car Show: Our 2023 Fall Car Show was held at the Creve Coeur Elks Lodge with the Jaguar Car Club's annual show. Member feedback was very positive. CLC Member Brandon Gray, also President of the Jaguar Club, has extended an invitation for our Club to again participate in 2024. I have added this date to our calendar, pending official Club approval/confirmation.

#### 2024 CLC-StL Dues Collection Completed!:

Thank you all for renewing your 2024 dues timely! Several of you have paid for multiple years, which will reduce the annual dues renewal workload for Treasurer Ted and me in the future. Double-Thanks!! We had three non-renewing members due to moves, sale of car, etc. But we have offset that loss with several new members who have joined since the start of the year.

Distributed with this newsletter is the 2024 CLC-StL Roster. Due to the personal information contained within—addresses (home and email), phone numbers, etc. please DO NOT further distribute this roster. It is for MEMBER USE ONLY.

**Club Sponsorship:** I want to acknowledge that our CLC St. Louis Region is sponsored by ELCO Cadillac. ELCO will continue sponsorship of our Club for 2024. We greatly appreciate ELCO's past and future support by providing meeting and car show space at their beautiful new dealership facility. If you have a need for a used vehicle or a new Cadillac or Chevrolet, please be sure to contact General Sales Manager Bill Pastor and mention your CLC membership. Bill's contact info is listed on page one.

**Member News**: I am pleased to report that my friend, Jonathan Leggs, has joined our Club. Jonathan and I know each other from another car club to which we both belong.

Jonathan does not own a Cadillac but has an interest in Cadillac DeVilles from 1968 to the early 1970s. He stated that joining the Club was a way to learn about the "care and feeding" of vintage Cadillacs, to determine what may interest him, and to determine whether to proceed with a purchase. On behalf of the Club, WELCOME, Jonathan!

This month's newsletter continues with Doug Birk's series of excellent articles on the 2023 Albuquerque CLC Grand National. This month's article highlights the Special, Custom and Resto-Mod vehicles that appeared at the Grand National last year. Doug, as always, THANK YOU, and keep up the good work!

Craig Masterson



**1947 Cadillac 6269 Sedan.** Hydra-Matic. 76,000 miles. Owned for 35 years. Great driver. New interior. Extra parts included. \$19,900 or best offer. **Elliot Enger**, St. Louis, MO, 314-614-7750, email theengers@att.net. 4/24

**! MUST SELL FOR HEALTH REASONS. MAKE OFFER !** 

## PRODUCT REVIEW Garden Seat & Kneeler

(By: Craig Masterson)

This month's product review is of a garden seat and kneeler. This review has been on my list to write for over a year. I had previously bought this product over 15 years ago and have used it regularly while working in the yard and for simple auto projects such as oil changes, car washes, etc. It has "earned its keep" many times over as a knee, leg, and back saver. This item is even more helpful as I get older and deal with my current health challenges. When I recently saw this item at a local store (Ollie's Bargain Outlet on Manchester Rd.) for a very reasonable price (\$18), I had to buy a couple more for around the house.



These items are sold under various brand names. That pictured is "Erin's Garden". My original is a "Brookstone"—a bit more heavy-duty-gauge metal. I attribute that more to its purchase 15 years ago when "stuff" was made better, rather than to the brand. I presume new ones are now all of the same quality—likely made in the same factory.

As you see pictured on the box, this item can be flipped between use as a seat or as a kneeler. I primarily use it as a kneeler. And while I have plenty of kneeling pads around the house, this item provides you two legs (handles?) on which to push against while kneeling to help you return to a standing position. Priceless!

And as also shown on the box, the two legs/ handles have spring-loaded locking bars that allow them to easily fold flat against the cushion, creating a very compact shape for storage.

This particular brand also includes a Velcroattached hanging pouch for holding any tools you may need within easy reach while using the seat/ kneeler.

