

# THE CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN

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## Annual Banquet Sets Attendance Record

By Vicky Wilmer and Jerry Gordon

It's quite fitting that the Annual Banquet was "the best ever", according to many old-timers in attendance, because the Banquet capped an active Club car season of well-attended shows and events. On Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 130 Club members and guests showed up at Friendly Farm Family Style Restaurant for the usual end-of-the-year get-together featuring nice buffet style food and an awards program. What everyone experienced as they arrived at the renovated lower-level entrance was Sterling Walsh's 1915 Ford Model T Caliphone playing an assortment of music reminiscent of what you would expect to hear on the midway of a county fair carnival. It was a preview of the show that would unfold inside.

At the registration desk, everyone received a door prize as they entered – miniature car teapots for the gals and wash mitts for the guys. Many members came early so that they could circulate and visit with folks that they hadn't seen for awhile. Almost everyone gathered around in small groups to visit while sampling the abundant spread of hors d'oeuvres and punch to whet our appetites. Throughout the afternoon the backdrop pictorial review of the Club's 2007 events and activities played on the giant screen. There were more than 100 pictures of members' cars shown at more than twenty activities – all in living color.

After a moment of silence in remembrance of Ray Vanderlinde, Art

Rutledge gave the invocation and then we began serving the buffet, table by table. Of course, the featured entrée was crab cakes. You can't have a banquet in Baltimore without them.

After dinner and dessert, Jerry Gordon began the program. Bruce Knott, who headed the Nominating Committee, announced the newly elected 2008

for first, the Howard County Fair Car & Truck show was second, and the Flea Market was third.

Jerry Gordon presented a special recognition award to Tom Young for serving the Club for a second year as President. Tom then took over to present the Club's annual awards - Buzz Diehl, Spirit Award (member selected by the Board who has helped the Club); Bud Currey, President's Award (for promoting the Club and its activities); John Young, President's Award; and Jerry Gordon, Chick Smith Award (chosen by popular vote as the member who has done the most for the Club). Cecile and Art Petrucci were recognized for their unflinching monthly task of preparing *The Chesapeake Bulletin* for mailing.

A special service award was presented to Paul Habicht, who is leaving the Club's Board after a fifteen-year tenure as Membership Chair. It's noteworthy that in the last two years the Club's membership has grown by more than 30%.

The recognition and awards portion of the program featured the presentation of 50-year AACA Membership Award pins. The award recipients – Ray White, our remaining charter member; Gordon Kirwan, the Club's president in 1961; and Walter "Bud" Miller, the Club's president in 1959 – were accompanied at the head table by Sterling Walsh, who received his 50-

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*Sterling Walsh's 1915 Ford Model T with a Caliphone played old-time tunes at the entrance to the Banquet.*

Officers and Board: Tom Young, President; Dave Benson, Vice President; Anne Kenney and Tom Kenney, Co-Secretaries; Gary Wilmer, Treasurer; Harry Wilhelm, Director-at-Large; Jim Synodinos, Director-at-Large; Jerry Gordon, Activities Director; Dan Materazzi, Membership Chair; Ed Allen, Technical Chair; and Dave Johnson, Chief Judge. Voting for the Club's favorite events resulted in the Crab Feast and Annual Banquet tying

**Annual Banquet – continued**

year pin at the recent Glidden Tour banquet. AACA Executive Director Steve Moskowitz was on hand to present these awards.

Bud Miller, retired from the service station business, is still quite active in the hobby and has attended twenty-two Glidden Tours with his 1914 Ford Model T roadster. Bud’s other cars include a 1909 Stevens Duryea, 1926 Lincoln touring, 1936 Ford phaeton, and 1956 Chevrolet. Gordon Kirwan is also active in tours and shows with his 1909 and 1911 Ford Model Ts. While both are older restorations, they are really nice examples of fairly rare early Ts. Ray White, the oldest member at 95, was an electrician at Martin’s Aircraft. His cars have been sold, but they were: 1916 Dodge Brothers, 1922 Cadillac, and 1925 Maxwell. And as most of us know, Sterling Walsh has the neatest collection of cars, trucks, automobilia, and fun other stuff in this area. The Ford Model T Caliphone is just one example.

