

# Halloween Poker Run Plays Out In Great Fall Weather

By Thomas Kenney

Hobgoblins, witches and ghosts prevailed on Halloween 2010 when, for the first time, the Club's Halloween Poker Run actually happened the last day in October. It was a very nice morning when cars and trucks started assembling in the parking lot at Greenmont Station on Business Route 30 in Hampstead. The event was sold-out a few weeks earlier because of the seating limit at Friendly Farm. There were 167 members and guests from the two host clubs – Chesapeake Region, AACA and the National Capital Regional Group of the Early Ford V-8 Club of America. Everyone enjoyed the continental breakfast provided by Greenmont Station at the registration desk inside.

At the starting gate we had 73 vehicles sequentially start out in different directions and routes so that the vehicles would not clog any of the roads and stops along the fifty, or so, miles of the road grid. Of the 73 vehicles, 59 were antique or collectible. The oldest car on the Run was a 1928 Ford Model A driven by

Eileen and Doug Prinkey. And there were six other pre-WWII cars also on the Run.

As always, the object of the Poker Run is to answer the roadside observation questions, which totaled 58 this year and draw five cards, hopefully to a royal flush. Of course, the real object is to handle the questions and cards and still enjoy the beautiful Fall colors and scenery. The winners of the road question contest were Paul Bianca, Brad Mohr and Mandi Krout who drove a 1974 Ford Torino station wagon. There was a four-way tie for second place: Barbara and Mike Melnyk, with passengers Gina Jones and Liz Kileullen; Owen Garland was helped by his team of Wanda Garland, plus Rosalie and Bob Brown; also in the second place tie was the team headed by Arnold Darnell, assisted by Jim Steva and Lynn Darnell; and the last group in the tie were first time Poker Run enthusiasts Elle and David Meyd. And then there was the winning poker hand, which was drawn Butch Meckley, who had four aces and a queen.

There were three Poker Run stops

where the playing cards were distributed and members could grab a snack and look around. The first was the horse farm owned by Dixie and Ed Hughes in Hampstead. Ed has a unique car collection including a 1929 Studebaker, 1953 Chevrolet hardtop, and a 1964 Mustang. We visited his Mustang several years ago when we stopped at the Crenshaw Restoration Shop. At that time the Mustang was a pile of rust! It's almost 100% restored.

The next stop was Anne Marie and Don Ramsburg's home. The Ramsburgs had their collection of flat-head Ford V-8s (some projects and some complete) on display along with Al Zimmermann's 1966 Oldsmobile. The last stop was the home of Loretta and Fred Kirckhoff in Freeland MD. They have an extensive collection of vehicles.

Thanks to all the members who helped make the Run possible; Carol & Bud Currey, Nancy Matheu & Al Zimmermann, Anne Marie & Don Ramsburg, Florann & Joe Sordillo, Barbara & Buzz Diehl, Gary Wilmer, Paula & Gary Ruby, Terry & Dan Materazzi, and Josie & Bill O'Donnell.



Top row from left: Ed Hughes with his 1929 Studebaker. Anne Marie & Don Ramsburg in their habit costumes, and Jack O'Hara & Ken Stevenson in their 1947 Ford. Row 2; Walt Meyers' 1953 Pontiac, Chris Young being witchy, and the starting line for the Run.