



# The Enlightener

Badger Region Cadillac and LaSalle Club Newsletter



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## Change? What Change?

Some of you might have noticed right away a different look to The Enlightener.

This was not a contest and I don't have a prize for you. The red 1959 convertible has been the main attraction for a couple of years, and it just seemed a good time for change and simplification.

There is no rational reason for this concept or how it will work in the coming months. It might be met with hoards of comments as to why such a change, or it could turn out many of you might like it.

With that in mind, I have often suspected many of you do not read this journalistic wonder. I receive questions about events or happenings when I know they are in the newsletter as well as being mentioned in the meeting minutes.

SO...Please let me know what you think. Reply to the email this newsletter came attached to and give me some feedback about the new format. Be nice, after all this is the first time I have actually asked for your opinion. I appreciate your comments.

Automotive clubs as a whole are at a crossroads and everyone is struggling with membership numbers. We need your help and your ideas. We need to make sure our communication channels are open. This is your "NEWS" letter.

Don't forget...if you have an interesting hint, a great car show you have seen, or an adventure you want to share, do a write-up and submit it for a future Enlightener. Remember we all want to be enlightened.

Thanks, Dan

*Here we are in 2025 and we will be having our annual meeting and banquet on April 19th at the Westmoor Country Club in Brookfield. Further reservation information and menu choices will be available at a future date.*

*We will be electing our officers and leaders for the coming year. If you feel you would like to try your hand at any of the positions, now is the time to step up and let us know.*

*There are a couple of key positions which need filling due to individuals stepping down for various reasons.*

*Now is the time for you to take that leap, take that chance, give us some new ideas. Badger Region needs YOU!!!*

*Contact Ron Wichinski and let him know you are interested.*

*A written or mail in ballot per Badger Region By-Laws might be considered prior to the April 19th annual meeting in order to make sure key positions are filled. Please consider helping out the club.*

*Thank You*

To be in compliance with the National Cadillac and LaSalle Club and Badger Region Cadillac and LaSalle Club bylaws, it is required for applicants and members to be a member of the National Club. Please contact the National office: (763) 420-7829 or go to the website: [cadillaclasalleclub.org](http://cadillaclasalleclub.org)

The Enlightener will be published bi-monthly, January, March, May, July, September, and November. Distributed via email when possible to current Badger Region Cadillac and LaSalle Club members. CLC Regions may reprint articles without permission when a proper acknowledgement is given. Badger members are encouraged to submit articles, letters, and photos to the Editor for publication. Members may submit Cadillac and LaSalle cars for sale free. Please include a description, contact name, phone number, email address, and picture if available. Always include a selling price or your ad will not be published.

Commercial entities will have a charge and must have completed graphic artwork.

Contact the Editor with your submissions.

## Director's Corner



## NEW YEAR – NEW THINGS

In 1982 I got the bug and itchy desire to travel somewhere. Hmm... Where to go? Where to go? For some reason I had previously thought about going to Hawaii. You know, the land of crystal white sandy beaches, warm ocean breezes, and swaying palm trees. Sure, why not! What the heck – Let's just move there!!!

After sorting and combining things to get rid of, I had multiple garage sales, more packing, storing and narrowing things down, I could fit the essentials in a backpack, and it was time to head west.

My flight took me to Kahului on the Island of Maui. I retrieved my backpack and headed down the road to meet up with an acquaintance. It was legal to hitchhike then, so I stuck my thumb out and was soon picked up by a 1974 Eldorado convertible. It was a blinding Persian Lime Firemist green. The top was down and as I had sunk into the warm leather seat. I knew only one thing; I was going to get myself an Eldorado Convertible someday.

Spin the years ahead to 2010. I received a call from a friend that there was an Eldorado for sale. I went to check it out with the hopes and the green backs in my pocket, it would be the car for me.

Suddenly there sat a 1974 Eldorado in blazing Apollo Yellow with a white convertible top. It was just as I remembered that massive luxury cruiser I rode in 1982 on that highway in Maui. After a quick test drive and an even quicker negotiation, I became the owner of a long-awaited dream. Even after years of road trips it's still like riding on a cloud.