As I primarily use this item in the yard and on concrete surfaces, the metal tube construction works well. It feels quite sturdy and should provide many years of service. I even like the Kelly-green color.

But, if you do need to use this indoors on more delicate surfaces such as tile or hardwood floors, you should make one modification. To prevent scratches or indentations on those interior surfaces, wrap some foam plumbing pipe insulation around the tubing that will rest on any delicate surface. "Knees down", this is a great tool!

### 2023 CLC GRAND NATIONAL (Part 5) Specialty & Custom Vehicles

### (By: Doug Birk)

Like many car shows, there are always a few cars that stand out from among the "regular" production models. Some may consider them rogues, black sheep, ugly, junk, or just unwelcome. The 2023 Grand National (GN) was no different with the exception being that ALL Cadillacs are welcome at the annual family reunion. These unique vehicles are more commonly called specialty cars, customs, or resto-mods and have their own designated class for their display, judging, and awards.

The last factory-application of the Fleetwood name was 1996. Post-1996, Cadillac sanctioned and licensed the modification of Sedan de Villes into Fleetwoods by custom coach builders.

Displayed was a beautiful metallic flannel-gray, custom built, 1998 Cadillac Sedan de Ville that was transformed into a Fleetwood Limited. The prior year a twin 1999 Fleetwood Limited was shown at the 2022 GN in Lombard, IL.



The labor-intensive effort was performed by Superior Coach Company of Lima, OH. They specialized in Cadillac alterations and are better known for their limos and funeral cars. Modifications include, but are not limited to, cutting and extending the wheelbase by three inches and the roof by six inches. This enables a roomier rear compartment, providing for an inlaid wooden writing table on the passenger-side and





carpeted foot-rests. Other changes include special exterior trim, padded top, and fender skirts.

The conversion to a Fleetwood Limited came with a price. The base price on the Sedan de Ville of \$42,700 quickly soared to a whopping \$55,354. Remember, that was 1998, 25 years ago.



With only 734 units produced during the two years made, it was an instant and desirable newer collectible Cadillac. Looking good in any driveway and even better on the boulevard, the lucky owner, Nick Manole of Albuquerque, took home a welldeserved second place award.

Some people's first ride in a Cadillac may also be their last. Morbid maybe, but part of life and death. Yes, we are talking hearses, excuse me, funeral coaches. The two at this year's GN were opposites in personality, or I should say, show class.

The very traditional 1994 Cadillac FH90 hearse was custom built by Superior Coach on a designated Cadillac commercial chassis, based on the Fleetwood Brougham D series platform. Finished in a metallic autumn-gold, this coach had all the amenities; high-gloss, wood-plank, ribbed floors (rear), velvet curtains, landau bars, and a matching bronze casket with gold handles. The proud owner, who took a first place award, was John Criswell of Albuquerque.



The sister FH90 coach was from 1995, finished in porcelain white with contrasting black fabric top. Making it different were the modifications of a lowered suspension, aftermarket Tru-Spoke chrome wire wheels, and 2-inch-wide whitewall tires. But being true to the Professional Car Society, it did have curtains and landau bars; I guess it qualifies! Another Albuquerque owner, Max Mayer, did not win an award, but sure took home memories of spectators' expressions upon viewing his pride and joy.



If you have a passion for a Cadillac that does not fit the mold of a distinguished elderly couple driving their Fleetwood Brougham to the country club, this next car is for you. A late entry, or gate crasher, was a 1986 saffron-yellow Fleetwood Brougham lowrider. Like a peacock, this Caddy was strutting and flaunting its hand-stenciled overlays accented with gold trim and striping. The artistic touch was carried over to incorporate a Rolls-Royceinspired grill shell, crowned with a gold Cadillac crest. This cruiser rode on undersized 13-inch tires, mounted on gold Tru-Spoke wire wheels with spinners.



