

UP TO SPEED

June 2025

Greater Illinois Region/CCCA
<http://GIRCCCA.org>

"Let's go for a ride"

M. Blevins, editor



Message from the Regional Director

Hello fellow club members.

It's been a busy car season and rather warm here. I hope you have found the weather conducive to attending some shows and most importantly, driving those wonderful cars under your care. I can't emphasize enough how important it is to use the limited opportunities we have living in this Midwest region, to enjoy the good weather when we have it. I know many of you took the opportunity to display your cars in a beautiful setting in Oakbrook this year. I must say I think we might've set new attendance records. The weather was delightful, better than last year's excessive heat. Many of you reported you had a wonderful time sharing stories, and hearing some new ones. We will be looking forward to sharing some of these along with photos in the next issue of the *Dashboard* coming soon.



I'd like to bring to mind that our website has finally received some timely updates. We have secured a solution by finding and appointing a new Webmaster. He came to us through an acquaintance of Maureen and he's doing a fine job updating. If you have a moment, you may like to check it out. You'll find it at <https://www.girccca.org/>. Feel free to message me with any comments or suggestions you may have. We're always eager to receive any photos you may have documenting any of our events throughout the course of the year.

GIR/CCCA 2025 Events

July 20 - GIR/POC Annual Picnic - Fabyan Preserve, Geneva, IL

July 17 -20 – CCCA Grand Classic

October Fall Tour - Date and Location TBD

November - Annual Dinner - Date and location TBD (Either Nov 9 or 16)

Other Events of Note

July 12 - Copshaholm

July 13 – RROC Concours

July 17 - Palos Heights car show

Pebble Beach Concours - August 17, 2025

Geneva Concours - August 24, 2025

August 28, August 30 – ACD Festival

October 7-10 – AACA Fall Fest - Hershey

I close by offering a personal invite for our annual picnic with the Packard club coming up July 20. We look forward to this immensely, as it's not only a time to get together and socialize with friends of the hobby we may not see too often, but it's a great time to "take your car for a ride" as our dear friend, member and former *UTS* editor Chuck Derer would say.

I hope to see you there!

CORDially,
Russ

Welcome to our New Members: Willard Girvin, Harry Bulkeley Kevin Knoepfel, Thomas Webb.

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Editor's Corner



July already. Where does the time go? There have been a good number of car events already, with some of the best yet to come. Have you made any of the 'big' ones or do you tend to stick close to home? I'm sure we all have our favorites - those we really don't want to miss. Maybe you plan your vacation around a concours in another state - or even another country. Or maybe you plan your trips around local shows you don't want to miss. Wherever you fall on the car collector spectrum, I hope you're making the most of it and enjoying it.

So far I have no travel plans for this year. A few things have come up, but I'm certainly not going to be content with that for very long. I'm sure I'll have to take some sort of a trip. I'm thinking road trip. The open road never ceases to put out its siren call. My other favorite way to travel is by train. I do love a good train ride. And it's easy enough

to rent a car at whatever destination I may choose. The train is definitely relaxing for me. I can sit back, enjoy the ride and take in the scenery - even while dining. It's hard to fully appreciate breathtaking scenery when you're behind the wheel. Which is one reason I need longer trips - all those stops I have to make for the photo ops. There are plenty of places for day trips. Take out that classic and do what Chuck says..."Let's go for a ride."

~ *Maureen*

In Memoriam



Robin James

1945 - 2025

Robin passed away on May 15. Robin was one of our legacy club members who served in leadership roles in our club for decades, and as a professional photographer, he contributed often to our publications. He spearheaded efforts to connect the Classic Car Club with the Rolls-Royce and Bentley clubs throughout his tenure, and was past President of the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club. He is survived by his wife Michelle, daughters Jessica and Courtney, their husbands, and his four grand children. Memorial Services were held June 7, 2025. Donations in his memory can be made to the National Kidney Foundation.