Flashforward a few years. I was introduced to the Cadillac and LaSalle Club, and the Badger Region. After becoming a member, I became actively involved in many of the club's fun events. I also participated in our 2015 Grand National (*which I feel has never been surpassed by other Grand Nationals, but I am biased*). The then director and good friend Bill Klemp convinced me to accept the position of director. (*my arm still hurts by the way*)

Flashforward again (*this should be the last one*). As director I think about all the people who have joined and left our club over the years. The changes which have occurred, moving the car show from May (burr!) to June, having our banquet in April rather than January (double burr!). The many Drive and Dines and the members who sponsored them over the years. It's been a great time and a great run.

However, I think it's time for some new blood, fresh ideas, and some renewed energy. That being said, I will be resigning the director's position at our April, 2025 membership meeting. There are so many people to thank. I should have kept a list but didn't. So, to all of you for the tremendous support, help and backing you have given me over the years ***I THANK YOU.***

I will continue to be active in the club. It's going to start with our January meeting and the planning of the June car show at Crest Cadillac. I will follow through with the new director after my exit to assist with the car show until the last car pulls out of Crest Cadillac. I plan to attend every meeting in the new year, and I will also help in the directions and adventures of the new director. If you are interested in the position and have questions, please give me a call.

Our next membership meeting is January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Waukesha State Bank, 18300 W Capitol Drive in Brookfield. The door will be open at 10:00 a.m. as usual. Hope to see you then and as always.....

***Happy Trails***

Ron Wichinski

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This area is going to be something new. It could be in every edition or if time and space are not available, it won't be there.

It might be something to fill space because of empty pages or as stated, a rambling of adventures, thoughts, or just an editorial comment. If there is a letter to the editor it might show up here also.

Call it a "Work In Progress", we will just see how it progresses!

### LOST TIME IS NEVER FOUND AGAIN...a quote by Benjamin Franklin

Ole Ben Franklin was a writer, scientist, inventor, statesman, diplomat, printer, publisher, and political philosopher. Oh, and in his spare time, discovered the discharge of electricity in a thunderstorm could make electricity a viable power source. Talk about cramming a lot into a twenty-four-hour day, no wonder he was talking about time in the 1700's.

As we start the new year, it is easy to reminisce about the past year to remind ourselves of how fast that time has gone by. When you are a child, it seems forever from one Christmas to the next Christmas in anticipation of Santa. To add insult to that waiting, you had to be good all year long, to make sure you stayed on the nice list and weren't transferred onto the naughty list. Things seemed simpler back then, didn't they?

Now time plays another role for us. Not only does it seem like it flies by too quickly, but your outlook of what you do with that time is more important. It isn't about waiting for Santa anymore, instead, "*Is this something I need or can use*"? Will it end up in the basement, attic, or the garage? Suddenly "downsizing" is the word everyone over 60 is using.

Retirement sometimes creates a tear in the time space continuum which can only be defined in an episode of "Star Trek" and wishing we really knew how to use Warp Speed. It is the feeling of having less time to do more things after retirement. How did I ever have time to do anything when I was working fulltime?

Joan and I both experienced this phenomenon but...we embraced it, loaded up the RV, put the dogs in the truck and headed out for adventures. The first year we went to see Mayberry, went to Kentucky twice, Upper and Lower Michigan, and Door County about four times. These trips accounted for about 6,500 miles.



Last year we traveled close to 7,000 miles and had adventures in South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, a couple of trips to Door County, and we explored parts of western Wisconsin. A new four-week RV milestone was achieved as we were in Illinois, Missouri, and my home state of Kansas. Besides family and friends, we were in Kansas to celebrate my 50-year High School Reunion. Yes, time does fly!

This year we plan to explore northwestern Wisconsin and of course Door County. Included are new quests planned to see parts of Alaska, South Dakota, Wyoming, and other parts of Georgia. These journeys take time, but isn't that what really matters...allocation of our time to enjoy the things we want to do? Who needs Warp Speed?

