



# The *Dagmar*

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## February 2008

### Membership Appreciation Dinner This Month!

We will once again be joining our host and longtime member, Harry Tiffany, for the Annual Rocky Mountain Region of the Cadillac & LaSalle Club Member Appreciation Dinner on February 23, 2008 starting at 6:00 p.m. By popular demand, Harry has arranged for the dinner to be at the Mount Vernon Country Club. There will be a wonderful banquet featuring a buffet with crab legs, fish and prime rib en-

trees, an appetizer table and a fabulous dessert table.

The club subsidized cost of \$20.00 per person covers dinner, non-alcoholic drinks, and lots of fun and prizes. Gentlemen need not wear a jacket, but most of us have in past years. Ladies tend to wear their prettiest dresses. The only dress code at the club is no jeans.

Please join us for lots of fun and camaraderie! Send your money to Brent Hladky, our treasurer, at 958 St. Paul St.,

Denver, CO 80206 *by  
February 9, 2008!*

Directions to the Mount Vernon Country Club: From Denver, take I-70 West to Exit 254, Genesee. At the stop sign at the top of the exit ramp turn right onto Mt. Vernon Country Club Road. In about 1/2 mile, the road turns right (stay on the paved road). Continue on about 3/4 of a mile to a roundabout at the club house gate. If you get lost, call the club at (303) 526-0616 .



## *Off to a Good Start*

### *The Director's Column By John Serfling*



The first club meeting of 2008 was a real success. Each new director tries to come up with an idea to enliven the meetings. A day or two before the meeting I was inspired to ask one of our members, Leonard Johnson, to talk to us for a few minutes on the purchase, sale, repair, restoration, etc. of one or more of the cars in his collection. Because of the short notice, I was very surprised when Leonard said he was excited to talk to the group. He brought along TJ Gudino and Jack Kinney, his main mechanics, who also happen to be members of our club. They talked for about 25 minutes. Everyone present listened intently. It really made the meeting a success and I heartily thank the three of them for their contribution. This will be a regular feature of all of our meetings. After hearing Leonard, another

member approached me after the meeting and volunteered to entertain you at the February meeting. I, for one, can hardly wait.

John Cullinan has been working on a slate of activities for the year. You will find a list on the last page and details in other articles. The first activity is the annual Member Appreciation Dinner at the Mt. Vernon Country Club. Our thanks go to Harry Tiffany and Dave Gloss for hosting and arranging for the dinner. Your Board of Directors has decided to show its appreciation of the membership by subsidizing the dinner from the club treasury, so that you and your guests only have to spend \$20/person to attend. Please join us for a fun evening during which you will undoubtedly eat way too much good food.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to bore you with my current car problems. I enjoy hearing what others are doing with their Cadillacs and hope you feel the same. My '70 Eldorado is leaking brake fluid from the proportioning valve. When I push down on the brake pedal a little fluid escapes, but worse than that, when I release the pedal, air is sucked into the system. The brakes are just mush as you might imagine. To remove the valve, I only have to loosen 7 brake lines. So far only one has loosened. Life is not good. Suggestions are welcome although it has been too darn cold to try out the suggestions I have already received. I'm trying the heat gun next. Did I mention that this is my daily driver. I am at

Rick's mercy until I get it fixed.

Fortunately, I have a '63 convertible, which I would rather not drive in the winter, but should be able to in a pinch. "Should" is the operative word here. Just before the brakes failed on the Eldorado, I removed the carburetor from the convertible, so I could work on it. In order to do this I had to push it about 3 feet back from where it was sitting in a very tight garage. No problem. Pushing it back into the garage was another matter. The left rear brake did not release when I pulled the emergency brake lever. Its a shame that you can push a car backwards with a locked brake, but you can't push it forward. There was no way to push the car back into the garage, so it was sticking out into the alley. I put the carburetor back on, started the car, applied an excessive amount of gas and managed to get it back into the garage. I then removed the carburetor again. There it sits, probably until spring.

Try to keep warm until the weather warms up in March and dream of the projects you will undertake on your Cadillac once it is comfortable to venture out again.



**From the Dash Board of the V.P. of Activities**  
*By John Cullinan*

2008 has driven up behind us without sounding its horn and overtaken 2007. As the Activities V.P., it is my duty to try to arrange as many interesting driving tours, local tours and burger runs as possible. I look forward to receiving your input and recommendations. Look at the activities we have on the activities page on the back of this month's issue. There you will get an idea of what we are considering for this year.