Performance came not in the form of a powerful engine, but rather its ability to raise, lower, and tilt its chassis in contortions only found in wrecked cars pulled from ditches or in the salvage yard. Modesty was not in her vocabulary; when up in the air, her whole undercarriage was exposed! Still, it is a Cadillac; I guess the license plate says it all— "PIMPA-LAC".



Completely over-the-top was a 1981 Cadillac Seville Opera Convertible Coupe. It seems nearly impossible to take a large four-door pillared sedan and shrink it to a two-passenger, two-door roadster, all while keeping the rear-profile of a bustle-back Seville.



The transformation was performed by Grandeur Motor Corp. of Pompano Beach, FL. Alterations include an elongated hood, dual side-mounted dummy spare tires, real chrome wire wheels, and Rolls-Royce-inspired grill, topped with a gold Cadillac goddess hood ornament. It was finished in a shimmering champagne-gold metallic lacquer with buckskin leather seating. It was topped with a matching tan folding convertible top.

Originally ordered by Consuela Browning of the Browning firearms family of Utah, it did not venture too far from its new home in Colorado. Proud owner, Bill Cross, made room in his twoseater for the award he took home.



Imagine hiking the rural slopes and many trails of the Colorado Rockies, discovering not a gold nugget, but a brown and black shell, of a car that is. The mysterious carcass in question is (was) a 1936 Cadillac series 7519 town sedan. The once jewel-of-a-car, a relic of the past, was half submerged in a cold creek bed for an unknown amount of time, leaving little to work with except one's imagination.

The evil spell cast upon the unsuspecting and prospective new owner was reminiscent of the theme of the movie "Christine", in which a red 1958 Plymouth Fury, with a troubled and tragic past life, came alive again with the aid of its new owner.

The spiritual calling enticed a young lady from Las Vegas, Teresa Alexander, to acquire this car as a must-have keepsake. Somehow, she and husband David managed to retrieve it and transport it to Las Vegas to begin the exasperating effort to resurrect it for a second go at life on the highway.



Sounds like the plot from an old Frankenstein movie, an effort to create something from nothing. So, the project begins...what Teresa wants, Teresa gets!

David is not a professional welder, but a road surface-paver by trade. Somehow, use of a welding torch came as a natural talent to him in an effort to create something special and memorable for his wife.

Where to begin? Being too far gone for it to be restored to its original configuration was a given; so, start anew. Mostly gutting the complete car inside and partially outside allowed David to combine modern amenities with a vintage flare. I guess the category is now called Resto-Mod.

Modifications include a new subframe, GM 454 cubic inch engine, turbo hydramatic transmission, power steering and brakes, aftermarket A/C, and of course, adjustable air-ride suspension.

Now came the hard part, to fabricate and create a new lower half of a rusted relic. The "torch man" was able to remake the lower half of the fenders, doors, and trunk, basically anything that was rotted or missing below the beltline. David's creative abilities allowed him to use common materials found in a hardware store or recycle shop.

The most outstanding and labor-intensive feature was the "beading", no, not a string of pearls or Mardi Gras beads, but drops of hot molten metal formed from the heat of a welder's torch. His technique of using just the right amount of heat and creating the bead size and spacing required to create the designs was quite a challenge. The outline of a mountain range can be seen on both sides of the exterior door skins. Additionally, metal wire mesh, aluminum, and copper strips were welded into designs on other sections of the car. A circular, amber street-hazard-light became the radiator mascot, replacing the Cadillac flying lady, and electric-high-wire clear glass insulators were used for taillights.



Interior-wise, there are additional fabricated metal designs and hardwood, as well as ribbed floor panels. Purple vinyl was used for the door panels, accented by purple string and halo lighting with funeral coach-style lights to read by.



Taking the helm of this land yacht puts a unique steering wheel in hand. It is made from flexible electrical metal conduit formed into a circle, attached with three banjo-like spoke supports made from welding rod and leather straps, and crowned with a plastic hemisphere of Mother Earth—a bit of early to mid-50s Oldsmobile steering wheel vibe!



