

The *Continental* **Star**
Spring - Summer 2020

Unprecedented Times - COVID-19



The Year of the "Lock Down"



**Published by the Philadelphia Region Lincoln and
Continental Owners Club**



The Continental Star

*Published by the Philadelphia Region of the
Lincoln & Continental Owners Club
Spring - Summer 2020*

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Director's Message

Dear Fellow Lincoln Members:

Hello from home Lincoln lovers!

I hope you and yours are doing well and you are being safe! Although we are still locked down and some of you are in quarantine, the board of managers is working hard on the 2021 Eastern National Meet next June, and also this year's event at Peddlers Village.

At this point, most car shows are canceled for the next month or two. If you know of any local car shows still occurring, and you are attending the show, please wear a mask, observe social distancing recommendations and give us a report on the event.

The New Hope car show is still on, it maybe not be a traditional show as in the past, but still a show for us to participate and enjoy. From what we know as of now, it will be a one-day show on Saturday August 8, 2020 with a rain date on August 9th. It will be an event that takes into consideration the safety of the car owners and the attendants. Stay tuned for more information.

It certainly has been a very stressful and trying time for us all, especially for me being in the supermarket business as we are trying to take care of our customers and also being safe. We will get through this, please stay healthy, and wash your hands often!

Continentially yours,
Carl Villone
Philadelphia Region Director

Front cover: Picture – Ford Motor Company brochure. Note – the picture of James “Rusty” Rentsch’s 1956 Lincoln Premier – July 4th 2019 - Leesburg, VA on the Fall 2019 – Winter 2020 cover courtesy of James Torrenzano



Philadelphia Region LCOC Club News

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

"The Invisible Enemy," "A National Emergency," whatever you want to call it, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the world. Entire economies have been shattered due to wholesale business closures ordered by governments in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. Personal lives have been upended as loved ones have succumbed to the virus and family and friends have been prohibited from providing a loving, respectful farewell. There have been cancelations of weddings, graduations, sporting events and yes, car shows. We are living in and dealing with a world-wide health disaster. And all of this arose at the beginning of 2020 – the year of the "Lock Down." In this issue we will focus on what we can do during these stressful times. We will get through this and eventually put the year 2020 in the rearview mirror. **Larry Highbloom.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Director Carl Villone won the prestigious national AACA 2019 Lincoln-Continental-Mercury award for his 1978 Lincoln Continental Mark V Diamond Jubilee Edition – Congratulations Carl! See also "Member News"
- The Continental Star was recognized by the LCOC with a 2019 Regional Newsletter Award at the annual LCOC board meeting held in January. Thank you! – *Ed.*
- Due to the uncertainty surrounding planned events we will be using our email blast capability to update members regarding event changes.



POLICY ON EDITING ARTICLES FOR THE CONTINENTAL STAR

The submission of articles and Letters to the Editor is encouraged; however, it is the policy of the Philadelphia Region Lincoln and Continental Owners Club that materials submitted to be part of any publication sponsored by this club will be rejected if, in the Opinion of the Editor or other persons designated by the Board of Directors/Managers, such submissions contain statements that are inflammatory, contain personal opinions that could promote dissension among members, are disparaging to a member or member's car, and/or contain derogatory or uncomplimentary comparisons of one or more types of Lincolns. Submissions to The Continental Star are subject to unrestricted review and editing. Longer articles may be returned for revisions and all submissions will be edited for grammar, accuracy, clarity and length. The information and opinions expressed in The Continental Star by members and others are not necessarily those of The Philadelphia Region Lincoln and Continental Owners Club, its officers, directors and staff.

Sunshine

Please join us in wishing Lee Caleen a continued and speedy recovery. He suffered a medical issue a few months ago but he is on the mend and his health is improving. Keep the wheels turning Lee!

Welcome – New Philadelphia Region LCOC Members

Here is a list of fellow Lincoln Lovers who have joined our Philadelphia Region since the last issue of the Star.

| <u>Member Name</u> | <u>Hometown</u> | <u>Vehicle</u> | <u>Also A Member Of</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Emil Meyer | East Fallowfield, PA | 1969 Continental Mark III | |

Member News

This section of the Star focuses on newsworthy events involving our members. Didn't know we had celebrities in the club? Now you do.

