

THE CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN

Volume 48 - Number 7

July 2008

Visit our website: www.aaca.org/chesapeake

Published monthly by the
Chesapeake Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America



Ballestone Manor Car Show – Rocky Point, Maryland

By Paul Habicht

On Sunday, June 1, 2008 the Chesapeake Region returned to Ballestone Manor, the historic mansion located in Rocky Point, across the service road from the state park's golf course. This year, because of the Manor's season opening charity tea, we set up our car show on the huge back lawn under the shade trees. It was a beautiful setting, plus we were able to watch all the duffers double bogey the sixth hole.

The weather was partly to mostly cloudy, but very pleasant and not too hot or humid – just a nice day to be outdoors with fellow car club friends. Besides the occasional spectators from the Manor, who wandered over to look at the fine display of our cars, there were many vehicles traveling along the park's service road that pulled over to look at our cars.

The star of this car show was Franklin Gage's recently acquired 1927 Chevrolet Sport Cabriolet with a rumble seat. This perky little baby blue car with those neat steel disc wheels came chugging up the road at the start of the show and started right up a few hours later and traveled over back roads to its Greenbelt home. Along the way, both up and back, it drew a lot of attention.

Franklin is a long-time member of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America. Currently, he owns five Chevys – the 1927, plus 1940, 1941, 1951, and 1966 models. VCCA promotes touring and

Franklin, who is enthused by using his collection of antique cars, has attended many national and regional club tours, especially with his 1951 sedan.

He purchased the 1927 from a fellow VCCA member, Roy Chambers, who hails from Dallas, TX, because the car had been on several VCCA tours that Franklin attended. He admired the capability of this little four-cylinder car

Everyone really liked the car. And the car seems to be on a winning streak because at the recent AACA Eastern Spring National Meet in Cumberland, MD on May 17th, the '27 Chevy received its Historic Preservation of Original Features certification.

As we were leaving Rocky Point, it was fun to drive behind the '27 Chevy and watch it travel down the winding, two-

lane back roads on those narrow early era high-pressure tires. The car seems to handle very well. Also, it was fun to watch Franklin make those old-time hand signals at several of the intersections along the way – even though almost all of today's motorists have no idea what those signals mean.

Participating in the 2008 Ballestone Manor Antique Car Show were: Mary & Ed Allen, 1957 Chevrolet convertible; Rick & John Gambo, 1969 Lincoln; Franklin

Gage 1927 Chevrolet; Paul Habicht, 1959 Cadillac DeVille; John Harding, 1956 Thunderbird convertible; and Ben Harris, 1965 Mustang convertible..

Also participating were: Richard Hiob, 1939 Buick; Mildred & Al Lawson, 1963 Thunderbird; Joan & Walton Meyers, 1953 Pontiac; Al Miller, 1940 Ford; Art & Boots Petrucci, 1964 Corvair convertible; Jerry Ross, 1954 Kaiser Manhattan; Ted Schneider, 1983 Oldsmobile Toronado; Florann & Joe Sordillo, 1950 Ford; John Shenton, 1965 Plymouth Barracuda; and Ruth & Jim Synodinos, 1933 Cadillac V-12.



Franklin Gage's 1927 Chevrolet Sport Cabriolet – known in VCCA circles as "Roy's car"

to successfully navigate tours in Oklahoma, Missouri, Colorado, Arkansas, and Texas. In fact the 1927 Chevy is so well recognized among VCCA touring members that it is still known as "Roy's car".

So, at the end of the Ballestone Manor show it was fitting that the Sponsor's Choice trophy for the best car among the sixteen cars in attendance was awarded to Franklin's 1927 Chevrolet.