

# THE SPARK PLUG

News to spark your interest

November December 2017

Spirit of St. Louis Region Classic Car Club of America



Don and Joan Hoelscher with their 1938 Cadillac in 2013.

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Ron Olson (2017)

Dave Groerich (2017)

Tom Roberson (2017)

Linda Hill (2018)

Doug Kirberg (2018)

Chad Thomas (2018)

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Todd Tobiasz (2019)

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## SPARK PLUG NEWSLETTER

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# Director's Message

As our calendar comes to a close with our year ending Annual Meeting in November, it's a good time to reflect upon all that's gone on within our Region in 2017 and to say thanks.

From the Kick-off Meeting at the beginning of the year to the Picnic in the early months of Fall, and everything in between, a big thank you to everyone who hosted or organized an event this past year. Every one of these activities builds camaraderie and allows our members to get together and share a common passion for the cars we love, while living our mission to foster a spirit of unequalled fellowship.

And what a year it was for our Region to be in the spotlight with two important events visiting our town, the CCCA Nordic CARavan that began their journey in St. Louis, and the 60th Annual Meeting of the Pierce-Arrow Society! The barbecue picnic at Hunter Farms with our CARavan friends from the North was great fun and the participation from our members was outstanding. Attendees at the Pierce meet from across the country got a taste of our hospitality throughout the week they were in town, including visits to several important collections, and other local places of interest. A number of Region members came together to give their time and talent to make these experiences memorable for years to come.

The year also marked the passing of several members of

our Region. We said good-bye to Joe Krzan, Sr., Richard Muehlmann, Judith Walsh, wife of the late and former member Joe Walsh, and just recently, Don Hoelscher. All shall be greatly missed, and may they rest in peace.

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Managers of the Spirit of St. Louis Region - CCCA, I want to thank you for your continued support this past year! I can assure you of our continued commitment to make our Region the best that it can be.

John

New Website Now Live Check out the new SSR website at [www.spiritccca.com](http://www.spiritccca.com). There are links to all sorts of interesting pages, a calendar of upcoming events, and so much more. Don't see your car listed, or have an interesting photo to share? Send to [webmaster@yahoo.com](mailto:webmaster@yahoo.com) and we'll get it on the website.





**Obituary**  
**Donald R.**  
**Hoelscher**  
**1936-2017**

Long time Classic Car Club Member, Don Hoelscher, passed away after a long illness on October 6, 2017. He is survived by his wife Joan, sons Craig and Keith, six grandchildren and four great grand children.

He graduated from Beaumont High School and Washington University in St. Louis with a degree in mechanical engineering. He had worked for TRW Corp. in engineering and management and the Marc-Andy Co. in management.

He joined the Classic Car Club in 1980 and was a charter member of the Spirit of St. Louis Region when it was formed in 1984. Don was very active in the Classic Car Club, both in the National and Regional organizations. He served in the Spirit of St. Louis Region as Director from 1986- 1987 and again from 2011-2012. He was on the Region's Board of Managers for many years and received the Region's R. H. Olson Member of Excellence Award in 2014.

In the National Club, he served on the Board of Directors and had a leadership role in two Caravans. He received the following CCCA awards: the Fahnestock Award in 1989, the Peter Dudley Award in 2002, 2003 and 2004 and the Katie Robbins Distinguished Service Award in 2004.

Don was also quite active in the Cadillac-LaSalle Club. He was President of the St. Louis Region and was a Director of the Cadillac-LaSalle Club Museum and Research Center located at the Gilmore Car Museum complex in Hickory Corners, MI.

His first Classic was a 1929 LaSalle sedan followed by a 1929 LaSalle convertible coupe, a 1938 Cadillac 75 Limousine, a 1941 Cadillac Sixty-Special, and a 1947 Cadillac 62 convertible, several of which were CCCA Premier Award winners. Don did most of his own restoration work in his well-equipped shop. In addition to his cars he had extensive collections of pedal cars, model cars, model trains and automotive memorabilia and literature.

He will be greatly missed by all his friends and club members.

**Terry Wenger.**

# Across the Editor's Desk

Dear SSR Members:

It is amazing and sometimes disturbing that yet another year has almost passed and 2017 is its last breaths. The year's activities are winding down and the tours, shows and fun events are behind us when the Fall weather begins cooling our days. The annual club picnic at Quick's was very nice as usual as the short article in this issue illustrates. The 2017 Annual Meeting is this weekend and attendance there is one of the best ways to meet new and old members and introduce our new officers and board members for next year.

