

Driveshaft

December 2019 • Issue 31.6



Coming at you from Tokyo...

Official Publication of Lambda Car Club International





Let's Go!

Upcoming Regional Invitationals

January 16-19

Auction Weekend
Phoenix, Arizona
Central Arizona Invitational

July 26 - August 2

LCCI Grand Invitational
Auburn Hills, Michigan
Detroit Region

September 11-13

There's Something About Saugatuck
Saugatuck, Michigan
Michiana Dunes Invitational

September 18-20

Provincetown, Massachusetts
Yankee Invitational

On the cover:

Toyota e-Racer concept at the Tokyo Motor Show. Photo by Frank Markus.

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From the Driver's Seat

Jeff Tarr • President, LCCI

Why is this car club so special to you?

I can make some educated guesses. The cars. Dream garages full of them ... of every make, model and year. And in every state of condition, from round-fender concourse classics to lowered cruise-in resto-rods to dependable contemporary every day drivers. And let's not forget those cars and trucks laying-in-waiting up on blocks, patiently waiting for that restoration coming someday soon ...

Of course there are the friends; the people we have met over the years or even just last week. Our members are the best men and women I know, willing to be there for you in a tough spot or ready to meet up for that holiday party. Friends to the end. Yep; I've got lots of them in this club and I'm guessing you do, too.

As the year ends, so does my role as your president. I'll be honest, while there have been some tough times we went through together these past six years, I wouldn't trade them for the world ... or for a vintage 1930's Graham or Pierce Arrow! Well, let me think about that some more ... ;-)



Truthfully, I'm thankful for everyone I've met in this club ... and the friendships I have forged with you since my joining this club 20+ years ago. For those I don't yet know, I'm eagerly awaiting that day when we can finally meet and eventually create unforgettable experiences together and call each other friend.

I thank everyone for their patience and persistence with LCCI over these years as I have served as your president and I look forward to continued growth and positive things that will happen with this club as your new leadership takes the wheel.

Last but not least, be kind to each other. Make the time you have the best for yourself and for those with whom you care. Life can seem short, so just make the moments the best you can while you can.

As Aretha Franklin sings in the classic '80s tune *Freeway of Love*, "So drop the top, baby, and let's cruise on into this better than ever street," let's do this together ... as friends. I'm confident we'll enjoy the ride.

Wishing you and yours the happiest of holidays! ●

Advertise in Driveshaft

		Once	6 times
Business Card	3.5" x 2"	\$35	\$168
Quarter Page.....	3.7" x 4.9"	\$88	\$422
Half Page.....	7.5" x 4.9"	\$149	\$715
Half Page Tower	3.7" x 10"	\$149	\$715
Full Page	7.5" x 10"	\$249	\$1,195

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Golden Girls 2019

by Bill Donnelly

The weekend of October 24 to 27, Classic Chassis Car Club Austin hosted approximately 85 members at our annual Texas event called Golden Girls 2019. This was a uniquely Austin event centered entirely around cars. The honor of hosing Golden Girls rotates among the four Texas clubs (Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio) each year, at locations decided on by each club.

This year's event began Thursday evening with a festive welcome party hosted by our hotel, followed by dinner at an adjacent restaurant. On Friday, about forty cars headed out to one of two activities. One either chose a scenic, meandering drive through Texas' famous Hill Country, or a short trip to the Circuit of the Americas Formula 1 race track located just outside Austin.

Those who opted for the track enjoyed a thrilling, once-in-a-lifetime chance to travel around the track in a twenty-passenger tour bus, stepping out on the infamous Turn 1 to inspect the surface. The grand finale was the heart-thumping moment as the tour buses "raced" across the finish line.



Event organizer Stephen Mallard "keeping it weird!"



Inside the Petrol Lounge



Up close and personal at Circuit of the Americas



Saturday Car Show

This was followed by a behind-the-scenes tour of the control room and a pass through the pits and past the team garages. Since the F-1 race was coming up just the following week, security was tight. However, we did get to see engines and parts being unloaded, as well as members of the teams, but no drivers. We had lunch at an exotic meat restaurant where the most ordered item appeared to be yak--and yes, it was good.

That evening, the club hosted a catered dinner at the Petrol Lounge, a private collection and climate-controlled storage facility. With parking spaces starting at \$335 per month, you can just imagine the exotics that make their home here. We ate among, and admired, over \$9 million worth of stunning cars, some quite rare.