<https://kidneytribute.rallybound.org/RobinJames>

Carl Turano

1939 - 2025

Carl passed away in May. He was preceded in death by his wife, and is survived by three children, several grandchildren, a great grandchild, his sister, and his close friend Cathy. Carl was a longtime member of the GIRCCCA, proudly displaying his 1930 Packard at numerous area car shows. He was also an award winning lighting designer, artist and musician. Services for Carl were held on May 16. Donations in Carl's name, per his request, can be made to [Packards of Chicagoland](#).



A Look In The Rear View Mirror - Zero to 60 with Robin James

Everyone who has owned collector car has stories. What's one of your favorites?

We were returning from a car meet with our 1946 Bentley Mark VI and broke down just outside of Indianapolis. As we were waiting on the side of the road for AAA to arrive, a young man wearing a torn t-shirt and driving a beat-up Toyota pick-up stopped. He asked if we needed help and seemed like a nice chap despite his appearance, so we agreed. He lifted the bonnet, took one look, and said our water pump was broken. Michelle had a feeling that might have been the problem as it was "spitting" earlier. The young man turned out to be a mechanic for Mercedes-Benz! When the AAA flatbed arrived, they picked up the Bentley and, because it was a Sunday and no dealers were open, hauled it to the personal garage of the AAA franchisee where the car stayed until Monday. The car was then hauled to a Bentley dealership in Zionville, IN where a rebuilt water pump was installed. It goes to show you how helpful and welcoming car enthusiasts are.

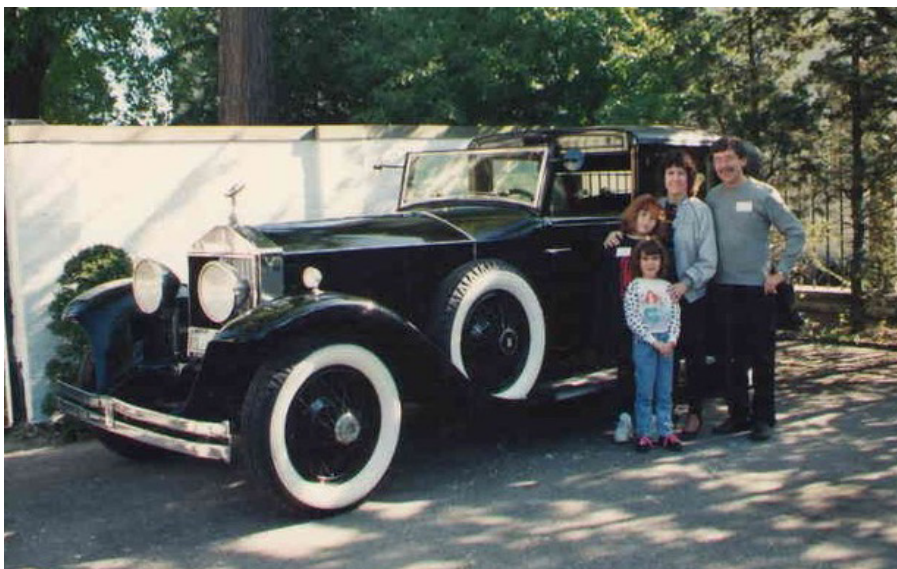


What is your first memory of connecting with cars?

When I was a little boy, my uncle was chauffeur to Lord St. Oswald, who had Bentleys and Rolls-Royce cars, mostly Bentleys. My uncle and aunt lived in the London Mews, above the garages where Lord St. Oswald stored his automobiles. We would often get a chance to ride in the Bentleys when my uncle had to deliver them to Lord St. Oswald's country estate.

What was your first love affair with a car, and did you ever buy it?

After I returned from Vietnam out of the U.S. Army, I almost bought a 4.25 litre Bentley listed in the Chicago Tribune. Unsure of where to get it repaired, I passed on the car and later bought a Model T Ford!



You have a blank check and can buy any car. What would you get and why?

Where do I begin? If I was younger, a Springfield Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, left hand drive. Now, I prefer the car I have in my garage, a 1997 Bentley.

What your favorite cruising song to listen too while in one of your cars?