A number of our members attended shows and tours and enjoyed driving their Classic Cars so I hope the reports and pictures from them encourage everyone to get your Classics out if they are drivable and finish them if they are not and learn what really makes the difference with our national and local Classic Car Club. There are plans for a future Spirit of St. Louis Region CAR-avan so that should give everyone a good reason to get your Classic Cars prepared for this great experience of fun and fellowship on the road.

The 28 October 2017 Fall color tour to Hannibal was cancelled and will re-scheduled at a later date and will be announced by the activities chairman. Check the flyer on Page 7 in this issue for information about the upcoming Trivia Night event on February 17, 2018. Be sure to make this fun event. That is a fund raiser for our club and contributor to a great charity.

It is that time of year again for considering advertising in the SSR CCA Spark Plug for 2017. This is a great way to not only help your business by reaching thousands of members and clubs around the country, but a way to support our region and its members throughout the year. A full page ad in the Spark Plug is \$210 for a full year or \$40 per issue. A ½ page ad is \$150 for a full year or \$30 per issue. A business card ad is \$90 for a full year or \$20 per single issue. Checks should be payable to the SSR CCA and payments sent to the Editor at: Jim Schild, 5 Rowan Oak Lane, Columbia, IL 62236. Deadline for all ads or any submissions are as always, the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication or for a full year ad, **December 20, 2017.**

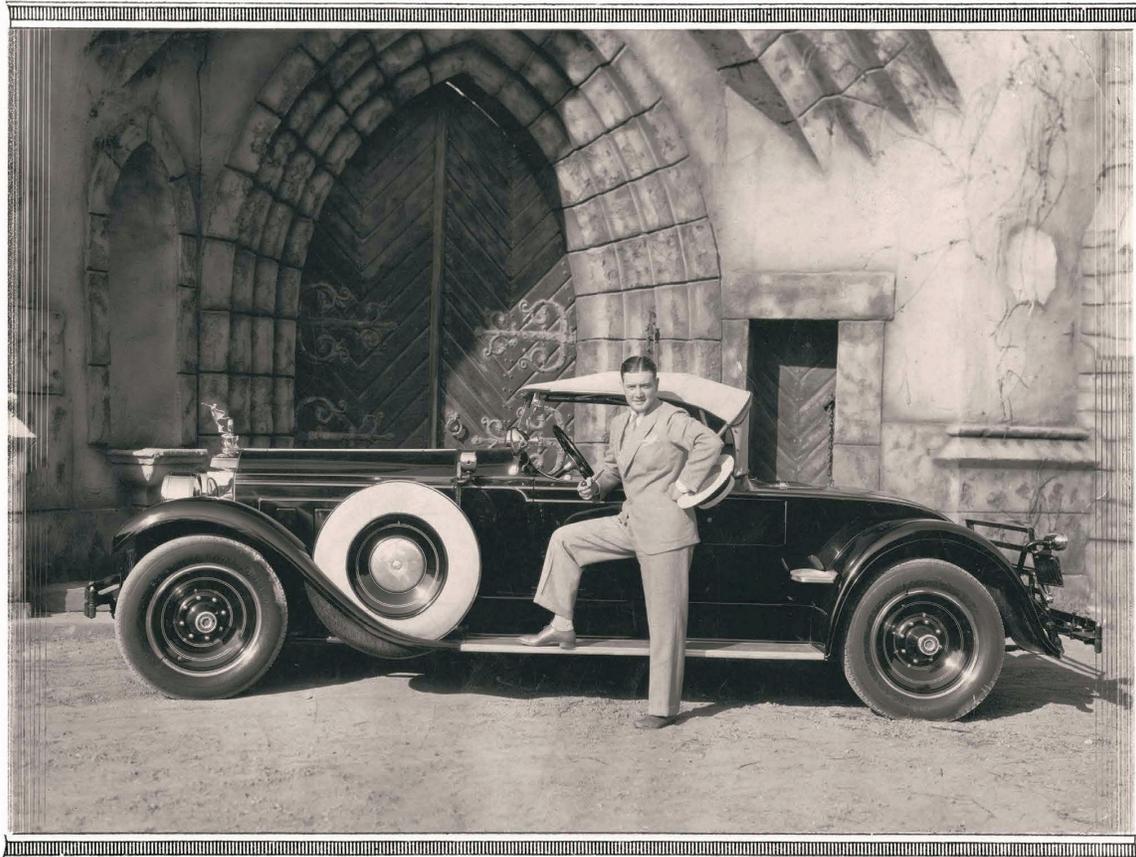
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*Al Jolson and his Mercedes Benz 680 S touring.*

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**\$30.00 per issue or  
\$150 for a full year**

### **Business Card Ad 3.5x2"**

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\$90.00 for a full year**

We ask that advertisers submit ads reflecting services or businesses consistent with our members' interests. Digital graphics are not required but will result in a higher quality advertisement. If submitting a hard copy of graphics please make sure there are no fold lines, tears in the paper or information that is not accurate.

