



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# FLEETWOOD FLYER



Cadillac

LaSalle

CLUB

St. Louis Region

## FEBRUARY 2026

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**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



### FEBRUARY MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, February 25th

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Where:** The Sports Café

**Address:** 579 Pennridge Dr., Bridgeton, MO 63044

**Note:** We will use the private room on the right near the front entrance. Please order your meal upon arrival so that the kitchen does not get backed up and all are served their meal timely.

### MARCH MEETING

**Date:** TBD

**Time:** TBD

**Where:** TBD

**Note:** Member suggestions appreciated.

### APRIL EASTER AUTO SHOW

**Date:** Sunday, April 5th

**Time:** 8:00 AM

**Where:** Forest Park Upper Muny Parking Lot

**Address:** Summit Dr., St. Louis, MO

**Registration:** Sign up for the Club Display! Submit your Name, Make, Model, and Year of car with \$15 Display or \$30 Judged fee to Todd by March 21st. Mail your check payable to "HCCM" to: Todd Tobiasz

417 Fairlawn Ave.

Webster Groves, MO 63119

**Easter Show Note:** Judged cars can park with their associated club. MOST IMPORTANTLY, for car

club displays, there is NO requirement that vehicles be at least 25 years old. So, any club member's Cadillac or LaSalle is welcome to be included in the Club's display regardless of age!

### MAY CAR SHOW & MEETING

**Date:** Sunday, May 3rd

**Time:** 12 PM to 3 PM

**Where:** St. Martin's Episcopal Church

**Event Link:** <https://www.stmartinchurch.org/auto-show>

**Address:** 15764 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO

**RSVP:** Details to follow for RSVP due date.

**Note:** The show starts at 12:30 PM. For those displaying a car, please arrive by 12:00 PM if possible. We will hold a meeting in the Church's conference room at about 1:30 PM.

Delicious pork steak or chicken dinners will be available for purchase. These will include potato salad, coleslaw, and beverage. Once RSVP details are provided, you can mention any interest in purchasing a meal for the Church's planning. Partial meal proceeds will 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. More detail to follow on dinner cost, (~\$12-\$14?).

This event sells fundraising "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!

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

After our Club's December holidays meeting break and the Secretary/Editor's January newsletter break (ahhhhh...), we are Cadillac'n into 2026!

We had our post-holiday lunch and meeting on January 17 at Zia's on the hill. The food and company were outstanding. We had a great turnout of 27 members. A big thank you goes out to Associate Director David Baker for arranging our January luncheon meeting. THANK YOU!

Ted Fivian gave our Treasurer's report, and we continue to have a sufficient balance for future activities. Ted reported the Club's end-of-year treasury balance was about five Grover Cleavelands, but distribution of the shared revenue to be made to the other participating car clubs from our October 2025 Tour have not been made yet.

**2026 CLC-StL Dues:** Still only \$15! Our November meeting kicked off the annual CLC-StL Region membership renewal. As of mid-February, we have a 75% renewal rate. **Reminder!** National CLC membership is required to join and maintain membership in the St. Louis Region. Your CLC-StL Region membership cannot be accepted unless your National CLC dues are current.

A payment coupon has been emailed with this newsletter. If you are unsure if you have paid, please contact the Secretary. Dues are due by the end of February!

Upon completion of 2026 dues collection at the end of February, I will send out the official 2026 St. Louis Region roster in March or April.

**2026 Event Dates:** Our 2026 Calendar of Events will be a work in progress over the course of this year. Meeting and event ideas will be solicited at future meetings, so please put on your thinking caps. If you have ideas on meeting locations, events, 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.

As noted on page 1, upcoming 2026 Club events planned or in the planning stages for save-the-date purposes are:

- February 25, 2026: Wednesday, Meeting, The Sports Café, Bridgeton, MO
- March Meeting: To be determined, bring your ideas to the February meeting.
- April 25, 2026: Sunday, Easter Auto Show- Forest Park. (Details, page 1). 8:00 AM.

