



# THE HERALD



Volume 6, Issue 3

March 2004

## **A Tribute To Richard (Dick) Ducharme With His 1985 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible 1943 — 2004**



Cadillac LaSalle Club, Inc. Web Site: [www.cadillaclasalleclub.org](http://www.cadillaclasalleclub.org)  
NorthStar Region Web Site: [northstarcadillac.org](http://northstarcadillac.org)



## CADILLAC LASALLE CLUB, INC.

March 2004

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**Club Events Calendar**

- March 11, 2004 (Thu) **Board Meeting.** Location Richfield Bloomington Credit Union, 345 77th Street, Richfield, MN 55432, phone number 612-869-1037. Time: 7:00PM. All members are welcome.
- March 18, 2004 (Thu) **Burger Run. Sunsets Restaurant**, 700 E. Lake Street, Wayzata, MN 55391-1713. Phone # 952-473-5353. Time: 6:30PM. Upscale casual dining. Please notify Duane and Linda Warren if you are going to attend, Ph. # 763-420-7980. [www.sunsetrestaurant.com](http://www.sunsetrestaurant.com)
- April 12, 2004 (Mon) **Burger Run. Mancinis Char House Restaurant**, 531 W. 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55102-3091. Phone # 651-224-7345. Time: 6:30PM. You will be able to order steak, fish or chicken. The cost will be \$10.00 per person (**2 Club Members per Club family only**), includes tax, gratuity and coffee or milk. Please fill out the bottom portion of the flyer, located in this newsletter, and send it along with your check to Duane and Linda Warren by April 1, 2004. They need this information for making the final reservations. We would like to see 100 or more Club Members at this great event. We always have a great time at this establishment and the food and service is top notch. Make sure to look at the Mancinis flyer for more information and reservation slip.
- MAY 2, 2004 (Sun) **Buick Spring Extravaganza Car Show and Swap Meet.** Location is the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. (Machinery Hill) Gates open at 7:00 AM, trophies at 2:30 PM. Cost is \$7.00 for car and driver until April 14, 2004, after that it is \$10.00. Admission for walk-in is \$5.00, under 12 with adult free, and seniors 62 and over free. For more information call 651-770-8096.
- May 13, 2004 (Thu) **Board Meeting.** Location Richfield Bloomington Credit Union, 345 77th Street, Richfield, MN 55432, phone number 612-869-1037. Time: 7:00PM. All members are welcome.
- May 20, 2004 (Thu) **Burger Run. Doolittles Air Café**, 550 Winnetka Avenue N., Golden Valley 55427. (near Hwy. 55 and Winnetka) Time: 6:30PM. Phone # 763-542-1931. Please notify Duane and Linda Warren if you are going to attend, Ph. # 763-420-7980. Casual dining. [www.doolittlesaircafe.com](http://www.doolittlesaircafe.com)
- May 22, 2004 (Sat) **Spring Driving Tour.** This tour will be in Western Wisconsin. More information to follow.
- June 6, 2004 (Sun) **All GM Car and Truck Show.** This event is held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds. Gates open at 8:00AM. We will need volunteers to help at this event. You only have to work a short time and then you have the rest of the day to walk around and enjoy the great cars and trucks. If you want to volunteer, contact Duane Warren, ph. # 763-420-7980. More information to follow.
- June 18 - 20, 2004 (Fri. - Sun.) **Back to the '50's.** This is one of the largest Car Shows in the country. Location Minnesota State Fair Grounds. For more information go to their Web Page MSRA.
- June 23 - 26, 2004 (Wed. - Sat.) **Cadillac LaSalle Club Grand Nationals.** Location is South Bend, IN. Host hotel Marriott in Downtown South Bend, IN. Cost is \$104.00 per night (4 nights). Hotel phone number is 1-574-234-2000. When making reservations make sure to tell them you are a member of the Cadillac LaSalle Club, so you get the discount rate. (\$104.00) To get more information check elsewhere in this newsletter under info. 2004 G.N.'s or go to the National Web Site: [www.cadillaclasseclub.org](http://www.cadillaclasseclub.org)
- July , 2004 **Driving Tour.** More information to follow.
- July , 2004 **Driving Tour.** More information to follow.
- August 19, 2004 (Thu) **Board Meeting.** Location Richfield Bloomington Credit Union, 345 77th Street, Richfield, MN 55432, phone number 612-869-1037. Time: 7:00PM. All members are welcome.
- September 12 - 18, 2004 (Sun. - Sat) **National Driving Tour.** Rocky Mountain Region (Colorado) is hosting the National Driving Tour. Check their Web Site: [www.rmrlc.com](http://www.rmrlc.com) for more information.  
(Calendar of Events continued on page 3)



