

In Late July, What Is Chesapeake Region's Favorite Event?

By Bonnie Mielke & Tom Young

The answer: the Club's Annual Crab Feast. But, it's the same answer for the whole year, because the Crab Feast is a perennial winner of the annual election ballot voting for favorite Club event. Another question – What is Baltimore best known for? The answer: *Charm City, Hon, the Orioles, Barry Levinson movies*, and **steamed crabs** – not necessarily in that order, but all of these are right up there.

And this year's Crab Feast, held on Saturday, July 26th, was certainly an outstanding one. Where else can you get Maryland crabs or jumbo shrimp – enough to fill you up, farm fresh corn on the cob, home made side dishes and desserts, and lots of ice cold beverages – all for only \$5? Well, 103 members and guests knew the answer and to prove it was an antique car event 21 families showed up in vintage cars – all the way from a couple of '30s to the early '80s. There were a lot of people already in the park who came over to look at the "car show" in Pavilion #105's parking area.

At the start we had a moment of silence in the memory of Eva Thompson, who

served for so many years as one of the managers of the Club's Crab Feast. After the wonderful feast, the auction began led by our ace Auctioneer Larry Butcher, assisted by Tom Young and Tom Kenney. There were an unusual number of collectible automotive items that brought surprising selling prices. A significant part of this collection of really nice items was from Ruth Vanderlinde, who donated most of Ray's automotive books and automobilia. The top dollar item of the day was a Chesapeake Region license plate topper from the 1960s. You just don't see these anymore and the bidding was spirited. The auction was a Club record, almost doubling last years total. And for the first time, we held a 50/50 drawing, which was won by Pam Canova.

A big THANK YOU to the following members who made this year's Crab Feast possible – Mary & Ed Allen, Vicky Wilmer, Bonnie & Lou Mielke, Helen & Jerry Gordon, Bud Currey, Al Lawson, John Shenton, Jr., Paul Habicht, and Gail Mielke; plus all the members who helped shuck corn, package the crabs, and helped with

clean up at the end. As always, the Crab Feast's success depends on the efforts of a lot of members. After we cleaned up the pavilion and the area surrounding it (the park's policy is you must take away all disposables brought in – there aren't any trash cans) everyone got into their antique cars and left for home.

But for some of us the entertainment and old car activity continued. Anne and Tom Kenney had a problem with their 1955 DeSoto. As they were trying to get onto Route 1 the car stalled out. It was rolled back into the parking lot of the used car dealer on the corner and the hood was raised while several members worked on the car and/or offered opinions about what the problem was and how to fix it. There were ten member's cars stopped, not all at once, offering help and a couple of tool kits appeared. The bottom line – that Mopar hemi engine was flooded and just needed the air cleaner off for awhile to allow the gasoline to evaporate. It was finally restarted, idled for awhile and then made the trip back to Hampstead without further problems.



Shown clockwise from the top left: Art Rutledge's 1948 DeSoto; Franklin Gage's 1966 Chevrolet; Tom Young & Larry Butcher working the Auction; repairs in progress on Tom Kenney's 1955 DeSoto; and Bud Currey preparing delicious hot dogs on the grill