There might be a few stories show up in this segment over the next few months. This all depends on how action packed these adventures are, and when there is time to write them down and get them published. Time management is the key...Stay Tuned!

## Once Upon A Time...Six Years Ago

By Dan Cress

Many years ago, Bill Klemp gave me a small magazine, it was about 10 inches tall by 6 inches wide, 63 pages in length, and printed on newsprint paper. It was called *Auto Round-Up Magazine*, a small publication out of West Virginia, consisting of car ads for sale by the regular guy. Some of the ads were for "Classic" cars, and some were for pieces of what used to be cars, there were miscellaneous parts, toys, and even some commercial business advertisers. This publication lives on today, as a bigger presence online as: [autoroundup.com](http://autoroundup.com). Interwoven in this publication were occasional articles written by members of the staff or the publisher.

In this July 2018 edition, there was a column written by Greg Zyla, an Auto Round-Up contributing writer who was responding to a subscriber who was a Cadillac fan. His question was about the biggest engine and wheelbase Cadillac produced. Greg wrote an interesting article and tried to answer the subscriber's question.

Bill handed me the magazine and said, *"When you need a filler piece for the newsletter, here ya go!"*

Fast forward to November 2024...I was cleaning out an old briefcase and found a little leaflet sized magazine tucked away in the bottom amongst other papers, pens, paperclips, and binder clips I had forgotten about. It brought back fond memories and regrets that I hadn't printed it while Bill was still with us and to thank him properly for the suggestion.

So, I emailed Auto Round-up Magazine to ask permission if I could use this six-year-old article in our club newsletter. I always try to make sure I get permission to reprint in the newsletter. Sometimes you can get yourself or the club into a heap of trouble if you don't. Chances are there is not a problem...but there is always that one time... We should always check into proprietary property issues, copyright laws, as we can get into some sticky wickets if we don't use some due diligence.

Long story short...the Auto Round-Up magazine replied stating they would contact Greg Zyla as he held the permission rights to the article. I replied with a Thank You and thought I might hear back before the January edition of the newsletter was published. The next day I opened my email and there was an email from Greg saying: "You can use my column just give me the usual credit." His only other request was: "Thanks if you could send me a copy."

I immediately replied and thanked him for the opportunity to pass on his column to our members. Greg then advised me of some other articles he had written about Cadillac, how to find them on the internet, and told me "You can use whatever you find". So, you might see more reprints in the future.

Greg, if you are reading this issue of The Badger Region Cadillac and LaSalle Club's *The Enlightener*, thank you for "enlightening" our members of information you provided in a publication over six years ago. Thank You!

*"And now you know the rest of the story!"* I hope this gives Badger Region members some knowledge they didn't know they needed.

Continue to page 5 to read Bill Klemp's filler piece article six years in the making...

**THANKS BILL!**

Article written in the Auto Round-Up Magazine, dated July 17, 2018.

## Cars We Remember: Those really big Cadillacs; which one was biggest?

By Greg Zyla (reprinted with permission)

**Q:** Greg, I am a big fan of Cadillacs and would like to know which ones were the biggest wheelbases and engine size. I know Cadillac at one time had a V-16 and were the first with an engine cylinder deactivation engine. I enjoy your columns on cars and nostalgia. — Bob L., Oregon

**A:** Bob, thanks for your letter and I'm happy to oblige and go over Cadillac's history as it is rich in different engines, mechanical ideas, and truly "big" vehicles.

As for engines, I'd like to start with your note about Cadillac and its cylinder deactivation V8-6-4 engine, which Cadillac produced from 1982 through 1984. These engines were 368-inch V8 designs that were the first mass produced U.S. manufacturer to use deactivation of cylinders for better fuel mileage. Cadillac tried to refine this new engine treatment that found the cylinders being deactivated from 8 to 6 and then to 4-cylinder operation upon reaching highway speeds.

It was not to be.

