



THE SPARK PLUG

News to spark your interest

July/August 2019

Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America



Some of the Pierce-Arrows at the 2019 National Meet. John Gibson Photo

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SPIRIT REGION OFFICERS

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
John Lowell
jlowell@lowellmfg.com

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Thomas Quick
teq56@yahoo.com

TREASURER
Kevin Williams
stlwcl@yahoo.com

SECRETARY
Jim Heslop
jimheslop@hotmail.com

BOARD OF MANAGERS SSR REGION

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Dave Groerich (2020)

Jim Gormley (2021)

Rob Hosenfelt (2021)

Duane Wesche (2021)

COMMITTEES

ACTIVITIES
Todd Tobiasz
ttobiasz@sbcglobal.net
John Gibson
bxba62@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP
Todd Tobiasz
ttobiasz@sbcglobal.net

SPARK PLUG NEWSLETTER

EDITOR
Jim Schild
jschild@htc.net

Director's Message

Happy Summer! A time for kicking back on a vacation, get together with family and friends, outdoor barbecues and FUN with a Classic Car. That three-letter word, FUN, is the operative word here and it's what we promote in the Spirit of St Louis Region CCCA. Whether it's a First Tuesday Spirit Night, an organized tour or just an impromptu gathering in someone's garage or over coffee, it's all about FUN.

Please take note that the July Spirit Night will be held on the second Tuesday in July, specifically July 9th, due to the 4th of July Holiday. Dave Stephens has planned a grand evening at Bartolino's (I-44 and Hampton) in a private dining area, so mark your calendars. It promises to be a FUN night.

Also on the calendar for July are some National events you may wish to attend, including the Iola Swap Meet in Iola, Wisconsin and the Copshaholm Concours d'Elegance in South Bend, Indiana, two Midwestern events that are in reasonably close proximity to our Region. Both are held on the weekend of July 11th.

Rolling into August we have a Spirit Night on Tuesday, August 6th, the National Milwaukee Concours d'Elegance on August 3rd and 4th, and finally the iconic Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance on August 18th.

There's plenty going on in the Classic Car Club both Nationally and Regionally, so go have some FUN.
John



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Across the Editor's Desk

- ◆ Just a short message for this spring issue of the Spark Plug. Congratulations to all of the great Spirit of St. Louis Region members who took the opportunity to enjoy the interesting and fun events already held this year. John and Rose Gibson and others took advantage of the Pierce-Arrow Society Meet in Indiana while another group enjoyed a tour through the Missouri countryside on Larry Hassel's Grand Army Road Tour. Todd Tobiasz displayed his 1936 Cadillac Series 75 Convertible sedan at the St. Louis Car Museum 25th anniversary and a number of our members participated in the huge auction of the Fred Guyton Collection. Here are a couple of extra photos from these events. **Jim Schild—Editor**
Below is host Ruth Guerri relaxing in Wendell Smith's Rolls Royce Limousine.



Wendell Smith and his friend Jan admire another nice Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost at the Sotheby's auction of the Fred Guyton Collection.

Spark Plug Submission Deadline—20 August, 2019



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Membership Musings



There is nothing like an well-planned event to get to meet new people and learn a little more about people you already know. About two dozen adventurous souls from the CCCA Spirit Region, the Rolls Royce Owners' Club, and the Jaguar Club enjoyed a wonderful day touring west of St. Louis in the Washington area. Larry Hassel and John Lowell put together a great itinerary. The weather was perfect, the cars performed well, the route and sites were well-chosen. There was a lot of opportunity to meet everyone at the start and at the several stops we made. And there was something for everyone – trains, glass art, history, distilled grains, good food, and antiques in the woods.

Lunch was at the Old Dutch Tavern. While we waited for lunch we were regaled by stories of the rescue of historic buildings in Washington including the stately Elijah McLean Mansion on Front Street. The teller of the stories and the central character in the renova-

tions was none other than the ambassador of Washington, Randall Andrae. I am still overwhelmed trying to keep up my house and he has taken on projects many times the size and scope. I'm sure that there is at least one other story in the newsletter devoted to the details of the trip. I want to emphasize what a great opportunity to meet and talk to people between or during a car ride. A fascinating experience.

We're looking for more event/caravan suggestions. I believe we are working on one for the fall, but anyone with suggestions for the summer or next Spring should get with John Gibson or me to see what we can help put together. I even heard a comment from a fellow club member that maybe it's time for him to get a "real" car on the street!

I recently put together the roster for publication. Membership is holding steady at 82 members and 25 associates. I encourage members bring friends to events who might be interested in joining the club. Always looking for new ideas. Todd



July Spirit Night

Tuesday, July 9

(Note the later date)

6:30pm

Dave Stephens has a special dinner planned for us on the edge of The Hill at

**Bartolino's Osteria
2103 Sulphur
(Hampton at Wilson, just south of I-44)
St. Louis 63139**

On the first floor of the Drury Inn

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25th Anniversary Car Show Benefiting Big League Impact!

