

# Younger Members in the CCCA

Introduction by **John Milliken**

As you are probably aware, young people are not embracing the collector car hobby in great numbers and there are concerns among longtime members regarding the future of our hobby when the present enthusiasts and owners are no longer here.

In 2008, the CCCA had almost 6,000 members worldwide. Figures recently published show that we now have 3,600 members and associate members, the rest either lost interest or passed away. I have first-hand experience of this disinterest with my son, Pierce who is 26 years old and was named, of course, after a 1936 Pierce-Arrow I owned when he was born. Pierce grew up around my Classic and other collector cars but showed little interest until I purchased a nice, used, late model Porsche 911 cabriolet a few years ago. He got interested in that car and asked me if he could apprentice as a judge in the Porsche class at the 2019 San Marino Motor Classic. He very much enjoyed the experience and asked if he could judge Prewar American Classic cars for the 2021 event. He enjoyed judging Prewar American cars even more and even asked me if he could drive my 1939 Buick Roadmaster Convertible Sedan. He wants to judge again next year and that pleases me very much.

So the point is, there is hope for these younger members and there are ways to get them interested in Classic cars. Past CCCA President Jon Lee once said something like, "A common interest in cars is the first step in getting someone interested in Classic cars" and I certainly found that to be the case.

I actually do have several younger judges among my list of San Marino judges and I plan to feature them in upcoming editions of this magazine. If any readers have a child or grandchild that might be interested in becoming a judge, I welcome you to introduce them to me. I will gladly assign them with an experienced team to judge as an apprentice until they gain the experience to be a regular judge.

This first article features **KARALYN AHMANSON**, daughter of well-known collector Bill Ahmanson. She has judged for me at several Grand Classics held in conjunction with the San Marino Motor Classic and is a great judge, according to teams leaders I have assigned to judge with her. I was particularly impressed when I saw her drive her father's huge 1937 Cadillac 85 twelve-cylinder Fleetwood Town Sedan from home to the concours in 2019. Here are her own words of how she cultivated an interest in collector cars.



At the San Marino Motor Classic with our 1937 Cadillac 85 Town Sedan by Fleetwood



# My Introduction to the Collector Car Hobby

By **Karalyn Ahmanson**



Photos; top: With my mother Karla in our Jaguar XK120 at the San Marino Motor Classic  
below: With my sister Katie and our Mercedes-Benz 600 on our way to an '80s themed party

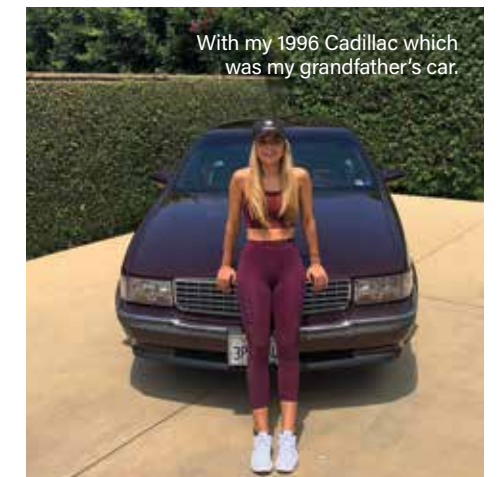


My interest in Classic Cars began when my dad would work on them in the garage or driveway and we'd sit together listening to Dodger games on the radio. Slowly, I started helping him with the cars by washing them or conditioning the leather upholstery. Naturally, I asked more and more questions about the cars and the more I was told, the more I was interested! But it was driving the cars that enhanced my appreciation of them as I learned about the quirks each of them had.

I learned to drive a stick shift on a Ford Model T and while I haven't had any judging experience besides the San Marino event, I'd like to expand my involvement and would happily welcome guidance from other members.

My other interests include staying active by working out and hiking, television and movies and I just got a new puppy that takes up my time. I received my undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Southern California and studied Nonprofit Leadership and Management. Currently, I am working with the Wilshire Boulevard Temple, a Jewish Temple here in Los Angeles, as their Fundraising & Development Associate. I recently selected to serve as Interim Executive Director of POPS the Club, a nonprofit that provides a safe, open space for children with incarcerated family members.

Here is a photo of me with a Classic Car and some others with more modern cars at recent car events. I hope others around my age will develop an interest in the old car hobby. ●



With my 1996 Cadillac which was my grandfather's car.