Attendance at this Banquet was probably the largest since the Club was somewhat bigger during the 1970s, and certainly more than any Banquet in

recent years. In the lower level parking lot, we counted fourteen antique vehicles that were driven to the Banquet, which was a good showing considering the intermittent light rain showers that we had in the morning and the continued misting during the afternoon.

Lois Krupinsky recounted the humorous story about her efforts to gather the parts for the table centerpiece decorations from the Dollar Store chain. Because of stocking problems locally, she had to collect these items from Dollar Stores in many small towns along the way from Maryland to Arizona to Binghamton, NY and back. It was an interesting visual of Lois and John pulling into parking lots across America with a car trailer in tow. Not your typical Dollar Store customer.

The centerpiece was made up of a small rectangular base with cars painted on the sides. Placed on top was a vintage car and gas pump, which was different at each table. At the end of the awards ceremony, the table decorations were given to the table occupant with a specific birth date. Then we distributed all the gifts that were loaded on the display table at the rear of the hall.

Banquet activities were organized and coordinated by Vicky Wilmer and Lois Krupinsky. Jerry Gordon handled the food details with the restaurant and was the master of ceremonies. Tom Kenney and Ted Schneider provided the computer driven backdrop pictorial review. Bruce Knott, Gary Wilmer, and the Wilmer twins, Todd and Andrew, helped set up the Banquet room. The home-made pie and cake table was stocked through the baking efforts of Mary Allen, Helen Gordon, Lois Krupinsky, Florann Sordillo, and Vicky Wilmer. Many thanks to all these members who helped make the Banquet a success. And a special thank you goes to Sterling Walsh for providing the Ford Model T Caliphone, and to Steve Moskowitz for coming down from Hershey for the 50-Year presentation.

And so, as we wander off into the hobby’s winter hiatus, remember that there are many important AACA and Club events that are just a few short months away in 2008. You need to take this time to get your cars and trucks prepared for the next season. We hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season!



*<< Josie & Bill O’Donnell’s 1940 Ford coupe.*

*Lois & John Krupinsky’s >> 1967 VW convertible. This was Lois’ daily driver in the early ’80s, but was sold and bought again two years ago. It was restored by John for the second time. The fender skirts are one of John’s restoration trademarks.*



*Bruce Knott’s 1967 Ford*



*John Shenton’s 1965 Plymouth Barracuda*

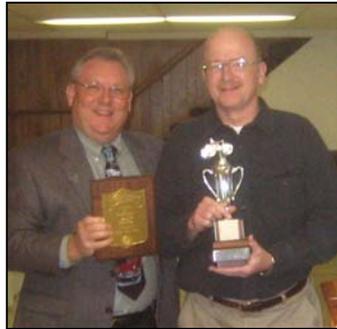
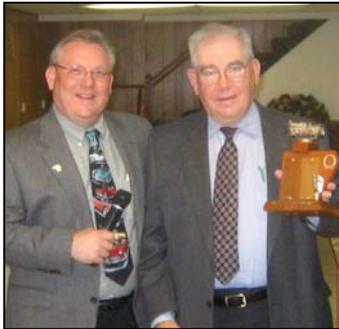


*Joe Sordillo’s 1950 Ford*

**Inside the Annual Banquet – Members Received Awards**



*Honored in the presentation of 50-Year Membership Awards from the left - Gordon Kirwan, Ray White, Sterling Walsh, and Walter "Bud" Miller. AACA Executive Director Steve Moskowitz is on the right.*



*Accepting awards: Jerry Gordon – Chick Smith; Buzz Diehl – Spirit; Bud Currey – President's & John Young – President's*



*Tom Young accepts Service Award; Paul Habicht with Service Award; Our hosts – Vicky Wilmer & Lois Krupinsky*



*Bud Miller with son Chip Miller & family*



*Gordon & Mary Kirwan*



*Greta Hittle and her dad Ray White*