

# Lincoln and Continental Owners Club



## Fall 2015

### DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

#### **IN MEMORIUM**

Just before sending out this newsletter, we received sad news of the loss of one of our members, Gregg Engelhardt, of Saginaw, MI and Holiday, FL. Gregg, age 59, passed away on Sept. 2, while in Saginaw for the summer. Having owned numerous Lincolns through the years, Gregg was, perhaps, one of the most fiercely loyal Lincoln enthusiasts that I know. He was a virtual walking encyclopedia of Lincoln auto knowledge. When I last spoke to him, he was making plans to attend the Western National Meet of LCOC in San Diego next month. For those of us who knew him, he will be greatly missed. He is survived by one brother, Gary, and numerous extended family members. If you wish to honor his memory, please consider making a donation to the Lincoln Motor Car Foundation. Please send checks to our Florida Region treasurer, Jack Shea, who is also treasurer of the Foundation. Checks should be made to the Foundation with a notation in memory of Gregg. Jack's address is on page 5.

Dear Fellow Florida Region Members:

Our last meeting in March was very successful with over 20 members and guests attending our tour of National Parts Depot in Ocala, Florida. Afterward we met for lunch and enjoyed a day discussing our mutual interests in Lincoln automobiles. Thank you Jim Schmidt for making the tour possible and Terry Sparks for handling the arrangements.

We have two more events scheduled for the remainder of 2015, including a meeting at the Safety Harbor Spa and attendance at the All Brit car show in Safety Harbor, and our Annual Meeting with the election of officers and board members at the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg. Details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

Each of you should have received the recent Continental Comments which contained a ballot for an election of members to the National Board of Directors. I want to remind you to send your ballot in before the deadline of October 1.

As the Region Director, I also received a ballot for the election of trustees to the board of the Lincoln Motor Car Foundation which I recently mailed. If any of you are interested, the Motor Car Foundation will be holding their annual meeting on Wednesday October 7, 2015 at 6:00pm in Hershey, PA. If any of you are interested in attending, please contact me for additional details.

Some of you may have heard of the unfortunate experience of LCOC member Barry Wolk in Michigan. Barry and his wife were driving his recently restored 1942 Lincoln Zephyr on M-14 near Ann Arbor, Michigan when they were hit in the rear by a semi-truck which knocked them into the ditch and rolled them over. A recent installation of seat belts may have saved their lives. We wish Barry and his wife a speedy recovery. Unfortunately the car was a total loss.

Finally, during the week prior to the Martin Luther King holiday next January, the LCOC National Board will meet at the Holiday Inn in Tampa, Florida. More details to follow.

Until we meet again-

Glen Wirtanen,  
Florida Regional Director

#### **FLORIDA REGION EVENTS**

##### ***LUNCH and PRESENTATION***

Date: Saturday, October 24, 2015  
Place: Safety Harbor Resort and Spa  
Time: 11:30 am

SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

ANNUAL MEETING December 5 2015  
SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS



**Preserve a Lincoln, Preserve History**  
**By: Terry Sparks**

As I pursue my passion for the Lincoln automobile, I find it inevitable to get involved with automotive history. This history is not only about the auto itself or a particular brand but also about the impact of the automobile on our world. For example, development and evolution of our cities dramatically reflected the adoption of the auto as a part of the landscape. However, I find it easy to focus on the history of the Lincoln marque which is the very basis for our club.

One does not have to own a Lincoln to join the LCOC. You only need to admire the Lincoln marque to become a part of our group. However, most of us own at least one Lincoln, or more, which implies that at some time or another you will need to preserve and maintain your vehicle(s). In that very process, you are making a significant contribution to historic preservation. Each Lincoln we preserve and maintain directly reflects the period in which it was built. The technology and materials used for building the car show what was available at the time. Automotive design is an art form in itself, and I really enjoy studying the progression of Lincoln design from its early days in the 20's, the classics of the 30's, the flamboyance of the 50's, the elegance of the slab sides in the 60's, and on to the changes of the 70's and beyond, where safety and fuel efficiency became a necessary ingredient of both technology and design. If you happen to also collect sales material used for Lincoln through the years, you can readily see the changes in marketing the vehicle. Almost every aspect of our hobby and passion involves a historical side to the Lincoln story whether we stop to realize it or not.