Although they failed to perfect this engine back then, I give Cadillac all the praise as the Godfather of today's modern engines that use the cylinder deactivation perfectly and seamlessly to achieve excellent fuel mileage, especially in high performance applications. So, with today's modern marvel engines putting out 450 horsepower and allowing for 20-plus MPG highway, I give Cadillac all the credit as the forerunner of this technology. And, although Cadillac struggled and the V8-6-4 engines which were prone to problems and removed from production, they sure did have the right idea 36 years ago.

As for Cadillac engines, the largest Cadillac engine ever was a 500-cubic inch V8 that debuted in 1970 in the Eldorado. The other Cadillacs utilized 472-inch V8s available in the Deville models and Fleetwood from 1968 through 1974. Then in 1975 and 1976, the Cadillac Deville and Fleetwood came with the 500-inch V8s as standard equipment. I was a proud owner of two Cadillacs in my lifetime, a 1972 Sedan Deville with the 472-V8 and a 1975 Coupe Deville with the 500-inch V8. My '75 Cadillac, finished in burnt orange, was eventually stolen although I did receive the car back that same day as the police were sure in control of the situation from the get-go.



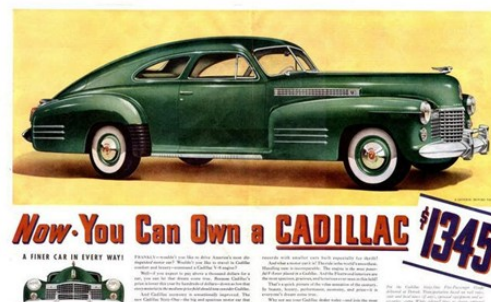
To this day, Cadillac is truly an innovative company and still autonomous from other GM brands, sans the Corvette and they share ultra high-performance drive trains as found in the Corvette and Cadillac CTS-V models. Cadillac and Corvette are both noted manufacturers that compete in GT and Prototype classes of road and endurance racing successfully.

As for engines other than the V8, in 1930 Cadillac offered a 353-inch V8, a 368-inch V12, and a 452-inch V16. In 1936, two new V8s joined the V12 and V16, in 322 and 346-inch designs. Then in 1937, only one V8, the 346, was available as were the larger V12 and V16. In 1938, Cadillac dropped the V12 and reduced the V16 to 431 inches. The V16 lasted through 1940 and was then replaced by V8 engines from there on. It is important to note that these V8, V12 and V16 engines were NOT overhead valve designs (OHV), as Cadillac did not introduce the OHV until 1949 with a 331-inch design along with Oldsmobile and its 303-inch version, both noted as mechanical masterpiece designs for the time.



As for wheelbases, those 1975 and 1976 500-inch V8 models carried the same 130-inch wheelbase that first appeared back in 1959. However, the longest standard Cadillac wheelbase, (not limo or stretched Fleetwood) was the 1930 Cadillac, which was built on a 140-inch wheelbase that to this day remains the longest standard size Cadillac ever built.

Notable is that Cadillac didn't always go after the upper-class consumer, as in 1941, Cadillac promoted a Series 61 "five passenger economy" two door fast-back model for \$1,345. At that time the Series 61 was the lowest priced Cadillac, but we must remember that in 1941 that \$1,345 was still some decent money. However, it is one of the few times the words "Cadillac," "economy," "middle-class" and "lower-priced" appeared in an advertisement for the prestigious motorcar. Following the war, I can't remember a Cadillac ad that used these four words again in an advertisement for its full-sized luxury vehicles.



Hope this all helps, Bob, and thanks again for the nice comments.

Here is a submission by our member Cory Kulibert. It involves an acquisition of an automobile from one of our other members and how life takes mysterious turns.

***The Tale Of Henrietta by Cory Kulibert***

Here are photos of my 1990 Cadillac Allante. I purchased this gorgeous Cadillac from fellow member Tom Vilter. I named her Henrietta!

This was my first and only Allante. She was lipstick red with custom racing wheels I installed.

