

The monthly newsletter of the
Rocky Mountain Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club



The Dagmar

www.rmrclc.com

Crested Butte Bash *By John Cullinan*

The RMR of the CLC has had some good tours in the last few years. There was the National Driving Tour which we sponsored for the National CLC. Those from other states who attended, including Classic Car Club Members, said it was the most enjoyable tour they had ever been on. We followed that tour with tours to Taos, Durango, Steamboat Springs and this year to Crested Butte.

Our Crested Butte tour kept up our new tradition of good drives to good places, good weather, good food and good company. We descended on Crested Butte from four different areas: the main group came from Denver via highway 285; the Washburn band of bandits combined members from Elizabeth, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, and the Miller family came all the way from Kansas to meet up with us in Salida. The Logsdons, our hosts for the 2007 Durango tour, met up with us in Crested Butte.

Good food has always been part of our recent tours. We kept that tradition alive on

September 2009

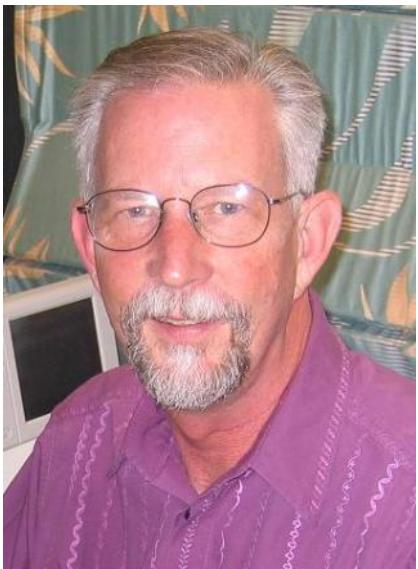
this year's tour with lunch in Salida at the Laughing Ladies restaurant. I think all who lunched there were pleased and even surprised by the flavor and quality of the food. After lunch we mounted up and headed up F Street to highway 50 on our way to Monarch Pass. All the way from west of Salida to half way up Monarch Pass we encountered the work of a highway department jokester who seemed to have dumped loose gravel on the road every mile or so. I was leading the pack in my '38 La Salle Convertible Coupe and I was not happy to hear the gravel bouncing off my wheel wells, even when I slowed dramatically. I am sure the others were just as

concerned for their paint jobs. We finally caught up to the prankster and some of us were able to pass him. Others, such as Bill Woodman in his '49 Fleetwood, were not as lucky. He had to lose momentum and had his engine temperature rise as he crawled up the pass toward the summit. Being without an electric booster fuel pump, he paid the price by the time he pulled into Gunnison, bucking and stalling his way to the gas station. But the car cooled down and he drove into Crested Butte with his head held high and his engine temp low.

(continued on page 4)

déjà vu—the gods demand yet another Olson tire sacrifice





Director's Column

By John Serfling

Summer is winding down rapidly, but there is still a lot to do in the Rocky Mountain Region. Depending on when you receive this Dagmar, next on the list is the Louisville Labor Day Parade (or maybe it was a couple of days ago). The Saturday after that, September 12th, is our annual regional event at McCaddon Cadillac in Boulder. We will gather at East High School in Denver for the Colfax cruise on Saturday, September 19th. The fall color tour will be on September 26th. That means we have an event every weekend in September. Thank you to all who are involved in the planning of these events. Leonard Johnson is hosting a pig roast on October 10th and we will close out the year with the Veteran's Day parade in November. Not everyone will show up at all of the events, but a lot of us sure will. These are fun times, folks.

I received a letter in the mail from the State of Colorado

with a lovely picture of the back end of my '63 convertible. At the time the photo was taken, I was driving past a mobile emissions station, which is set up almost every day where you turn west from north bound I-25 to west bound I-70. The letter indicated that I was one of the excessive polluters in the metro Denver area and that I must bring the car in for a thorough exam. How could this be? It had only been two years since I had had the carburetor worked on and CO and HC levels measured as OK. Well, they aren't OK any more. Prior to taking the car in I fiddled with the idle mixture and re-timed the car. It now idles significantly slower (where it is suppose to) and, since the timing was off about 5°, the car runs better. With great fear and trepidation about how much I would have to spend to get the car running legally, I appeared at the emissions test center at the appointed hour. You don't get to witness the test, so I waited impatiently for the results. Low and behold, the car passed. When the tester told me it had passed he added that it wasn't pretty. Hydrocarbons were in the high 900's (1000 is the limit) and CO was at 7.5% (I think 9% is the limit). He suggested that the results indicated carburetor work would be in order. So now I have my winter project for the car.