- ❖ Carl and Josephine Villone received the prestigious AACA 2019 Lincoln-Continental-Mercury award for their 1978 Lincoln Continental Mark V Diamond Jubilee Edition. As you may know, the AACA holds nine national meets each year all over the country. After point judging is completed, a national Awards committee identifies the best of the best of all cars on the show field. A short list is compiled from every show, and from that list the national awards nominees are picked. Every year in December the awards committee gets together and picks a winner for each of the 104 national awards including judging, dedication to the AACA and newsletters awards. To be nominated is an honor in itself. The award is a marble based, beveled glass statue engraved with the AACA logo and the recipient's name. A special badge is typically mounted on the front grill of the car to identify the car as a national award winner. A picture of the presentation of the award to Carl and Josie as well as a picture of his Mark V are on the next page.

Editor's Note – if you have a newsworthy item regarding a member of the Philadelphia Region of the LCOC please forward it to your faithful editor. Thank you.





2020 Events

The 2020 event update presented here is based upon the most up-to-date information available at the **time of publication** of the Star. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, events are being canceled, rescheduled and sometimes canceled again. We understand this does not permit advance planning with any degree of confidence for 2020 events. But we are certain our members are sophisticated enough to understand this uncertainty is a sign of the times and not reflective of lack of planning on the part of event sponsors. As mentioned in the Announcements section of this issue, the Region will provide email updates to scheduled events as changes warrant as we move forward through the balance of 2020.



Canceled Events

The following scheduled events have been canceled –

- ✓ **Lincoln Homecoming** – Originally scheduled for August 6th through August 9th of this year, the Lincoln Centennial Homecoming has been officially canceled due to concerns arising from the COVID-19 virus. Originally planned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Lincoln Motor Company, this event was anticipated to be heavily attended and registrations were exceeding expectations before the virus hit. According to the Lincoln Motor Car Heritage Museum website, the 2021 Homecoming will focus on the Continental Mark II and the 2022 Homecoming will celebrate the centennial of Lincoln as well as the acquisition of the Lincoln Motor Company by Ford Motor Company in February, 1922.
- ✓ **2020 National Meet of the LCOC** – You've read that correctly. The Lincoln & Continental Owners Club has canceled the 2020 National Meet due to concerns arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Scheduled Events

The following events are **still scheduled** to be held, but are subject to change due to the uncertainty of holding group events during the COVID-19 pandemic –

- **Mecum Harrisburg Auto Auction** – According to the Mecum Auction website, Dana Mecum and family are still planning on holding their Mecum auction at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg from July 29th through August 1st. As you will learn later in this edition of the Star, the national LCOC has worked out an arrangement with Mecum Auctions to provide benefits to LCOC members and Lincoln will have a presence at the various Mecum auctions around the US. Get your checkbook ready! And we will need volunteers to man a booth at the auction! More details to follow...
- **Carlisle Ford Nationals** – This is the largest all Ford show in the world featuring Ford, Lincoln, Mercury and Euro Fords. It has been rescheduled to July 31st to August 2nd. Please join the members of the Continental Cruisers who regularly attend the Carlisle Ford Nationals.
- **2020 New Hope Auto Show** – The 2020 New Hope Auto Show is still on. As of now. The show is scheduled for August 8th, with a rain date of August 9th. The show will be a one day show, down from a two day show last year. The website of the auto show includes the following which reads – *“Because of the current health crisis, it’s apparent that we can’t maintain proper social distancing at our usual Auto Show event. So this year we are planning something a little different. Watch this page over the next few weeks for an announcement of our new temporary format. Until then, please stay safe and stay healthy.”*
- **2020 Peddler’s Village Auto Show** – typically held by the Region in October, the Peddler’s Village Auto Show is always a fun time. The show is “still on” but as you can expect, it is subject to change. Our scheduled show date is October 18th, with a rain date of October 25th. We will update you any material changes which may arise.
- **2020 AACA Hershey Eastern Fall National Meet** – This widely attended and famous meet is tentatively scheduled for October 6th through October 10th of this year. For more information click this link to the show website - <http://hershey.aaca.com/eastern-division-fall-meet/event-schedule/>

2021 LCOC Eastern National Meet to be hosted by the Philadelphia Region

The 2021 Eastern National Meet will be hosted by our club and is scheduled for June 9th through June 13th in 2021. The meet will be held at the Classic Auto Mall in Morgantown, PA. Our club recently provided a deposit to hold rooms in the hotel attached to the Auto Mall. Show and member cars will be parked **indoors** in the huge auto mall permitting a “rain or shine” event!!

We need volunteers!!! We will need onsite volunteers to help with logistics and support of our national club brethren. We have some time but if interested, please let Carl or Tony know of your availability.

We will provide updates as more information becomes available. This is a great opportunity to showcase our region, our members and their cars. And since the LCOC canceled the National Meet for 2020 this will be the **first** national meet to occur since 2019. We’ll be in the spotlight for sure as there will hopefully be a pent up demand from fellow Lincoln lovers to get back into the LCOC national meet mode!