### Club Events Calendar continued from page 2

- September 24 - 26, 2004 **Fall Tour.** Paul and Millie Johnson will be leading us on another excellent tour. The tour will be in the 20th Street Minnesota River By-Ways. The Motel we will be staying at is the Microtel Inns & Suites, 424 South St., New Ulm, MN. Phone number 507-354-9800 or 1-888-771-7171. There are 15 rooms set aside, 12 rooms have two queen size beds and the remaining 3 rooms are suites. The price of the queen bed rooms are \$69.00 + tax a night and the Suites are \$79.00 + tax a night. If you are going to attend the fall tour you should make your reservations soon. When making reservations make sure to mention you are with the NorthStar Region/Cadillac LaSalle Club. Also when making reservations make sure to make them for Friday and Saturday night. Check our Web Site and The Herald for additional information.
- October 21, 2004 (Thu) **Board Meeting.** Location Richfield Bloomington Credit Union, 345 E. 77th Street, Richfield, MN 55432, phone number 612-869-1037. Time: 7:00PM. All members are welcome.
- October , 2004 (Sun) **Annual Sunday Brunch.** More information to follow.
- November 18, 2004 (Thu) **Board Meeting.** Location Richfield Bloomington Credit Union, 345 E. 77th Street, Richfield, MN 55432, phone number 612-869-1037. Time: 7:00PM. All members are welcome.

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#### *Cadillac Standard Of The World*



#### Ramblin Roy' Ramblings

Ramblin Roy's been Rambling around the Phoenix Valley. Like the Twin City area, the Phoenix Valley includes multiple

cities over several counties. In an area about 50 miles by 50 miles there are numerous car cruises and/or "Show and Shine" events weekly. One of the best known is at the McDonalds at "The Pavilions," a shopping center area on the East side at Indian Bend and the 101 Loop.

Every Saturday the official event starts at 4 PM, but, street rods plus collector, and special interest cars, of all types start assembling early in the day. The parking lot is cordoned off and posted with signs to arrange the vehicles by years and types. Several hundred cars turn out every week at this, and many other smaller gatherings throughout the Valley.

I caught images of several **pristine** Cadillacs from '59 through 2004 including: an **original** white '84 Seville and another original, "For Sale" black '79 Eldorado. I also took a couple shots of the latest Hot Rod from Cadillac, the XLR, owned by one of the writers for our National Magazine (see the personalized license plate).

The '59's present are of particular significance as the motif of this McDonalds is the '59 Caddy. From the license plates on the wall to the rear clip under the menu, everywhere you look are memorabilia of the famed finned cruiser. This

fast food franchisee has it going on.

Now for this months edition of little know facts and other extraneous trivia, this time from the "Sizzling '60's." Again we thank the "Auto Editors of Consumer Guide."

**1960**, in retreat from the styling excesses the whole lineup, from the bottom to the top, the 62 Series, DeVille, Eldorado and Series 60 Special, had the 390 cid V-8. Most were rated at 325 HP with a single 4bbl except the tri-power Eldo at 345. Cadillac out sold Lincoln, Chrysler & Imperial combined.

**1961**, tail fins were down to "Skegs," the tri-power motor was out along with the Eldorado Brougham, the new "short deck" sedan, while 7" shorter than its predecessor, was still 215" long. It was a ho-hum year design wise.

**1962**, the Ho-Hum continues, not much to talk about, like, it was the first year a heater was standard in all, the fins continued to shrink and lost their chrome trim and all Eldorados were rag tops.

**1963**, the 14-year run of the 390 was over, while the bore, valves, rockers, heads, compression and rods remained the same the displacement went up to 429. The redesigned dash led another more of the same year.