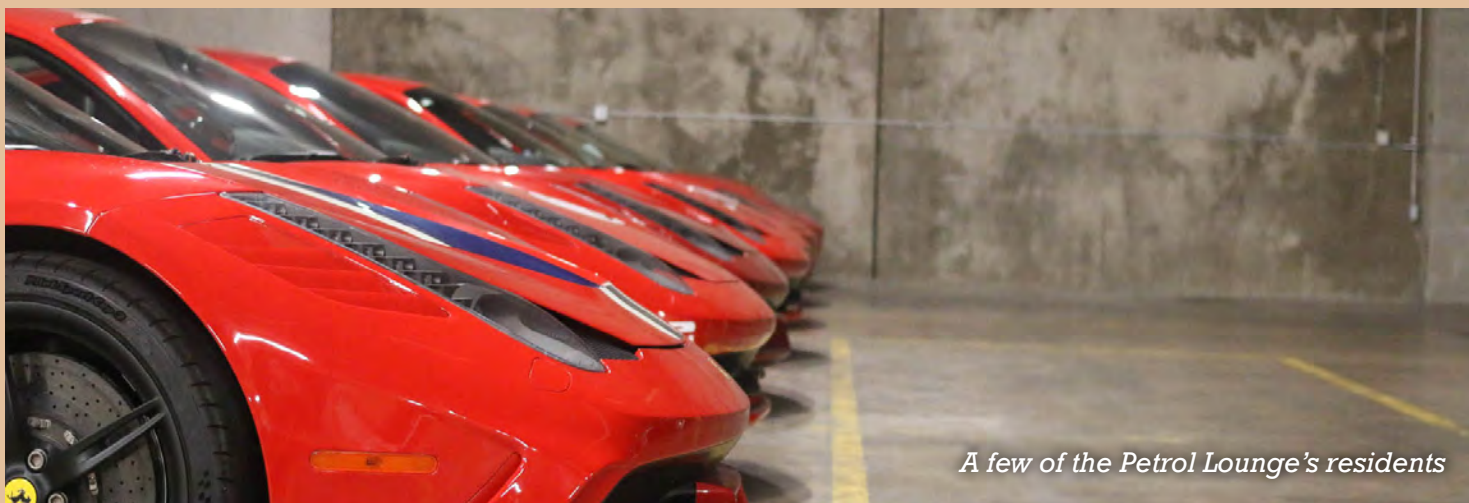
On Saturday, the weather was definitely on

our side and we held a car show with trophies crafted from cylinders, pistons and push rods for the winners. The awards banquet was held at The Oasis, perched high above Lake Travis. We were entertained by an exceptional Heart of Texas sunset followed by fajitas with all the fixins, concluding with our gala awards ceremony. All of our clubs presented Richard Bates with our newly-created Founding Fathers Award, recognizing his and a few others' initiative and energy in establishing the Texas clubs in 1986.

Finally, we gathered Sunday morning in a send-off, and are missing everyone already, and can't wait to see them next year when Classic Chassis Car Club Dallas hosts us for Golden Girls 2020 Solid Gold! Hope to see you there. ●



Inside the Petrol Lounge



A few of the Petrol Lounge's residents

More shots from Golden Girls 2019...



Look out the window...



Saturday Car Show



Trophies



Presentation to Founding Father Richard Bates



Awards Banquet

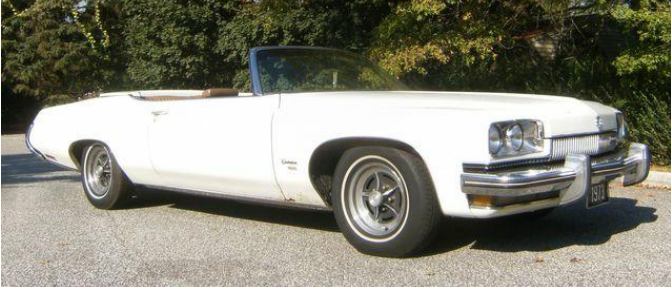


Saturday Car Show



"Heart of Texas" Sunset

Member Marketplace



1973 Buick Centurion Convertible 455, \$9,995
Douglas Hoefle, West Chester, Pennsylvania.
sales.advancedautogroup@gmail.com



2004 Ford Thunderbird, \$16,000
Duane Harbin, Dallas, Texas.
duane.harbin@gmail.com



1978 Chrysler New Yorker Brougham, \$16,500
Joseph Lewandowski, Shaker Heights, Ohio
(216) 990-8207 or joe@classicmotorcarsonline.com



1947 Cadillac Series 62, \$44,900
Joseph Lewandowski, Shaker Heights, Ohio
(216) 990-8207 or joe@classicmotorcarsonline.com



Are you coming to Arizona for the January auctions?
We invite you to join us for our Auction Weekend events.