**Make checks payable to:  
Spirit of St. Louis Region  
CCCA**

**Send payment and  
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Jim Schild,  
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Columbia, IL 62236-4148**

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Payment in full must be received before ads are published. Ads must be received prior to each deadline. If purchasing full year package the same graphics and or wording will be used each time unless otherwise notified before the next deadline. Deadlines are the 20<sup>th</sup> of every other month. Spirit of St. Louis Region CCCA reserves the right to refuse advertisement space. The Spirit of St. Louis region CCCA does not assume liability, either implied or expressed as to accuracy of any ad. The Spirit of St. Louis Region CCCA does not insure or endorse any product or services advertised.

## Membership Musings



Dear Members,

This will be my last Membership Musings column as I am stepping down as Membership Chair after this year. I will also be handing over the reins of Participation Chair to someone else as well. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving in these capacities for the last several years as they have given me the unique perspective of getting to know all of our members, many of whom have become personal friends.

Although my position on the Board expires after this year, I have been asked by our Director to serve out a remaining one-year term of an unexpired term, and with Board approval, I will continue to serve on our Board of Managers for another year.

I am encouraged that our membership continues to grow, and if you include both Active and Associate members, that number now stands at 110 members.....not bad! I have every confidence that the next Membership Chairperson

will do everything possible to fulfill our Directors challenge to increase our membership even further, in the hope that we may attract those of the next generation to help sustain our long term viability.

If you know of anyone interested in joining our Region, please don't hesitate to direct them to our website, [www.spiritccca.com](http://www.spiritccca.com), where they will find everything they need to know about joining the National and Regional Clubs. Or, simply refer them to one of the Spirit Region Officers or Board members, and they will follow up. And remember, ownership of a Classic Car is not a prerequisite of joining.

Dr. Tom Roberson  
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**Spirit of St. Louis Region**  
*Classic Car Club of America*

# Classic Car

# TRIVIA

# Night

**SATURDAY**

**2.17.18**

**7:00PM - 11:00PM**

**MOOLAH SHRINE  
12545 FEE FEE RD.  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63146**

**\$160.00**

**TABLE OF 8 PLAYERS**

\$20.00 PER PERSON. TEAMS MUST PAY ALL TOGETHER, NOT INDIVIDUALLY.

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**TEAMS ENCOURAGED TO BRING TABLE SNACKS**

**RESERVE YOUR TABLE BY FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

**Questions?**

**Shannon • (314) 825-2980  
elsonrsa@gmail.com**

**Or**

**Kevin • (314) 258-0574  
stlwc1@yahoo.com**

**PAYMENT DUE AT THE TIME OF TABLE RESERVATION.**

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**Proceeds benefit the Wheels In Motion National Children's Cancer Society Fund.**

# Its simply called Hershey

By John Lowell

As we near the Autumnal Equinox in mid-September every year, we commonly think of cooler temperatures, shorter days, and deciduous trees that display their resplendent canopies for far too short a time and then shed their leaves. It's a lovely time of year.

Well, the beginning of Autumn also gives rise to those anticipating the trek to Hershey in early October. I don't mean the town of Hershey per se, although this idyllic town in Central Pennsylvania holds its own wonders, but the AACA Eastern Division National Fall Meet, affectionately known simply as Hershey. It's a week of pure joy for the vintage car enthusiast who makes the annual trip to the largest antique car show and flea market in the world. Consider these statistics about Hershey:

- Over 700 volunteers from the Region work year round to put together this event
- 250,000 visitors from all corners of the globe
- 9,000 vendor spaces
- 1,300 collector cars on display
- 1,000 antique and collector cars in the Car Corral for sale

The sights and sounds of Hershey are unique and like no other event anywhere. You might run into one of the stars of the American Pickers, you'll see vintage cars like an early National race car rumbling through the rows and rows of vendors just stretching its legs a bit, or an old truck with a full-bodied likeness of a chicken that says Capt'n Bob's Chicken on the side.

There's something for everyone.....car parts of course, tons of literature, automobilia, antique toys, stacks of tires and goodness knows, the different types of food is overwhelming. And there's much, much more. It's said if you can't find it at Hershey, it probably doesn't exist.

