



Above, some of our group with a 1931 Marmon.

Below, Helen Hutchinson and Jim Ayres with a Mark II and a fifties Packard.



*1947 Cadillac
and 1947 Lincoln.*



Tour of Gary Severns Collection in Long Beach

October 20th the Western Region and Thunderbirds of Southern California toured the Gary Severns automotive collection in Long Beach. Housed in a private warehouse, the collection consists of beautifully restored and preserved cars from the early 1930s through the mid-1950s with many CCCA Full Classics. Though the collection focuses on Packards, one car is a unique Brewster-bodied Town Car. There are other top American classics such as Auburn, Marmon and Cadillac, as well as notable sports and touring cars. Gary has two 1931 Marmons, one of which was awarded second place in its class this year at Pebble Beach. For Lincoln lovers there is a 1947 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet and a rare two-tone 1956 Continental Mark II.

After viewing the collection we had lunch at Frisco's nearby. Frisco's caters to collector car people and has a large weekly cruise night. Frisco's offers reserved parking for collector cars in front of the restaurant, so some of our cars were displayed there.

Gary Severns.

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Bruce Hutchinson.....2011
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Mike Cunningham.....2012
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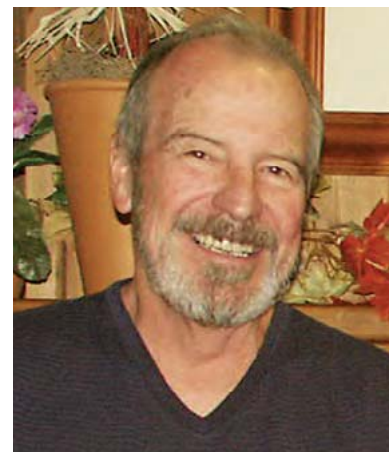
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Director's message



Jan and I attended a collector car auction in Palm Springs in mid-November, so here's a brief report. Lincolns and Continentals were well represented with a '47 Continental, two Mark IIs, a former LCOC Senior Mark IV Pucci still showing very well, a number of mid-'60s convertibles and sedans, an early '80s Continental, and a low-mileage '03 Towncar Signature up for bids. The collector car market continues to favor buyers. The '47 (with later Lincoln overhead valve power, and a non-original color) sold for \$14,250. One of the Mark IIs (in #3 condition) was a no-sale at \$27,000.00. Some cars seemed to be off as much as 50% from a year ago. When we left the auction on the last day many cars were still "available". This particular auction claimed 71% sales at their last sale, but I seriously doubt that they will match that number this time around.

The Board of the Western Region met in early November, and appointed a new Director and a new Secretary. Other officers will continue on in their respective positions, and a new face may join the Board. As such, this is my last Director's message as I will be leaving the "job" at the end of the year. I have enjoyed the support of my fellow board members and wish the reconstituted Board much success in the new year. I would also challenge the membership of the Western Region to participate with your Lincolns and Continentals in the many fine events that are in the planning stages for 2013.

I've enjoyed "directing" the Western Region immensely. We achieved many goals including a new club project, a daunting event schedule that had us joining other collector car groups in the enjoyment of the hobby, a revitalized Northern California membership, successful seasonal and National meets, stable membership numbers, a sound treasury, donations to the Lincoln Foundation, and the addition of the great state of Nevada to the Western Region.

Jan and I have many travel plans for the upcoming year, two car restorations in progress, and a planned construction project, but we'll attempt to continue our attendance and enjoyment of Western Region events, as we have done since 1995. If you don't see us and our '47 or our Mark VII, we'll all be there in spirit.

I know you long-time Southern Californians remember the radio station KRLA and the famous disc jockey Bob "Emperor" Hudson, so I'm going to "sign off" being the Director of the Western Region like the Emperor used to do by wishing all of you: "Blue skies and green lights!" *Marv*

The Continental Confab is published and mailed every six weeks. Dates are published annually. The deadline for submitting articles and ads is 20 days prior to the planned mailing date. All articles and ads should be submitted in writing to: 1780 Iris Way, Escondido, CA or e-mail t.howley@cox.net.

The Western Region is now accepting display advertising in *The Confab*.

