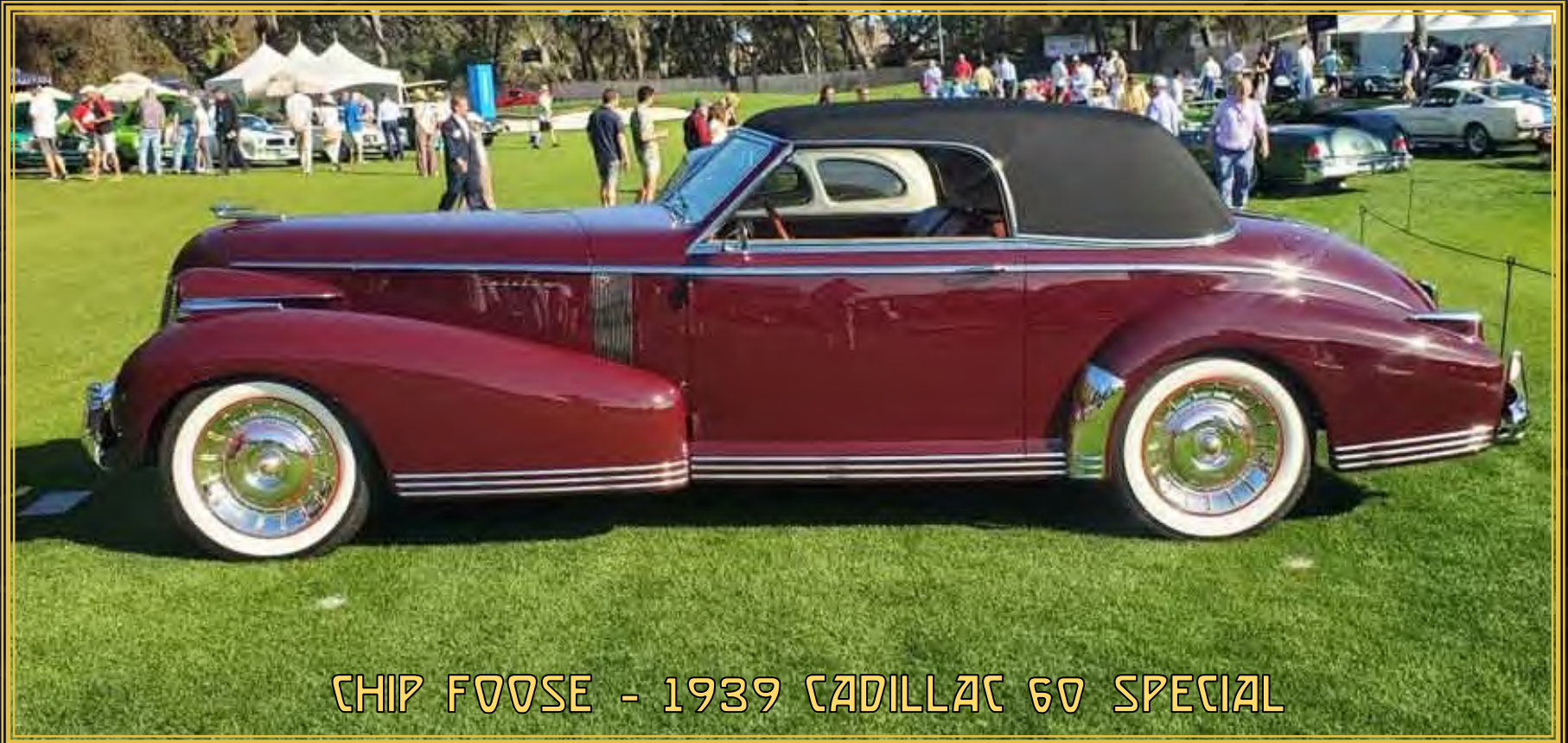


KOTR PINS

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CHIP FOOSE - 1939 CADILLAC 60 SPECIAL

THE KING OF THE ROAD ANTIQUE CAR CLUB NEWSLETTER



KING OF THE ROAD ANTIQUE CAR CLUB

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Visit our website; KOTRACC.org to see more of what we are all about

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STEADY AS SHE GOES

Does it seem that one fourth of this new year can already be gone? Where does the time go? Since we last had a newsletter we have had a few activities to keep us busy eating well. We did a few car shows and had some good fun with great friends. Also in this edition we have a special story from Frank O'Donnell about his experience at Amelia Island with his 1970 Maserati.

There is a lot of time spent by some of our members to plan and prepare for our activities as well as the club treasury monies being spent on supplies. While no one can mandate attendance, it is certainly appreciated by those in charge. A kind of a "vote" of approval if you will. The more you

get involved in the process, the more fun we will all have. There are plenty of opportunities to make this a better club. We try to have at least two events each month. Schedules get very busy here, what with other clubs and doctor's appointments. Oh, those doctor's appointments, yikes! Yet, with all that, we can still find time to get together. Please step forward and offer to spearhead an event that you think others in the club might enjoy. How about a do-nut run, or a Bar-B-Que Bash. We have a new Twisty Treat opening very soon in The Villages, ice cream runs are what KOTR is famous for. Let's see what we can accomplish together.



