

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

**FLEETWOOD
FLYER**



Cadillac

LaSalle

**CLUB
St. Louis Region**

APRIL 2018

CLUB CONTACTS

DIRECTOR & WEBMASTER: KEVIN WILLIAMS: 314-481-9111 <stlwc1@yahoo.com>

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: TODD TOBIASZ: 314-540-2431 <ttobiasz@sbcglobal.net>

TREASURER & ANNUAL SHOW CHAIRMAN: TED FIVIAN 314-752-5763 <swunland@sbcglobal.net>

SECRETARY & NEWSLETTER EDITOR: GEORGE BERGEN 314-966-3872 <bergeng@sbcglobal.net>

SPONSORSHIP CHAIRMAN: NOEL WILSON: 636-447-5319

NATIONAL WEBSITE: <cadillaclasaleclub.org>

REGION WEBSITE: <cadillaclasalleclubstl.org>

NOTE: TO SUBMIT INFORMATION TO WEBSITE SEND TO <contact@cadillaclasalleclubstl.org>

REGION SPONSOR: ELCO CHEVROLET AND CADILLAC, 15110 MANCHESTER ROAD, BALLWIN, MO
CADILLAC SALES MANAGER: BILL PASTOR

April Meeting:

The club event scheduled for April will be a spring car show held at our sponsor, ELCO Chevrolet and Cadillac on Saturday, April 21. ELCO is located at 15110 Manchester Road, Ballwin, MO. Plan to arrive around 10 AM and depart around 2 PM. We hope the weather will cooperate and we will have a good turnout. This is the first time in several years we have had a spring show so we hope it is successful and, perhaps, once again become an annual event.

A lot will be cleared near the entrance to the Cadillac building. They would like to know about how many are planning to attend so they can clear sufficient space and also buy food for grilling. Please let Kevin Williams know if you are planning to attend by Wednesday, April 18 by email at stlwc1@yahoo.com or phone at either 314-481-9111 or 314-258-0574. I will try to send an email reminder early next week.

Secretary/Editor's Report:

March Meeting:

The March meeting was held at Hyman, LTD, a venue we have visited several times in the last few years. Mark has many beautiful automobiles to look at and discuss and enough turnover so there were plenty of new and different acquisitions to

keep things interesting. After browsing through the two large show rooms for an hour or so we gathered for a brief business meeting.

To begin, Director Kevin Williams thanked Mark Hyman for once again agreeing to have our club at his business and asked him to tell us a little about it. Mark said his business is about 90% buying and selling cars with very minor restoration work. The current market is "fabulous" with about 80% of sales being repeat customers. The market, as would probably be expected, has changed in recent years in accordance with changes in demographics. The types of automobiles that are his personal favorites (and probably most of our older members), ranging from brass era up through the '30s and '40's have declined in value unless they are very special. The '41 Cadillac, for years the most popular and most widely owned, is not worth as much as it once was. Ironically, Mark said it is often easier to sell a 1.5 million dollar car than a \$30,000 car.

Moving on, Kevin asked for and Ted Fivian presented the treasurer's report. Our current balance is healthy. Kevin discussed the upcoming spring show at ELCO and also mentioned a May 19 event at the Museum of Transportation that will feature, among other things, starting the Chrysler gas turbine car that is been on display for awhile. More

about this event as it becomes available.

Members who plan to attend the upcoming Grand National sponsored by the Central Texas Region to be held June 5-9 in San Marcos, Texas include Kevin, Todd Tobiasz, Jim Brown, Noel Wilson, and Craig Masterson. I am not sure how many spouses will be part of the group. The event will celebrate 60 years of the Cadillac and LaSalle Club. I look forward to a report from one or more of the group to include in a future newsletter.

With regard to cars for sale, although Terry Wenger was not in attendance, someone said three of his collection were still for sale. Bill Tabor has sold a couple of his automobiles and his 1930 LaSalle Fleetcliffe Roadster is currently consigned with David Weber at St. Louis Car Museum. I believe he said he plans to keep his '65 Eldorado

At the conclusion of the business meeting a number of attendees gathered for lunch.

Membership:

I currently count 39 who have paid dues for the current year. There are six who have been members for quite a few years but who have not been in attendance lately who have not paid. This month each one will be contacted and reminded, and I hope and expect most will eventually rejoin. We are down to only five who now want to receive a hard copy of the newsletter in the mail.