"On the Road Again," by Willie Nelson.

What car do you wish you kept?

I occasionally pine for my 1926 Springfield Rolls-Royce Phantom I (S406FL), but really, I enjoy the car I now own, although my driving days are over.

Michelle does an excellent job of driving her (fast) and maintaining her.

What advice would you give 20-year-old self when it comes to collecting cars?

Buy what you love, and to quote Dick Gold, a former Classic Car of America member, "Take out a loan if needed, but buy the drop top."

What words, or saying do you live by?

Live a good, honest life, and ignore those who try to injure you. They are not worth your time.



Sunday, July 20 - GIR/POC Annual Picnic
11 am - 4 pm

We are back at the **Fabyan Preserve!** Rt. 31 & East Fabyan Parkway
Enter the Fabyan Preserve on RT. 31 (West side of the River) Signs will direct you to club parking.

As always, this is a FREE event!

Hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks and water will be provided.

Your only cost is a dish to pass.

However, we do need a head count to know how much to order.

PLEASE RSVP by July 12

russ@girccca.org

or

630-767-9000

See you there!

**NOTE: If you are a member of
BOTH Clubs do NOT register
twice.**

**RSVP to either club,
but please be sure to register
only once!**

Suggested items to bring:

If your last name begins with

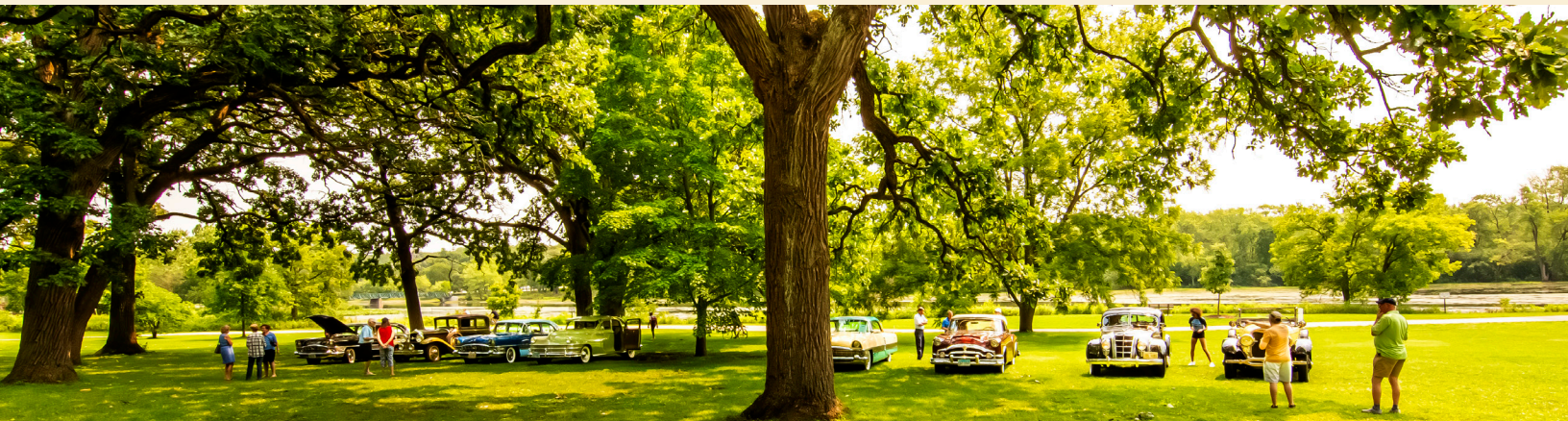
A - G Appetizer

H - M Dessert

N - R Salad

S - Z Side Dish

Bring your specialty dish!



Spring Garage Tour

The Spring Garage Tour had a great turn out, and a spectacular pair of collections! Many thanks to Konnie Kuiper and Hil Raab for allowing us into their collections. If you weren't there, you missed a great day!





Photos courtesy of Russ Rodriguez

Westbridge Car Show

Our first event of the year was our third year at Westbridge - formerly called Wyndemere. Participants were provided donuts, coffee, and lunch.