Every once in a while even I get lucky when working on my cars. I have just prepared the '70 Eldorado for its first road trip. When I was finished washing the car, including the engine compartment, the car

ran poorly. Obviously a little water got into the distributor. No big deal. When I removed the cap to let it dry out I was surprised to see how badly worn the rotor was. I was able to quickly obtain a new cap and rotor from my friendly, neighborhood NAPA store, which I installed without any difficulty (surprise number two). I then timed the car, with only minor difficulty. To time the '63 you connect the inductive pickup to the left front spark plug wire, since that is cylinder number one. Surely it is still that way on the new engine of the Eldorado. Silly me! Moving the inductive pickup to the right, front spark plug wire made a big difference. Now I should have about 800 miles of motoring pleasure on this road trip.

Now is the time to start thinking about helping with the administration of the club. Those of us on the Board of Directors may well need to be replaced by those of you who really are the club. Please consider running for an office and let me or anyone on the board know of your interest. All positions are available!



The Regional Show At McCaddon Cadillac By Leonard Johnson

The regional show is scheduled for September 12th at McCaddon Cadillac starting at 10:00. Plan to arrive by 9:00 so cars can be positioned by the folks from McCaddon with no rush. Members are all welcome, and please invite friends and family. This year's show will be more informal with no pre-registration, fees, awards or trophies.

The Buick Club has been invited to join us. If you have friends who own GM classic cars, encourage them to join us for a leisurely car show where we can simply enjoy the cars and friendship.

Bill and Kit Horton, professional photographers will be there in the event you want a photo shoot done of your car.

Our gracious host, Mark McCaddon, will again provide great food and refreshments. If you have any questions, contact Leonard Johnson at ljohnson@jkg-cpa.com; 303-449-3830.



The Labor Day Parade By Dirk Biermann

As you may remember, the RMRCLC took top honors in the 50's and 60's class with a nice trophy last year.

This year, Kay Gazaway, Louisville events coordinator, has invited us back for the Sept 7, 2009 Parade themed "Our Good Nature", focusing on mother nature's beauty. The VFW Post 1771 in Lafayette and its ladies auxiliary has expressed an interest in jointly participating with a marching color guard, perhaps we could follow them in our cars?

The parade starts at 10:00a.m., with check in anytime after 7:30. If you think we may be interested, John Evans will take care of the paperwork. All he will need to know is a count of cars.

If you plan to participate let John know at:
vidagraphix@earthlink.net

Tim Coy suggests that those who wish to attend the Parade meet at the Courtyard by Marriott on McCaslan Blvd. for a breakfast buffet around 7:30, or just show up for the parade by 9:30 the actual Parade begins at 10:00.



The Colfax Cruise By Dirk Biermann

The Colfax Cruise is coming up September 19th and we hope to participate in a big way again this year. We will be looking for volunteers with extra long cars to help reserve our picnic spot on the west side of the Esplanade at East High School again this year. Volunteer spot savers should plan on arriving between 11:00 and 12:00 noon.

Our fried chicken picnic lunch should be set up by 1:00. The price is going up to \$6.00 per person this year with any funds left over going to the club's charity fund.

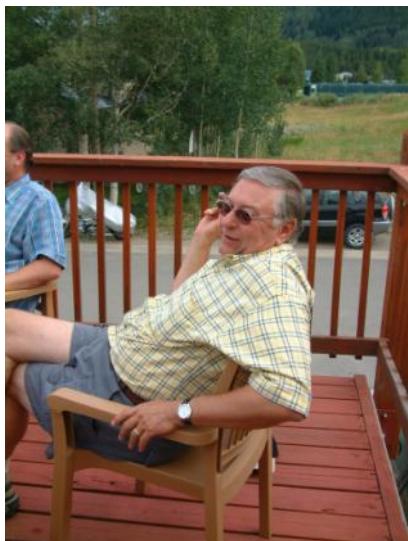
Bring your own soft drinks and dessert, snack or side dish to share.

The cruise itself is from 2:00 pm to 7:00, leaving plenty of time after our picnic to Cruise Colfax.



(continued from page 1)

Good lodging has also been a hallmark of our recent tours. Most of us stayed at the Cristiana Guesthaus. From the outside it looked like an ordinary 1960's ski area lodge. But inside it had a very homey, inviting main lobby where we spent much of our time chatting around the fireplace, sipping the complimentary tea, coffee and hot chocolate. The second floor of the lobby also had a comfortable sitting area and a nice outdoor patio. We had some good conversations and some good beer and wine on that upstairs patio, as we viewed the surrounding mountains. A few of our tour members stayed at the nearby Old Town Inn. Both the Cristiana and the Old Town offered excellent complimentary breakfasts with home baked sweets.



Thursday night we were released on our own recognition, some enjoying pizza, beer and car talk on the Cristiana patio. Others went to historic Elk Street to find restaurants that appealed to us, and

we did. Friday morning we awoke to find we had been transported to the coast of British Columbia, or at least it seemed that way. The mountains were partially shrouded in clouds and rain was falling. But not to worry. I assured everyone that I had ordered excellent weather for our tour of the Gunnison Pioneer and Car Museum. By the time we arrived at the museum the weather had cleared and we all enjoyed a tour of the 6.5 acre site. It is quite an extensive museum with all types of exhibits, even German and Japanese flight suits, and a steam engine that worked for 67 years on the Denver Rio Grande RR and was exhibited at a world's fair in Chicago and was on display at the state house in Denver for the 100th anniversary of Denver in 1959. (see pages 6 & 7 for photos) Some of our group liked the museum so much they returned to visit it after our group lunch.