But I think if you ask a regular at Hershey what they like most about the weeklong event, I bet they will say it's the friends they've met, and the camaraderie that exist among the car collecting community that comes together every Fall in small town USA.....It's simply known as Hershey.



*The Car Corral at the AACA Hershey Fall meet is always sure to include interesting Classic Cars for sale such as this Packard coupe.*



*In addition to Classic and antique cars, the Hershey vendors fields offer collector surprising finds such as this beautiful Hispano-Suiza Stork Mascot..*

## ***SIMPLE VALVE JOB*** by Thomas Quick

One of the things that used to frustrate me when I was younger and working on cars was people always telling me that you can't do that... hire a professional, whether it be rebuilding an engine or painting a car. Well.....I've rebuilt lots of engines and painted more than a few cars. Although I do not have a machine shop and have to send things such as boring cylinders out to a professional, there is no reason that most of the work cannot be done by a decent mechanic or even a beginner as long as they have proper guidance.

Grinding valve seats is one of those easy jobs that you can do yourself. I had an engine that needed the seats cleaned up. My guides were good and the valves were new so only the seats needed attention. There are several ways to go about this. You can use a valve grinder which uses stones. Nothing wrong with that method, but I opted for something even simpler I believe.



*The tools and materials involved with the valve grinding job are not expensive and easy to learn to use.*

I went to [woodwardequipment.com](http://woodwardequipment.com) and ordered three things: 1. Neway valve seat cutter 1-3/8 31 degree X 46 degree (item number CU201). 2. Neway 150 series expanding pilot, 11/32 (item 150 11/32). 3. Neway T-wrench, 1/2 hex nylon fiber (item TW505).

The cutter has two sides and is reversible for doing the intakes (31 degree cut) and exhausts (46 degree cut). I also went with the expanding pilot so that if I did have a little play in the guides it would expand to keep the cutter

centered so the seat is cut straight.

The process is pretty simple. The expander pilot goes into the guide and you screw/lock it in place from the bottom. Then all you do is put the cutter down the shaft, put on the handle and slowly turn until your seat is clean with no pits.....nothing more! No reason to remove more metal than you have to..... just lightly apply pressure and turn. Most seats just needed a turn or two. The exhaust typically takes a turn or two more.



*The expander pilot installed in the guide.*

Here are some things to look out for. Make sure you use the right angle for the valves. Intakes are cut at 31 degrees and the exhaust is 46 degrees. The corresponding valves are at 30 and 45 degrees. The idea is to limit the amount of surface area contact. Also, the cutting pads on the cutter are adjustable and I've used it on several engines. Make sure to adjust the pads so they completely cover the seat you are cutting. Don't get your valves mixed up once they are lapped. Number the valves and when you put the engine together make sure they go back in the guide that they were lapped in.



*Valve grinding tool inserted into the valve seat and centering pilot.  
Right: As you can see, this job is so simple and easy that even my five year old son Son Cayden is capable of doing a great job on this Auburn six-cylinder block.*



The next step is to lap the valves. Use some lapping compound and only apply it to the seat. It doesn't take much. Put the valve in place and with the suction cup tool rotate the valve back and forth a few times, then lift the valve up and turn it a little, then drop and rotate it again. Do this a few times and check to see if you have a nice ring around the seat and valve. If you do then you are done. Clean all the compound off the valve and block and go to the next valve. A word of caution. Use minimal compound. You don't want to get it on the shaft of the valve or you will be grinding your guides! Use as little as you can and clean it well afterward.

There are videos on YouTube on how to do this. Watch a few and get comfortable with them before you start. This isn't rocket science!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIVj\\_L1akl4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIVj_L1akl4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GEmuQa3dPY>

Disclaimer: I'm just a do it yourselfer and not a professional. If you have any questions about this then seek professional guidance before you start.

## 2017 Annual Spirit of St. Louis Region Picnic at Thomas and Kristy Quick's

Another great time was had by all at the beautiful home and facility of Thomas and Kristy Quick in South St. Louis County at the Annual picnic held on October 22, 2017. as always, in addition to the fellowship and food, there are always a generous variety of Classic Cars finished and under restoration for everyone to enjoy. Here are a few pictures of the day.



Spirit of St. Louis Region  
Classic Car Club of America

Jim Schild, Editor  
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Spirit of St. Louis Region  
*Classic Car Club of America*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### November 2017

>>SSR Annual Meeting—Moonrise Hotel November 5

### December 2017

Spark Plug and ad submission deadline December 20

### February 2018

>>Deadline for Trivia Night Registration February 5

>>SSR Trivia Night—Moolah Shrine Temple. See page 7 February 17