Thank you to Bud Schweppe, Mike Pavlak, Gary Gerstner, Alan Blum, John Rock, John McNabola, Bill Morris, Kerry Given, Wayne Jorgenson, Ed Villwock, Nick Corso, Ron Hansen, George Hanson, and Russ Rodriguez for providing their 'rides' for the residents enjoyment.



Hello Russ and all Club Members of the Greater Illinois Region of the Classic Car Club of America!

Melissa and I want to thank each and every one of you for making the 3rd Annual Classic Car Show a great success!

The residents stated they experienced fun, laughter, visiting, and sharing memories under beautiful blue skies as they toured the many stunning cars.

As you know, there would have been no car show without your kindness to them!

We appreciate you all!

Barb and Melissa
Activities Department
Westbridge Assisted Living
Wheaton, IL 60187

*The residents always enjoy this nostalgic day.
The smiles were indeed priceless!*



Members In The News - Joe Bortz

After 35 years, the Virgil Exner 1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcon concept car from the Joe Bortz Auto Collection will again be featured at the 2025 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

Joe Bortz thanks Sandra Button, Pebble Beach Concours Chairman, for the invitation to show the Virgil Exner 1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcon concept car in the 2025 special class designated for "Virgil Exner Idea Cars".

Many say that the 1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcon is considered to be one of the best of all Virgil Exner designs. Some may recall that the 1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcon was one of the first ever post war concept cars ever shown at Pebble Beach on the back lawn behind the "lodge" circa 1990. Joe Bortz also exhibited his concept cars at Pebble Beach as a special feature in 1989-1990.

The 1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcon has been in the Joe Bortz Auto Collection for over 40 years. The Falcon was built as a fully running and driving concept car - constructed on a production 1955 Chrysler 300 chassis that was shortened. The shorter chassis was then sent to the Carrozzeria Ghia body building company in Turin, Italy to fabricate Exner's vision of the 1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcon roadster concept car design.

The 1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcon is powered by a 331 c.i. Fire Power HEMI V8 with 300 HP with a Power Flite Automatic Transmission, power steering, power brakes and power windows.

For its day, this 1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcon pushed the limits of automobile design and power. Many say had it been put into production, it could have had a huge impact on the sales of the other two Detroit 2-seaters, the 1955 Ford Thunderbird and the 1955 Chevrolet Corvette. There were only two 1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcons built by Ghia and the second one has never been found although Joe is still looking for it.

Virgil Exner Sr designed the famous "Forward Look" cars for Chrysler between 1955-1963. He was considered one of the finest hands on post war artistic American designers of "Idea Cars" from the sketch pad to the completed vehicle. It is interesting to note that the only brass model that Virgil Exner Sr kept on his desk from 1955 to 1963 was that of the 1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcon according to Virgil Exner Jr.

Joe Bortz was quoted as saying, "No one should miss this great opportunity to personally see all of Virgil Exner Sr's great Ghia concept cars including the 1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcon this year on Sunday, August 17, 2025 at the fabulous Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance".

For further information on this once in a lifetime opportunity, you can reach Joe Bortz directly at 847-668-2004 cell 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. CST 7 days a week or email BortzCars@aol.com or visit <https://www.pebblebeachconcours.net> or (831) 622-1700 phone or email info@pebblebeachconcours.net



*1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcon concept car from the Bortz Auto Collection.
Photo credit: Petersen Automotive Museum*



Joe Bortz in front of the Virgil Exner 1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcon concept car holding a model of the Falcon by Minichamps.



The first showing at Pebble Beach of the Virgil Exner 1955 Chrysler Ghia Falcon concept car circa 1990, 35 years ago.