January 16-19, 2020

Registration: \$25

Information: aw.azgaycar.com

Questions?
Donovan Wood

activities@azgaycar.com

We always have a good time and look forward to seeing you!



1982 Chevrolet Camaro Z28, \$10,900
Joseph Lewandowski, Shaker Heights, Ohio
(216) 990-8207 or joe@classicmotorcarsonline.com





2007 Bentley Azure, \$80,000
Robert A. Nixon, Santa Rosa, California
anixon@pacbell.net



1963 Cadillac Sedan deVille, \$12,250
Robert Hoffmann, Freeport, New York
(516) 662-0357



1947 Packard Custom Super Clipper Touring Sedan
\$27,000 OBO, Jameson Moreau
Boston, Massachusetts, (617) 901-7869



1940 Packard One-Eighty Formal Sedan, \$68,500
Sully Hansen, Clearwater, Florida
sullyhansen1@gmail.com or (727) 276-7899

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(Look under your member profile)

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Family Feud, Detroit Style

Your Detroit 2020 hosts are finalizing plans for a fabulous week of events in the Motor City. As our banquet entertainment, we'll stage our own version of Family Feud. This will involve many Lambdans in the game show, and it can involve every Lambda right now! We have two live surveys, the results of which will allow us to say "100 Lambdans Surveyed, Survey SAYS!"

These fun gay- and car-themed questions are meant to be answered quickly with the first thing that comes to mind. Complete yours on desktop or mobile by clicking the links or scanning the QR codes. Thanks for participating, and see you in July!

[Survey A \(20 questions\)](#) [Survey B \(30 questions\)](#)



Member Cars Enhancements on the Website

by Eric Thomas

Member Cars is a great feature of our website. It allows you to enter information about your cars and look up cars owned by other members.

We are pleased to announce recent improvements based on your suggestions. Check them out!

We still have the car name, model year, make and description. (By the way, for the car name, we suggest you combine the year make and model. This will then be displayed as the “title” on search results. Do a search to see how others have entered it.) You can also store one or more pictures of your beauties. In addition, body style, exterior color, interior color, VIN and even a nickname are now available as options to describe your cars.

Additional good news: You can now add or update your car information using just one page. (Let me hear a Yay!) Log in, go to your member profile and click on member cars in the website box. That will provide a list of cars you have already added. You can then update their information, add new cars, and even specify the sequence in which you want

them to appear. Now would be a great time to update information about your cars. Your fellow members will really appreciate it.

Still more good news: You can also search for other members’ cars using just one page. (One more Yay!) After login, click on member cars on our home page to get to the search panel. Then choose the items you want to search on. This includes the new abilities to search by region and look for a range of model years. The search results now displays a card for each match, including a picture, the car name and car owner. If you want more details about a specific car, click on details to pull up everything entered about the car or click on the owner’s name for contact information.

Finally, in the Document Library “Help with Website” folder, “How to add and update your own vehicles” and “How to search for member vehicles” have been updated.

Good luck with the new capabilities. We hope you like them. ●

The screenshot shows the 'MEMBER CARS' search interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'Home', 'Region Finder', 'Contact Us', 'LCGI Directory', 'Member Cars', 'Region Events', and 'Grand Invitational'. Below this, a search bar prompts the user to 'Click here to hide search criteria'. The main search form includes fields for Owner Name, Owner City, Owner State (a dropdown menu), and Car Name. There are also dropdown menus for Region (set to 'All Members'), Model Year (set to 'Equals'), Make (set to 'Any'), Model (set to 'Equals'), Body Style (set to 'Equals'), Exterior Color (set to 'Equals'), Interior Color (set to 'Equals'), Description (set to 'Equals'), Nickname (set to 'Equals'), and VIN (set to 'Equals'). At the bottom of the form are 'Reset' and 'Search' buttons.

The screenshot shows the 'CAR DETAILS' page for a specific car. The car is a 1949 Hudson Super Six Business Coupe, owned by Richard G. Low in Atlanta, GA. The page includes a small photo of the car and a link to 'Click photo to view larger image'. Below the car information, there's a 'Page 1' indicator and a 'Return to Previous Page' button. The footer contains links for 'Home', 'Contact Us', 'Copyright © 2019', 'All Rights Reserved', 'Terms of Use', and 'Privacy Policy', along with a 'Powered by ClubExpress' logo.