- May 3, 2026: Sunday, Meeting & Car Show, St. Martin's Church, Ellisville, MO. (Details forthcoming).

Additional fun events of potential interest to Club members are:

- May 16, 2026: O'Fallon, IL. 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Scout Troop 520 Car Show. Gateway Classic Cars, 1237 Central Park Dr., O'Fallon, IL. Early Registration \$15, \$20 at the door. Dash Plaques to first 50. Awards: Best of Show, Scout's Choice, Scouter's Choice. This is the last year for **Bobby Patterson's son** in the troop. Info at [Troop 520 Signal Hill - Troop 520 Car Show](#)
- May 29, 2026: O'Fallon, Mo. Food Truck Frenzy & Car Show, recognizing the 250th anniversary of the United States and the 100th anniversary of Route 66. To be held at O'Fallon Sports Park (off Highway K) on Friday, May 29 from 5:30-8:30 PM. More details to follow.
- June 1-6, 2026: CLC Grand National, Concord, NC. (CLC registration has started. Please book your hotel room now while rooms are available at the host hotel: [2026 Grand National | Cadillac & LaSalle Club](#))



**Member News:** It was with a heavy heart that we previously announced that **Jack Bertelsmeyer's** wife **Carolyn** passed away unexpectedly and suddenly of a potential heart attack in January while they were visiting Florida. Any potential future memorial service will be communicated if asked to do so. Jack's mailing address is as follows: J. Jack Bertelsmeyer, 4606 Thunder Ridge Rd, Eureka, MO 63025. His email is <jack.bertelsmeyer@psiind.com>

**Kevin Williams, Barb Knudson, Gene Bossaller, Jerry Wilson** and the **Mastersons** attended the CLC 2026 Winter Reunion & Board Meetings in Orlando, FL in early January. The event included several tours including a visit to the Orlando Classic Car Museum and a day at the Mecum Classic Car auction in Kissimmee, FL. I have included in this month's newsletter an article about one of the "specialty" cars in the Orlando Museum.

New members **Dave and Eileen Hunter** attended our January Holiday lunch. It was wonderful meeting the Hunters in person and I look forward to their future participation in the club. Again, Welcome, Dave and Eileen!

The **Masterson's** 1971 Fleetwood Eldorado Convertible has now been painted after receiving floor, fender and quarter panel repair at Frisco Hill Auto. The engine and transmission are now back in the car, and new weatherstrip is being installed. The exterior chrome parts have been shipped off for rechroming, and with the new factory-original Adriatic Turquoise metallic paint, this Eldo should become a real "dazzler".



**Bill Tabor** needs your used car magazines for distribution to the Veterans Homes throughout Missouri. Please place no more than 5-7 magazines in a bag to limit weight. Members are encouraged to provide personal contributions to Bill to help defray mailing cost to the Veterans Homes, which Bill has been funding out of pocket.

This is old news, but the **Fleetwood Flyer** has recently received its official 2024 Golden Quill Awards Certificate from *Old Cars* magazine.



I was unsure if we would receive this, as a Certificate was not received for our first Golden Quill Award in 2023.

Please consider submitting an article in 2026 for the *Fleetwood Flyer*—I know you have the ability to write a great article that members, both local and, dare I say, worldwide, will enjoy. I promise you that it will be a very rewarding experience.



*Craig Masterson* 

## ✦ BLAST FROM THE PAST ✦

### 1957 J.C. Whitney

## POPEYED SHRUNKEN HEAD

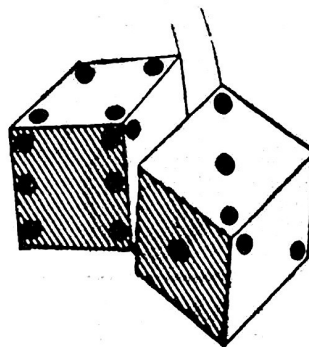


A novel and different pin-up that will make people stop and stare. Large 4 in. skin-like plastic head and long natural looking black hair. Has added comical features of large blood-shot pop-eyes and a cigar in the mouth. Hang one in the car, bar or den. Choice of black, white or pink face. Specify when ordering.