The St. Louis Car Museum team had a BLAST hosting our 25th Anniversary Car Show on June 2nd, 2019! We had just under 100 cars and guests cruise in that were ready to give back to a fantastic organization, founded in 2013 by St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright.

Below: SSR CCCA Member Todd Tobiasz displayed his beautiful 1936 Cadillac Series 75 Convertible Sedan



The Spring “Grand Army Tour” – Spirit of St. Louis Region, CCCA

By Larry Hassel

The St. Louis Spring has been nothing but a “Crap Shoot” among the local weather forecasters. Rain in the forecast meant you had a 50 percent chance of accuracy. After much planning, fussing and discussing, combined with a lot of risk management, we established a nice May weekend date for our tour. We thought it would be nice to include some other clubs and members of Cadillac-LaSalle, Jaguar and the Rolls Royce Owner’s Club were invited along. Quite simply, the more the merrier. We started out from Ballwin Plaza in West St. Louis County...a variety of cars...Classics 1941 Cadillac 8, 60S Fleetwood Sedan driven by Bob and Sonja Abbott, John and Rose Gibson is the absolutely spectacular 1931 Pierce-Arrow 8, 43 Dual Cowl Phaeton, Wendell Smith and Jan Yarbrough in a gorgeous 1925 Rolls Royce, 6, Silver Ghost Limousine, Brewster, Series 768 and rounding out the Classics were Todd and Amber Tobiasz with their 1936 Cadillac 8, 7029, Conv. Sedan. We had quite a smattering of non-Classic Rolls Royce motorcars and Bentleys as well as a couple of XKE Roadsters and a vintage Mustang followed by those somewhat less brave in modern iron. I rode “shotgun” in Gary Sudin’s 1966 Jaguar XKE Roadster, Type 1. Gary represented the Jaguar Club and his cat purred as a Jaguar should. The journey led us out Highway 100, previously known as Missouri Route 66 for part of the way. We detoured down scenic Highway T through the rolling countryside with a side journey through the quaint town of St. Albans, MO as we wound our way towards the sleepy river/railroad town of Washington, MO known as the location of Missouri Meerschaum Corn cob pipes that were made famous by General Douglas MacArthur and a whistle-stop on the way to Kansas City.

In Washington, MO we landed at our first destination, which was the Iron Spike Model Railroad Museum. The Museum is unbelievable and a model railroader’s playground. It is a converted car dealership filled with massive Model Train layouts in a variety of different scales from N to Lionel. All of us car buffs are largely into nostalgia and trains too, having grown up in a time when the requisite train set around the Christmas Tree rounded out the holiday season. It was most difficult to get everyone to depart this location to make it down the Highway 100 another ten miles to New Haven, MO, an even sleepier town on the Missouri River. New Haven has become sort of an artist’s colony spurred on by our primary destination, the Astral Glass Factory where we witnessed glass being blown by talented and creative craftsman. A sidelight adventure took some of our members to a “tasting” at the Pinckney Bend Distillery just around the corner on the square. After packing up hand blown glass and “libations” for future use, growling stomachs dictated that ten-mile journey back into Washington, MO to the legendary Old Dutch Tavern for lunch. Tin ceilings and belt driven fans added to the nostalgia

and history of this old tavern and hotel, a way stop for weary travelers heading towards westward expansion and the pioneer lifestyle. “Pub Grub” is always good and this was no exception, but food and beverage couldn’t come soon enough. This served as a good refueling stop to regain some energy from our westward ramble following the banks of the Muddy MO. The only disappointment was that there was no chicken potpie. I had been told that this was the specialty of the Old Dutch Tavern and promised folks such. Alas, it is a dinner specialty and not a lunch one. We made up for that with a scrumptious Shrimp Po’boy.

Our final destination was the “crescendo” to cap off the morning of touring. Entering the early afternoon we headed back east, retracing our tire tracks. We were headed to find the namesake of our tour...Grand Army Road in Labadie, MO. Grand Army refers to “Grand Army of the Republic...otherwise the Union Army.” Our tour was historic in nature. During our journey, we traced back in time to the settlement of the area beginning with explorers Louis and Clark. John Colter was a scout for Lewis and Clark and he settled in New Haven, MO and one of our reasons to visit New Haven. However, railroad and the river were the sustaining lifeblood of the area. The Pacific Railroad from St. Louis to Jefferson City was completed in the Fall of 1855. On November 1, 1855, on its inaugural run to Jefferson City, the dignitary-filled train plunged into the Gasconade River with significant loss of life. Ultimately, the line was complete from St. Louis to Kansas City in September 1865. Note that Civil War Raids (Southern Raiders) greatly damaged Missouri’s Railways to such an extent, combined with Missouri’s rugged geography that it affected St. Louis not being a location on the choice of the route of the transcontinental railroad which opened in 1869.