Postcard from Tokyo

Are auto shows dying? Detroit's annual January blizzard-fest show hemorrhaged so many exhibitors it felt compelled to move to balmy June starting in 2020 in hopes of stimulating greater manufacturer participation (which has yet to materialize). The last Frankfurt show was such a shambles there is talk of moving Germany's biennial auto show to Berlin, and there was so little news of note at Paris in 2018 that MotorTrend only sent one editor who struggled to fill four news stories. So when an invite arrived to attend the Tokyo Motor Show, I leapt at the opportunity fearing it could be my last chance at this biennial festival of funky, truly foreign design.



The Tokyo Motor Show of 1991 was my first international auto show. In those days there was so much news happening and so many sponsored trips that invites to this A-list gem even trickled down to a neophyte (D-list) staffer with only six months on the masthead. That trip, hosted by tire maker Toyo Tires, involved a week-long odyssey visiting various tire and vehicle assembly plants as far north as Sendai (near Fukushima, where the tsunami/nuclear disaster happened).

As I was single during that trip (I would meet my partner Mike Smith two days after returning home)

I went armed with instructions from the Spartacus Guide to international gay travel as to where to find the gayborhood where *gaijin* (foreigners) were welcome. There are thousands of tiny gay bars across this megalopolis, but most won't open the door for non-Japanese. But I hopped from GB Bar to Arty Farty, to Kinsman (and maybe a few more), trying desperately but—alas unsuccessfully—to “sample some local flavor” before heading home.

This year's trip was way shorter—about 56 hours on the ground, plus 24 in the air and 22 hours of travel delays—but equally exciting and fun because it so

happened that fellow LCCI-Detroiter Doug Lake was planning to be in Tokyo on vacation during those same hours. Doug's single, so I proposed an outing to that same Shinjuku 2-chome 'hood, where those three aforementioned bars are still in business along with a bunch more. I even managed to drag along another young, single car-gay journalist buddy who was on my Subaru trip.

We three amigos started at GB Bar, where Spartacus had recommended travelers start their evening. The friendly bartenders at GB would hand out maps to the other bars in the area in those pre-smart-phone days. The drinks were still good and the atmosphere so convivial that we almost instantly connected with three other amigos hailing from Brazil and Puerto Rico via Texas. Soon the six of

us headed next door to the Tokyo Eagle (which is not at all Eagle-y in the American sense). Here we met a bunch more international travelers, including a guy from New Hampshire named Ryan who was traveling alone for two weeks.

This was easily the most fun I've had during an international auto show—maybe since 1991. Nobody got any “luckier” than I did all those years ago (perhaps I'm a bad wingman) and the show, while WAY smaller than it was in '91, nevertheless provided ample quirky, cool, and appropriately “foreign” concept cars. My favorites are pictured here because, alas, none of us amigos took a single selfie or group photo during our magic night out in Shinjuku...

Toyota e-Racer

Also pictured on the cover, this is the kind of car CEO Akio Toyoda says will survive the autonomous pod era, the way thoroughbred horses survived after everybody stopped riding and pulling carriages with their workaday brethren. It includes augmented-reality glasses that lets drivers imagine they're sharing their car-guy country-club track with vintage Grand Prix racers.



Suzuki Waku Spo

My vote for best-of-show was this A-segment compact 2+2-door coupe designed to resemble a 1960s Suzuki Fronte 360 with a rear-end design that transforms from notch-back to wagon-back like an Nissan Pulsar NX but at the touch of a button. So cool.



Lexus LF-30

To celebrate its 30th birthday, Lexus rolled out this faceted suppository with a face that crosses the first-gen Toyota Mirai's jowls with a steam-locomotive's cow catcher. The left-hand-drive concept reflects the company's vision of a 2030 semi-autonomous EV. Yikes.





Toyota e-Broom

Just in time for Halloween (or the Quidditch quarter-finals) Toyota showed this goofy electric broom, which includes a wheel inside the bristles that propels an inline-skate-wearing wannabe Potter-san. Don't hold your breath for this one gracing a showroom floor any time soon...



Mitsubishi Mi-Tech

It doesn't get a lot weirder than a giant door-less dune-buggy powered by a hybrid gas-turbine/ electric powertrain. Don't hold your breath for this one either...



Suzuki Hustler

Japan's tax laws give a break to tiny kei-class cars sized to fit within a strict 3.40 x 1.48 meter (133.9 x 58.3 inch) footprint, powered by sub-660cc engines. Usually they're soul-less front-drive boxes, but this little nipper features rugged SUV looks with standard live-axle RWD and optional AWD. And that name!





Daihatsu Waku Waku

Daihatsu must think Suzuki's on to something with the Hustler, because it offered this funky off-roady concept with a bright orange cargo area and rear door windows filled in with what look like orange Gerry cans. ●



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JULY 26TH-AUG 2ND 2020

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