As automotive history shows, a family name, often the name of the company founder, has been used to name many brands. Ford, Chrysler, Dodge, Mercedes Benz, Duesenburg, Packard, Rolls Royce are only a few examples. When Henry Leland set out to build a new automotive brand after World War I, he could have easily named the car after himself. Instead, he chose to name the brand in honor of an American President that historians and Americans alike generally consider to be one of America's best. That alone makes the Lincoln distinctive by paying homage to our history. From the beginning with Henry Leland, Lincoln came to represent excellence in American design and technology. Ford Motor Company has set out to rebuild the image of the Lincoln brand with the establishment of the new Lincoln Motor Company. Fortunately, the historical roots of Lincoln appear to be a key component of that process. Statements made by company executives in the automotive press show recognition of that great history.

Unlike several recent popular luxury brands which have only been around for a few decades, the Lincoln marque is rapidly approaching its centennial. As great luxury makes have come and gone, Lincoln moves forward with a proud legacy and history showing strength to adapt and survive in the marketplace as a significant luxury brand. Whether you own one Lincoln, many Lincolns, or none, you show a concern for the history of this great marque by just being a member of the LCOC.

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**OUR NEXT EVENT**

**Date: Saturday, October 24, 2015**  
**Place: Safety Harbor Resort and Spa in Safety Harbor, Florida**  
**Address: 105 N. Bayshore Drive, Safety Harbor, 34695**  
**Time: 11:30 am**

Come join us for lunch and a presentation by Herb Scheffer, founder of Lincoln Mercury Old Parts Store in Clearwater. Herb plans on sharing his passion for the '58 to '60 Lincoln, a favorite era of his. Herb has had a lot of experience restoring and maintaining this particular vintage of Lincoln.

After lunch, walk across the street to downtown Safety Harbor where the annual ALL BRITISH CAR SHOW will be in progress. Six blocks of downtown will be filled with amazing examples of British automotive achievements through the years. Jaguar, Bentley, Rolls Royce, MG, Austin-Healey, Triumph and others will be on display. You will be surprised to find so many British cars in one place!

Make a long weekend of your visit with a stay at the Resort or at one of the nearby hotels in Oldsmar, all within 4 miles of downtown Safety Harbor. Holiday Inn Express, Hampton Inn, Courtyard Marriott, Hilton Garden Inn, and Residence Inn are all located within sight of each other in Oldsmar.

Seating is limited, so please RSVP to Terry Sparks by email ([mtstampa@aol.com](mailto:mtstampa@aol.com)) or phone (813-810-8985) as soon as possible.

Parking: As long as you are joining us at the Resort for lunch / presentation, you may park in the Resort lot across the street. However, parking will be limited due to the All Brit Car Show which draws a big crowd. Otherwise, you will find parking scattered north and south of Main Street.

\* \* See page 5 for Florida Region Annual Meeting (12/05/2015) details

## FLORIDA REGION VISITS THE SCHMIDT / NPD COLLECTION IN OCALA

By: Terry Sparks

The previous article about Lincoln history and preservation leads directly to a recap of the tour that LCOC members made of the Schmidt Collection in Ocala, Florida on March 21, 2015. LCOC members Jim and Rick Schmidt (father and son) graciously shared their amazing private auto collection with our group of 22 members from around Florida. The Schmidt family began the collection a number of years ago and, today, there are about 200 cars and trucks, according to Jim. I will repeat that number for clarification: two hundred automobiles and trucks! To just say that the Schmidt family has amassed a large private collection would be most unfair since every car seems to be remarkable in one way or another. American autos account for most of the collection with several foreign auto makers represented here and there.



Jim has gone through the restoration process for some of the vehicles we saw, but he prefers to acquire excellent unrestored examples where possible. Furthermore, he likes to find vehicles with some particular historical significance. Many of the cars we saw were “milestone” cars for the automaker, meaning that the auto was a particular milestone number as it rolled off the assembly line. Other cars in the collection were either built specifically for prominent individuals or were owned by them, but more about that later on. A number of the vehicles are extremely low mileage cars, some to the point that they could be considered brand new even though they may be decades old.



The Schmidts have not limited the collection to a specific period or just a few makes. I am certain you will find a vehicle from every decade beginning with the early 1900's up through current models of the 2000's. Lincoln (of course!), Cadillac, Imperial, Chrysler, Ford, Chevy, Oldsmobile, and Buick are all represented along with many others. One section is devoted entirely to the muscle car, Mustang, with examples from the very beginning over 50 years ago to much more current models. Frequently I find myself wishing I still had a particular car that had been in the family years ago. Fortunately, the Schmidts have been able to do just that with at least a couple of family cars. There is a family Mustang and the last Lincoln Town Car driven by Jim's mom. The collection not only includes the vehicles themselves, but also other auto memorabilia. You will find a huge array of excellent die cast replicas in glass cases. There are numerous examples of marketing and advertising materials, framed and hung on the walls for display. There is so much to see and experience that one visit to the collection is simply not enough.