Missouri was a divided state regarding the issue of slavery. Many non-slaveowners supported slavery as an “accepted system of labor” prior to the Civil War and during the war some slave owners joined in the Union Army’s anti-slavery fight. The latter is evidenced by the example of Frederick Steines. In 1850, Frederick Steines, a German immigrant was a resident of Boles Township and had a farm in nearby Franklin County. Steines owned two slaves and hired out a third slave, Malinda, from the John C. Coleman estate in neighboring Meramec Township. During the war, however, Steines served in the Union Army as a member of the Missouri Home Guard. Most Missouri slave owners lived in the central part of the state in a region known as “Little Dixie.” In 1860, there were 1,156 slave owners and 4,340 slaves living in St. Louis County. Ironic that slave owners and non-owners lived side by side throughout St. Louis County.

Over 1,260 civil war battles (period of 1861 to 1865) and armed skirmishes took place throughout Missouri. The area we toured was essentially along a dividing line. During the war, Missouri was a border state whose citizens supported both the north and the south. Most Missouri men served in some capacity during the war. Many joined the Confederate States Troops, but most pledged their allegiance to the Union. More than 110,000 Mis-

sourians fought in the Union Army and nearly 40,000 joined Confederate units. St. Louis was under Federal Marshall Law for most of the war while bands of Confederate soldiers roamed the countryside, as evidenced by the Rebel Camp on the nearby Meramec River in 1862. The Union had several military organizations in the state during the war, including the Missouri Home Guard, the Missouri Militia and the Missouri Volunteers. After the war, Union Army Veterans established a fraternal organization of former Union Soldiers called the **Grand Army of the Republic** of which many Missourians became members.

With this knowledge we followed Grand Army Road and found our final destination, ultimately buried in the deep woods on a picturesque Labadie, MO hillside, Ruth Guerri's Cabin in the Woods. Ruth will forever be famous as Miss June 1983, Playboy Magazine. However her career as a professional model turned to Master Chef, pioneer woman cabin builder and purveyor of regional antiques. The final stop on our journey created a spectacular setting to snap a few photos of the noteworthy cars on the tour, do some antique shopping and then plan on a trip back into St. Louis to beat the rains.

Photos by Larry Hassel and Wendell Smith



**62nd Annual Meeting of the Pierce-Arrow Society,
June 11-15 2019
Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park
By John Gibson**

John and Rose Gibson, Duane Wesche and Barbara Smith and Nancy and Allen Strong attended the 2019 Pierce-Arrow Society Annual Meet in Indiana in June. The meet was held on the shores of beautiful Lake James, one of Indiana's largest lakes. The meet was located within the natural setting of historic Pokagon State Park.

Events were held from Tuesday through Saturday with the car show being held on the grounds of the Potawatomi Inn.

Tuesday evening's Welcome Party provided the opportunity to get together with members which you have not seen since the last meet which was held in San Francisco. This is always a great opportunity to revisit past friends and look forward to the events of the coming week.

On Wednesday, we drove through the Lake James area, adjacent to the park, and then traveled to the Mid America Windmill Museum. From the Windmill Museum we toured on Indiana back roads to the John Steckbeck collection in Fort Wayne. His collection reflected numerous Pierce-Arrows and other marques. John had recently relocated his collection from downtown Fort Wayne, building several new buildings on his country estate and we were the first group to have the opportunity to view his new facilities and extensive collection. After leaving John's collection we headed back to Auburn, and stopped at the newly expanded V-8 Ford Museum. We then toured back to the meet Inn; this resulted in a long day of driving, over 150 miles. Pierces were covered for a rainy night which appeared to be how the weather was going to be for the bulk of the week.

On Thursday we boarded buses for our road trip to South Bend, to visit the Studebaker Museum and the Oliver House Museum. The Studebaker Museum was an excellent presentation of the history of the Studebaker Organization from the beginning of the family migration to the United States to the closing of the factory in 1966. Adjacent to the Museum is the Joseph D. Oliver House (Copshaholm) build in 1895 consisting of 38 rooms, with over 14,000 square feet of living space. The home was occupied by the Oliver family for over 72 years. The furnishings of the house are original. A must see if you have interest in this type of history. If you are a farm buff, you are certainly familiar with Oliver farm equipment.

We then headed to the Jack B. Smith collection in Elkhart, this is a private collection which represents Smith's interest in custom Packard's (several are Pebble Beach winners) and a single Pierce-Arrow. He was a gracious host and escorted us through his collection and providing insight on each vehicle. We headed back to the meet Inn for our swap meet which would be going on for three nights. Duane and I set up with the hope of disposing of numerous items and both of us did well, with Duane selling more items than anticipated.