No. 15282—BLACK FACE	} Each	<b>\$3.49</b>
No. 15283—WHITE FACE		
No. 15284—PINK FACE		

## Jumbo Hollywood Dice

The Fad That Is Sweeping The Country  
Jumbo Hollywood Dice are 3 inch cubes of beautiful, light-weight, foam rubber attractively colored and have big contrasting dots. Supplied with hook for easy hanging on rear view mirror. Hooks may be easily removed for parlor game fun.



No. 14751—Green	} Pair	<b>\$1.15</b>
No. 14752—Blue		
No. 14753—Pink		
No. 14754—Charcoal		
No. 14755—Yellow		

# **The Elvis Cadillac Guitar Car Is Restored and in a Collection Fit for a King**

(By: Steven Cole Smith)

America's long national nightmare is over: The Elvis Cadillac Guitar Car is not only back on U.S. soil after decades of ghastly mistreatment in Europe, but it has also been restored to its original lustrous, but slightly bizarre, condition.



[As we told you](#) in April of 2025, the Cadillac, which was based on a 1970 Eldorado, had been built for Elvis by car-builder-to-the-stars Jay Ohrberg, who is responsible for signature over-the-top customs beginning with one of his very first—a double-supercharged Chrysler Hemi hot rod, constructed out of two bathtubs in back, and a toilet up front, on which the driver sat. The car and Ohrberg made it onto *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*, and that helped convince Ohrberg, a truck driver, that there's money to be made in show biz.

He opened Jay Ohrberg's Hollywood Cars, where he began cranking out 10 or 15 custom cars a year. You've seen some of them: Multiple Batmobiles for the movies, a hot rod with a working concert piano on top, a 10-wheel Ferrari F40 limousine. There's the [Pink Panther limo](#) that looks like a massive pink sea cucumber that rides on chrome Cragar S/S mags. And once seen, his double-wide, twin-engine Cadillac "living room on wheels" can't be forgotten. It measured about 17 feet wide, 30 feet long. (Here's [a video](#).)



And, in the late 1970s, he built the Elvis Cadillac Guitar Car. Ohrberg, now 83 and retired and still living in California, remembers it well. "Elvis had a house in L.A., and he had several cars there, and I used to take care of them. I was at his place all the time—pick up a car, take it to

the shop and work on it, bring it back. I took care of him and all his guys' cars. Those guys would hang out at my shop quite a bit." Wow, that would be Elvis' "Memphis Mafia"—Red, Sonny, Junior, Joe, Jerry and the rest, presumably "Taking Care of Business," which became their motto.

Back to Orhberg: "One day I told Elvis, 'You know, I want to build a big guitar car.' He started laughing at me and said, 'Come on, Jay.' He said, 'If you build it, can I drive it?' And I said, 'Sure, no problem.'

"Well, he didn't actually drive it—he died before it was done. But he *wanted* to drive it, and he certainly *knew* about it. So that's where Elvis comes in on the deal." Elvis died on August 16, 1977. His birthday was last Thursday. He would have been 91.

Uh-oh. The Elvis Guitar Car went up for sale in France last year—a hulking, rusty shell, used for promotions until it became too ratty to promote anything but mildew. Then, the story circulating claimed Elvis had driven his Guitar Car. We bought in, and in our story last April about it being offered on eBay, we said, "Elvis drove it on at least one occasion, turning up in spectacular style for his residency at the Las Vegas International Hotel."

The residency ended in 1976, and the Elvis Cadillac Guitar Car was completed in late '77. But the story is still pervasive. Google's AI continues to report that Elvis "famously arrived in it at a Las Vegas concert, creating significant buzz." So did all that buzz send the value of the Elvis Guitar Car skyrocketing? You be the judge: The eBay asking price was €10,000, which is \$11,657.