I loved Henrietta and said I would never sell her. Well wouldn't you know it I had someone stop over to look at one of my other prized possessions and he saw her and wanted her.

After a large stack of Benjamins got laid down. Henrietta was unfortunately on her way to Kentucky.

I miss her every day. This was one of the two automobiles I wanted to get buried in.

Until we meet again...Cory



**2025 WINTER BOARD MEETING AND REUNION**

Registration for board meetings and tours ends January 7, 2025

**2025 GRAND NATIONAL, MURFREESBORO**

Registration for events begins January 10, 2025

Most tours have strict limits, so please register early!

Make your hotel registrations soon, rooms are running out!



**UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS**

Saturday, January 18, 2025	Badger Region CLC Meeting	Brookfield, WI
<b>Wednesday, January 29, 2025</b>	<b>CLC Winter Board Meeting</b>	<b>Chattanooga, TN</b>
Saturday, February 15, 2025	Badger Region CLC Meeting	Brookfield, WI
Saturday, March 15, 2025	Badger Region CLC Meeting	Brookfield, WI
<b>Saturday, April 19, 2025</b>	<b>Annual Meeting and Banquet</b>	<b>Westmoor County Club</b>
Saturday, May 17, 2025	Badger Region CLC Meeting	Brookfield, WI
<b>Monday, June 2, 2025</b>	<b>CLC Grand National</b>	<b>Murfreesboro, TN</b>
Saturday, June 21, 2025	Badger Region CLC Meeting	Brookfield, WI
Saturday, July 19, 2025	Badger Region CLC Meeting	Brookfield, WI
Saturday, August 16, 2025	Badger Region CLC Meeting	Brookfield, WI
Saturday, September 20, 2025	Badger Region CLC Meeting	Brookfield, WI
Saturday, October 18, 2025	Badger Region CLC Meeting	Brookfield, WI
Saturday, November 15, 2025	Badger Region CLC Meeting	Brookfield, WI
<b>Wednesday, January 7, 2026</b>	<b>CLC Winter Board Meeting</b>	<b>Orlando, FL</b>
<b>Monday, June 1, 2026</b>	<b>CLC Grand National</b>	<b>Concord, NC</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 27, 2027</b>	<b>CLC Winter Board Meeting</b>	<b>Birmingham, AL</b>
<b>Monday, June 7, 2027</b>	<b>CLC Grand National</b>	<b>Reno, NV</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 25, 2028</b>	<b>CLC Winter Board Meeting</b>	<b>San Antonio, TX</b>
<b>Monday, July 24, 2028</b>	<b>CLC Grand National</b>	<b>Dayton, OH</b>

## Badger Region Cadillac and LaSalle Club Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2024

Attendees: Jake Jakus, Ray Stockero, Marcia Townsend, Diane Hansen, Larry Hansen, Ron Zeise, Dan Cress, Ron Wichinski, Sharon Derke

Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Director Ron Wichinski.

Ron complimented Dan on the nice job he did on the Newsletter.

Ron mentioned that the Klairmont Kollection club outing was very nice and thanked Ray for setting it up.

A short discussion about a previous comment to continue to have activities and fun excursions or things to do to keep our members interested in the club. Any suggestions or ideas for future events and planning are always welcome.

An audit of the Badger Region Cadillac and LaSalle Club treasury for 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 was completed on November 10, 2024, at Dan and Joan Cress' home. The audit committee was comprised of Mary and Jeff Fillingner and Sue and Brian Tyndall. Mary submitted a report to Director Ron Wichinski on behalf of the committee. The report stated: "We found no discrepancies. Dan Cress has done a great job of keeping everything very accurate and orderly."

Ron Zeise reported the banquet is set for April 19, 2025, at Westmoor Country Club in Brookfield. Menu choices will be selected in January and communicated later.

There was some discussion about the amendment to the By-Laws pertaining to the verbiage and intent of a dissolution amendment. It was determined there are a few more items to include as to the purpose, execution, and finalization of this amendment. We will continue to research this issue and have a better solution in the coming months and present it to the general membership.