The Luck O' The Irish



Ever since the beginning years of KOTR, we have taken the month of March to celebrate Saint Patrick, the patron Saint of Ireland. Over the last ten years we have tried most every Irish restaurant in the area, some better than others. This year, Pat Rentz saw an ad for Mallory Hill Country Club here in The Villages. Irish Pub Day every Monday. So we gave it a go! If you were in attendance, you know what a delight it was. Sixteen members and guests enjoyed a splendid setting on the veranda, overlooking the golf course with a gentle breeze at our backs. Each of three tables had it's own delightful server. The service was great, the food superb and the cost was reasonable. The three things you need for a good time when dining out with KOTR friends.



Pennbrooke Is Back

After a one year hiatus, the Pennbrooke Annual Car Show made a triumphant return with nearly 75 cars showing, the biggest ever. KOTR was a big part of that with 16 cars in attendance. A delightful, short, only two hour, car show. We even signed up a new member!



Dennis Doucette's magnificent 1938 Chevrolet coupe glistens in the morning sun shine.



Open on both ends is Ken Cope's beautiful 1953 Studebaker street rod. Ken is one of our newest members.



Resting in the shade of her "dad's" 1963 Super Stock 426 Plymouth is Hoochi- Mama Udell. That big 426 rests up front. She goes most everywhere with Rich.



PIES IN THE PARK

SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH



Attendance at this year's Pies In The Park festival was light, about half of what we normally draw. With only three homemade pies in the competition, it came down to the Key Lime or Apple. Pat Rentz was the winner with her Key Lime Pie according to Ellen Harcourt, the judge this year. We also had ice cream for the pies, courtesy of Ron Storzbach. It was a good time, you shoulda been there! It would have been better.



FIVE



SHOWING AT THE AMELIA

MARCH 2026

FRANK O'DONNELL



It was dawn, and a shimmering gray mist hovered over the dark green fairway grass as far as the eye could see. We entered the Ritz-Carlton Hotel golf course at Amelia Island, Florida following a stunning, 1913 Rolls-Royce from England that was coincidentally, *twice* the age of the Italian I was driving. The day had finally come and I would be spending the next eight hours at the premier classic car concours event on the East coast.

This was the first time I had ever been *invited* to exhibit a car I restored. That's the sort of thing that could happen if you take a gamble and purchase a limited production, hand-built classic and devote 2½ years of your life to translating service manuals from Italian to English; one line at a time.

I had fallen in love with Giorgetto Giugiaro's styling once before in the 70's when I ordered a new Volkswagen Scirocco. I was seduced again in 2023 when I spotted a bright red 1970 Maserati Ghibli on an auction website. Always enamored by the same-era Iso Griffo (also designed by Giugiaro), the equally sporty Maserati was an affordable alternative, and possibly even more attractive. I flew to St. Louis to see it in person, inspect and drive it.

The bidding on the Maserati fell short of reserve and eventually I was able to purchase the car. The history showed the original owner drove the car for

a year and traded it in. It then spent the next 53 years being housed in two different classic car collections. The car remained all original, right down to the 1969 Pirelli Cinturato radials. I purchased the car with the odometer showing 19,500 miles.

With the mechanical work completed, an interior restoration and a general overall cleaning, I began to drive and show the car locally. People who saw the car encouraged me to



apply for the upcoming Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance (now renamed The Amelia). Even though Ghiblis are rare here in the States, I doubted my restoration could make the grade. Since my wife and I attend the concours every year anyway, I sent in a description and forwarded pictures of the car taken at the scenic Villages polo grounds where I live. To my surprise, the car was accepted!

It's one thing to attend the show, another when you are actually showing a vehicle. This year's concours was overwhelming with a combination of limited production automobiles and unrestored race cars. The field was comprised of 35 different judged classes with 240 vehicles in total.

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Some vehicles were so rare that I had to read the description plate at the front of the car to discover their make.

There were the usual large Brass Era cars, Duesenbergs and Packards on display, but also interesting specialty classes such as Chip Foose Creations and Shelby Cobras.

One class featured a pair of plexiglass-paneled "see-through" C2 and C3 Corvettes from a Corvette restoration business that built them, "Just for the sheer fun of it." Another class featured eight; "One-of-One" truly unique cars discovered by Tom Cotter, of "The Barn Find Hunter" fame. Many of the cars in that class had been featured on Tom's YouTube videos.



Additionally, The Amelia featured many museum-owned cars from all over the country scattered throughout the 36 different classes. Many of them in unrestored or "last raced" condition.

