

Cadillac LaSalle Club North Texas Region

September 2020

Awarded Best CLC Regional Newsletter 2007, 2020







Winner CLC Web Site Merit Award 2013,2014, 2015 2016, 2017, 2018



Winner Old Cars Weekly Golden Quill Award 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

FAMOUS RESTYLED FUTURISTIC CADILLACS

Story and photography by Alex Beloff III

SO, WHERE WAS THE MECCA FOR UNIQUELY FAMOUS RESTYLED FUTURISTIC CADILLACS? CALIFORNIA!!

Detroit was attaching the customizer with great interest. GM's Harley Earl and Bill Mitchell studied the styling trends, the enthusiasts, the influence of customizers and it was felt the country over. Special interest coolness rides imported all the style and fashion centers from coast to coast.

George Barris, long considered king of customizers, was of Greek ancestry and former U.S. Navy man. At age 12 in 1938 he made car models out of balsa wood. George and brother Sam transformed factory stock cars into low slung wildly painted machines gracing Balboa Island South of Los Angeles. Barris Kustom City, North Hollywood covered a half block with a show room filled with show cars and trophies.

Harry Westerguard, owner of a fender shop put up with George, finally teaching him torch welding, grinding, cutting, reshaping body panels, layout and leading. George built for Elvis Presley a 1960 Cadillac limousine, double circular rear seat of yacht design, stereo record player, makeup kit, television and drapes.

George Barris' most famous custom was the "Golden Sahara" built in 1954. Each body section was hand formed. Bumper bullets, new then, later came out on the Cadillac becoming famous. This ultimate in futuristic design of a luxury automobile had a transparent top hinged, tire molded into the rear deck (similar to 1960 Chrysler 300F), also luxuriously upholstered, television, tape recorder and refrigerator.



Gene and Alex at Alameda Fair Grounds Car Show

Gene Winfield, a renowned custom car builder, started custom body work in high school. After a short hitch in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he opened his first shop, Windy's Customs, which was a shed on a rear family lot. Later on came Winfield's Custom Shop in Modesto, California. Gene created a gorgeous 1962 Cadillac and 1962 Bonneville for Richard Zocchi of Walnut Creek and Benicia California where I lived for ten years. Gene's swiveling simulated bucket seats appeared on the 1959 1960 Chrysler products. Gene's fogged exteriors with tones ranging from light to dark blended meticulously throughout the panels.

Gar E. Tompkins and brother Val, operated A & A Auto Parts and Sales, Hwy 4 Brentwood, California, ¹/₂ mile North of Lone Tree Way. Gar Tompkins has compassion for just about all young-

sters and oldsters who are drawn to Cadillac. He has a sympathetic ear to develop a sense of valid pride and purpose for their "Clark Avenue Gold" (assembled at Cadillac Clark Avenue plant Detroit) at affordable prices to keep them on the road. Gar's considerable Cadillac knowledge is extensive. His enthusiasm and energies produce one of a king Cadillac masterpieces.



front customizing touches and smooth extended rear quarters with 1959 Cadillac tail lights – ingenious! Distinctive can be spotted anywhere. A & A Auto Parts 1959 Cadillac Cadster was a CRM top 10 pick with lots of fabrication and finish body work carried out by a rising star in the custom trade, Dave Carkhuff at DeRosa & Son's Shop. A & A Auto Parts is absolute Cadillac heaven for hard to find original equipment. Hundreds of Cadillacs have been put on the road thanks to A & A Auto Parts.

Gar's spectacular "Cadster" is a impeccably done Corvette type 2 seater with 1960 Cadillac

GAR 1959 Cadster

The 1957 Cadillac Seville was also a one of a kind garnering CRM trophy. The price of show quality chrome on that car back then was well over \$25,000. The 1960 Cadillac Coupe DeVille Goldilocks features a body side molding completely fused into the panels and painted. All gold on the interior and engine compartment are 24 karat gold plate as memory serves me. It was on display at the Cow Palace, San Francisco. The chrome reversed wire wheels on the 1957 and 1960 I think are custom roadsters. Everything was perfection.