This spring we will have a Great Circle Tour from Denver to White Sulphur Hot Springs and on to North Park, Walden, Cameron Pass, the Poudre River Valley, Red Feather Lakes and back to Denver. This is part of Colorado that a lot of front rangers never see. So join us for something new and scenic.

This month I will look forward to seeing you at the Member Appreciation Dinner on the 23rd, Mt. Vernon High Altitude Country Club.

In March we have St. Patrick's Day parade, which, with the new route, is a much better

and more fun parade than it used to be. We need at least 2 convertibles for the parade and more, if possible. All other body styles are welcome.

We have 2 tentative April dates set aside for a different type of tour, a tour of the conservation and restoration Department at the Denver Museum of Art. This will take place on a Wednesday evening. If there is interest, we might meet earlier for a tour of the auto memorabilia collection at the Denver Public Library, have dinner and then take the tour at the Art Museum and see how they conserve and restore leather, canvas, paint, metal and precious metals. The attendance is limited to 20 people. If there is enough interest, we might add another date for the same tour.

May will bring the Abbey Show and the Memorial Day parade. We may also have a burger run in May. June will hold the great circle tour and possibly a taco run. July 4th will be a one-day scenic tour to Pine and Buffalo Creek and attendance at the annual old time hand churned ice cream social at the Little Chapel in the Hills. Another burger run with

a twist will be organized for July, as well.

August will be the Grand National meet. This is one I know I will want to attend. Then we will have our tour to Bent's Old Fort in our old cars.

In this time frame we will have a possible regional meet, date to be determined.

September will have the Labor Day parade in Louisville, and the aspen tour. October is looking sparse at present, but we will come up with something interesting. November will see the RMCLC participating in the Veterans Day parade with the lady Marines.

I look forward to seeing you at some of these events. Let me know if you have any other ideas for tours and events. John Cullinan 303-738-3981. juancull@aol.com



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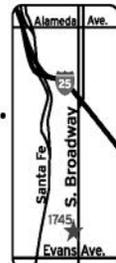
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**The Dagmar** monthly newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Region **Cadillac and LaSalle Club**



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**Monthly Meeting:**

Regular business meetings of the Rocky Mountain Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club are held the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 7:30 pm. We meet at the TDS/J.W. Brewer Tire Co. 11900 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO. This is near the Ward Road and I-70 exit.

**The Dagmar:**

The Dagmar is published monthly (except December) and is mailed First-Class to all RMRCLC members on the current roster. The Dagmar is copyright©2008 Rocky Mountain Region Cadillac and LaSalle Club.

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**Deadline:**

Is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Advertising:**

Display ads: \$15.00 per issue, \$125.00 per year prepaid for a business-card-size ad. Larger sizes available at a discount. Contact the Editor for more information.

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**Classified Ads:**

First three months free for Club Members (RMRCLC), after that normal rates apply. \$20.00 for three consecutive issues prepaid for nonmembers. Cadillac and LaSalle related ads only; there is a 50-word limit on each ad. Classified ads also appear on our web site at:

**Check out the RMRCLC Website at:**

[www.rmrclc.com](http://www.rmrclc.com)

and the national site at  
<http://www.cadillaclasalleclub.org>

*Editor's note:  
Joe Unrein is a new member of the club. He sent this article on his beautiful 1959 ambulance which I have seen here in town.*

**Chugwater  
By Joe Unrein**

The car was originally a funeral coach (end loader hearse) in Denver until 1970 when it was converted to an ambulance by McPeck Motor Coach in Denver and sold to the Town of Chugwater, Wyoming. It served the Town of Chugwater until 1978 when it was traded back to McPeck for a newer unit.

While working as a paramedic for my father's business, Ambulance Service Co. I noticed it for sale at McPeck's and purchased it just for the novelty of it. Later I painted it the company colors and it was used as a show car for displays and parades.

I retained ownership after the family business sold to American Medical Response in 1992.

Built by the Superior Coach Company in Lima, Ohio. Commercial chassis by Cadillac.

