

THE CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN

Volume 50 - Number 5

September & October 2010

Visit our website: www.aaca.org/chesapeake

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



Record Turnout at the Howard County Fair Car & Truck Show



A record 184 cars and trucks were at the Fair Show on August 8th. Some of the Chesapeake Region members who entered their cars are shown from the top by row: 1. Anne Marie & Don Ramsburg, 1939 Ford; Karen & Rich Berger, 1953 Buick Skylark; Row 2: Frank Ruehl, 1937 Buick; Dan Banks, 1971 Datsun 240Z; Row 3: David Linton, 1930 Ford Model A; and Charlotte Linton, 1931 Ford Model A.

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Howard County Fair Car & Truck Show - continued

By Larry Butcher
Photos By Buzz Diehl

Everything seemed to work well for our annual car show at the Howard County Fair on Sunday, August 8th. We had a reasonably nice day weather-wise in this hot summer, excellent spectator crowds, and another sold-out show field with 184 cars and trucks registered. This was the second time in the last three years that Chesapeake Region has completely filled the show field.

The attractions of the Fair Show for antique, collector, and custom/street rod enthusiasts include: admission to the fair with a vehicle registration; the grass field, which permits many vehicle owners to pitch a shade tent to enjoy the day after a visit to the fair exhibits and carnival midway; the leisurely pace of peer judging; and the DJ spinning oldies on the public address system throughout the day.

The past few years the Howard County Fair Show has attracted an interesting mix of collectible vehicles. This year we had: an ever growing number of antique and custom pickup trucks (about 15), unusual cars like the 1966 King Midget (has Hemmings promos on it), the 1967 Marcos 1600 GT (British wood chassis track car), and the 1947 Chevrolet COE stake bed truck. Last year we had nice showings of professional cars and WWII military vehicles. The Fair Show always seems to have interesting vehicles that you don't ordinarily see at other local shows.

Our Club's members usually support the Fair Show by entering vehicles. A few of these are shown on the front cover. **Anne Marie and Don Ramsburg entered their 1939 Ford Deluxe tudor sedan.** Don bought this Ford from an ad in the Baltimore Sun in 1956 for \$100. It was his first car. He kept the '39 when he moved on to other daily drivers. It was stored in rented garages for years until he decided to have it restored in 1994 by Al Pruitt & Sons. The restoration took almost three years. It has received an AACA Senior Award.

Don's '39 became disabled about five years ago when it developed an electrical system problem that over-charged the battery. The result was significant damage under the hood. The car was on blocks for some time, but is now back on the road.



Shown from the top: A nicely restored 1947 Chevrolet COE stake bed truck, at the entry gate, Jerry Gordon registered this woody station wagon; and Pattie & Ned Shields with their 1968 MGB on the show field.

Also in the show was **Karen and Rich Berger's 1953 Buick Skylark**, an AACA Senior Award winner that won a 2009 AACA National Award. The Berger's enjoyed the Fair Show and stayed cool under their tent.

When Frank Ruehl was a little kid there were several '37 and '38 Buicks on the

street where they lived. Frank knew that he wanted one when he grew up.

In 1970, **Frank Ruehl found his 1937 Buick** advertised in the Washington Post for \$1,100. He bought the car and started a long hobby journey driving and showing a car that needed minimal restoration. In recent years he has needed to do some minor repainting, rechromed the bumpers, and replaced some aging safety glass. The Buick, with its straight eight engine, is a prime example of pre-WWII Buick reliability and endurance.

Dan Banks brought his 1971 Datsun 240Z, which received a First Grand National Award at New Bern, NC in May. Last year, Dan's Datsun was at the AACA Museum during the summer and fall as part of the featured sports car exhibit.

David Linton and Charlotte Linton brought their 1930 and 1931 Ford Model A roadsters to the Fair Show. Dave's 1930 Model A was his first hobby car. After buying it, he began learning more about a "correct restoration" and found that he needed some changes – such as fasteners and hardware, and there were issues with some of the interior upholstery. So he put a lot of effort into redoing the Model A. Now he is happy that the car is correct.

Dave's daughter, Charlotte Linton, decided that she liked the Model A so much that she had to have one too. So Charlotte bought the matching 1931 Model A roadster from a local owner.

There was an excellent turnout of volunteers to help Chief Judge Larry Butcher at the Fair Show: Al Lawson, Dave Cavey, Bruce Knott, Mary Allen, Ed Allen, Dave Benson, Jim Turner, Buzz Diehl, Gary Ruby, Don Ramsburg, Paula Ruby, Barbara Muldowney, Henry Chaudron, Anne Marie Ramsburg, Dan Materazzi and Jerry Gordon.

The Best of Show trophies were: Antique – Scott Roberts, 1956 Ford Crown Victoria; and Custom/Street Rod – Frank Donato, 1940 Willys.