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Baltimore Mayor's Christmas Parade



Happy
New Year



Welcome 2010



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From the top – Row1: The Boumi Temple had several motorized units performing; One of the holiday balloons excited the kids; Row 2: Chesapeake Region members' cars waiting to enter the parade included Dave Benson with his 1947 Lincoln Continental, Bob Quante with his 1939 Plymouth convertible; Row 3: Tom Black with his latest cop car, a 1971 Ford, and Jerry Ross with his 1954 Kaiser.

Baltimore Mayor's Christmas Parade

By Jerry Gordon

Was the 2009 Christmas Parade a preview of a white Christmas for Baltimore? Maybe. Certainly, the snow-storm that hit Maryland the day before with anywhere from two to six inches looked like it could hamper the parade on Sunday, December 6th.

There were still remnants of the snow on grassy areas around Poly high school while the parade was forming, but it was a little too warm – in the low 40s – so the pavement was mostly clear and salt free. The brisk weather tended to put everybody in a great mood for a Christmas parade. And for the first time in several years even the Mayor was in the parade, riding in a vintage Corvette convertible. One estimate of the number of antique and classic vehicles in the parade was about fifty – a combination of Chesapeake Region, Antique Motor Club of Greater Baltimore, a large



More parade photos, from the top; Row 1: Another Boumi Temple motorized unit; One of many Santas on a motorcycle; Row 2: The Mayor in her vintage Corvette ride; One of several high school marching bands; Row 3: Jo Ann Lancaster's 1965 Corvette; 1949 Mack pumper from the Fire Museum of Maryland; Bill Schmuck with his 1956 Buick; Below left: One of the many color guards; League of Maryland Horsemen equestrian unit; Bagpipe marching band.



contingent of vintage Volkswagens, a large group of rat-rod club vehicles, and many independent participants who just wanted to be part of the festivities.

The parade had more than one-hundred units and was a great mixture of marching bands; several Boumi Temple motorized units; equestrian units; numerous holiday floats; large holiday balloons; fire apparatus; and dignitaries in convertibles. At 2 PM the parade began to proceed along Falls Road through the Hampden and Medfield neighborhoods. This 38 year Baltimore tradition always has excellent community support, as evidenced by the estimated twenty-five thousand spectators lining the streets.

Representing the Chesapeake Region were: Ruth Synodinos & Bill Schmuck, 1956 Buick; Jerry Ross & family, 1954 Kaiser; Dave Benson, 1947 Lincoln; Tom Black, 1971 Ford police car; Jo Ann Lancaster, 1965 Corvette; Jerry Gordon, 1984 Lincoln, and Bob Quante, 1939 Plymouth.