Business card size ads are \$50 for six issues or a full year.
Double business card size ads are \$75 for six issues or a full year.
Send your checks payable to LCOC Western Region to Bob Reed at
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*Photos of the
Gary Severns Collection
by John Walcek.*

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*Above, Jim Ayres with Gary Severns in his workshop.
Below, 1931 Marmon, 1934 Auburn, and 1937 Packard.*



Western Region dues are \$30 a year; add \$10 for Western Region membership outside the U.S. (Canada or Mexico). All dues are payable in U.S. currency to Western Region Membership Chairman, 9318 Chaparral Road, Canoga Park, California 91304-1206. Membership in the Western Region of LCOC is open to all parties interested in Lincoln Continental automobiles. Ownership of a Lincoln automobile is not necessary to join LCOC. You must, however, be or become a member of the National LCOC to be eligible to join the Western Region. Dues are in addition to Region dues. The Continental Confab is the official publication of the Western Region LCOC. It is distributed by First Class Mail to Western Region Members. Material contained in the Confab is intended to be as factual as possible, but neither the Western Region nor the editors assume any responsibility for the correctness of the material or its sources. Nothing in the Confab will be reproduced without the written permission of the editors and the Western Region Board of Managers. Car-related marketplace ads are free to members, except those conducting a commercial enterprise. Ads will run for three issues. Advertisers must contact editors to extend or modify ads. Non-member ads are \$10 per issue, with a three issue minimum. We request you notify editors when vehicle or parts are sold. All free ads are subject to editing and space availability. The deadline for submission of articles or ads is the 20th of the month prior to the issue requested. All article contributions may be submitted in writing to: Confab, 1780 Iris Way, Escondido, CA 92027.

The Western Region Honors Deceased Members

The Board of Directors of the Western Region has set up memorials to distinguished members of the region who have passed on. These memorials will be in the form of donations to the Lincoln Foundation and these memorials will be implemented in the form of bricks, patio pavers, benches, etc. commemorating these members. The most recently honored members are as follows:



Jack Cassan

Jack Cassan was a longtime and well known member born in 1925, who died in a vehicle accident on his property in Oceanside, California on May 18, 2008.

Jack was a lifelong resident of Oceanside who ran a large auto salvage business for many years and earned immortality in the old car hobby by entering the Great American Race ten times. He won that race with a 1915 Dodge touring car in 1985. His life was a legend and his generosity was beyond belief. He entered the U.S. Navy at the beginning of World War II and served on the USS Yorktown at the Battle of Midway.

Jack campaigned a 1941 Lincoln Continental Coupe in LCOC in the early eighties winning the Dr. Ruth Trophy in 1982. Then he restored a 1940 Lincoln Continental Coupe and won the Ruth Trophy in 1991. These two Lincolns led to a 1936 Lincoln K Brunn Victoria which won the Elliston H. Bell Founder's Trophy in 1999. His final big restoration was a 1932

Lincoln KB convertible roadster which won a Lincoln Trophy in 2001.

Jack was so popular that over 400 people turned out for his memorial service in Oceanside. Then the group moved on to the Elk's Lodge where Ocean's Eleven Casino and Restaurant served the crowd a buffet lunch.

He left his home to his favorite charity, the Benedictine Abby in Oceanside, even though he was not a Catholic. He is survived by his wife Millie and many family members.



Den Fenske

Who could forget Den Fenske whose three forties Lincoln Continental Cabriolets all won Elliston H. Bell Trophies, an achievement in LCOC that may never again be duplicated. He was Director of the Western Region in 1991 and 1992.

In early 2010 it was found that he had pancreatic cancer and was unable to attend the 2010 Western National Meet in Ventura, California for which he was chairman. He also chaired the Western National Meet in Ventura in 2002. Born in 1934, Den died on April 4, 2011.

His white 1942 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet won the Elliston Bell Trophy in 1993. His Maroon 1947 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet won the Elliston Bell Trophy in 1997. His blue 1941 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet won the Elliston Bell Trophy in 2008.

Den was a retired interior decorator who designed all of the articles and covers in *Lincoln and Continental Comments* in which his cars appeared. He was the only LCOC member ever

to do so. It was at his suggestion that Tim Howley became the Editor of the Western Region newsletter *Confab*. Den was preoccupied with LCOC publications, and with winning Lincolns in LCOC to the point that his restorations achieved new levels of excellence that have yet to be surpassed.

He is survived by his wife Jan, a married daughter and a married son. Jan is now a member of an elite group of distinguished LCOC widows including Carol Mattix and Carol Whitmire who attend all the LCOC National Meets and hand out special awards. Let's hope this list doesn't get any bigger in the near future.



Dick Cronkhite

Dick Cronkhite was a longtime LCOC member and Western Region Director in 1997 and 1998 who died on August 15, 2011. He was a retired career U.S. Marine who lived in Coronado and worked for a bank in San Diego for many years. Many will remember him for his big black Lincoln sedan from the 1958-60 era.

Dick was always exchanging cars, but they were all Lincolns. He won a Senior Second with and 1986 Lincoln Mark VII at the 2004 Western National Meet in Albuquerque. Then he decided to move on from that one to a 1993 Mark VIII. He sold the Mark VII to Marv Wendt who still owns it and drives it to LCOC National Meets.

Several years ago Dick and his longtime wife Sylvia parted ways but remained friends. Dick moved to Prescott, Arizona where he lived with his son and Sylvia moved to Texas. They both attended the 2009 Western

National Meet in Salado, Texas were Dick fell so gravely ill that someone else had to accept his Lincoln Trophy for his Mark VIII while his son drove the car home to Arizona.