GAR 1960 Goldilocks



GAR A&A Cadillac Yard

web site: www.clcntx.com

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John D'Agostino created the Egyptian 1958 Oldsmobile 2-door hard top with 1958 Buick grill, 4 Lucas headlights, nosed, removed all hood emblems. Decked, removed trunk lid emblems, all outside handles removed, lowered an healthy 4" chop. This creates a dramatic stance. It is a signature vibe.



Chopping a top (see 1954 Cadillac), the biggest problem was in lining up the windshield posts and properly sectioning the moldings. The 1954 Cadillac exemplified talent, unquestionably quality conscious craftsman. 1958 Eldorado Brougham, the 1959 Biarritz Elvis II convertible all pro-

duced the best restyled design that consistently pulls top trophies. To

round out the Custom Rods Motorama top 10 Sam Barris ultimate award, you find John D'Agostino detailing his 1954 Cadillac for display.

John 1954 Cadillac Custom

Richard Lentinello - Hemmings Classic Car May 2009 (excerpts):

Watching the car of your dream, being transformed from a tarnished rusted hulk into a piece of rolling sculpture that everyone admires is a truly rewarding experience. No matter how you look at it, restoring old cars is a clear win-win proposition for both man and machine . . .

All those years of hard work vanish in a heartbeat. All you do is smile then if you're a real car nut, you will immediately start planning your next restoration project.

The year was 1990. Charles D (Chuck) Butte, President of Prestige Products in Los Angeles contacted me personally to recruit me as his account executive calling on all Cadillac dealers in the Bay area (San Francisco). Many had insisted on me – Christopher R Milosek, Cadillac Motor Car Division, Assistant Zone Manager Field Research, a letter from Cadillac Detroit and Dallas zone, that when I was assigned to Lone Star Cadillac, Dallas in January 1982 where I was a restyling expert and sold 900 Cadillacs in four years. For one year I was on the road from Fresno to San Francisco to Sacramento. I hated bugs on my Cadillac plus I do my best sleeping when I drive. Memorable years at Wayne Stead Cadillac in Walnut Creek. I restyled all new and pre-owned Cadillacs. Our owners loved unique rides I created and we prospered.

May God bless the trails you ride. Alex Beloff III



John 1953 Cadillac Eldorado Custom



John 1960 Cadillac Custom

See more of these fabulous customs at: https://celebritykustoms.com/

https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Caddie-Shack-Gar-Tompkins-wrecking-yard-is-a-2788372.php



Alex at Wayne Stead Cadillac in Walnut Creek



Gar Tompkins, Alex, and John D'Agostino

web site: www.clcntx.com

John 1957 Buick Custom

PATE SWAP MEET NOTES

PATE SWAP MEET DATES: 2021

April 10th with a <u>rain date</u> of **April 17th** Vendor Space Marker Tile Refurbish Party at Zone Zero, Texas Motor Speedway 10:00 a.m.

April 24th NTXCLC PSM Set up day. Meet at Gate 4, Texas Motor Speedway at 9:00 a.m.

April 29th—May 1st Hospitality Tent Workers.

May 2nd PSM Tear Down. Meet at Hospitality Tent 9:00 a.m.

Please adjust your planning and join us for these important events.

The Pate Swap Meet web site is *PateSwapMeet.com*.

Due to the crowd-size restriction imposed by the State of Texas not being lifted in time, October 1st through the 3rd dates for Pate Swap Meet has been postponed but we will return at our regular time in April of 2021.

We deeply regret the need for this action but the health and safety of our visitors, vendors and volunteers must come first.

the Pate Swap Meet will return at our regular April dates in 2021. The next Pate Swap Meet will be April 29, 2021, through May 1, 2021. The move-in and set-up date for Pate Vendors will be Wednesday, April 28, 2021.



We really miss those car shows and gatherings. John Barr, Marvin Block, Ron Fishell, and Doug Ashby. Photo by Bill Levy.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Its that time of year again that we have elections for our six office positions. Since we are not going to have a Regional meet this year due to the Coronavirus, we will have to everything either electronically or by snail mail.