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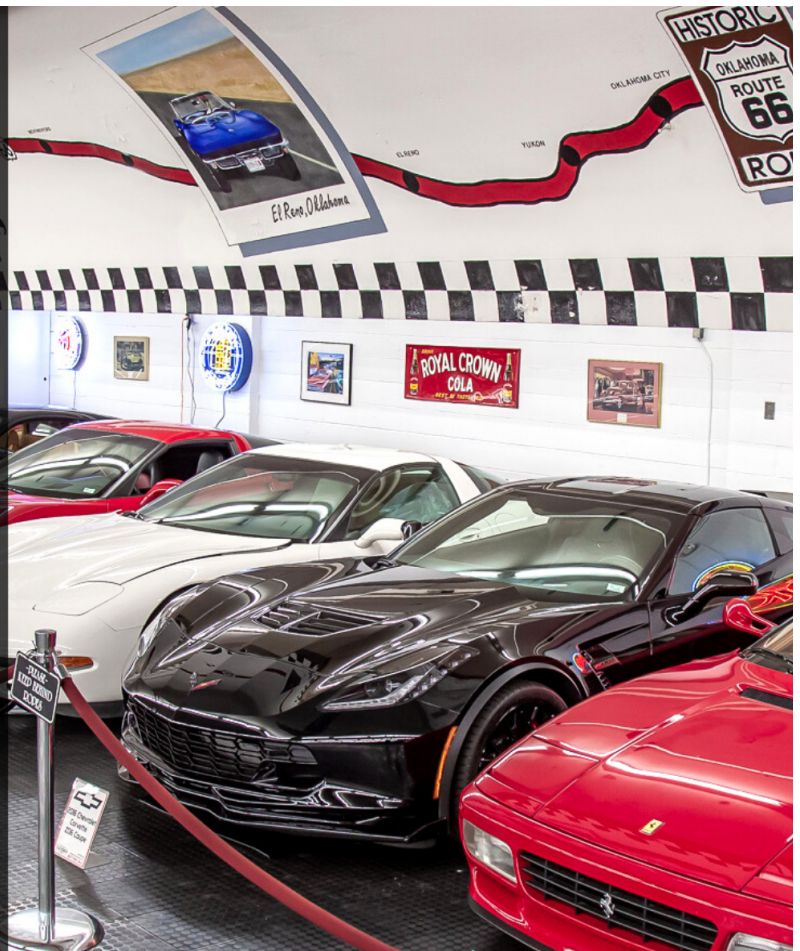
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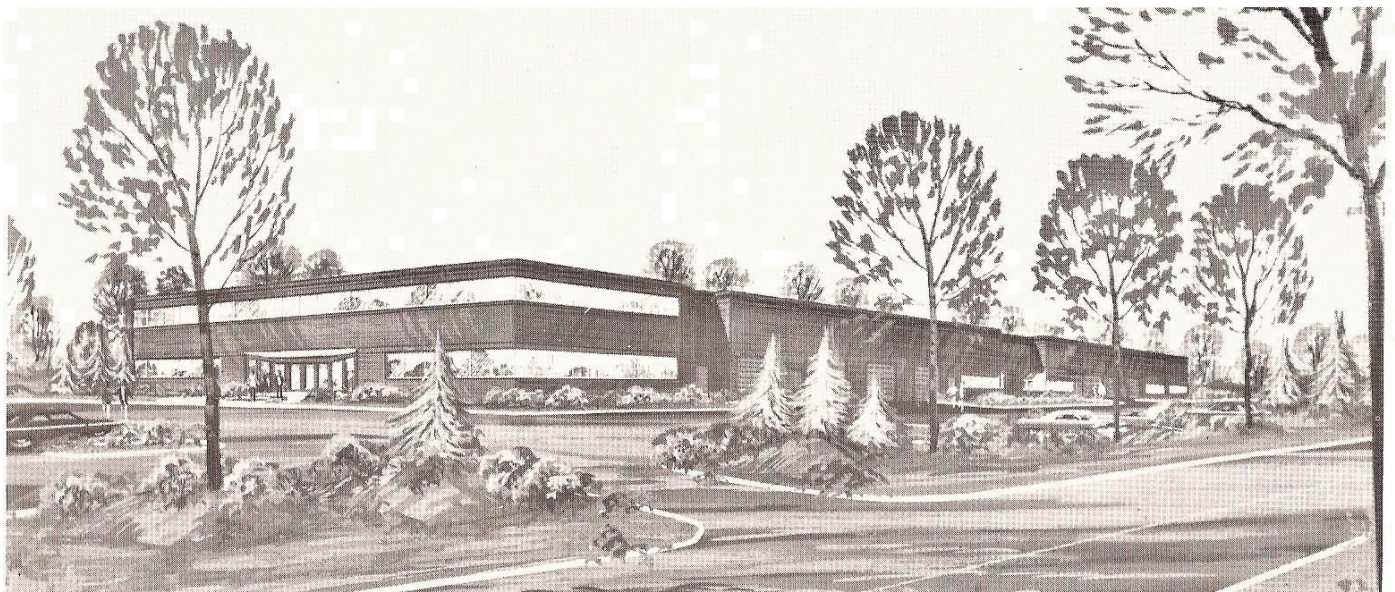


