

The Lincoln Log



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From the Director By Joe Columbe

Included in this Lincoln Log is the 2024 Hoosier Region Calendar of Events for all 12 months. We will start out the year with the Region's favorite place for lunch, Bynum's Steakhouse, on Jan. 6, 2024. Be there at noon for an afternoon of food and fun. See the calendar on the facing page for a complete list of all the events planned for next year. While the schedule of events is "full," please bring your own ideas of events, and they will gladly be substituted for what is on the calendar.

At our first meeting and lunch, come prepared to have an enjoyable afternoon. Please plan to pitch in for the betterment of our Hoosier Region.

Eleanor and I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a happy, healthy and enjoyable New Year!

Joe S. & Eleanor Columbe

Joe S. Columbe is an LCOC member from Milroy, Indiana.

About the Covers Joe & Eleanor Columbe's 1969 Lincoln Continental Sedan at 33 Brick Street in French Lick. A low-mileage 1979 Lincoln Continental Mark V Bill Blass Edition from Craig Witsoe's collection. *Photos by Jeff Shively.*

Ford Fest @ Bill Collins Ford Lincoln Louisville, Kentucky October 14, 2023 By Joe Columbe

Mike Smith, a member of the Southern Ohio Region and Hoosier Region, hosted these two LCOC regions for the second time at the Ford Fest Car Show. Over 200 cars and 400 people were in attendance. Last year, there were just two Lincolns at the show. This year, five Lincolns attended. With that level of growth, maybe we'll have 12 Lincolns at Ford Fest 2024. Remember, this is primarily a Mustang show, but all makes are encouraged to attend. Last year, just one Lincoln won an award. This year, two Lincolns won awards. With all the vehicles to look over, the day flew by.

The registration fee of \$20.00 per car goes to local charities. During the awards ceremony, all attendees are treated to a full buffet dinner, which was included with the registration. This was a great day with fellow Lincoln aficionados.

Joe S. Columbe is an LCOC member from Milroy, Indiana.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Lincolns and their owners were a rare sight, but the gang's all here. **Send in the Marines** in the Columbe Continental. **Mike Smith** flashes his winning smile and his award. **It came from the '50s!** This sporty Capri represented the Road Race era. *Photos courtesy of the author.*



2024 Calendar of Events
Hoosier Region, Lincoln & Continental Owners Club
(Please note: The dates and events are subject to change if issues arise.)

January event

After the Holidays Lunch on Saturday, **January 6, at 12:00 noon.**

Meet for lunch at **Bynum's Steakhouse** (3850 South Meridian Street, Indianapolis) for fun, fellowship and Lincoln talk. We will order off the menu and have separate checks. This year we will bring back our exchange of gifts. Bring a gift (\$20 limit) to exchange or "take."

February event

Celebrate President Lincoln's Birthday on **Saturday, February 24, at 12:00 noon.**

Meet for lunch at **Portillo's Restaurant** (10444 East U.S. Highway 36, Avon) for fellowship and Lincoln talk. We all will order and pay at the counter.

March event

Luck of the Irish on Saturday, on **March 16, at 12 noon.**

Meet for lunch at **O'Reilly's Restaurant** (1552 Main Street, Suite A, Speedway). Additional Information to follow.

April event

Everyone likes Italian on Saturday, **April 13, at 12:00 noon.**

Meet for lunch at **Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant** (6045 East 86th Street, Indianapolis). Additional Information to follow.

May event

Celebrate food on Saturday, **May 4, at 12:00 noon.**

Meet at **Kountry Kitchen Soul Food Place** (1831 North College Avenue). Additional Information to follow.

June event

13th Annual Multi Car Club Picnic on Saturday, **June 15, at 12:00 noon.**

Meet at **Lime Rock Farm**, 6722 West, 900 South, Milroy Indiana, for this annual tradition. Additional Information to follow.

July event

Date and event to be decided. How about planning an overnight with a fun drive, a few sites to visit, and some great restaurants to enjoy?

August event

Coming home to Kalamazoo from **Thursday, August 8, to Sunday, August 11.**

2024 Lincoln Homecoming at the Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners, Michigan.

September event

History lesson on Saturday, **September 14, at 11:00 a.m.**

Meet at the **Ernie Pyle World War II Museum** (120 Briarwood Avenue). After our tour, we will travel 25 miles north for a late lunch or early dinner at the Beef House, 16501 IN 63, Covington.

October event

Date and event to be decided. Should we plan another overnight? Maybe a few members can get together and plan a grand weekend?

