

UP TO SPEED

May/June 2015

Greater Illinois Region/CCCA
<http://gir.classiccarclub.org>

"Let's go for a ride"

M. Blevins, editor

Inside
Director's Message
Knausz Auto Park
Beller Museum
...and more



Inside the Beller Museum

Message from the Regional Director

I am passing this on from Larry Pumphrey, National Membership Chairman

Warmer weather is finally upon us and the pace of Regional CCCA activities will be increasing. With activities such as driving tours, Grand Classics, CARavans and other events, there will be an opportunity for each member to showcase our Classics to non-members.

I am sure many of us remember the time when we didn't know such a club existed. If it had not been for a CCCA member reaching out to us we may never have known about the Classics and the camaraderie of club members that we enjoy today. Now, we need to be that member who reaches out to the ones who show an interest in our cars at events, as well as any time we have our cars out and about.



I am convinced that the most effective way to increase membership is to encourage each member to be an ambassador for the club. I hope you will help me in this endeavor. Invite friends and acquaintances to be your guests at regional events, especially driving events. Riders will become members.

I hope to see you, and your new club members, "Down the Road" soon!

Cordially,
Russ Rodriguez,
GIRCCCA Regional Director

2015 Events of Note

June 5 - 7 - CCCA Museum Experience

Hickory Corners, Michigan

June 13 - 2nd Annual Glen Ellyn Vintage Auto Fest

featured marque is the Pierce Arrow. For info contact Karen Hall at 630-469-1867 ext 101.

August 23, 2015 - Geneva Concours, Geneva, IL

Featured will be cars orphaned when their manufacturers went out of business, Jaguars, Police Cars and Race Cars built in 1955 or earlier.

GIRCCCA 2015 Events

June 21 - Oak Brook Fathers Day Car Show

July 19 - Annual Picnic - Cantigny Park

August 1 - Arlington Park Race Track - Car Show

Note: This show will be INVITATION ONLY

... and from the Assistant Director



Our Board started planning this year's events last November. In January was a visit and lunch at the Chicago Motor Carriage collection in Chicago. Over 100 attended this event! A great brunch and performance of West Side Story at Drury Lane was in February for Valentines Day. On

a cold and blustery day in March we toured the Knauz Auto Park collection followed by a tour of the very unique and distinctive Pyramid House. Over 50 attended this "Behind the Scenes" event. In late April was our Spring Tour, a tour of the Beller Auto Collection, followed by lunch and a tour of the Jacob Henry Mansion in Joliet, concluding with the "Organ Extravaganza" concert at the Rialto Theatre in Joliet.

A common thread of most of these events is that they were attended or co-hosted by other clubs. The Packard Club co-hosted the Driehaus tour and several AACA members attended the "Behind the Scenes event". Several Model A club members joined us at the Beller Collection. Having other clubs join us in these events significantly bolstered attendance and made the events even more interesting. You will see more of these joint events in the future.

The same theme extends to our Region's Board. Many of our most helpful and productive Board members don't own Classic Cars. What they share with us is a love of automobiles, Classics or not, new or old.

Coming up is our premier event of the year, the Father's Day show at Oak Brook Center. Here too, while hosted by our club, participants include members of many clubs and autos of all kinds and shapes. The diversity adds considerably to the interest in and appeal of the event, which is attended by thousands.

If you haven't registered to display at the event please at least attend and join the crowd! It makes for a great day to be had by all.

Editor's Corner



The club has had a busy couple of months. Although the weather was not conducive to taking those priceless classics on the road, it didn't stop anyone from getting out and enjoying two great tours. It never ceases to amaze me what wonderful things are out there! Be it a car collection, museum or what have you, there is a wealth of places to visit!

The diversity and interests of the club members provides for a varied selection of interesting tours, all tied together with some element of automotive history. Having combined activities with other clubs is a great way to meet new people or maybe connect with old friends and acquaintances and just generally socialize.

I know everybody can't make every tour, but it seems like it's so often the same faces. Don't miss out on the good times. I for one, love meeting new people and I have to say, I've never met a friendlier group! These events tend to be great tours, great company and great food - what better combination is there?

If you haven't been coming on any outings lately, let us know why. All the board members have their emails published here in the newsletter. We love suggestions and are always looking for new events and ways to make this club ever better. Please don't hesitate to let us know what you would like to see. And if you have won any awards or are participating in a Grand Classic or Concours, do let me know. It deserves a mention!

