

The Club Had Another Big Crab Feast On A Hot Day

By Jerry Gordon

Contributors:

Dave Phillips & Buzz Diehl

There's a good reason why Chesapeake Region's Annual Crab Feast has consistently been voted the Club's favorite event. Where else in the antique car hobby can you have so much fun and eat a bunch of Maryland crabs for only \$5? And if you didn't want crabs you could have had a pound of jumbo shrimp. Plus all those side dishes and deserts that member's bring are delicious.

We had 111 members and guests show up on Saturday, July 24th on one of the hottest days of the summer. The forecast was for a high temperature of more than 100 degrees and it proved to be accurate. The only saving feature of the weather was the significant breeze most of the day that kept conditions tolerable under the roof of Patapsco State Park's Pavilion #105.

The Crab Feast is an event where members come together to work on preparing a good meal while having an opportunity to visit with each other. Almost like the community get-togethers of an era long past such as a quilting party or a barn raising.

Many members arrived early to do their part to organize the pavilion. One group set up a corn shucking operation to prepare the farm-fresh corn for roasting. Another group wrapped the crabs in newspaper packages so that everyone had a place to spread out their crabs while picking the delicious meat. And several members started very early in the day shopping



for ice, soft drinks, hot dogs and buns, condiments, and disposable paper goods. During the day the grill was kept busy by Bud Currey and Gary Wilmer producing hot dogs.

After the invocation by Art Rutledge, everyone enjoyed the feast at the many picnic tables in the pavilion. As usual, there was a large 50/50 drawing conducted by Ted Schneider. The winner was Pam Canova

When everyone was finished feasting the auction started. It was led by our Auctioneer, Gary Ruby, who had an eclectic mix of items to sell, ranging from automotive parts and collectibles to knick knacks and stuff that members brought to empty their basements.

Members have been encouraged to drive an antique car to the Crab Feast. While the hot weather reduced the number somewhat from last year, Dave Phillips drove his 1954 Citroen Traction Avant, which generated a lot of interest. Last year Dave brought his 1933 Franklin Olympic, also a crowd pleaser.

We had to ask, "Why did you get a Citroen as a collector car?" Well, Dave said that when he was twelve years old his dad was in the Navy and had the family with him while stationed in Japan and Europe. He remembers that his dad bought him a book, *All The World's Cars*, and that the family's next door neighbor in Japan had a Citroen.

When the Phillips family were later stationed in Europe, one of the common cars after WWII was the Citroen. So Dave was a military brat with an interest in cars and had a lot of memories of the Citroen Traction Avant.



Dave Phillips' 1954 Citroen Traction Avant. This is the mid-level model known as the Normal. It has a 1.9L, 56 HP, four-cylinder engine, three-speed transmission, front wheel drive, and 121-inch wheelbase. This classic design dates back to 1934 – production ended in 1957.

About 1992 Dave started to look for a Citroen to collect. Dave's car was found at a dealer in Lewisburg, PA who dealt in new and used Citroen vehicles. The car needed a restoration, which included a factory rebuilt engine and many repro parts that are still made in France. Dave installed a wool fabric upholstery kit. About 750K Traction Avants were made over three decades in France, England and Germany.

In addition to members already mentioned, Helen & Jerry Gordon, Mary & Ed Allen, Bonnie & Lou Mielke, Franklin Gage, Margaret & Al Lawson, John Shenton, Vicky Wilmer, and Paula Ruby deserve thanks for a great event.



Shown from the left: Auctioneer Gary Ruby, Invocation by Art Rutledge, Lou Mielke, Organizer Bonnie Mielke, and M.C. Jerry Gordon.