**1964**, the first fully automatic heater/  
(Ramblin Roy continued on page 4)





(Ramblin Roy continued from page 3)  
 air conditioning system appears.  
**1965**, vertically placed headlights, tilt-telescopic steering column available.  
**1966**, speed-dependent, variable-ratio power steering.  
**1967**, the Eldorado name was applied to a new two-door hard top based on the Olds Toronado's front wheel drive technology.  
**1968**, mandated side marker lights, the motors went to 472 cid, up from the 429.  
**1969**, back to horizontal headlights, vent-less front door windows.  
 Sorry if anyone is offended, but this was a very boring decade. I certainly hope we have more to talk about next month in the '70's. See Roy's pictures on pages 6 and 7.  
 Roy Boone, Club Columnist



#### Update Story on Grayle Leech's Engine Overhaul

Well, all of that cold weather during January and early February has affected my progress out in our freezing

garage. The actual days were few when I would venture out in the garage and attack that engine. I had a terrible time with stuck head bolts. I used many kinds of penetrating oil, ratchet wrenches, impact wrenches and various hammers. I was able to pull the right head free without too much struggle. The left head did not want to budge. I was down to only two stuck bolts and one unfortunate broken bolt when the really cold temps hit the garage. Finally, Saturday saw temps in the 20's so I tried again with the resolve to bust-em loose no matter what. Well, one did finally turn loose, but that last one broke. I couldn't believe how the head of the bolt snapped off and left the shank of the bolt frozen in the head. I had to take a photo of how I used the whole head to turn the broken bolt out of the block.

Now I am again slowly taking down the rest of the engine to examine the parts.

Grayle Leech, Club Member



#### Information on the 2005 Grand Nationals in Des Moines, Iowa

Dear NSR Members,  
 Did you know that the 2005 Grand National show is going to be in Des Moines Iowa

(only 275 miles south of the Twin Cities) NEXT YEAR in 2005 !?

Did you know that the NSR Club is participating in the 2005 GN event as a co-host with 2 other CLC Regions? Well, it's TRUE -Mark your calendars for the event dates are AUGUST 3, 4, 5 and 6 of 2005

Really, it started about 2 years ago, but time moves on. So the time is NOW to start talking about and thinking about it so we can be prepared.

Here is an invitation for you to get involved and participate: This coming July 2004, there is a meeting planned in Des Moines on Saturday 7/31 in the afternoon. We'll be talking about the 2005 GN CLC show and the plans leading up to the event. We're staying at the GN hotel, (University Park Holiday Inn) so we can get a lead on the layout and shortcuts! Saturday night rate is \$79 for our group. The Iowa Crossroads club is organizing a CAR SHOW on the next day, Sunday 8/1- all Cadillac's are welcome.

Of course, you all should plan to attend the 2004 GN in June. This is another planning meeting and an opportunity to learn more about the behind-the-scenes, and organizational details that go in to putting one of these large gatherings together. We'll be having a meeting with the Indiana host club to discuss their experience during the 2004 GN that they are hosting this year in 2004.

Start thinking about some the areas that YOU want to help out with: .

- \* Judging of show cars
  - \* Coordinating the swap-meet areas and vendors
  - \* Security for participating cars, we have a dedicated lot . Hospitality for visitors and guests
  - \* Helping with communications: before, during and after the event .Helping at the registration and information desks
  - \* Helping with tours and related needs during the days of the event
  - \* Technology assistance with web pages and data base management for registrations
- (2005 GN info. continued on page 5)





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(2005 GN info. Continued from page 4)

- \* Logistics and set up and take-down of various event equipment and materials
- \* THERE ARE MORE TOO!!  
Use your imagination

Jim Pittman, Iowa Crossroads Director is really doing the heavy lifting on this 2005 GN, and his wife Karen is also very involved and capable. We as co-hosts have an opportunity and have made the commitment to get involved and participate fully. Now we're looking to you, our NSR Members to start thinking about this and your personal involvement. We're going to need plenty of help, and we're going to have plenty of FUN too.

More information will be coming in the next few months, so watch for that. But don't be surprised when someone asks you: "What are your plans for the 2005 GN?"

Thanks and have a nice day!

John Francis, '05 NSR GN Coordinator



### Editorial

One month closer to getting our cars out, I can't hardly wait. Its been a long winter this year. I'm ready to start attending those car shows and events. This year our club has a great calendar of events for all of us to take advantage of. I'm hoping to see more of you new members at these events. I'm sure once you start attending these events you will want to keep coming.

We had a great time at the Tavern on Grand on Thursday, February 19, 2004. The food was great. We had 19 members show up for this event. The parking is hard to find on Grand Avenue. Most of us had to park at least one block away from the restaurant. Except for one member, Dave Kotz, he pulls up in front of the restaurant on the first try and finds a parking spot right in front of the restaurant. From now on he's known as Lucky Dave.

Our next event is our Burger Run at

the Sunsets Restaurant, 700 E. Lake Street, Wayzata, MN. Remember to contact Duane and Linda Warren if you are going to attend. This makes it much easier for Linda for making the reservations. Another thing try to remember to thank Linda for all the great work she does in scheduling these events. Both her and Duane put a lot of work and time in to this. So lets try to have at least thirty-five or more members show up.