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## **My First Cadillac** *By David Leger*

It was 1979 and I had owned two cars already, a 1963 Thunderbird and a 1965 Thunderbird. Both were nice cars, but I wanted something more. I'd been shopping around. A few foreign cars caught my eye, but nothing really grabbed me. It wasn't until I stopped to look at some cars at a European exotic dealer on S. Broadway that it happened. Sitting there among the Porsches and Mercedes was a 1968 Eldorado. It gleamed in the sunlight. Silver paint and an elegant black vinyl top. Inside it was black with black & white hound's-tooth fabric panels.

I'd always loved the 67-70 Eldorados. This one was in great condition. I took her for a test drive. Wow, that 472 had a lot of power! I was amazed at how well a car that size handled. It was clear how front wheel drive helped this car corner. This particular car had the optional disk brakes, the system with the dual piston calipers. I understand

that now they are hard to get parts for. They sure worked well, much better than those on my 73 Eldorado that was to follow.

It didn't take long to reach an agreement on price. I imagine they were happy to sell the car, it had been traded in, and wasn't their usual type of vehicle. After all the papers were signed, I hopped in and headed out onto Broadway. Well, I would have but the car ran out of gas halfway out the driveway, with only the front wheels on Broadway! A can of gas and a quick trip to a gas station, and I was on my way. I remember how good that stereo sounded. The song on when I pulled out was Dancing Queen by Abba.

I drove that car every day from Golden downtown to work and back. It had a few quirks. If the steering wheel tilted all

the way up past the last stop the horn would stay on. Once in awhile a door shut too hard would prompt that embarrassing behavior.

The climate control wasn't working right when I bought her, but a trip to Rickenbaugh put that to rights. The only thing that didn't work was the cruise control. Sadly Rickenbaugh informed me they couldn't get parts for it anymore.

Working on the Eldorado was a challenge for someone 5'5" tall. The spare tire sat at the back of the trunk. The only way I could reach it was to climb on in. The hood weighed a ton. The distributor was at the back of the engine. The only way I could reach that to do a tune up was to climb on into the engine compartment. It sure was worth the effort.

### **Have a Story To Tell?**

**Contact your editor at [dleger@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dleger@ix.netcom.com). Articles for The Dagmar are always welcome! Tell us about a favorite trip in your car, about your car itself, a mystery problem you solved, cleaning tips, etc.**

### ***Cars & Parts or Sale***

*1987 Cadillac Coupe DeVille — mint body and interior — needs engine work. 77K miles, pale yellow with dark brown Cabriolet top, spoke caps. \$795 OBO*

*Jack 303-794-2734 (January)*

## **Official List Of RMRCLC Sponsored Functions**

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Saturday February 23, Membership appreciation dinner at Mt. Vernon Country Club. See page 1 of this issue for further details.

Saturday, March 15th, St. Patrick's Day parade. Downtown Denver

April 2 or April 9th, Wednesday Evening Tour of Denver Art Museum Restoration and conservation department.

May 10th, Saturday Tour of Washing Machine Museum and lunch at Vista Ridge golf course

May 17th, Abbey car show, Canon City

May 24th, Memorial Day parade, Denver, with the lady Marines

June 5th – 8th. The Great Circle Tour to White Sulfur Hot Springs, North Park, Cameron Pass, Poudre River Valley, Red Feather Lakes and back to Denver.

Friday, July 4th, Scenic tour to Pine and Buffalo Creek to attend the ole time ice cream social at the Little Chapel in the Hills. A historic tour and patriotic event.

August 12—16, 2008 Cadillac & LaSalle Club Grand National, Cherry Hill New Jersey. Join everyone for the 50th anniversary of the Cadillac & LaSalle Club—see <http://www.vfrclc.org/GN08.htm>

Fall, Annual regional show, possibly at McCaddon's Cadillac in Boulder. In planning stage, date to be announced.

Saturday, September 27th: Arboreal Autumnal Splendor (aspen) Tour. Route to be determined.

Saturday, November 8th, Veteran's Day Parade with the lady Marines.

Other: Burger and taco runs will be organized on some weekends in May, June, July, August and September. More information to follow in subsequent issues of The Dagmar. We will hit some new places of interest this year on our burger and taco runs and include a visit to a historic or educational site as part of the runs.

## **Other Events**

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Saturday, March 8—Professional Car Society Micro Meet—for more information call Joe Unrein 303-918-3800

Saturday, April 12—Car Show to benefit the Ms. Wheelchair Colorado program, 10 AM, Westminster Senior Center at 72nd and Hooker. \$20 per car, For information call 303-393-8014

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