

## A Day at the Baltimore Yacht Club

By Joanne Day & Read Van Zile, Photos By Tom Kenney

We certainly couldn't have asked for better weather for the Chesapeake Region's first visit to the Baltimore Yacht Club on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> – a very warm and quite sunny day. The activities schedule was informal. Starting with a line-up that displayed our cars in front of the clubhouse, we ate lunch in the main dining room overlooking Middle River, and then finished the day with an hour-long water taxi cruise on Middle River and most of the inlets off the river.

In line with the weather, more than half of the cars attending this show were convertibles. Many of us were able to set up camp near the pool house, and later some members took advantage of the great water views from the deck.

The water taxi picked us up at the Sue Creek landing. We had a good time spotting sail and motor-boats moored at the many marinas, as well as those out for a late season Sunday cruise. Very few of us realized the number of magnificent waterfront houses that are scattered on the Middle River shores. Our cruise ranged from the Chesapeake Bay entrance all the way to the edge of the inlet near Martin's Airport property.

One car at the show that most of us have never seen was **Isabelle and John Fischer's 1951 Lincoln Cosmopolitan convertible**, a car that truly fits a yacht club setting. John is a long time hobbyist who got into Lincolns in 1990 after collecting mostly early era automobiles. Currently, among his collection are nine Lincolns that fit nicely into his 35 x 60 foot building.

John bought the '51 Lincoln from a collector in Canada, who was the second owner of this Los Angeles origin car that has only 55K miles on the odometer. While John has had some things fixed on the Lincoln, he reports that now everything works and it's a tight riding car.

It has the flathead V-8 engine, automatic transmission, and all the era accessories. John considers antique cars to be "works of art", and certainly the Lincoln fits that definition.

Another convertible at the Yacht Club was **Bob Battista's 1968 Rally Sport Camaro, with the hideaway headlights**. Bob bought the Camaro about 1986 as a used car just for weekend fun use. Back then it was an inexpensive

car. The body panels were redone and in good shape and the paint had been redone with a high quality job. Twenty-two years later the paint still is excellent. But it needed a new top and interior. Bob drove it home that first day without a top in February.

Now Bob's Camaro has 160K miles on the unrestored Chevrolet 327 CI/220 HP V-8, 2 barrel, with the 2-speed Powerglide. And it's still a fun car to drive on weekends.

Members participating in this event not already mentioned were: Carole & Bud Currey, 1965 Pontiac; Henry Ver Valen, 1960 Jaguar; Bill & Cindy George, 1974 Corvette; Read Van Zile & Joanne Day, 1963 Thunderbird; Julie Siegrist, 1952 Oldsmobile; Ron Sitgrist, 1966 Cadillac; the Siegrist's daughter-in-law, 1966 Oldsmobile; Anne & Tom Kenney, 1955 DeSoto; Ginny & Paul Habicht, 1959 Cadillac; Ted Schneider, 1983 Oldsmobile; and Ruth & Jim Synodinos, 1941 Packard.

Also attending the event were: Linda & Tom Young, Christine Morningstar, Christine & John Young, and Eva & Milton Hartic.



*Pictured clockwise from the top left: Bob Battista's 1968 Camaro; one of the sail boats out on Middle River; John Fischer's 1951 Lincoln Cosmopolitan; a marina with berthed sail boats; and some of our cars in front of the Yacht Club.*