The positions open are **President**, **Vice President**, **Treasurer**, **Secretary**, **Membership Chairman** and **Activities Director**. Any member in good standing (both National CLC and Local Region) is eligible to participate in nominated and elections. These six officers are Board voting positions. The Club is governed by the Board. The Board assumes management and control of the affairs and property of the Club; establishes policy for the Club not otherwise specified by the Constitution; performs all duties usually accorded a board of directors; and at all times acts in the best interests of the Club and its members.

You may submit nominations for yourself or someone else who would be interested in the position(s). Send your nominations by email to doverby@hotmail.com, or by USPS to D. Overby, 8530 Bacardi Drive, Dallas, TX 75238-4924. Please submit by September 20th.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: The President shall preside over all meetings of the Board and the membership. He/she shall appoint all committee chairpersons who, in turn shall select their committee members, except the Nominating Committee, of which the President shall appoint all committee members. He/she shall decide all questions of equal division and shall have all powers, authority and duties usually accorded a President.

VICE PRESIDENT: The Vice President shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President or the Board. In case of death or absence of the President, He/she shall perform the duties of President.

SECRETARY: The Secretary shall record and keep all minutes of the Board and the annual meetings of the members and mail them to all board members within two weeks after the meetings. The Secretary shall carry on and maintain a file of Club correspondence and shall perform such other duties as the President or the Board may direct.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: The Membership Chairman shall actively promote membership in the Club. He/she shall keep an up-to-date roster of the names and addresses of all Club members, send membership applications upon request, process membership applications, receive dues to be turned over to the Treasurer; and he/ she shall notify the Board of any Club member whose national dues have not been current for a period of six months.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall collect funds on behalf of the club for deposit in the club's operating account, and disburse the funds of the Club as directed by the Board. He/she shall keep the region's financial records current and in order at all times and give a report of the club's finances at each regular meeting of the Board. He/she shall render a financial report to the membership at the annual meeting, and to the President and/ or the Board as they direct. He/she shall perform such other duties and possess such other powers usually accorded the office of Treasurer, or as the Board may direct.

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: The Activities Director shall plan and coordinate activities of interest to the Club membership, and in furtherance of the purposes for which the club is founded. He/she shall present proposed activities to the Board for consideration, and shall have primary responsibility for the details of any activity undertaken by the Club, and shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the Board.

Additional position are non-voting and are appointed by the Board. If you might be interested in these position, please include this in your nomination. The assistant positions are a great way to learn about the positions and the club operations. Newsletter Editor, Pate Director (Region), Assistant Pate Director, Assistant Membership Director, Assistant Activities Director, and Historian.

Send your nominations by email to doverby@hotmail.com, or by USPS to D. Overby, 8530 Bacardi Drive, Dallas, TX 75238-4924 Please submit by September 20th.

NTXCLC Obituaries



Tomas Alexander Domkowski August 24, 1938 - July 10, 2020

Tom was born in 1938 in Amsterdam, NY. He graduated from Perth High School and was drafted into the military in 1960. He served in the US Army 3rd missile battalion, 38th Artillery division until his term ended in 1962.

Tom went to work as a machinist and diesel mechanic after his military service. He moved to the Dallas area in late 1963. Tom worked in Dallas as a diesel mechanic for several years finally retiring from UPS in 2010.

He joined the NTX CLC in the mid eighties and brought his famous 1949 Limo with him. Tom was always quick to volunteer for many hard jobs, such as parking cars at the old "Pate Swap Meet" in Cresson, Tx. He attended many events and inter-regional meets. His dry wit and keen sense of humor will be missed by all who knew him.

Happy Trails Tom.

First Saturday Breakfast Social

One of the important missions and features of a car club is the social interaction with other people with similar interests. In our case it begins with the Cadillac and LaSalle automobiles, and through that ownership and desire to meet other owners with the same interests, the club thrives and grows.

Our regional club here in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area has done vey well and has had some great events and activities. One of our pride and joy events is the long-term participation with the Pate Swap Meet, which has grown over the years to the largest automobile-oriented meet west of the Mississippi, and may be in second or close first in the country. Other superb activities we enjoy include the Inter-regionals, the Regional, and best of all is the Grand Nationals.

A number of us from the club enjoyed a First Saturday Cars & Coffee car show, in which after we saw all the cars and schmoozed with our friends, would drive out to a restaurant for a nice quiet social breakfast. After the C&C shut down we decided to continue the breakfast gathering and it has been a great success. But, since we are required to shelter-in-place in our homes, we had to find another way to say Hi, and get together.