November event

Annual HR LCOC Membership Meeting on Saturday, **November 2, at 11:00 a.m.**

Meet for lunch at the **MCL Cafeteria** in the Castleton Square area (5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis). Additional Information to follow, along with 2025 elections and membership dues.

December event

Christmas Holiday Party on Saturday, **December 14, at 11:00 a.m.**

Christmas party to be hosted by Eleanor & Joe S. Columbe at **Lime Rock Farm**, 6722 West, 900 South, Milroy.

Remember, all members are welcome and encouraged to step up and plan an event in place of one or more of these outings. Other car clubs are welcome to join us and we might also join with them.



*On the Banks of the Ohio
Touring Southern Indiana with the LCOC, CLC, and CCCA
By Jeff Shively*

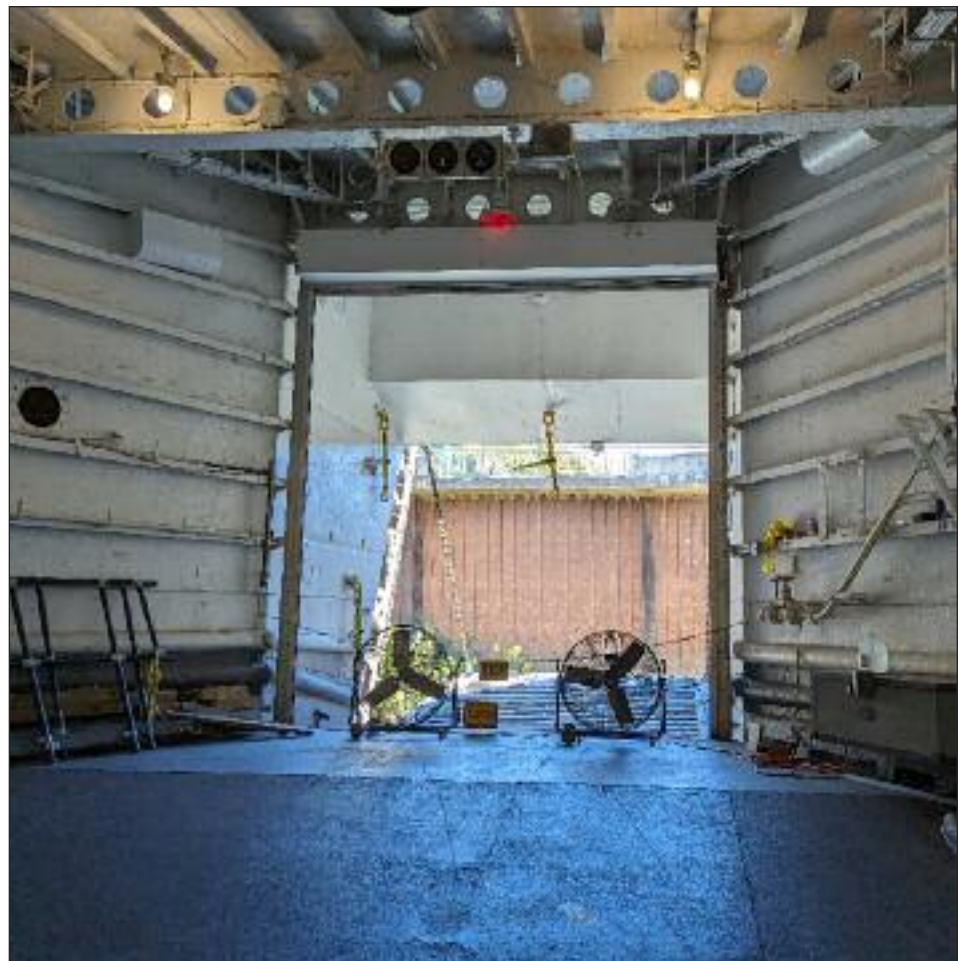
On Friday, Oct. 20, 2023, about two dozen members of the Hoosier Region LCOC, Indiana Region CLC, and Indiana Region CCCA met in Evansville, Indiana, for a weekend of fun and old car fellowship. As it was raining in Hamilton County that morning, I left my 1963 Lincoln Continental in the garage in favor of my daily driver, a 2014 Cadillac. This proved to be a mistake, as the weather cleared south of Indianapolis, and the entire weekend was beautiful, particularly for mid-October. On the way down Interstate 69, I passed CCCA member Darrell Staggs and his wife in their 1934 Packard, which cruised remarkably well for a 90-year-old car.