Norman Kimmel

Norman Kimmel of Dana Point, California passed away on July 1, 2010 after suffering a stroke. Norman was born in 1921 and was one of the club's pioneer members joining in 1959. Norm and his wife E'dee attended numerous National and Western Region Meets including the LCOC Millennium Meet in Saint Louis in 2000. Norm was born in Saint Louis.

Norm was a rocket scientist. He held three patents for things he developed for the Phillips Petroleum Company in the forties. He worked at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena where he played a significant role in our nation's space program.

Prior to his career as a scientist, Norm served our country in World War II. He flew B-17s and other bombers. He was shot down three times including over Germany and over the choppy waters of the English Channel. He ditched his aircraft into the sea and he never lost a single crew member.

Norm raised a daughter and two sons. Norman and E'dee were married for 19 years. When he died his metallic blue 1973 Mark IV went to Jim Weller of Pinole, California. Jim and his wife brought E'dee, now 95 years old, to the 2012 Western National Meet in Concord, California.

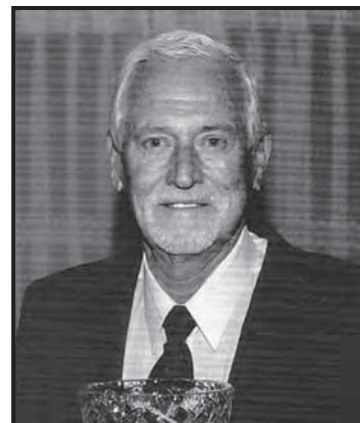


Luvern Frank Schmidt

"Smitty" Schmidt was born in 1928 in Crow River, Minnesota. He passed away in Lake Havasu City, Arizona on January 12, 2010. Smitty and his wife lived in Torrance, California and retired to Lake Havasu City in about 1990. Before retirement, Smitty worked for Northrop Aircraft and the Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Smitty was a diehard old car enthusiast, restoring cars and showing them at car shows all over the country. He belonged to LCOC, LZOC, the Thunderbird Club, and the Mustang Club. He also belonged to the Elks, Eagles, Moose the NRA, and the Roamers RV Club. At one time he was one of the Western Region's most active members. Marv Wendt now owns his former 1947 Lincoln Continental modified coupe.

He leaves behind a wife of 55 years, Adrienne, son, daughter, brother, sister, and several grandchildren.



Bob Gee

Robert "Bob" Gee was a long time Western Region member. He and his late wife Pat won numerous National LCOC awards, including five Emeritus Awards with their 1977 Lincoln Continental Town Car. Pat was killed tragically by a hit and run driver near their home in Baja, California in 2005. Many of our Western Region members turned out for a memorial at their daughter's home.

Bob continued to maintain his collection of Lincolns in Colton, California. We do not know what happened to all his cars. Most were unrestored sedans from the seventies. One was an extremely low mileage 1979 Continental Mark V *Collector's Series*.

The last LCOC National Meet that Bob attended was Salado, Texas in 2009 Bob passed away at his home in LaMision, Baja on October 28 2010.

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Marv Wendt and Carol Reniger.

November 3 Board Meeting Hawthorne, California

The Fall/Winter 2012 Western Region Board Meeting was convened at South Bay Ford-Lincoln on the first Saturday in November. A \$1,000 donation to the Lincoln Motor Car Museum approved last board meeting to honor deceased club members is being made by the Western Region.

The 2012 Western National Meet in Concord was successful but not profitable. We incurred an unanticipated meeting room expense due to the rather low attendance. However, the Friday night auction and 50/50 raffle mitigated our losses.

With a loss of 11 members and the addition of 5 new members during 2012 to date there are now 204 members in the Western Region. This is a total reduction of 6 members since the end of 2011. The renewal process in 2012 is going well.

Mike Cunningham proposed a membership campaign for 2013 in which an existing member receives a 1 year free renewal for recruiting a new member who is willing to receive *Confab* electronically (i.e. with no cost to support membership). As is the current situation, this new member must also become a member of LCOC National. - Motion: Mike Cunningham / Second: Shirley Richards. This passed unanimously.

Mike will ensure that this membership campaign is advertised to the membership.

National LCOC – Bruce Hutchinson indicated that the next National LCOC meeting will be in San Antonio, Texas in mid-January. We discussed judging standard issues that arose at the Mid-America National Meet this year that Bruce is scheduling for discussion.

The board discussed the \$100 “named walkway brick” at the new Lincoln Motor Car Museum as the preferred

way that we are using to recognize club members who have passed away. There have been no new members pass away since our last recognition in February. The current *Confab* has an article featuring those we recognized in February.