Now that it's May I am sure we can all look forward to some nice weather. And I know I'll see you *all* at the Oakbrook Show in June! After all, what better way to spend a sunny afternoon than admiring the Classics and saying hello to friends.

Maureen



Karl S. Zahm



Karl Zahm, former CCCA member passed away March 1, 2015 at the age of 78. A U.S. Navy veteran and co-owner of the Rockford Tool and Transmission Company, his lifetime passion was Classic cars and their history.

As an automotive historian he produced over 200 articles in his lifetime dealing with a myriad of subjects relating primarily to Classic Car history. His articles were well researched yet highly readable and engaging and appeared in several different magazines and books. He was the Editor of the GIRCCCA 'Dashboard' for a number of years.

Karl accomplished much in his lifetime and we are grateful for his contributions to the preservation and growth of the classic car collecting hobby. He will surely be missed.

Karl is survived by his wife Colleen Soderberg, several children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



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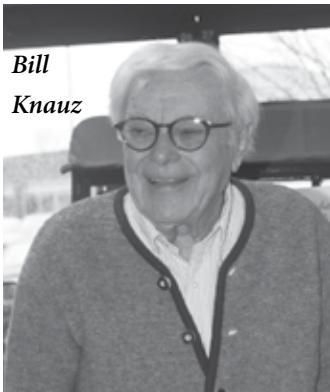
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Knauz Auto Park and the Pyramid House - March 29, 2015

The visit to Knauz Auto Park and the Pyramid House in March was a welcome escape from the cabin fever of the winter months. Although the weather was blustery and wet, inside all was calm. After coffee and donuts in the meeting room the group had ample time to view the cars in the collection at our leisure. About 25 vehicles comprise this collection including an army Jeep and a tractor. Bill Knauz knows the story of every vehicle in his showroom and shared many great stories.



***Bill
Knauz***

Bill's personal story is an interesting one. His parents, who originally came from Germany, worked as a chauffeur and a cook to a wealthy family. At the height of the Depression the Senior Knauz risked his life savings on a gas station. Over time, he merged with another gas station and eventually became a dealership. Bill Knauz is now working on a book about his parents and the growth of the successful Knauz Auto Park.



***Thank you to
Charles and Joan Falk
for putting together
this great event.***



***Thanks to Mark Smith and Bud Schweppe
for their help with this event.***



Knauz Auto Park and the Pyramid House - March 29, 2015

Leaving Knauz Auto Park the tour drove up to the Pyramid House. Pyramids are believed to have certain powers and in ancient Egypt were built as monuments and tombs. This one however was built to be a house and a home for the Onan family. And what a house it is. Rocko Onan was full of lively stories about what it was like to live in such an unusual home and how his father, Jim Onan, went about building it and turning it into the amazing tourist attraction it is today. His mom, Linda Onan, was a most gracious hostess, showing the group through the family living quarters and answering our many questions.



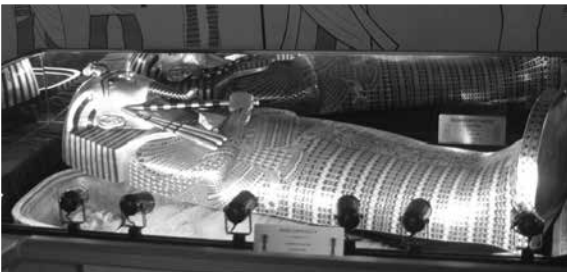
A 55 ft statue of Ramses faces the entryway to the property. At the bottom of the small incline is the 6 story structure, and a pyramid shaped 3 'chariot' garage.



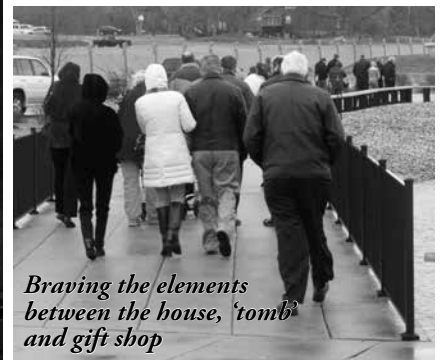
Rocko Onan



Linda Onan



A slide presentation on the building of the Pyramid House (above); the living quarters are a blend of modern conveniences and Egyptian ornamentation (right); replica sarcophagus and 'mummy' inside the tomb (left).