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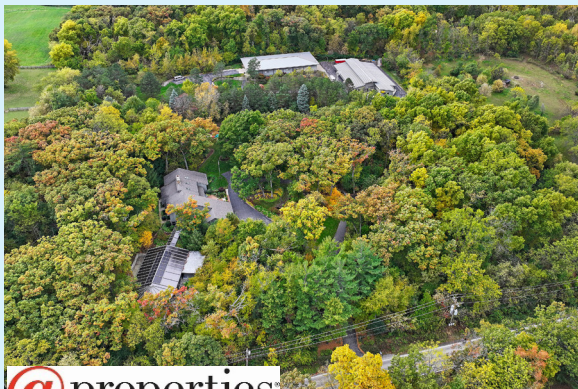


*Meticulously designed to cater to every automotive passion! Nestled on an 8.3-acre wooded & fully fenced property is the beautiful estate home and 2 magnificent auto-wonderland outbuildings. The home features an attached indoor pool house with retractable roof for the summer months and dehumidification system for winter. Sculptured driveways seamlessly connect past the aerated pond, stocked with bass & bluegill, to the 2 incredible outbuildings. Both buildings are fully climate controlled, and feature epoxy floors and showroom lighting. Backup generators for the home and both outbuildings guarantee uninterrupted power. **It's not just a residence, it's an automotive haven, and can be for a single owner, or shared by a group of collectors to store, restore and enjoy their collections.***

Outbuilding #1, built in 2000, is 7,100 SF that combines a workshop, parts storage, office with kitchenette and full bath, and showroom. This custom designed building has clerestory windows for natural light and a bonus of covered exterior storage.

Outbuilding #2, built in 2005, encompasses 15,000 SF. Built into the hillside with two levels of showrooms, 1½ baths, large office with boardroom, laundry, and kitchenette.

The 7,800 SF estate home features 7 bedrooms, 4½ baths, and 3-car garage. The home boasts incredible views from every room, features gleaming hardwood floors, fresh paint, new carpeting, 2-story stone fireplace, updated white kitchen with high-end appliances, remodeled bathrooms, 3 season porch, and 1st floor primary bedroom suite. Accessible via a heated glass walkway is the pool house with salt-water pool, hot tub, kitchen/bar, and full bath/locker room.



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The Classic Car Club of America defines a Full Classic as a “Fine” or “Distinctive” automobile. American or foreign built, produced only between 1915 and 1948. Many factors come into play but, generally, a Classic was a high-priced, top end vehicle when new and was built in limited quantities. No "Mass produced" assembly line vehicles are considered Classics. Other factors, including higher engine displacement, custom bespoke coachwork and luxury accessories. Mechanical developments such as power brakes, power clutch, and “one-shot” or automatic lubrication systems, help determine whether a car is considered to be a Classic.

Only certain models of some vehicles built during 1915 through 1948 are recognized as CCCA Classics: Be sure to check the list of recognized cars to see if all models of a particular marque are accepted as Full Classic cars. Application may be made for Full Classic consideration by applying to the National CCCA Classification committee.

Check out the complete list at <https://www.classiccarclub.org/approved-classics>

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