On Friday morning we again took our Pierce-Arrow vehicles on a short drive to the nearby city of Angola, Indiana. We took over the central town square and traffic-circle and all of the parking surrounding the circle. We had a parade of Pierces around the circle and it's Civil War Monument. We traveled then from Angola to Auburn to the ACD Museum and the National Automobile & Truck Museum. As you can see this was another long day,

great events and excellent country roads for traveling in our Pierces. Total distance traveled in our Pierce-Arrow was around 250 miles in the two days of touring.

Saturday was the day of our car show. We had 63 Pierce-Arrows registered for the show. We parked on the grounds of the Inn with Lake James in the background. During the show we had very heavy rain shower much like we experienced in St. Louis this spring. Since our Pierce is a touring vehicle and I did not have the side curtains up, we got a little damp. That evening we had our Awards Banquet and our 1931 Pierce-Arrow received a first in class. I accepted the trophy in the memory of our good friend John O. Porbeck. I am sure he would have been very proud of a vehicle he loved dearly.



June Spirit Night...Big Chief Roadhouse in Pond, MO

By Larry Hassel

Our June Spirit Night, hosted by Larry Hassel, was a revisit to Big Chief Roadhouse out near Pond, MO just West of Wildwood. The food and service were great in spite of the pouring rain which kept a lot of folks away. It was certainly not a good opportunity to drive a Classic or anything open for that matter. Big Chief Roadhouse has a celebrated history dating back to 1929. It was originally built by William Clay Pierce, of the Pierce-Pennant Oil Company, as part of the Big Chief Highway Hotel to serve transcontinental travelers on the now famed Route 66. According to local historians and tourist guides from the period, Big Chief was one of the largest tourist cottage courts in Missouri. Big Chief differed from average cottage courts of the time in that it offered relatively elaborate and elegant dining. The uniqueness is rumored to have attracted star baseball legend, Babe Ruth, as well as infamous gangster, Alphonse Capone.

Over the years, Big Chief has gone through many transformations. After Route 66 was diverted to follow the path of what is now Interstate 44, Big Chief lost most of its visitors and eventually closed. Since then, Big Chief was revived as a re-sale shop, landscaping company, and once again a restaurant. Re-opening as a restaurant in the mid 1990's, Big Chief has for the past 20 years or so, remained a dining destination. The cabins are gone, but it is one of the last remaining full service restaurants on the famed roadway. On our previous visit we heard lots of lore and even learned the place is considered by the staff and some female patrons to be haunted. Cherie, the Manager of Big Chief has suggested that women frequently get stuck in the second restroom stall and there is nothing physically wrong with the door latch mechanism save for a cantankerous poltergeist at work in the ladies room. However, the food surpasses any fear of the poltergeist, who just appears to be mischievous and people tolerate his/her antics.



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On May 4th, we celebrated thirty years of Hyman Ltd in style - with a blowout party in our St. Louis showroom along with 450 of our friends, clients, and colleagues from around the world. Our guests enjoyed great food, drink, music, and of course, nearly 150 exceptional automobiles. Thank you to all of those who were able to join us and make the evening so memorable. We are honored and humbled that so many of you traveled great distances just to celebrate with us. For those of you who were unable to attend, you missed one heck of a great party, but rest assured you can still visit us any time in our showroom or see all we have to offer at hymanltd.com.

Thank you again for making our anniversary celebration such a hit and here's to next 30 years!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Hassel".



Jim Schild
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2019

| | |
|---|------------------|
| >>Spirit Night, Bartolino's Osteria, David Stephens, Host | July 9, 2019 |
| Iola Swap Meet and Car Show, Iola, Wisconsin | July 11-13, 2019 |
| Copshaholm Concours d'Elegance, South Bend, Indiana | July 11-13, 2019 |

August 2019

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| >>Spirit Night, Host and location TBD | 6 August, 2019 |
| Milwaukee Concours d'Elegance | 3-4 August, 2019 |
| Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, Pebble Beach, California | 18 August, 2019 |
| >>SSR Spark Plug Submission Deadline | 20 August, 2019 |
| Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Reunion, Auburn, Indiana | 30 August—2 September, 2019 |

September 2019

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Reunion, Auburn, Indiana | 1-2 September, 2019 |
| >>Spirit Night, Host and Location TBD | 3 September, 2019 |
| Illinois Secretary of State Car Show, Springfield, Illinois | 7 September, 2019 |
| Wheels in Motion Car Show, Westport, St. Louis County | 8 September, 2019 |
| Brass & Nickle Car Show. Museum of Transportation | 21 September, 2019 |
| British Car Show, Creve Coeur Park | 21 September, 2019 |
| St. Charles Oktoberfest Car Show, St. Charles, Missouri | 29 September, 2019 |