This creation reminds one of a meeting up of the talents of Steve Darnell and his Weld-R-Up fabrication shop, as featured on the "Vegas Rat Rods" cable TV show, and the mystique of "Elvira, Mistress of the Dark", (Cassandra Peterson, B-Movie TV horror-movie hostess and actress). In fact, this car did appear on one episode of Vegas Rat Rods. Teresa and David accepted a well (weld!) deserved award in the Modified Class. Elvira would also be pleased! (All photos by Doug Birk)



# TOTAL ECLIPSE (OF THE HEART)

(By: Craig Masterson)

Singer Bonnie Tyler's hit song comes to mind each time I think about the upcoming total eclipse.

On April 8, 2024 (Monday), a total solar eclipse, known as the "Great North American Eclipse," will carve a narrow path of totality across 13 U.S. states, including Missouri and Illinois. To experience the totality phase of the eclipse, you must be located within this narrow path of totality, shown shaded on the map below. The longest duration of totality is along the green centerline.

Eclipse Timing: The partial eclipse will begin around 12:37 pm and continue until 3:17 pm.

Totality will occur between 1:54 p.m. and 1:58 pm, lasting for up to 4 minutes and 8 seconds.

Remember that you must use special eclipse safety glasses at all times during the <u>partial phases</u> of a total solar eclipse. Some folks pay BIG money to travel to these rare events. Be Safe and Enjoy this eclipse in our own "backyard"—well almost.



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Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Notes
1/6	Sat		Monthly Mtg & Holiday Party	Favazza's Restaurant, 5201 Southwest Ave.	
2/24	Sat		Monthly Mtg - St. Louis Car Museum	1575 Woodson Rd, St. Louis, MO 63114	Lunch out afterwards
3/14	Thur		Monthly Mtg - The Sports Café	579 Pennridge Dr., Bridgeton, 63044	
4/13	Sat	8:30 AM	Evergreen Car Collection Tour	Lebanon, MO	See Flyer
4/28	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
5/5	Sun	10 AM- 3 PM	CLC/Lambda Dine & Wine Cruise	Diamond Mineral Springs Restaurant	RSVP, details to follow
5/18	Sat	10:30 AM	Monthly Mtg? - Krumm Garage Tour & BBQ	Meet at Park & Ride Lot at Gravois & Hwy 270	Sunset Hills, MO
June	TBD		Monthly Mtg		
6/10-15			CLC 2023 Grand National	Gettysburg, PA	
July	TBD		Monthly Mtg		
8/31	Sat	8 AM-12 PM	Mo. Mtg - Caffeine & Chrome Show	1237 Central Park Dr. , O'Fallon, IL 62269	Gateway Classic Car-CLC Featured
9/8	Sun	12 PM	Monthly Mtg & Picnic	Tillis Park, 9551 Litzsinger Rd, St. Louis, MO 63124	Joint Event with the CCCA
10/5	Sat	10 AM-3 PM	Annual CLC Car Show & Monthly Mtg	12481 Ladue Rd, Creve Coeur, MO 63141	Elks Lodge #9, w/Jaguar Club
11/20	Wed	6:00 PM	Monthly Mtg-Tentative	ELCO Cadillac, 15110 Manchester Rd, Ballwin	Final Meeting of 2024
				Car Related Events	
3/31	Sun		HCCMO-Annual Easter Car Show	Forest Park-Muny Opera Upper Parking Lot	
6/16	Sun		HCCMO-Father's Day Car Show	Museum of Transport., 2967 Barrett Station Rd	
Sept	TBD		Kicks On 66/R.Gori Memorial Car Show	Edwardsville, IL	
9/15	Sun	8:00 AM	HCCMO Show & Swap Meet	TBD	Date & location tentative
10/19	Sat	5 PM-11 PM	Archway Oldsmobile Charity Trivia Night	2500 Raymond Dr., St. Charles, MO	Amer.Legion #312, \$20/person
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