Meeting up in Evansville at Bar Louie, it was clear that the CCCA was ruling the day. There were two 1937 Packard Twelves, one owned by Larry & Carol Pumphrey and the other by Dr. John & Elaine Klein. Mark Olson trailered his very original 1924 Stutz down to Evansville, but he, his wife, and two teenage daughters rode around in the open touring car the entire weekend. Joe & Eleanor Columbe had the only Lincoln in the group, a 1969 Continental Sedan. Besides my XTS, there were two other Cadillacs, the Carney family's 1976 Sedan de Ville, and Bill & Beth Reedy's 2006 DTS.





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Longer than a football field, this deck had room for 20 Sherman tanks to ride from the United States to occupied Europe. **These massive doors** allowed LST-325 to unload its cargo of tanks onto the beachhead. **Larry & Carol Pumphrey's** 1937 Packard Twelve at Friday's lunch stop, Bar Louis in Evansville. **The Evansville Museum** is home to many scientific, historical, and artistic wonders, *Photos by Jeff Shively.*

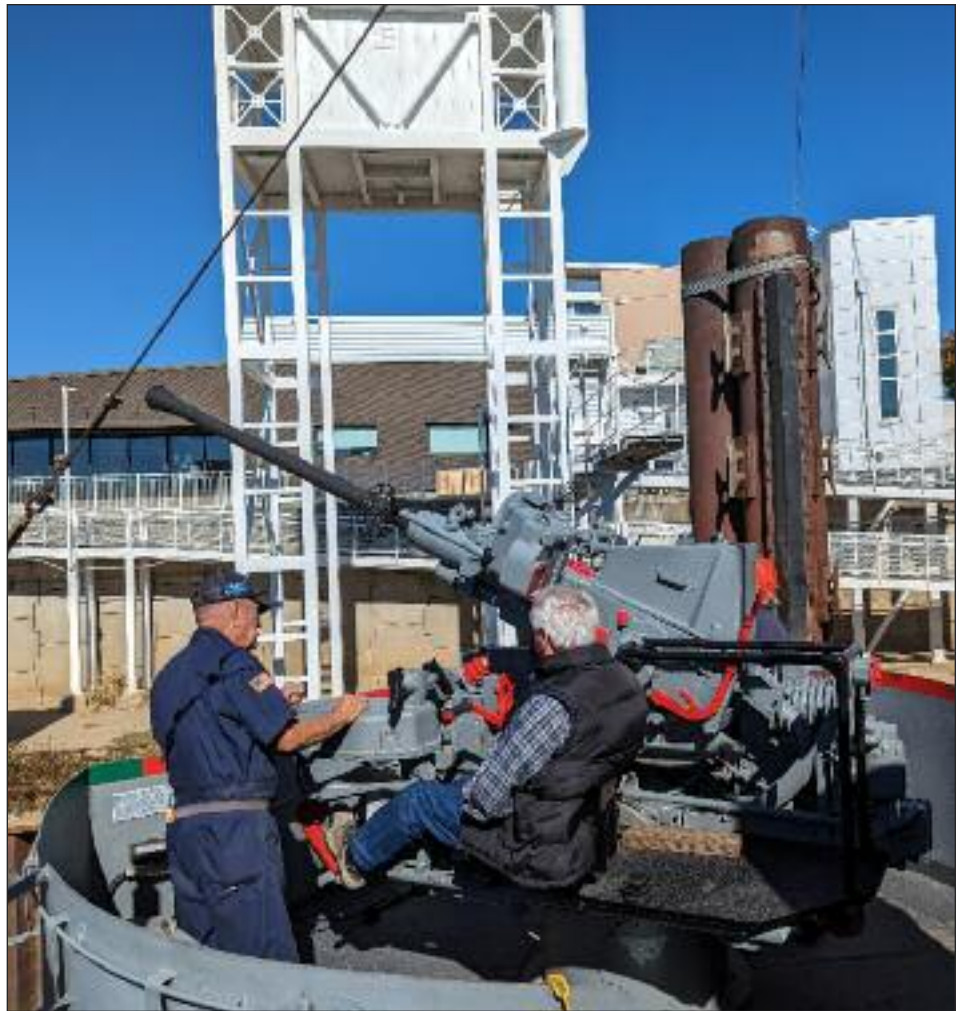


Livin' on the Riverside

After lunch, the group headed to see LST-325. Located on the banks of the Ohio River, this is the only seaworthy LST, or Landing Ship Tank, in the world. Evansville built 168 examples of this vessel during World War II, more than 15% of the total production of this type. A very enthusiastic docent showed the group around the ship, which made 43 roundtrips across the English Channel to Normandy between June 1944 and April 1945, delivering up to 20 M-4 Sherman tanks, their crews, and support vehicles at a time. One of the highlights of the tour was watching two of our friends try to operate the anti-aircraft turret.