The way we did this month worked exceptionally well, and I hope we attract more participants. We used ZOOM, a conferencing software application that is free and easy to use. It is hoped that more members, spouses, and friends join us both in using ZOOM, and when can really get out to a restaurant and break bread together.



This month's ZOOMers included Alex Beloff III, host Bill and Harriett Levy, Mark Waterman, Richard Cross, Doug and Kathleen Ashby, Marvin Block, Steve and Debbie Overby, Jeffrey and Marcia Pendleton, Jim Hanson, Ron Fishell, and Rubye Mae Musser

To all my Cadillac friends, family, and associates. A face mask is not a political or personal statement. It means a protection for your health and others. Always wear your mask and wear it correctly in public places. And keep your distances. Thank you.





Classified Ads – for 3 months Members: free, Non-members -\$35 for three lines for three months. \$50 for ad with photo. No credit for early cancellation. For additional rates contact Bill Levy @ (214) 563-1033





Here are the up and coming activities that members and family and guests can plan for and participate in. **2020**

Due to the current Coronavirus situation, activities are on hold. Please bear with us and be safe.

September 5th First Saturday Breakfast Social (Zoom)

October or November Depending on nature— a driving tour to see the autumn leaves.

December 12th Either the Ronald McDonald house or a children's organization. Our Charity Toy event.

January 3, 2021 Christmas Party.

NATIONAL:

2021 National Driving Tour TBA
2021 CLC Winter Board Meeting Feb 25-27 Concord, N.C. 2021 CLC Grand National July 13-17 Marriott Pyramid Hotel- Albuquerque, NM. See the August issue Self Starter for registration information.
2022 CLC Grand National, Chicago, IL.
2022 National Driving Tour- a tour to cover several southeast states.

Rubye 817 996-8066

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If you are currently receiving your newsletter, The Standard Of The World, by mail, and would like faster service by email, please let the editor know (lifer@writeme.com). Email newsletters are emailed on the first day of every month, where snail mail takes sometimes a few days longer. Thank you.

September 2020



I am pleased I hope to say that I know of no one among NTX members that is suffering with the dreaded disease Coronavirus.

WE need maybe to do more FaceTime or ZOOM calls which I will try for next time

Martha and George Smith progressing very well, as is Terry Graham, and our beloved Bill Haesslein. Dave Eckberg Reagan Hammett Mary Lou Ruhling Pauline Johnston Bob Musser

Sadly this past month we have lost three members: Tony Yates Marvin Wade Tom Domkowski

God rest their souls and rest in peace.

Birthdays: Bill Levy, Rubye Mae

God Bless each of you and stay well. WEAR you Mask and stay 6 ft apart as much as possible.

Love, **Rubye**

817 996-8066

Membership Report

<u>Welcome New Members:</u> Dr. Kenneth W. Usher, Dallas, TX

There are 16 car clubs that manage the Pate Swap Meet each year. If every member of the North Texas Region Cadillac & LaSalle club recruited just one new member each, we would be the biggest club in the swap meet. Remember, the member count, besides meaning a more fun and interesting club, gets the club a bigger share of the Pate income.

If a member obtains 5 or more new members to the NTXCLC they will receive a free Club Shirt at the annual Christmas dinner.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING PRICES FOR NTXCLC NEWSLETTER "The Standard Of The World"

Your business will be advertising to car lovers and enthusiasts across the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

For one full year,

12 issues — \$50.00 - Business card size, \$75.00 - 1/8 page, \$125.00 - Quarter page,

\$250.00 – Half page, \$500.00 – Full page.

If you have a special request contact us for rates. Contact Bill Levy (lifer@writeme.com) for an application or special request.

For membership information— Contact Bill Haesslein at billhsln@airmail.net

September 2020



NTXCLC Board Meetings usually 3rd Saturday at 11:30 a.m. of even months

Next Board Meeting TBA



Dallas, TX 75248



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Send any corrections, complaints, compliments, discussions, and/or additions to: Bill (Lifer) Levy lifer@writeme.com 214 563-1033

web site: www.clcntx.com