



March 2009

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
CENTRAL VIRGINIA CADILLAC AND
LASALLE CLUB**

Brits Celebrate Cadillac's Triumph

Members of the Cadillac Owners Club G.B. last fall celebrated the Centennial of Cadillac being awarded the Dewar Trophy. About 50 cars owned by members of the C.O.C.G.B. were on display where the event originally took place – at Brooklands, where British motorsports began. The cars on display ranged from a 1904 model up to a 2008 CTS.

The Dewar Trophy was awarded annually for outstanding contributions to the automobile industry by the Royal Automobile Club. The trophy had been donated by Member of Parliament Sir Thomas R. Dewar.

In 1908, F.S. Bennett, the importer of Cadillacs into the United Kingdom, challenged the Royal Automobile Club to a standardization test. Three Model K Cadillacs were completely disassembled at Brooklands, the parts were all mixed up, a few new parts were added, and then three complete cars were

reassembled and driven. This proved that, with Cadillac's build quality and rigid tolerances of component manufacture, parts did not have to be custom-made, but could be used interchangeably "off-the-shelf." Universal adoption of this practice across the industry allowed the development and sale of automobiles to drivers of all economic levels. Before this technique was developed and proven, the automobile was a luxury and a toy for wealthy people. Although Henry Ford is credited with the "assembly line," it would not have occurred without Cadillac's development and production of standardized parts.

*Sadly, the **XLR** Will Be No More*

General Motors Corporation will stop production of the Cadillac XLR, a two passenger convertible model with a retractable hardtop, this spring. The car has been manufactured in Bowling Green, Kentucky along with the Corvette. About 40 employees will be laid off.

The vehicle is being eliminated after a year of slipping sales. Only 1,250 XLRs were sold in 2008, 28 percent less than in 2007.

The XLR debuted as a 2003 model, and 1,731 models were sold that first year. Never produced in high volume, prices for a 2009 model begin at \$87,055.00. If you want one, better hurry.

February Meeting Minutes

The February meeting was held on Saturday, February 21st at 4:00 p.m. at Dance Masters Studio at 5008 Lakeside Avenue in Richmond. The meeting was one week later than normal due to the prior Saturday being "Valentine's Day."

Club President Roger York sent out invitations to about 40 local area National Buick Club members. Six responded that they were interested and three attended the meeting. Three National Oldsmobile Club members also attended the meeting. Ten Cadillac and LaSalle Club members also attended.

General discussion determined that Buick and Oldsmobile members would be interested in attending Club meetings and sharing in some Club activities. For the next several months, the Club decided to keep an informal relationship with Buick and Oldsmobile owners.

There was also discussion of the Hershey and Carlisle Pennsylvania car shows, and it was announced that a big Antique Automobile Club of America show will be held May 8th and 9th in Winchester, Virginia.

The **next Club meeting will be March 21st at 4:00 p.m.** It will again be at Dance Masters Studio at 5008 Lakeside Avenue in Richmond.

Joint Road Trip

Members of the Hampton Roads Region Cadillac and LaSalle Club are making a two day trip to Luray, Virginia on March 28th and 29th. They have invited us to join them.

They will tour Luray Caverns and the Luray Antique Automobile Museum. They will meet up with us, probably where I-295 intersects Rt. 33, around 11:00 a.m. and we will take back roads to Luray, arriving in mid-afternoon.

The recommended motel is the Best Western Intown, 410 West Main Street (telephone 540-743-6511); please make your own reservations. Saturday night, dinner will be at the Artisans Grille. The caverns and museum tour will be on Sunday after breakfast.

To participate, please let Bob Geiger know (757-253-6501 or bobnlettygeiger@aol.com).

We Missed You

Some Club members who we usually see were absent from the February meeting. We sure hope to see you at the March meeting.

New Members

Since the beginning of the year, we have been pleased to welcome several new members. They are Ryan Babcock, Justin Gottlieb, Dan Kaufmann, and Paul Marcello. Ryan has a 1964 Cadillac Series 75 limousine. Justin has a 1984 Cadillac Sedan DeVille. Dan has a 1960 Cadillac Sedan deVille. Paul has a 1955 Cadillac Coupe deVille and a 1991 Sedan DeVille. Photos of their autos will appear in a future newsletter.

February Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the Club's account had a balance of \$1,293.55.

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