Mecum Benefits for LCOC Membership

The LCOC announced it has struck a deal with Mecum Auctions to provide the following benefits to LCOC members –

- ✓ Complimentary (free!) bidder registrations
- ✓ Online registration means you pre-register and avoid the lines at the auction
- ✓ Guest access to auctions

Lincolns will also be featured in the entrance to the Mecum Harrisburg auction and there will be booths manned by members of the Philadelphia Region. It's a great opportunity to sign new members to the LCOC and our regional club. **We need volunteers** to attend the show and man the booth! Contact Carl or Tony if interested.

Philadelphia Region Club Website

We're making progress than to Jim Cappello's hard work! Click this link to see our progress - <http://www.lcoc-philadelphia.org>. Eventually the website will have an event calendar, links to vendors, links to the national LCOC and more. The primary "landing page" is shown at right.

Surviving the Lockdown of 2020

By Larry Highbloom

Boy, who'd have thunk it, right? If someone told you the time would come when an entire country, heck, basically the whole world, was told to "stay home, don't go to work, don't leave your house," for two or more months... would you have believed it? No way. And yet, here we are. The word which comes to mind is "unprecedented." I can think of some other words but they're probably not fit for print.

We've all been locked down since about mid-March in a concerted effort to slow the spread of the Corona virus. We've gotten used to wearing surgical masks, latex gloves and other items of "PPE," also known as Personal Protective Equipment. We've learned new words such as "quarantine," "social distancing," "community spread," "herd immunity," "morbidity," "mortality rates," and "flattening the curve."

Unless you worked for a business deemed "essential," you were also faced with learning to work remotely from home. People began participating in video conferencing as well as learning how to scan and email documents. The "remote office" in your house the tech geniuses always talked about actually had arrived. Necessity is the mother of invention so we all learned how to adapt to working from home instead of an office.



As I write this we are beginning to see signs of states “opening up” and getting back to business and also letting folks leave their homes. This is a good thing. As much as I love my house (and my wife), I fear I have also contracted “cabin fever.” I feel the need to get out and about and enjoy the sunshine or even an early evening drive with the top down now that it’s warm out. I think cabin fever is curable.

I am thankful I have a garage attached to my house which houses my small collection of cars. There was many a time during the last few months where I made an excuse to go into the garage for “something” and ended up puttering around in there for a while. You know, come to think about it, not once did my lovely wife complain to me about spending too much time with the cars in the garage. I think she enjoyed my absence as much as I enjoyed being absent!

This is my little man cave – we just about fit two 9,500 lb. lifts (hey I’m parking a Lincoln up there – I need the heft!), a workbench, cabinetry and a bathroom in there. That’s my 1966 Corvette and 1966 Mustang on the left and my 1962 Continental convertible top right.



So it got me thinking – I wonder what my fellow Lincoln lovers were doing when they needed a break? Do you have a refuge where you go to find your “happy place?” I asked around and received some photos from members of their garages and hobby areas where they’ve found solace and quiet enjoyment during these stressful times.



The *Continental* Star

Carl Villone is not only the Director of the Philadelphia Region of the LCOC, he is also head engineer of the "C&J" Railroad [Carl and Josephine]. On the left is Carl with his grandson Cameron. Carl has 10 trains running simultaneously in his basement setup. On the right is a shot of the



entire layout. Pretty cool!

Other members shared photos of their garages with their cars, road art, and the occasional bar setup. On the right you can see Ron Ross parks his 1984 Continental amongst his various trophies and memorabilia. Ron also has a 1957 Mark II and 1977 Versailles. Hey Ron – what's the model car there on the bottom shelf? Maybe a Mark II?



Ivan "Vice" Read, founder of the Continental Cruisers, fights the COVID-19 pandemic with his 1988 Town Car and 1970 Mark III shown to the left. Check out those license plates. I bet Vice raised a few eyebrows at the MD DMV when he applied for those tags!



The Continental Star

Tony Russo is a big collector of road art, great cars and other automotive memorabilia. From time to time Tony has graciously hosted the Philadelphia Region manager's meetings in his garage. Tony's bar is always welcomed by the managers, especially when Jim Cappello gives his treasurer's report. A good time for a whiskey if you ask me. Here are some shots of Tony's man-cave. Check out the Back page for another shot of Tony's garage.



