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B&O Railroad Museum Show Was Very Popular

By Mildred Lawson, Al Lawson & Tom Kenney

It has been six years since Chesapeake Region last held an antique car show at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum. Traditionally, the B&O show was very popular with Club members and our return on Sunday, July 1st proved that members still consider this to be an excellent show venue. Cars started arriving at 11 AM and by 1 PM we had 39 cars in the roped off car show area, which created some parking challenges due to the limited space we were allocated in front of the museum. But, we found a way to properly display our cars and 81 members and guests were able to visit with each other and enjoy looking at the many nice cars.

The B&O Museum's 40 acre site is designated as a National Historic Landmark. The site and the port of Baltimore are considered to be the birthplace of American railroading. In the late 1820s the first 13 mile track was laid running between the harbor and Ellicott Mills. In 1830 the first American coal fired steam locomotive, the *Tom Thumb*, was developed replacing horse drawn equipment. Many railroad technical improvements were developed in the shops located on this site, which was known as the Mt. Clare Shops. Various buildings were established between 1850 and the

1890s, including the signature roundhouse in 1884.

The museum, which suffered a devastating roof collapse in a 2003 snowstorm, houses almost every possible example of historic steam and

diesel locomotive equipment and rolling stock, both indoors and outdoors. Part of the attraction of this antique car show for many Club members was the opportunity to come see the rebuilt main building and displays. We weren't disappointed.



Inside the museum, we looked at the exhibits of railroad paraphernalia and the roundhouse with its rare equipment displays including the *Tom Thumb* locomotive. The day's events also included train rides and a diesel tour. It was easy to spend two to three hours just looking at the collection of clocks, railroad watches, communication devices, railroading artifacts, and amazing old photographs.



You couldn't ask for nicer weather. The temperature maxed out in the low 80s under a bright, sunny sky with occasional puffy white fair weather clouds. And there wasn't any of the usual humidity that we expect in Baltimore at this time of year. It was a truly beautiful day to be outdoors enjoying the

Pictured above: The early morning sun reflects from the rebuilt roundhouse roof of the B&O Museum. Below: Some of our cars lined up in front of the outside locomotive display near the museum's entrance.

camaraderie of other antique car hobbyists and a great place to hold an antique car show.

As we approached the end of the car show, the Museum's staff evaluated all of our cars, several of them AACA

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B&O Museum Show – continued

Senior cars, for the Sponsor’s Choice Award. Ryan Grubb, Assistant Director of Operations, selected Tom Yannuzzi’s 1949 Chrysler sedan.

Drivers participating with their cars were: Ray Adler, 1968 Dodge; Ed Allen, 1968 Chevrolet; Bob Battista, 1968 Camaro; Dave Benson, 1936 Graham; Tom Black, 1968 Chevrolet; Tim Canova, 1966 Ford; Buzz Diehl, 1966 Pontiac; Paul Habicht, 1959

Cadillac; Eric Hanson, 1944 Willys Jeep; Martin Herman, 1968 Shelby; Rick Hollar, 1972 Buick; John Horn, 1953 Hudson; Don Keller, 1930 Ford; Tom Kenney, 1955 DeSoto; Bruce Knott, 1967 Ford; Dave Johnson, 1956 Thunderbird; Al Lawson 1957 Chevrolet; Frank Lindberg, 1952 Buick; Ed McDaniel, 1958 Chevrolet; Al Miller, 1940 Ford; Randy Moss, 1971 Jaguar; Darrell Pokorny, 1970 Mercedes; Don Rhine, 1940 Buick; Jerry Ross, 1954 Kaiser; Mike

Salsbury, 1966 Mustang; Bill Schmuck, 1956 Buick; Ron Siegrist, 1952 Oldsmobile; Bruce Solomon, 1931 Pontiac; Joe Sordillo, 1950 Ford; Jim Synodinos, 1933 Cadillac; Tommy Thompson, 1941 Chevrolet; Vince Truant, 1938 Buick; John Watkins, 1965 Buick; Pat Wenderoth, 1928 Studebaker; Gary Wilhelm, 1972 Buick; Harry Wilhelm, 1968 Ford; Norm Williams, 1964 Ford; Gary Wilmer, 1968 Chevrolet; and Tom Yannuzzi, 1949 Chrysler.



Tom Yannuzzi’s 1949 Chrysler Windsor, the Sponsor’s Choice



Ryan Grubb, Tom Yannuzzi, & Harry Wilhelm presenting award



Karen & Vince Truant with their 1938 Buick



Eric Hanson’s 1944 Willys Jeep



Nicholas Canova learning to drive?



Gary Wilhelm’s 1972 Buick Skylark



Don Keller’s 1930 Ford Model A



The Tom Thumb Locomotive c. 1830



Norm Williams’ 1964 Ford Falcon