Ron Zeise moved to adjourn meeting. Marcia Townsend 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM.

Submitted by Sharon Derke

***This coming year our club will see fewer members than in years past. We do have new members and we hope they stay with us for many years. However we have lost a couple of longtime friends due to their passing, and a few have let their intentions known they will not be renewing due to personal or health issues. We wish them the best and hope they continue to take care of themselves in the coming months and years. Life happens and it is understandable.***

***We are always sad to see members leave for any reason. But it makes the rest of us sad because we will miss them at meetings, at functions, and in conversations.***

***There are a few however who have not responded to newsletter notifications, personal emails, texts, or by telephone messages as to their intentions about their Badger renewal.***

***This number consists of 5 and those choosing not to renew this year was also 5. This makes a total loss of 10 members this year. Our current membership total is 37 members.***

***It is important we all participate in trying to let others know of our existence and do what we can to promote and keep our Cadillac's active for others to see what we can do.***

***Please come to the meetings and get involved.***

***Thanks***



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### Dad Car Jokes

**Q:** Why was the car always tired?

**A:** It never took any brakes.

A pair of jumper cables walk into a bar. The bartender says, I'm fine to serve you but you better not start anything.

My wife asked me if I could go wash the car with our son. I told her a hose would probably be more efficient.

I was really stoked about buying one of those new electric cars. But when I got to the dealership the prices were just too shocking!

**Q:** What has 10 letters and starts with G-A-S?

**A:** Automobile.

**Q:** What did you do with all those old car batteries?

**A:** I gave them away, free of charge.

**Q:** Why did the man throw his spare tire into the woods when he got lost?

**A:** Where there's a wheel, there's a way.

**Q:** Why does it cost so much to put air in a tire?

**A:** Inflation.

### Pinto vs Ferrari?

One day, in a small town in the middle of no-where, a local wearing nothing but jeans and suspenders was pumping gas into his Pinto at the local gas station. To his surprise, a rich man in a Ferrari pulled up next to him to pump gas into his \$600,000 car. As the rich man was pumping gas he looked over at the bewildered local. Noticing the admiration on his face the rich man asked, in a cocky tone, "what, you wanna race farm boy?" Not one to back down to a challenge the local replied in a defiant tone "I sure do city boy!"

Shortly after that, the two men had their cars lined up on a super

long stretch of straight road. The two men were standing in between the two cars discussing how to insure a fair start. They finally concluded that the rich man would hold up 3 fingers and do a count down. When the last finger dropped they would go for it. So the rich man opened his door and stepped into his car, then the local walked around to the door of his car and climbed in.

The rich man started the count down and when the last finger fell they took off. The rich man decided to toy with the local and only shift up to second gear, but by the time he got to full speed in second gear the Pinto was just a dot in his rear view mirror. "What a waste of time." the rich man thought.

Suddenly, RRRRROOOOOOMMMMMM!!! The Pinto went roaring by.

"Whoa!" the rich man said. So then he shifted up into 3rd then 4th gear to still give the local a sporting chance. Once again the Pinto became a dot in his rear view mirror.

RRRRRRRROOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMM!!!!!! To the rich man's surprise the Pinto went flying by again!

"FINE!" The rich man shouted. So then he went all out, shifting up into 6th gear and putting the pedal to the floor. By now the Ferrari was doing about 210 Mph. The Ferrari blew by the Pinto and once again the Pinto became a tiny speck in his rear view mirror.

RRRRRRRRRROOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMM!!!!!! The Pinto blew by him again, practically blowing the Ferrari's doors off. Having been beaten by the Pinto the rich man pulled over to the side of the road and stopped. In a rage he got out and slammed his door as the local backed up next to his car.

"WHAT KIND OF MOTOR DO YOU HAVE IN THAT PINTO!" Shouted the rich man.

The redneck climbed out of his Pinto shaking like a nervous Chihuahua and replied, "I have no idea, BUT I GOT MY SUSPENDERS CAUGHT IN YOUR DOOR!!!"