



*April 2007*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CENTRAL VIRGINIA CADILLAC AND  
LASALLE CLUB

*Champagne Wishes and Cadillac Dreams*

**Max** Koehler shares the following wonderful story. If you have a special Cadillac or LaSalle story, please send it along to the newsletter editor.

It's only fitting that my first Cadillac story is about my first Cadillac - a 1986 Triple-Black Fleetwood Brougham d' Elegance that was my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday present to myself. Old faithful, or 'MAXRELX' as I call her, has seen some miles and created some wonderful tales, many of which we will share down the road.

This poor car was pretty rough when I bought it (with 180,000 miles on it), and being involved in the detailing of cars, I was originally apprehensive about this faded, dirty, smoking, smelly, underpowered THING. Nonetheless, she turned out to be a GREAT Cadillac and a great car as well.

Anyway, my first real 'moment' in MAXRELX came shortly after I got her roadworthy. For most of my early driving years, I had been around late-model Mustangs and Mustang people, and I made my friends suffer the living, breathing, eating, and sleeping routine of me and my car. Suffice it to say, frequently friends were part of my car crusades, probably had a little too much of the whole thing, and could have been just as well off in life not knowing about cruising, car-nut losers, and all that comes with our lifestyle choice. So, it was only fitting that my best friend was with me when we took an early spring day trip to Virginia Beach in MAXRELX.

I was a little concerned about the trip, because I had never taken the car any long distance, and had only recently figured out that she leaked basically one quart of oil for every tank of gas. I planned on a leisurely drive, stopping at each rest stop and checking the vitals on the way. We made it to the Beach fine and had a great day. At day's end, we proceeded on our pleasure cruise home and were doing a comfortable 60 mph, while I enjoyed the drive in my usual position – seat all the way back and reclined as far as it could go, legs fully stretched out, with my 'lean' on and one finger on the wheel. Classic!

Then somewhere along I-64 West, one of my glances in the rearview mirror showed a car behind us. A few moments later, I checked again, and could make out the distinctive shape of the front of a long squared car with 4 headlights. Ahhh. . . another Brougham. I continued at my leisurely pace knowing this car would catch up to me and pass (it evidently wasn't in much of a hurry either), and I would get a good comparative scan of it then. Sure enough, each check of the rearview mirror showed the other Caddy coming ever closer and, as it got nearer, my best friend could sense I was up to something and he eventually turned around to look. Upon turning back around, he only looked at me with the look on his face of "Oh no, not the 'car thing' again." (I had learned to read and expect that expression.)

As the other Cadillac pulled up behind us, I glanced over my left shoulder out of the driver's side rear window (you know how it is when you're basically driving from the back seat) and I saw a rather nice midnight blue 1986 Fleetwood Brougham d' Elegance. It was being driven by an attractive young lady, about my age, *also leaning back*, left arm on the driver's armrest and wheel, right arm over the passenger seat, and glancing at me and my beauty *out of her rear passenger window!!*

We exchanged a long approving glance and 'nodded' to each other, and the blue Brougham carried on. As she pulled away, there was a moment where we couldn't hear the radio, or the sound of the car, or the road while we processed what had just happened. Then, my friend, still sick to his stomach from all of my car 'crap' over the years says to me, "Dude, that was the coolest thing I ever saw."

To this day, my black '86 is still a reliable performer in my stable, my friend and I still recall that Cadillac moment, and the proverbial 'girl in the white thunderbird' is still out there.

## *Bling-Bling*

**Is** your Cadillac Escalade a little too drab or undistinguished? Then, maybe you should consider a new grill that expresses your personality or hobbies. Is there any doubt that the owner of this Escalade is a gambler or card shark? Your newsletter editor happened upon this "blinged out" beauty in Savannah, Georgia. The stock grill has been replaced with one that features dice, playing card suit symbols, and dollar signs. So, if you're a "player," this might be the grill for you.



## *Rescue Me!*

**Ever** been driving along and suddenly seen an old car in need of rescue? Here are two seen recently and located in the city of Richmond.



