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BRANSON, MISSOURI
APRIL 11-15, 2018

BY RON VERSCHOOR



THE LAST TIME I WAS IN MISSOURI WAS 2005 FOR, YOU GUESSED IT, A CCCA ANNUAL MEETING. THAT YEAR, THE SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS REGION HOSTED IN . . . ST. LOUIS. THIS YEAR'S EVENT WAS COORDINATED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, OFFERING CARS, CAMARADERIE AND ENTERTAINMENT IN THE OZARK MOUNTAIN PART OF THE STATE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Official business was addressed in the general session where Board of Director member changes were revealed. Departing are Tom Jones and Mike Fairbairn with Dave Kane and Webster Peterson filling those two positions. During the Board meeting that



followed, Carrol Jensen was elected Club President with Chris Bock serving as First Vice President, Vicki Zeiger VP of Regions, Carl Bomstead VP of Publications, and Howard Freedman as Treasurer.

Lunch followed on our way to the Farm & Auto Museum which featured a wide variety of cars, trucks and tractors, a few of the latter being of the horse-drawn variety. Many of these vehicles are for sale, including what appeared to be a nice-looking 1926 Lincoln L Coupe for \$32,900.

That evening we were treated to a dinner and show aboard the "Branson Belle" paddleboat where members of our group were randomly selected (coerced?) to be part of the show. Winds around Table Rock Lake prevented the vessel from leaving the dock but even so, the views from the upper deck were impressive.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

A few more meetings addressed Club business before we boarded buses traveling to Evergreen and the Steve Plaster collection. Nearly 500 cars make up the collection, with several members remarking, "Oh that's where that car went!" upon spotting something they'd not seen in years. I was pleased to see a Rolls-Royce Phantom with Brewster York styling in the collection, a car I first saw during the Down East CARavan in Maine in 2001 and had lost track of it a few years ago.

A bit of real rain (not like that in Rancho Santa Fe) complete with thunder and lighting accompanied us on the way back to the hotel, continuing later that evening as we made our way to appropriately-named "Stormy Point" for the Regional awards banquet. The New England Region-sponsored "Classic Spirit Award" was presented to past President Dave Johnson, who continues his service on the Foundation board.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Club membership was the topic of discussion at a Saturday morning meeting, with some ideas >>>



Clockwise from bottom left: Old town Branson; The Branson Belle; Duesenberg at the Steve Plaster Collection; Auburn and Cord in one of several car barns at the Steve Plaster collection; Horse-drawn carriage at the Farm and Auto.

THE 2018 CCCA ANNUAL MEETING

that warrant further investigation discussed among attendees. Hold to tradition or expand our scope? The pros and cons of each will be a hot topic down the road and I suggest proceeding cautiously and listening to all points of view. My solution would satisfy everyone but requires heavy lifting and lots of "worker bees."

The Branson Hilton is a large property that includes the Convention Center, where Classics were displayed Saturday morning. Rarely seen marques included Daniels (one of seven in the Club), a very original Horch (one of eight) and a Brewster (one of 12).

The cars moved to the banquet room for the dinner that evening with Steve Plaster's 1937 Packard Twelve Coupe Roadster winning the Warshawsky Best of Show award, scoring 99.75 points. Along with other car judging results, the winner of the Katie Robbins Award was Ed Gunther of San Jose, recognized for his numerous contributions to the Club ranging from Annual Meeting coordinator to CARavan coordinator (on more than one occasion). Ed still contributes . . . he's co-coordinating a tour in Northern California and Oregon this coming September.

Next year, the Annual Meeting moves to Scottsdale, Arizona in mid-January, just preceding the auto auctions. Look for registration information about the 2019 event in the August Bulletin.



Classics on display at the Awards Banquet.



York style Rolls Royce Phantom I



Sixteen and eight cylinder Cadillacs



Packard Light Eight and Darrin