Newsletter Content:

Again this month we are featuring an article written by Phyllis Steckel. Thanks to Phyllis for helping out. I can only hope some others will be inspired to provide a little article about their Cadillac or LaSalle, or anything that might be of interest for the good of the cause.

George Bergen

Upcoming Events:

May Meeting: Sunday, May 20-Annual Picnic at Quail Ridge Park Shelter #2.

June Meeting: Saturday, June 16, Seekamp/Baker home. House is historic with extensive car collection.

July Meeting: Wednesday, July 25, 6PM to 8PM, Mann's Restoration.

August Meeting: Wednesday, August 22, St. Louis Car Museum, 6PM to 8PM.

September: Sunday, September 9. Possible attendance as a group at annual Wheels in Motion show. Also, September 15 or 29. Meeting location and date to be announced.

Late September or early October: Possible road

trip to Springfield, Il.

October: Sunday, October 7, Annual Cadillac Club Car Show, Faust Park.

November Meeting: Wednesday, November 28, ELCO Cadillac-New model review.

Auctions Anyone? By Phyllis Seckel

I guess that most folks have watched one or more of the frequent auto auctions on cable television. Rich and I have been to several now-Barrett-Jackson in Scottsdale (twice), Las Vegas, and Reno; Sotheby's in Scottsdale; Mecum Auctions in Kansas City (four times). It's quite different to go in person than to watch the auction at home in your recliner!

We have found that each auction house seems to have a different vibe. To me, Barrett-Jackson is a bit more flashy, heavier on muscle cars, exotics, and look-at-me rides. Most cars sell: there are not many having a bid reserve. Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale also has a lot of 'lifestyle' trappings too, from automobilia to custom boots, to massage chairs.

But there are cars! Over 3,000 were on site in Scottsdale in January 2018, and essentially all were available for inspection. The grounds are huge, easily as large as the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia-and there are at least five or six huge permanent buildings or semi-permanent tents. There are plenty of food trucks and we found the fare reasonable and quite good. Admission for non-bidders ranges from about \$30 to \$60 per day; early in the week it is less.

Many of the local hotels have shuttles, which is a great advantage. There are several hundred acres of offsite parking for attendees. More shuttles, but surprisingly well organized, especially considering there were about 250,000 folks in attendance over the week. There also are celebrities among the crowd: Jay Leno, Danny DeVito, Wayne Carini, and George W. Bush were there this year-and a lot more we didn't recognize, I'm sure. All in all, the Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale event is huge if not a bit overwhelming --- but they have cars there you just won't see anywhere else. Wear comfy shoes and take a small backpack.

The Sotheby's auction was held at the Arizona Biltmore. The value of most of the cars offered there was high-end, and went up from there. Not too many cars there, maybe just 200 or so. There was a light blue 1954 Chevy sedan (all original survivor) and a yellow and white 1960 Nash Metropolitan that each had sell estimates of from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Everything else was six or seven figures:

heavy Packards, McLarens, Rolls, Maseratis, and some things I didn't recognize and had never heard of. My favorite there was a 1948 Tucker which had been Preston Tucker's personal vehicle. The venue was upscale and quiet. Actually it was elegant, and the cars were even more upscale-but preview access was free. More my price range.

Mecum Auctions in Kansas City is probably our favorite, however. We go each year to the Mecum auction held the first or second weekend in December. We take the Amtrak to Union Station in Kansas City, then a quick taxi to the auction hotel. The Kansas City Convention Center is right across the street, and there are about 700 vehicles up on the block. Three day admission for non-bidders is usually

about \$60. The cars range from over restored to 'original patina' to 'what were they thinking?', and everything in between. While most look fantastic on television, a closer look in person shows that a lot of them need some work to win a real competitive car show. The constant auctioneer's babble in the huge convention center can either add to the excitement or give you a headache, so earplugs might come in handy. And again, always wear comfy shoes.

We have never bought or sold a car at an auction. We've never even bought a bidders pass. But the events are a lot of fun to go to anyway, and I know we plan to do it again soon. Maybe we'll see you there!

***BELOW AND ON THE NEXT PAGE-PHOTOS FROM OUR MARCH MEETING
A COLLECTION OF FABLOUS MASCOTS AND A FEW OUTSTANDING AUTOS***