Joe Serletti provided us with a picture of his garage and his collection of cars. Joe lives close to me down here in Wynnewood, PA the first town on the "Main Line." I met Joe some years ago. How we

met is a story in and of itself. I was on my way home on a Sunday evening returning from New York City after a weekend there in the summer and was almost at the end of a typical two hour drive. As I come up this road I take to avoid traffic, I'm in the woods surrounded by beautiful houses and I happen to glance to my left and I see a platinum 1962 Lincoln Continental with the top down parked in someone's driveway. An exact double of my 1962 Lincoln. Without thinking twice I whip into this driveway and pull right up to the Lincoln. My wife says "what the heck are you doing we're almost home!" I walked right up the front steps and knocked on the door and out comes Joe. He's looking at me and was probably wondering who the heck this guy is. I learn from Joe he had driven the car down from Rochester NY that

day, top down! That's how I'd have done it. Joe joined our club after that. Hope to see you at a show, Joe!

It was nice to see member pictures of their man-caves and happy places. We have a great hobby in that we're typically close to home when we putter with our cars. Our garages and cars also provide a great escape from the daily stress, especially when we've been confined to our homes. We only



need to remember to make sure we don't track oil into the house after spending a day in the garage. Oh boy you'll never hear the end of that one if you forget, trust me. Thanks go out to the members who provided pictures of their garages and hobbies.

“At the Auction”

Recent sales of Lincolns at auction.

| Vehicle | Auction | City | Date | Sale Price* | Comments |
|--|-----------------|------------|--|-------------|--|
| 1965 Lincoln Continental Convertible | Barrett-Jackson | Scottsdale | Jan 11 th to 19 th 2020 | \$330,000 | NOT A MISPRINT!!! Yes this car sold for <u>\$300,000</u> plus 10% buyer commission. Reputed nut-and-bolt restoration by Rich Liana. Black on black. |
| 1966 Lincoln Continental Convertible | Barrett-Jackson | Scottsdale | Jan 11 th to 19 th 2020 | \$121,000 | Owned by Charlie Puth – singer, songwriter and producer. 75,000 miles Black on red. |
| 1955 Lincoln Capri Convertible | Barrett-Jackson | Scottsdale | Jan 11 th to 19 th 2020 | \$35,200 | Custom coral color, power seats and windows. |
| 1938 Lincoln Zephyr V12 Coupe Street Rod | Barrett-Jackson | Scottsdale | Jan 11 th to 19 th 2020 | \$440,000 | NOT A MISPRINT!!! A “Restomod” of the highest caliber. Voted “Most Beautiful Street Rod” by the “Goodguys.” Features custom built V12 engine and upgraded everything. Tan and Copper exterior colors. |
| 1969 Lincoln Continental Mark III | Mecum | Kissimmee | Jan 2 nd to the 12 th 2020 | \$24,200 | Burgundy, 18,000 original miles, AC converted to R134, Tilt, auto dimmer, cruise, Cartier clock, power locks, power trunk, dual power seats with recliner |
| 1956 Continental Mark II | Mecum | Kissimmee | Jan 2 nd to the 12 th 2020 | \$44,000 | Factory two-tone dark green/medium green. AC, 30,715 miles |
| 1930 Lincoln Model L 7-Passenger Touring | Mecum | Kissimmee | Jan 2 nd to the 12 th 2020 | \$49,500 | CCCA Full Classic. Dark green, green exterior, tan top. 385 CI V8. Dual side mounts with mirrors, folding divider windows, cowl lamps, rear mounted luggage trunk, leather upholstery, painted wire wheels, whitewall tires, Greyhound mascot. |

**Sale price includes buyer commission.*



Philadelphia Region Lincoln and Continental Owners Club Membership Application and Data Sheet

Date: _____
Name: _____ Spouse: _____
Street: _____
City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____
Email: _____

Car(s) Owned:

Year: _____ Make & Model: _____

Year: _____ Make & Model: _____

Year: _____ Make & Model: _____

If you have more vehicles please list them on a separate page

I am a member of the National LCOC: _____ (Signature)

Lincoln & Continental Owners Club Member Number: _____

You must be a member of the National Lincoln & Continental Owners Club in order to join the Philadelphia Region. If you are not a member, please log on to www.lcoc.org and follow the membership application instructions. Please return this application form with a check made payable to the Philadelphia Region LCOC and mail both to the Membership Chairman:

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You can order the Custom Designed Lincoln Fender Cover shown in the Classified Section of this newsletter for only \$19.95 UPS shipping included when paying your dues. Your membership includes a subscription to the Continental Star and you will also receive announcements of shows, tours and other club events.

Annual Dues Amount: \$20.00 \$20.00

Fender Cover Amount: \$19.95 _____

Total Enclosed: _____



The Back Page...



Another picture of Tony Russo's great "garage mahal" for your viewing pleasure.