I spent a lot of time admiring the entrants of the American Limited Production Class, one of the largest, with 11 cars. An outstanding mix of mostly unrestored rare American icons from the 40s and the 50s, where styling was your ticket to being noticed



and standing out from the usual. I like old cars looking old, wearing their history and taking you back to the time they were special. The class was headed by a pair of Chryslers; a 1952 Ghia Styling Spe-

cial and a yellow and black 1967 Super Dart 400 convertible. Likewise, a pair of stately Packards and another pair of mid-fifties sporty Studebakers rounded out the group.

There is a certain charm to old cars looking old. Just like the way you remember seeing them sitting in someone's driveway or parked out on the street when you went into town. You know, *before* there were shopping centers with parking lots. (Kmart picture)

Each year, The Amelia features a race car driver and highlights their career. This year, the honoree was Scottish driver Dario Franchitti, four-time IndyCar champion and three-time Indy 500 winner. Dario was known for his ability to block out the crowd noise and the atmosphere and focus only on the driving. Seven of the race cars he drove were shown at the event, including a McLaren, an Acura, and four Dallaras. In a live interview Dario was asked when he became interested in racing. His reply was that his father bought him a Honda go-cart at age three!!

My Maserati Ghibli was entered in the "European Post-War Sports IV" class. There were six other vehicles in my group. Two were stellar frame-off restorations: a 1970 Porsche 914-6 and a 1970 Mercedes-Benz 280 SL Pagoda with matching hardtop. Other standouts in my class were a



1973 Lotus Europa and the most beautifully kept 1972 Opel GT I've ever seen. Judging was fair, and I was in complete agreement as to

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seven

(Continued from page 7)

the top three finishers in my class.

My car wasn't recognized for a ribbon, but I did take home one hell of a sunburn! There were so many people in attendance, I walked the entire show field three times trying to get clean shots of the cars I thought were special. I spent so much time answering questions from strangers about my Maserati, that I literally forgot to stay out of the sun. Plus, earlier in the day, I walked over to the adjoining fairway to see the RADwood Festival, a celebration of the 1980s and the 1990s automotive lifestyle.

This year's RADwood saw over 200 well-kept and/or highly original vehicles displayed with heavy influence from the import classics that dominated the market at the time. Period cars from Germany like Mercedes, BMW, and Porsches. Japanese imports featuring Hondas, Toyotas, Nissans, and Mazdas. The rest of the field was filled out with familiar American domestic models. Awards were given for 10 different categories and it seemed the RADwood show field was where the "real" party at Amelia was happening.

Saturday was also the last of the two-day Broad Arrow Auction at The Amelia which spotlighted 140 high-end collector cars ranging from prewar American and European classics to racing icons and modern supercars. The auction was held in the ballroom of the host Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Bidding was strong, and more than ten new world auction records were set. The top sale at the auction was a 2003 Ferrari Enzo at \$15 million. My favorites were two outstanding Porsches: a 918 Spyder that brought \$6.7 million and a 959 Sport that sold for \$5.5 million.

The Amelia concours has come back into its own under the new Hagerty Insurance banner. Plenty of volunteers to answer questions and lots of knowledgeable people willing to help and assist you. There was truly something for everyone in attendance at this year's event.

I've shown many cars before during my lifetime, but never at a prestigious Top 10 event. Spending the day showing my Maserati and being among such an incredible assortment of beautifully-maintained automobiles is one of the highlights of my life in the classic car hobby.

Showing at The Amelia served to validate all the many hours I spent trying to fasten nuts to bolts or re-attaching wires that were "just" out of reach. There were days of trying to figure out the one of a hundred possible ways to fit a replacement part into the slot the factory managed to install it in, to begin with. Or how you attach a hose to a vent you can't see, much less get your fingers to? Then there's that little job of adjusting the four dual Weber carbs... Like the nominated actors on the award shows say, "I was just honored to be recognized among my peers."

1956 Lincoln MK II by Chip Foos



THE CARS AT AMELIA



The top picture is a 1929 Cord L29 Convertible Phaeton Sedan.

The top picture is that of a 1966 Lamborghini GT 350 coupe by Touring.

Below that is a 1915 Packard interior that was done by our very own Leif Drexler.

The red and white stunner is a 1956 Studebaker Golden Hawk designed by Raymond Lowey.

NINE

DOWN THE ROAD FOR KOTR



KOTR
SUMMERFIELD
SUITES
CAR SHOW
JUNE, 18TH
10:00 - NOON
FREE LUNCH
sign up
NOW



TBD 2026 5:00 pm

**Take Me Out
to the ol'
Ball Game**
Pat Thomas Stadium
Venetian Gardens
Leesburg
Dinner at Ski Beach



KOTR
DONUT RUN
MONDAY,
MAY 25TH
10:00 AM