Another event I want to talk to you about is the Mancinis Char House Restaurant Party on Monday, April 12, 2004 at 6:30 PM. Don't forget to get your reservation form in for this event. The form can be found on the Mancinis Char House Restaurant flyer on page 9. Mail that form to Duane and Linda Warren.

This is one of our best events to go to. The food is always great and the service is top-notch. Where else can you get a great stake, chicken or fish for \$10.00 per person. Remember this price is limited to two club members per club family. For more information check the flyer or calendar of events. Remember we are hoping to get at least 100 or more members for this event. Who knows maybe the weather man will cooperate and we will have nice weather so we can take our Classic cars to this event. Wouldn't that look great seeing fifty or so classic Cadillac's sitting in the parking lot. We will have a special area marked off for our cars.

The first big car show of this year will be the Buick Car Show and swap Meet. The show is on Sunday, May 2, 2004 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. (Machinery Hill) Gates open at 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Entry fee for one car and driver is \$7.00 up to April, 14, 2004, after that \$10.00.

Another car show coming up soon is the All GM Car and Truck Show. The date for this show is Sunday, June 6, 2004. This event is also held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. (Machinery Hill)

If you are still planning on going to the Grand Nationals this year, I would suggest you get your registration in quick. I noticed in the Self-Starter that one of the events is already sold out. The late

Dinner on Thursday evening is sold out. It would be a good idea to check the National Web Site for up-to-date information.

I know all the members of the North-Star Region want to express their deepest sympathy to Carol Ducharme and Family on the passing of her husband Richard (Dick) Ducharme. Dick passed away on Saturday, February 7, 2004. Dick was 60 years young. He will be deeply missed by many of the members that got to know him, I know I will miss him, he was a good friend.

Well that's about all for now, I'll be talking to you next month.

Richard Moeschter, Editor

### Obituary and Story on D. Ducharme



Dick Ducharme was born in 1943 in Little Canada, MN. He lived in Vadnais Heights, MN with his wife Carol. The pair met at the Gillette Children's Hospital I 1968 where Carol was a nurse, and Dick did volunteer work.

One day, as each was coming down a different hallway, they ran into each other at the corner. The rest is history.

I met Dick Ducharme in about 1971 at the St. Paul Optimist Breakfast Club, in which we were both Charter Members. He had a great attitude and disposition and a ready smile for everyone. Carol says that Dick believed in living every day to the fullest.

Dick was a fan of Cadillacs, and belonged to the Cadillac-LaSalle/NorthStar Region and the Sonoran Desert Club in Scottsdale, AZ. He was very proud of his Cadillacs, two Eldorado Biarritz Convertibles, one an '84, the other an '85. He didn't just show these cars, he drove them. Each one was equipped with hand

(Obituary on D. Ducharme continued on page 6)

(Obituary on D. Ducharme continued from page 5) controls!!

Dick loved going to car events. During the summer, he'd drive to downtown St. Paul on Saturday nights to see the antique and classic cars at "Cars Under the Stars". Whenever I saw Dick, I would leave my old cars and push in his wheelchair up and down Kellogg so we could see all the cars and I could hear his comments. Dick got around everywhere, nothing stopped him. He was the only one that didn't know he was supposed to be "handicapped!!"

In January 2004, my wife and I ran into Dick and Carol at the NorthStar Region Holiday Brunch at the Embassy Suites, in Bloomington. Dick was very proud of the "new red cowboy boots"

that he'd just received for Christmas. He had wanted to buy a 1965 Buick Rivera that Larry Dunn was selling, but he couldn't get his wheelchair to fit in the back. He tried everything, right side up, upside down, on its side, but nothing worked. He also spoke about the beautiful display of cars at Jerry Minor's building in Elk River, MN.

Gradually, the conversation changed from cars to houses. Dick and Carol were building a new home in Scottsdale, AZ, complete with a lift to hoist him to the second level. It was almost complete, and as soon as the inspectors gave their ok, they were ready to move in.

Dick also mentioned that he was a little concerned about his upcoming kidney operation. He wanted it over so he could

go on with his life. On Monday, February 2, 2004, Dick had his kidney operation, which was successful. Unfortunately, there were complications, and Dick Passed away on Saturday, February 7, 2004, at the young age of 60 years old.

Dick was an inspiration to me and many others. This "big man in a small body" will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

Story by Member John LePak

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### Ramblin Roy's Pictures



(Ramblin Roy's Pictures continued on page 7)