Further club support of the Lincoln Motor Car Museum was put on hold pending a report from Mike Cunningham who recently agreed to join the National Committee supporting this effort.


We discussed the possibility of expanding the number of pages in *Confab* to allow full coverage of all Western Region Activities. The limitation on expansion beyond the current 8 pages is the mailing cost for the hard copy versions of *Confab*. After some brainstorming that included the idea of having an expanded electronic version only, it was decided to keep the 8 page limit for both electronic and hard copy versions of the newsletter.

Coordination with other Lincoln clubs was briefly discussed. Marv Wendt received an invitation from the Edsel Club to join them at their April 11th-14th event in Laughlin, Nevada.

The Western National Meet in Scottsdale, Arizona is tentatively being planned for October, 2013. How this will come together between the Arizona members and National is still being discussed.

Although unable to attend this board meeting, Jeremy Sanford and Jim Ayers provided us information that was discussed regarding possible events for 2013:

There are three events next year that Jim Ayers has described as “must do” events: 1)



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Fabulous Fords Forever at Knott's, April 21, 2) Huntington Beach Concours, June 2, 3) Pebble Beach August 18. Lincoln will be the featured marque at Pebble Beach, and Jim Ayers is hoping to work with John Clinard from Ford Motor Company Communications to have a good Lincoln display there.

We agreed to have Jim Ayers work out the details for our 2013 February Kick-off event at the Automobile Driving Museum. If the event room reservation is too costly at the museum, we might have brunch at the near-by Proud Bird restaurant, and then visit the museum.

As for other events, Jim is looking into whether South Bay Lincoln would like to host another show there, possibly in the Fall. A weekend at Pechanga Resort in Temecula could be scheduled. Steve Erler might be able to get us into the “Vault”

Stacy Roscoe and John Walcek.



at the Petersen. Other event possibilities are a trip to the USS Iowa, the Mike Malamut Collection in Newbury Park, the Art Astor Collection, the Lyon Air Museum, and the Crevier Collection. Jim wants to know if anyone is interested in a picnic. Jim would like to do something with the other Lincoln and Ford clubs, and he believes that we can always invite them to any of our events. Jim would also like feedback as to what kind of events everyone enjoys the most. For those who like to do non-car events, such as we did at the Getty last year, there are plenty of such places for events, such as the Huntington Library and the Descanso Gardens.

The board was impressed with the written report submitted by Jim, and is encouraging him to prioritize events based on feedback to these ideas and his own experience, and offer a final list at our February board meeting.

Jeremy Sanford will work on delivering the favorite events of years past up north again in 2013. All agreed that this is the right strategy for the north.

2013 Board Meetings: February, 2013 Kickoff Event – at the Automobile Driving Museum. Spring Meeting – In connection with a big spring event to be confirmed. Western National Meet board meeting – To be scheduled during October in Scottsdale. November - Date and loca-



The entire group at Gary Severns' Automobile Collection in Long Beach.

tion to be determined – Likely up north.

Club Projects -The sales results and economics of the flag project were discussed. The 2013 plan is to sell all remaining flags. We are already in the black with sales completed to date. Marv Wendt and Jim Ayers will work with Baron Night to confirm his role in marketing Western Region products in 2013. A shirt and jacket patch project was discussed, and the Renigers will bring back pricing and order points to the next board meeting. Marv Wendt and Jim Ayers will work with Baron Night to confirm his role in marketing Western Region products in 2013.

The new directory will be sent out in April 2013 once the majority of the club membership renewals have been received.

2012 Board Elections - The current term in office for Mike Cunningham, Carol Reniger, and Marv Wendt will end at the end of 2012. A nomination committee consisting of Hal Reniger and Marv Wendt

found no members interested and/or available to participate on the board at this time. Mike Cunningham and Carol Reniger agreed to serve for another term. Marv Wendt formally announced his intention to step down from his board seat. This seat will be filled by a member who agrees to be appointed by the 2013 Director.

2013 Board Officers: After a prolonged discussion of how to best distribute responsibilities among members with different interests, skills, and availability, the following slate of officers was nominated and approved:

Director: Stacy Roscoe

Assistant Director: Jeremy Sanford

Secretary: Carol Reniger

Treasurer: Bob Reed

Note: Marv Wendt agreed to take over the role of *Comments* correspondent for the Western Region.

Submitted by Stacy Roscoe.

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1947 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet. All original (older restoration); maroon in and out with a tan top. This car is a soft #2 or high #3. The widow is Lillian Peterson 714.537.1546 (Garden Grove). Steve Calavetta in the Early V-8 Club is helping her sell the car. He can be reached at 714.641.9089. The widow is thinking \$40K, but try making a reasonable offer. The car has not run in about a year, but has been garaged.

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*Right, Gary Severns' 1956 Mark II and 1947 LC Cabriolet.
These two cars are not for sale.*



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