

Peach State CLC makes a grand appearance at the 2018 CLC Grand National meet in San Marcos, Texas!

Think of the last time you were in central Texas. Was it hotter than a jalapeno's armpit? Heck yeah, it was. *We were there and never stopped sweating!* **From June 5th through the 10th the Peach State was represented by 35 (!) members at the CLC Grand Nationals.** It was over 100 degrees a couple days, in the midst of a drought. I'd say it was positively heroic that Peach State showed up with the largest legation of ANY of the CLC regions... We are getting a reputation for our activity level, and especially for our attendance at Grand Nationals. Let's just say *we travel well!* Fully seventeen of us actually DROVE a car over 1,000 miles each way to attend. Fifteen of those folks were in vintage Cadillacs!

We continue to WIN in club competitions. Here is a list of the awards garnered by the PSCLC in 2018:

1. Don Ghareeb: Best of Show post-war, '58 Sixty Special.
2. Paul and Janice Phillips: Ansel Sackett Award and Brown Conservation Award, '41 Sixty Special.
3. Frank Butler, III, *The Self Starter* Author-of-the-Year Award.
4. Sandy Barth, PSCLC's web master, the 2018 CLC Webmaster Award.
5. Lee and Mary Jean Dunn, 3rd DeCou Distance Award and Hard Luck Award for "Coker Tire Travails."
6. Marty Comstock and Doug Kuter, 1st in Touring in '93 Allante.
7. Ron and Jill Pair, 1st in Modified with their '37 coupe.
8. Eddie and Suzanne Bibb, 2nd in Primary and a Preservation Award with their '76 Brougham.

San Marcos lies between Austin and San Antonio, in south central Texas. That's over one thousand miles from Atlanta – a two-day trip (or three days in my case). Hosted by Lance Hirsch and the Central Texas region of the CLC, a rather small group, the GN was a marvelous success. The meet attracted 290 members and 257 guests from 37 states and five or six countries, including Australia, Germany, Netherlands, Curacao, Switzerland. I heard there were either 143 or 98 cars on the field, most likely the difference between judged and displayed cars. Like most successful GNs, San Marcos offered an impressive array of attractive regional activities, beginning with the Hill Country Driving Tour on Tuesday, June 5th. This 132-mile drive through appealing river valleys and vistas west of San Marcos was satisfying: 46 old Cadillacs and newer daily drivers visited the LBJ Ranch, and spent some time in Luckenbach Texas. We did NOT see Willie or Waylon, but we DID catch a guitar and mandolin act by "the Boys..." Now, a week later, I still can't get that song out of my head!

Other exciting and well-attended events included:

- A visit to downtown San Antonio to walk through the Alamo, take a riverboat tour, walk the River Walk, and have a Mexican lunch at Casa Rio, the oldest restaurant on the San Antonio River.
- GN's Welcome Reception included a memorabilia auction and a pretty good buffet – with free drinks supplied by the Embassy Suites.
- A trip to Austin to see the campus of University of Texas (e.g., Darrell Royal stadium and the Texas Tower made infamous by sniper Charles Whitman), a visit to the State Capitol building, and the LBJ Library.
- A visit in San Marcos to Dick's Classic Car Garage, which was full of gorgeous Classics, Fifties and Sixties cruisers.
- A second driving tour to Fredericksburg and Gruene ("Green") for some good eats, good friends and Cadillac mileage. Back at the hotel there was a kick-ass country band led by Clint Black's brother. That party lasted into the night. Some folks posed with extra-large "beeves" (longhorn steer).
- A bus ride to the Commemorative Air Force (formerly the Confederate Air Force).

- The Awards Banquet, sponsored by Cadillac Motors, is something you do not want to miss.

Besides the eleven Peach Staters listed above as award winners, here are those who only received accolades – not hardware – for their trip:

1. Jack D’Laigle and daughter, ’95 Brougham.
2. Lewis Kelly and Alex McGilvray, ’68 CDV.
3. Jeff and Debi Butler, ’96 Brougham.
4. Vince and Karen Haaland, 2016 Cadillac CTS
5. Doug Bailey, ’66 Eldorado (display).
6. Stan and Debbie Tucker.
7. Jack McClow and Bob Norrid.
8. Martina and Frank Butler.
9. Jeff and Gina Barnes.
10. Vivian Connell.
11. Barbara and Logan Williams.
12. Buster Miller.
13. Dave Coakley.
14. Jay Friedman.