Once we disembarked the LST, we headed down the riverfront to the Evansville Museum. There were many exciting exhibits that told the history of Evansville from its very early days, to the prosperous times during World War II, right up to the modern day. A very nice art gallery featured works by well-known Hoosier and world-renowned painters. There were a few train cars under cover outside the main building that showed what it was like to travel when rail transport was at its height nearly a century ago.

For the evening, we walked from the hotel down to a local Italian restaurant, Angelo's. The food was excellent, but so was the company. We had the entire room to ourselves, which made it all the more special.



ABOVE Drawing a bead on a Luftwaffe bomber with ill intents for LST-325 is CCA member Ed Dalton. **BELOW** Visitors to the Evansville Museum toured these train cars to glimpse a world of travel that is long gone. *Photos by Jeff Shively.*





THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE A 19th century bandstand, like the ones found in small towns across America a century ago. One of the dozens of majestic homes along the riverfront in Evansville. A 1934 Packard Eight owned by Darrell Staggs. *Photos by Jeff Shively.*



Low-mileage Lincolns and Rib Gumbo

The plan had been to see the Reitz House, but an error on their part didn't allow for sufficient docents at the time requested. As a result, we started the day with lunch at Bru-Burger. This was no ordinary chain burger joint. It was housed in the 1941-vintage Greyhound Bus terminal in downtown Evansville. Basking in the Art Deco goodness of this building was worth the price of admission.

From there, we went to the private collections of Craig Witsoe and Lynn Richardson, located in adjacent buildings on the same property. Lynn's collection included a few cars but so much memorabilia. There were signs of all kinds covering the walls. I was delighted to see examples of Double Cola and Ski porcelain signs among the thousands of other artifacts. Craig collects Lincolns and Cadillacs; the lower the mileage, the better.

He had a pair of 1978 Lincoln Continental Mark V Diamond Jubilees. His Continental Mark II was an impressive low-mileage specimen. Of course, he had modern rarities, such as one of the 80 Coach Door Continentals Lincoln built to commemorate the 80th anniversary of E.T. Bob Gregorie's masterpiece. Craig's 1941 Lincoln Continental Coupe had a particularly tragic story. The previous owner, Jim Edison, spent years restoring it. In September 2012, he prepared to show it at the CCCA Grand Classic in Greensburg, Indiana. As he was pulling onto the show field at Hilltop Orchard, he suffered a massive heart attack and died in the car. Sad, yes, but he died doing what he loved.

The final stop for Saturday afternoon was at the Evansville Wartime Museum, located by the Evansville Regional Airport. by the Evansville Airport. There were many exhibits dedicated to the industries in this mid-sized city that contributed to the final victory over the Axis in 1945. As it was a repair depot for the M-4 Sherman tank, the museum maintains a running example. Volunteers gave rides to those lucky enough to reserve months in advance that afternoon.



