

# Crab Feast Was Enjoyed By A Big Crowd On A Hot Day

By Jerry Gordon & Ted Schneider

The Chesapeake Region's Annual Crab Feast is very popular with many Club members and usually attracts a big crowd because, rain or shine, it's held under the roof of the big pavilion in the Avalon section of Patapsco State Park.

But this year, the unusual string of 100-degree days just happened to include Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. However, guys that can keep fifty-year-old cars running are also resourceful enough to beat hot days when they are outdoors. Most of the 107 in attendance showed up with a large fan and one member came with a couple of industrial size fans. The shade of the pavilion and the effective air movement kept everyone rather comfortable

Early arrivals got busy preparing the food – shucking corn, wrapping the six-crab servings in newsprint, weighing the one-pound shrimp servings, getting the grill ready for the hot dogs, and laying out the nice spread of homemade side dishes and deserts.

When we had everything ready, Gary Wilmer and Jerry Gordon made some announcements and Vicky Wilmer gave the invocation – and then the serving line formed. One thing for certain, we never have complaints that there wasn't enough to eat.

When everyone had their fill, the auction began with Gary Ruby managing the action and Paula Ruby acting as the head runner. The diversity of items at auction is pretty interesting and several items had spirited bidding. The 50/50 that was running at about the same time was won by Ed Hainke, who had to take most of the five-minute grace period to find the winning ticket.

One part of the Crab Feast effected by the hot weather was the number of antique cars, about half of the usual twenty plus cars.



Several members are responsible for picking up the seafood, beverages, and other necessary items. Scott Chaney took over the important duty of grilling, which is a hot task. A whole bunch of members pitched in to wrap crabs and shuck corn. Bonnie Mielke and Mary Allen are the reservation managers, and several members pitched in on the cleanup. The Crab Feast is a truly cooperative event where everyone seems to help in one way or another. Thanks to everyone and we hope to see you next year.



*Pictured at the top is Wanda Garland and other members wrapping crabs; below are Bonnie Mielke and Helen Gordon weighing shrimp assisted by Vicky Wilmer. On the next row at the left: Paula and Gary Ruby, our auctioneers; Scott Chaney, our griller. On the bottom row: Mary Etts & Jerry Vinje; George Spicka's 1969 Chevrolet; and Tommy Thompson's 1969 Chevrolet.*