Braving the elements between the house, 'tomb' and gift shop



The day's tour concluded with a family style dinner at the Savanna House restaurant.

Spring Tour - April 25, 2015

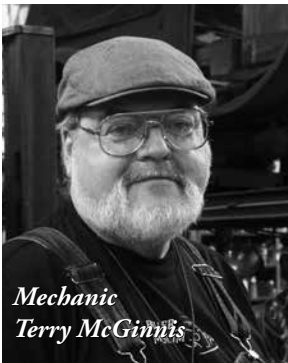
This one day tour took in an unbelievable collection of Model A's, dinner in an 1850 mansion and concluded with a concert at the fabulous 'Jewel of Joliet', the Rialto Theatre.

Jorden Beller and his wife Corinne have amassed a wealth of model A cars, trucks, parts and literature. A preservationist rather than a restorer, Beller, a retired optometrist, prefers to keep his vehicles in whatever condition he finds them. It makes for quite the unique collection. A noted expert on all things Model A, he has an extensive library!

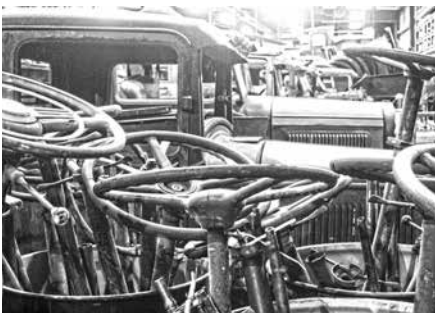
A gracious hostess, Corinne had coffee and conversation going on this rainy morning to warm us all up. Many thanks to Tom Roche for suggesting the Beller Museum.



Mail Truck, circa 1931



*Mechanic
Terry McGinnis*

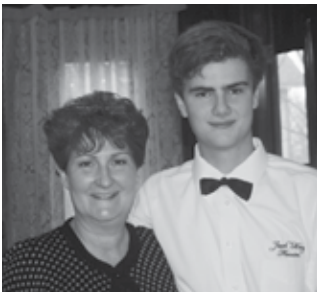


Spring Tour - April 25, 2015

The second half of our day just got better as we made the short drive into Joliet for our tour of the Jacob Henry Mansion. Everyone was allowed to wander the rooms at will, admiring the beautifully restored home with its original, ornate woodwork and period furnishings. We assembled for dinner in the drawing room where the tables were beautifully set. Susan, one of the owners, who had previously been on duty as the bartender, joined us and told us how the mansion came to be in her family and the trials and tribulations of restoring it and turning it into a first class venue for dinners, parties and weddings. A charming storyteller, and everyone agreed dinner was delicious!



Susan Pritz Bornhofen, owner and bartender extraordinaire



*Our dining staff:
Margee Casey & son Kevin*



Final stop was a concert at the fabulous Rialto Theatre in Joliet; one of the 10 most beautiful theatres in the nation and on the National Register.



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Trivia

There is a record of only one automobile being aboard the ill-fated Titanic.

Owned by one William Carter of Philadelphia, it was a brand new 1912 French Renault Type CB Coupe de Ville. Its presence on board was confirmed as well as it can be by an entry on the ship's cargo manifest, as well as a \$5,000 claim made with the Lloyd's of London insurance company following the disaster.

Likely in a crate in the forward part of the hold, it probably would have fallen forward due to its weight and the angle of the ship as it sank, crushing it. Although it may well have been mangled when the Titanic struck the iceberg. In any case, years of lying in salt water would have taken its toll and ravaged the top, seats and metal.

Mr. Carter, his wife and two children survived the sinking.



A near twin of that Renault, fully restored to the same color and specifications as Carter's sold at auction in 2003 for \$269,500.



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Award Winning



Congratulations go out to Ed Schoenthaler, whose 1930 Cord L-29, customized by the industrial and automotive designer Brooks Stevens, was awarded Best of Show at the Amelia Island Concours in March.



June 21 GIRCCCA annual Fathers Day Car Show
Oakbrook Mall

Cover Photo - Need a steering wheel? Adjacent to the Beller Museum is the shop full of parts, parts and more parts. If Jordon Beller doesn't have it you can bet he knows where he can get it for you.

This is not black.

This is Rolls-Royce Mason's Black, Code LB 31819

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- * March and April Outings
- * Upcoming Events

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