The first one is a 1976 Cadillac Seville. The Seville was introduced as a down-sized Cadillac in April of 1975 and appeared in dealer showrooms on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The base price was \$12,479.00, making it the most expensive Cadillac model, except for the Fleetwood Seventy-five limousine. That price included a padded vinyl roof, air conditioning, automatic level control, power seats, windows and door locks, AM-FM stereo radio, and leather or cloth upholstery. In calendar year 1975, 16,355 were sold and another 43,772 were sold in 1976 before the 1977 models were introduced.



This Cadillac has a vinyl roof and a sunroof. The leather interior is in excellent condition. The hubcaps may be missing or they may be in the trunk. The car is located at a shop at the intersection of Broad and Shepard streets.

The second car in need of rescuing is a 1967 Sedan de Ville. The 1967



models featured redesigned side panel contours that created a longer and more sculpted appearance. Also, a new front grill had a forward angle that sloped backward from top to bottom. The Deville hardtop sedan was the most popular model in the series with 59,902 models sold for 1967.

This car is located at Capital Garage and Towing off Jefferson Davis Highway in south Richmond.

## *Car Shows Are Starting to Happen*

Beautiful Spring weather brings collector cars out of their garages in droves. April is an especially busy month. The following shows are scheduled:

- April 7<sup>th</sup> – Virginia Classic Cruisers 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Open Car Show  
Southside Nazarene Church – Rt. 288 and Courthouse Rd.  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- April 14<sup>th</sup> – Central Virginia Mustang Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual April Car Show (open)  
Virginia Center Commons Mall – U.S. Rt. 1  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Rain date April 21
- April 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> – Spring Carlisle Show  
County Fairgrounds  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania
- April 28<sup>th</sup> – Second Annual Cruisin' For a Cure Car, Truck & Bike Show  
Battlefield Park Elementary School – 5501 Mechanicsville Turnpike  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
(to benefit the Mechanicsville Relay for Life Team)
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – Potomac Region Show  
Capitol Cadillac  
6500 Capitol Drive  
Greenbelt, Maryland  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

## *March Meeting Minutes*

**The** March meeting was held on March 8 at Fuddruckers Restaurant on West Broad Street in Henrico County. Eight members attended the meeting.

Members were requested to send stories, pictures, etc. to the newsletter editor at [vargw@netscape.net](mailto:vargw@netscape.net).

The President, Mike Daly, discussed a membership drive idea. After reviewing the national directory, he or the Membership Secretary, Ron Threadgill, will send invitations to everyone in our geographic region who is not currently a Club member.

There was also a discussion of upcoming car shows and related events (see article on page 5).

The possibility of a future road trip to the automobile museum in Hood, Virginia was discussed. This could be an opportunity to invite the members of the Potomac Region Club to meet us there.

Finally, the Club home page on the web (www.) contains some new pictures taken by Ron Threadgill.

### *March Treasurer's Report*

**The** Treasurer reported that the Club bank account has been moved to Wachovia, saving approximately \$144 annually in fees that Bank of America was charging. The treasury had a balance of \$1,467.76.

### *Future Meetings*

<u>April 12</u>	Mi Hacienda Mexican Restaurant Midlothian Turnpike in Chesterfield
<u>May 10</u>	Super King Buffet Westland Shopping Center in Henrico

### *Member Challenge*

**Members** agree that the club needs to grow to be stronger and more vital. Each member is therefore challenged to bring a potential new member or members to the April 12 meeting.

Potential members do not need to own a Cadillac or LaSalle. They may simply have an interest or fondness for Cadillacs and LaSalles or aspire to own one in the future.

A prize will be awarded to the member who brings the most guests to four meetings (February thru May) who become members before June 1. The gauntlet is thrown down. The prize will be awarded at the June meeting.

## *Format Change*

**The** Board determined that the newsletter should come out at the beginning of each month, rather than after the monthly meeting. As a result, you will note that this issue is denoted as *April*. There is no *March* issue.

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