We don't think there is a disgruntled buyer, but the original seller, Jay Orhberg, is plenty miffed. "About 30 years ago, I sold a guy in Spain 30 cars, and that car was included. He never paid me for any of them."

To the Cadillac's rescue rode Michael Dezer, 84, whose preferred mount these days is a Rascal scooter. Dezer, a Miami developer, never met a car he didn't like. He owns the Orlando Car Museum, located in his 850,000-square-foot indoor theme park, Dezerland. (Pronounced DES-er-land, not DEE-zer-land.) It's on International Drive, where most Orlando tourist attractions that aren't Disney World are located. The museum has nearly 3,000 cars; the last time anybody counted, it was 2,700, and they've added a lot since then.

After the deal was done, the Elvis Guitar Car was loaded into a long container (bumper to bumper, the car measures 41 feet, which is three feet longer than two Ford Excursions parked nose-to-tail), and shipped to the Dezerland parking lot. After they unloaded it, the crestfallen crew knew it would be a challenge. The 8.2-liter V-8 was seized up, and so were the brakes.



Holes were everywhere. The car began life as a front-wheel-drive Cadillac Eldorado, which the front clip certainly is, but everything behind the hood and front fenders is a welded-up chassis, with a fiberglass body. The original estimate to fix it all: At least a year, with a seven-figure repair bill.

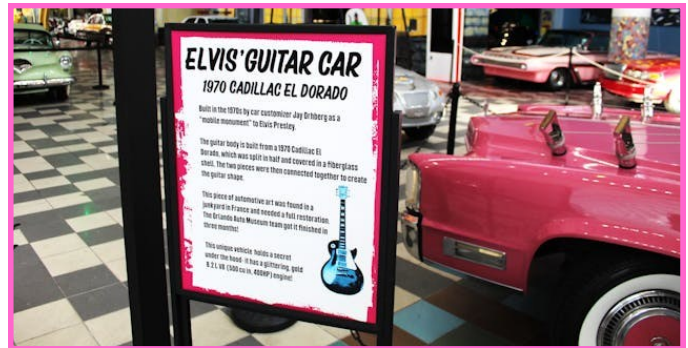
The three-person crew, which included project manager Greg Osborne, began looking for a donor car. They found a mint example in Colorado Springs, and Osborne jumped on it. Not only were the front fenders and the hood a perfect replacement, but that car's 8.2-liter V-8 was strong.

After that, it was a construction project. There were stress fractures everywhere, Osborne said. There was a big hole where the fuel tank used to be. The lights were never hooked up on the original car. This doesn't even take into account all the work needed on the one-off modified bits and pieces: The steering column and the transmission shifter, as well as the cable from the accelerator to the engine, had to squeeze inside that long, narrow tunnel below the fingerboard and frets. None of it could be saved. Osborne has restored more than 70 cars, but this was a different animal.

Stunningly, Osborne and his two-person crew finished the job in just three months, and that includes the gorgeous pink metalflake paint, just like the original wore. "Mr. Dezer liked that paint, so I just looked for the biggest metalflakes I could find," Osborne said. They painted it inside an empty 45,000-square-foot space that is destined to become indoor pickleball courts. (Welcome to Florida!)

The only major thing that's different: The car originally had a hinged bubble that came down over the single-driver's cockpit, but it disappeared. The crew decided to go with an open cockpit, which just seems to make sense, not to mention saving \$15,000, which is how much the lone company willing to make a replacement bubble would have charged.

The Kind-of-Elvis Cadillac Guitar Car sits in a place of honor in the museum, beneath a suspended Lock Haven Yellow Piper Cub. When it went on display, anyone who came in on the following Saturday and Sunday dressed like Elvis got free admission to the Orlando Auto Museum, a \$33.57 value. (Upgrade to the guided VIP tour, and it's \$50.38. That's not out of line: The upgraded ticket to the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles is \$51, and *it* doesn't have the T55 Soviet tank used in the James Bond film, *Goldeneye*.)