We also added a new member during the GN, Regina Hehir, who lives in Maryland and also belongs to the Potomac Region. She joined for three years!

On a personal note, the ’66 Eldorado and I had the good fortune to travel west in a small caravan with Lewis Kelly and his grandson, Alexander McGilvray, in Lewis’ 1968 Coupe DeVille. We met in Meridian MS. Soon we stopped at a Target store so Lewis could buy a fan that operated off his cigar lighter. His trouble? His windows were stuck CLOSED and the AC had stopped working! The fan gave me an hour to think about Lewis’ dilemma, so when we stopped next I put the master window switch back together under a shade tree. That worked long enough to get his windows down, but it fell apart again soon after. A second fix required a length of duct tape, which also worked for a short time. Now, this was okay, except for leaving the windows down overnight, but luckily I had brought the car cover. Problem solved until Lewis can find a new master switch. Buster thought he had found one at the swap meet, but it turned out not to fit... Here comes another order, USA Parts Supply!

Please see the separate piece written by Lee Dunn, sharing the tale of woe that earned him and Mary Jean the Hard Luck Award. It involved a FOURTH bad tire from Coker Tire, and the ordeal it required to finish their trip to San Marcos. Lee’s frustrating ordeal was read in its entirety by Gary Fisher from the podium at the banquet. Now that is a touring lesson we all need to hear!

On the way home we were joined by Lee and Mary Jean Dunn, who fell into pace with us in their ’76 Eldorado, Goldilocks. We made excellent time. We had a great three-hour ride with the tops down on Tuesday morning... people were waving at us, trucks were honking and flashing their lights. I played Pandora through my earbuds for about three hours, rocking along. And getting burned through the layers of SPF 50! Overall, my records indicate I drove 21 hours counting stops for gas fill-ups and meals. I spent \$443 on 93 octane E-10. We made 14 stops in both directions. The Jolly Green Giant ran flawlessly at 70-80 mph for hours on end in 90-100 degree heat, and never caused a bit of concern for its running temps (a new water pump and rebuilt radiator probably accounted for that). Here’s the best part: Overall the Giant made the trip garnering a record 16.6 miles per gallon of gas, and it used less than a quart of Valvoline VR-1! Amazing.

The 2019 CLC Grand National meet will be hosted from June 10-16, 2019 by the Indiana CLC region. The meet will be held in Louisville – small suburb across the Ohio River from Jeffersonville, Indiana. Now, this is the old Bailey homeland; Barb and I are already booked into the Louisville Crowne Plaza Hotel. I know that if we had 35 members and guests travel 1,000 miles to Texas, we are going to have FIFTY or more drive to Louisville. The drive is about 400 miles, which is between six and seven hours away. There are three routes to accommodate your preferences and starting points:

- The briefest is westerly: You can head up I-75 north to Chattanooga, then take I-24 through Nashville. I-65 northbound will allow you to stop in Bowling Green to see the Corvette Museum.
- The easterly route takes half an hour longer, but it runs up I-75 through Knoxville and the Daniel Boone Forest, to Lexington before swinging west on I-64 to Louisville.
- The central route is the most direct and shortest, taking Hwy 27 and 111 north out of Chattanooga through Cookeville. It meets up with I-65 north just north of Bowling Green. This is the route if you want to avoid half of the freeway action.

I am told that the 2019 Indiana/Louisville GN will provide a couple of driving tours. One will head across the river and down along the old roads that skirt the river, towards my dad's hometown of Rockport IN. I'll be on that one, and if I get my way, there will be Baileys lined up along the road waving at the Cadillac Caravan! The other tour I heard about will be stops along the Bourbon Trail a few miles southeast of Louisville. We did this tour in 2014, and it is an AWESOME experience.

So, it's too early to register for the Grand National meet itself, but you CAN book your rooms at the Cadillac Club's group rate. Several of us have already made our reservations. Here's information you can use to do the same:

Hotel Information

Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport
830 Phillips Lane
Louisville, KY 40209-1387
502-367-2251

Group Rate: \$129 + tax

Please [click here](#) or contact 1-888-233-9527 to make reservations, modifications or cancellations.

Note: The CLC is cracking down on members reserving extra rooms then canceling them at the last minute. This is resulting in many folks having to stay at the backup hotels when rooms are available in the main hotel. The way they're doing this is to prebill you a day's fee for any extra rooms in your name. Details are in the reservations website linked above.

We are already looking forward to a remarkable 2019 Grand National, so start making your plans to join us as soon as you can!

Doug Bailey