Our group lunch at Sugah's Cajun Bistro was as good as the lunch we had at the Laughing Ladies in Salida. After lunch some of us drove west to see the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. Others returned

to Crested Butte to shop, while others returned to the second floor patio at the Cristiana to continue their car talk. Saturday morning and afternoon were free time for touring. Paul and Janice Olson, Don Braden, and my group of 6 drove out to Morrow Point to descend by steps into the entry to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. After a 3/4 mile hike along the Gunnison River over what had been the road bed for the Denver Rio Grande RR we came to the National Park Service boat that would take us on a 90 minute trip into the canyon. It was a pleasant trip with impressive views of massive rock walls and rock formations. Yet what we saw was not as dramatic as the tourists 100 years ago saw since the level of the river is 250 feet, in some places, above where the old road bed used to be. It must have been quite a trip to take the narrow gauge steam trains out of Salida and over Monarch Pass and then to drop thousands of feet to the floor of the Gunnison Valley only to find you were soon going to be descending 1500 to 2000 feet farther into the Canyon of the Gunnison. The trip definitely had its highs and lows.



Tour.

The final group event of the tour was the Tent Dinner at Garlic Mike's north of Gunnison. From the road Mike's does not look as impressive as it could. But once inside some were surprised by how many dining areas it had and how full the restaurant was. But we had a special tent where we dined with a view of the garden area that led to the Gunnison River. We had a nice antipasto and calamari waiting for us when we entered and later we enjoyed tasty main course and dessert. The service was good, the prices reasonable and I hope all enjoyed themselves. Most of us returned to the Cristiana after dinner and continued to chat and enjoy coffee and tea and liquor around the fireplace. It was a very pleasant evening.

Sunday morning was the usual breakup of the tour as we all went on our own time frame and took our own routes home. Some went over Cottonwood Pass to Buena Vista. Others returned back over Monarch Pass. Others found they had to divert over Guanella Pass to Georgetown when they encountered a multi-hour delay caused by a fatal accident near Bailey. Others heard of the traffic jam and returned via highway 24 and the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs to Denver.

My thanks to all of you who participated and my regrets to those who could not join us. Your presence was missed. We should all put our heads together and think of where we will tour next year. In the meantime, get ready for the Aspen and October Fest



The Gunnison Pioneer Museum



The Gunnison Pioneer Museum



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Remembering Ramona

As you go about your daily Cadillac-LaSalle Club activities, please take a moment to reflect on Ramona Mueller's contributions to the club.

Ms. Mueller, 74, passed on Saturday, August 8, following an illness at Exempla St. Joseph's Hospital. Her husband, Marvin, and son David Gloss, former president of the RMRCLC, were at her side.

She was an active Club member, serving as one of several registrars for the 2001 Grand National, an active participant and contributor in the 2004 Driving Tour, and other volunteer duties. Ramona was especially proud of their Pompeian Red 1962 Coupe DeVille, her 1999 Eldorado and their 2006 DTS.

Thank you.

Marvin Mueller and David Gloss

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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@2009 Rocky Mountain Region Cadillac and LaSalle Club.

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Deadline:

Is the 25th 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.

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 Web-site at:

www.rmrclc.com

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

Monthly Meeting:

2nd Tuesday of each month at Elks Lodge at 2475 W. 26th Ave. in Denver at 7:30 PM. Dinner at 6 PM prior to the meeting for those who wish to join us.

Cars & Parts or Sale

1990 Cadillac 2 Dr. Coupe DeVille. Maroon exterior color with maroon leather interior. Custom wheels with new tires. 35882 original miles. Car in like-new condition. \$5,500 asking price. Call 303-278-0576. July

Excellent 1979 Cadi Seville, 2nd owner, 128K miles, orig engine rebuilt at 100k, runs great! exterior is light tan perfect with camel interior, interior is perfect, 134 conversion on ac, new whitewall tires mounted on the original seville wire wheels, new battery, new air pump, runs perfect, uses no oil. Not working: radio have replacement, cruise control, power antenna. Asking \$2150 or best offer. Gene at 303-772-5789, 303-817-7790. August

Official List Of RMRCLC Sponsored Functions

Monday	Sept. 7	Louisville Labor Day parade
Saturday	Sept. 12	Regional Meet/McCaddon
Saturday	Sept. 19	Colfax Cruise/picnic @ East High school
Saturday	Sept. 26 (or Oct 3 if bad weather)	Fall colors drive
Monday	Oct. 10	Pig roast at Caddy Shack
Saturday	Oct. 24	Re-schedule of wildlife sanctuary visit
??	??	Grand Lake pontoon boat ride/lunch

Other Events

Rocky Mountain Region

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