NOTE: This partial article reprint from Hagerty Media can be viewed in full at [The Elvis Cadillac Guitar Car Is Restored and in a Collection Fit for a King - Hagerty Media](#)

# Cadillac LaSalle Club Museum & Research Center in Hickory Corners, Michigan



The Cadillac LaSalle Club Museum is located on the Gilmore Car Museum campus in southwest Michigan. Designed as a replica of a vintage Cadillac dealership, it houses the pre-eminent collection of Cadillac vehicles and memorabilia from 1903 to 2011 and is open year-round. Operated by the Cadillac LaSalle Club Museum & Research Center (CLCMRC), the cars on display show why “Cadillac” became synonymous with excellence in its first 50 years.



The CLCMRC also operates a Research Center in southeast Michigan that houses thousands of documents from Cadillac’s beginning to the present day, providing an invaluable resource to researchers, historians, car enthusiasts and the public. This information can be accessed by phone and the CLCMRC website.

The Museum and Research Center were built and are operated using donations from thousands of generous CLC members over the last 25 years.



You can learn more about the Museum & Research Center by scanning the QR code or visit [www.cadillaclasallemuseum.org](http://www.cadillaclasallemuseum.org) on your browser. Your requests for help with questions about Cadillacs and LaSalles are encouraged. All donations are welcomed, please consider helping with a monthly automatic donation.

## 2026 EVENTS:

### September 25-26, 2026

CLCMRC Fall Festival. A weekend filled with cars, museum tours and trophies on the grounds of the historic Gilmore Museum Campus in Hickory Corners, Michigan.

### Weekends May-October

Each weekend the Gilmore Campus hosts car related events including car shows, music, food and ending with an Oktoberfest celebration to close out the season.





*LaSalle*  
CLUB  
St. Louis Region

February Edition

**2026**

**CLC - St. Louis Region  
Calendar of Events**



Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Notes
1/17	Sat	12:00 PM	Monthly Mtg & Holiday Party	Zia's Restaurant, 5256 Wilson Ave, St Louis, MO	
2/25	Wed	6:00 PM	Monthly Mtg - The Sports Café	579 Pennridge Dr., Bridgeton, 63044	
3/TBD			Monthly Meeting		
4/5	Sun	8:00 AM	Mo. Mtg: HCCM Annual Easter Car Show	Forest Park-Muny Opera Upper Parking Lot	RSVP by 3/21 for Club Display, \$15
5/3	Sun	12:00 PM-3:00 PM	Monthly Mtg & Car Show	St.Martin's Episcopal Church, 15764 Clayton Rd., Ellisville	Circle of Concern Food Pantry Bnft
6/1-6			CLC Grand National	Concord, NC	
6/TBD			Monthly Meeting		
7/TBD			Monthly Meeting		
8/TBD			Monthly Meeting		
9/26	Sun	10:00 AM	Monthly Mtg - HCC Car Show/Swap Meet	849 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold, MO	To Be Confirmed
9/25-26	Fri-Sat		CLC Fall Festival & Car Show	Gilmore Museum, Hickory Corners, MI	
10/TBD			Annual CLC Car Show & Monthly Mtg		at NMOT?
11/18	Wed	6:00 PM	Monthly Mtg - To Be Confirmed	ELCO Cadillac, 15110 Manchester Rd., Ballwin	Final 2026 Meeting
<b>Other Local Car Related Events</b>					
6/21	Sun	10 AM-3 PM	HCCM Father's Day Car Show	Museum of Transport, 2967 Barrett Station Rd.	
9/12	Sat		Kicks On 66/R.Gori Memorial Car Show	Ray M. Schon Park, Glen Carbon, IL	
9/26	Sun	6:30 AM - 4 PM	HCC Show & Swap Meet	849 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold MO 63010	Fox School District Service Center
10/TBD	Sat	7 PM-11 PM	Archway Oldsmobile Charity Trivia Night	2500 Raymond Dr., St. Charles, MO	Amer.Legion #312, \$20/person