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While I enjoy all of the makes and models you will find here, I found myself naturally drawn to the Lincolns and Continentals, and the collection more than satisfies those of us who love this marque. Early Lincolns on display include a 1924 Model "L" Limousine by Brunn and a magnificent 1930 Model "L" Sports Phaeton in a gorgeous shade of green with black fenders and running boards. Moving along we encountered a 1940 Lincoln Zephyr Continental Coupe. This is a beautifully maintained and unrestored car with only 600 miles on the odometer! Several years ago, I bought a Franklin Mint replica of a 1956 Continental Mark II which had once been owned by William Clay Ford, Edsel's youngest son and owner of the Detroit Lions. This car reflects the Lions' team color and theme. I never dreamed I would ever see the original car, but here it is in the Schmidt collection along with two other 1956 Mark II's that were custom built for Ford family members. One of them, painted in a special light green metallic, was built for Benson Ford who was head of the Lincoln-Mercury Division. The other Mark II was built for Mrs. Henry Ford II. This Mark II is black with a unique black canvas roof and custom interior trim. Furthermore, this beautiful Mark II became the featured auto for the 2013 Pebble Beach Concours official poster. As Jim will tell you, the car required major restoration work since it was found in a terrible state of deterioration. I feel certain that a book could be put together just to describe all of the Lincolns and Continentals you will find here. There is another section devoted to the Mark III, Mark IV, and Mark V of the late 60's and 70's. Many are low mileage special edition Marks. I have included several pictures in this newsletter to give a glimpse of what we saw on our visit.



Jim Schmidt founded National Parts Depot, a classic auto parts business, in the mid 70's. A quick look at their history on the NPD website indicates that the company has become one of the largest of its kind in the industry. NPD has headquarters in Ocala, Florida and four strategically placed warehouses around the country. With a successful business and a fabulous auto collection, Jim and Rick could be arrogant if they wanted to be. Quite the opposite, both father and son are gracious and warm. I first met them at the LCOC Eastern National Meet in 2010 held in Ocala. I had no idea of the extent of their operation and collection at first. They graciously shared their collection with LCOC members at this meet. When we made a return visit this year, both Jim and Rick were great to work with in making arrangements. Jim took from his personal time on a Saturday morning to conduct the tour of the entire collection at the NPD site in Ocala. I am thankful that there are people like them who have the means and the passion to put together and maintain such a significant collection. Their contribution to historic preservation is invaluable. Many thanks go to Jim and Rick from LCOC members who attended that day.

# FLORIDA REGION ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Saturday, December 5, 2015  
Place: St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts  
Address: 255 Beach Dr NE, St. Pete, 33701  
Time: 10:30 AM

This year's annual meeting will take place at the Museum of Fine Arts located along the beautiful St. Petersburg waterfront. We will begin at 10:30 AM for a guided tour of this exceptional museum (entry fee of \$10 per person) followed by our annual meeting. We will conclude with lunch at the MFACafe in the Museum, serving a seasonal menu offering soup, salads, and sandwiches. If you haven't been to St. Petersburg in a long time, you will find a thriving downtown with arts, entertainment, and shopping options in the area surrounding the Museum.

Parking: Free parking in the Museum parking lot will be available to the first five LCOC members DRIVING A LINCOLN! You must identify yourself as a member of LCOC for parking. First come in a Lincoln, first to get the spots! Otherwise, you may find a spot in a parking garage located two blocks away with an entry on 2nd Street N. (just south of 2nd Ave. N) or in one of the downtown parking lots in the vicinity.

Please RSVP by October 15th to Terry Sparks (mtstampa@aol.com or 813-810-8985) to give us an idea of how many will be attending!

We look forward to your presence and urge you to participate in the Florida Region of Lincoln and Continental Owners Club!

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## ITEMS FOR SALE!

If you have a Lincoln or Lincoln related items for sale, please let us know and we can include it in our next newsletter. At this point, there is no charge for listing Lincoln items.

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## Florida Region LCOC Board Officers:

**Director** - Glen Wirtanen  
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**Treasurer** - Jack Shea  
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**Editor's Request:** For a successful newsletter, we need your input. Please send your ideas and comments to either Glen or Terry (contact info under Board Member list). Perhaps you may want to write an article about your own Lincoln(s) or some Lincoln related topic. We want to hear from you!