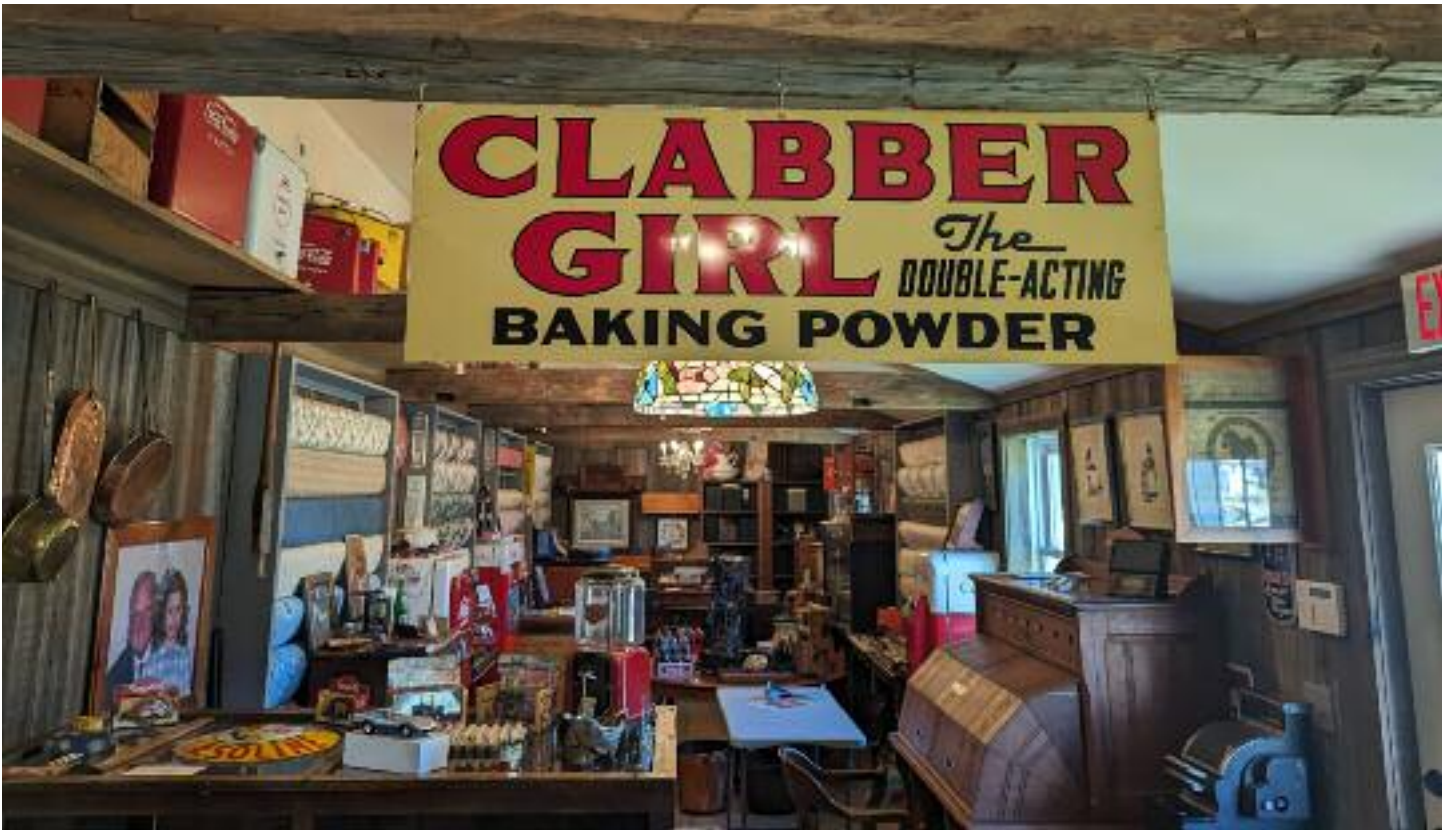


CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Hoosier Spirit II is a Republic P-47 Thunderbolt owned by the Evansville Wartime Museum. This museum also operates an M-4 Sherman tank. This 1941 Lincoln Continental Coupe is one the few restored cars in Craig Witsoe’s collection. No assemblage of luxury cars is complete without a Continental Mark II. *Photos by Jeff Shively*



The crown jewel of the collection is an air-worthy Republic P-47 Thunderbolt. This fighter could dish out devastation against ground and aerial targets, take tremendous punishment, and return its pilot safely home. After Farmingdale, New York, this was Republic’s biggest plant, growing out of nothing in 1941 to cranking out thousands of the venerable single-seaters, known affectionately as “the Jug” because it resembled a milk jug.

Supper on Saturday evening was unusual. We dined at the Nisbet Inn, a rustic place 10 miles from anywhere. Opened as a tavern in 1912, it was a place where travelers could stop for a meal, a cold beer, and even a room for the evening. Dinner was excellent, the most unusual item being rib gumbo. Odd, yes, but delicious.





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE The Klein family's 1937 Packard at 33 Brick Street in French Lick. Mark Olson's 1924 Stutz is a remarkably-preserved original car. John & Elaine Klein's 1937 Packard Twelve at the Nisbet Inn on Saturday night. Signs galore! Saturday attendees enjoyed a lifetime's worth of vintage advertising memorabilia. *Photos by Jeff Shively.*



The Pious and Larry Legend

Sunday morning, it was time to head for home. The route took us east through Boonville, my home from 1973-1976. Then, it was north toward St. Meinrad, with its beautiful abbey rising above the hills and forests of the area. Eventually, we made our way to French Lick and lunch at 33 Brick Street. Whether it was sheer luck that the address matched the jersey number of French Lick's most famous son, Larry Bird, is not known to me. No matter. The pride of the 1979 Indiana State University Sycamores and, of course, the Boston Celtics is honored here.

After lunch, everyone went their own way home. It was a nearly picture-perfect weekend for a tour. There was no rain once we got south of Indianapolis, and shirtsleeve or light jacket temperatures the entire time. The only thing that would have made it better was an Ermine White '63 Lincoln. But no matter. It was a wonderful time that those who attended will long remember.

Jeff Shively is an LCOC member from Kokomo, Indiana.

