

THE CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN



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Antique Automobile Club of America



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WEST VIRGINIA/GAN JULY 14 TO 19

Large Group Of Chesapeake Region Members Attend DeSoto National Meet in Kalamazoo

By Bill Wurzelt, Editor

If you missed a few people at the July 13 membership meeting it's probably because they were getting ready or had already left to attend the 2015 National DeSoto Convention and Meet in Kalamazoo, MI.



DeSoto Club and C. R. member, Will Terrett pulls into line for a photo op just prior to the beginning of 'Show Day' at the 2015 DeSoto Annual Meet in Kalamazoo, July 19. Will's DeSoto went on to capture third-place in Class -I and more importantly the prestigious 'People's Choice' Award. *Bill Wurzelt/photo*

Your intrepid reporter accompanied fellow travelers, Will Terrett and James Turner, Chesapeake Region's Secretary and President of Maryland DeSoto Owners' Club. We departed Will's palatial residence in Anne Arundel County in the wee hours of Tuesday July 14. Will trailed his 'outstanding' 1955 DeSoto Sportsman two-door hardtop that was a big hit on show day, July 19th. The 'Show Day' gathering was held at the hard to describe Gilmore Car Museum (www.gilmorecarmuseum.org). It's hard to convey the vastness of this facility. There are buildings that were erected precisely to look and feel just like automobile dealership buildings of the 1930's, '40s and '50s. C.R. member, Bob Lenio remarked "the buildings not only looked like dealerships, they 'smelled' like them." Bob is a longtime DeSoto devotee and has attended over twenty five national DeSoto conventions.

'The Gilmore' has something for everybody. Whatever marque you

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RON SIEGRIST DOES IT AGAIN!

Great Day For B&O Railroad Museum Show

By Bill Wurzelt, Editor

Two years in a row now; first at the 2014 Maryland Fire Museum show in Lutherville and this year at the 2015 B&O Museum show, Ron Siegrist wins the 'Sponsor's Choice' award. So you say, 'great car', Ron deserves it, right? After all, he bought the car new in '52! Well, both times Ron's 1952 Oldsmobile '98' convertible was parked right next to my DeSoto Firestone. Its obvious to me, I'm bringing Ron extraordinarily good fortune! What else could it be? *Congratulations Ron!*

If we would have offered an 'unusual' or 'oddball award' the car that would have captured it would most likely have been a 1957 Mercury 'Commuter' two door station wagon with three speed manual transmission on the column. Even more unusual is what was under the hood: large displacement V8 with two four barrel carburetors along with a racing cam and pistons. I spoke to the owner, John Harding, my question was "how much of that is stock?" "All of it" Harding replied. He then explained that Mercury Division manufactured 100 such motors for the Mercury Racing Team in 1957. Before all the motors could be utilized, parent Ford Motor Company ended the stock car racing program. Many of the motors wound up in police pursuit vehicles and some were made available to the public; at a 'slight' additional cost. Harding's Mercury Commuter wagon was one of the lucky recipients.

That's what I like about the events in which Chesapeake Region participates, you never know what you'll run into.

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Ron Siegrist is all smiles, June 28th, after accepting the 2015 Sponsor's Choice Award from Steve Madewell, Education Director of the B&O Museum. Steve selected Ron's 1952 Oldsmobile '98' convertible for the award. *Bill Wurzelt photo*

HELP!

Dear Members: We need your help! In order to meet our minimum obligation for the Aug 1st 30th, 60th Anniversary Picnic, we urgently request your reservations 1/0~ tickets are only \$10 for adult members; \$5.00 for junior members. Complete and mail registration form on page 12 or from www.chesapeakeaaca.org Please, do it now!

TWO GUYS GRAB THREE MAJOR AWARDS

Local DeSoto Owners Jack Gallagher And Willis Terret 'Clean Up' At The 2015 DeSoto National Meet July 14 to 19 In Kalamazoo, Michigan

By Bill Wurzell, Editor

The competition was stiff in all classes at the DeSoto National Meet July 14-19 at the beautiful Gilmore Car Museum, near Kalamazoo, Michigan. Competition was even tougher in class four that encompasses only two model years, 1955 and 1956.



Bethesda resident, Jack Gallagher accepts 2nd place award in Class 1 at the DeSoto National Meet for his high-option 1956 DeSoto Sportsman two-door hardtop. Presenting are meet chairman Joe and Bobbi Youngblood.

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Hampton Coach and installed by two friends and myself. The same two friends drove over 1000 miles to my house to help me out when I was slowed down by some health issues. They did the brakes, exhaust system and the engine tuning. Weather stripping and rubber parts are new. The car is painted the color code shown on the firewall, 'Oxford Maroon Metallic'. The only deviation from original are radial tires at all four corners and spare.

The restoration was completed in early March of 2009, one day before the AACA National Winter Meet in Lakeland, Florida. Despite losing one point for a scratch in the paint on the radiator, and fifteen points for the radial tires; three points for each tire, she was able to receive her first Junior.

The cost of a new Chevrolet Cabriolet in 1948 was \$1750. This time around, it was a 'tad' more. In fact, I'm afraid to add it up. At any rate, it was a great experience and I'm still here to enjoy my beautiful 1948 Chevy Cabriolet.

As for my friends, they were great they would do anything for me except write the checks!



Ron and Julie Siegrist's 19-18 Chevrolet Cabriolet drop-top at an AACA judged event in Lakeland, Florida in 2009. This is the first show the car appeared since restoration was completed. The car was awarded its first junior.



Willis Terret accepts 3rd place award in Class 4 for his outstanding 1955 DeSoto Sportsman two-door hardtop. Presenting are meet chairman Joe and Bobbi Youngblood, Saturday July 19. Willis didn't know it, but there was another 'biggie' coming his way.



Surprise, surprise! A stunned Will Terret accepts the prestigious 'Peoples Choice Award' for his lovely 1955 DeSoto hardtop, during the awards banquet in Kalamazoo. For the DeSoto Owners Club "vili" host the meet in 2016.



A merry group of members of Maryland DeSoto Club Owners await their table call to the buffet. Seated clockwise from left, Anne Kenney (back to camera) Cheryl, and Jack Gallagher; Bill Wurzell, Bob Lenio, Will Terrett and Jim Turner. Tom Kenney is taking the photo.

'National DeSoto Meet'...

are devoted to or especially love...the Gilmore has it. There is a lot of walking involved because the museum is on an incredible 90 acre historic campus. You can find just about anything from a rare 1949 Buick Roadmaster 'Riviera' two-door hardtop which is widely regarded as the 'first' two-door hardtop model to a 1930 Rolls Royce Silver Wrath from The Disney movie, *The Gnome Mobile.*

Hordes of memorabilia: toys, models, literature, and dioramas depicting events in history related to the automobile. It is all well presented and simply a joy to partake. If this sounds like it might be time consuming, you are right on the money because there is no possible way you can see the Gilmore in ONE day; you'll need two or three! Put it on your 'bucket' list; its a must see for car lovers everywhere.

Returning to the logistics of travel, Jim Tuller and I were passengers in Will Terrett's 2013 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT (with tow package) which was pulling a late model 24-foot enclosed trailer. Remembering my childhood and the pickup trucks in our extended family that would labor, breath hard and overheat with a bushel of peaches and a watermelon onboard. Not so the Silverado, it pulled the nearly 7500 pound payload with ease and the cabin was as quiet as a bank vault on Sunday morning. Riding in the truck at speed, the trailer behind us was completely unnoticed. Wish I could say the same for toll roads. They really clip you when you add a couple axels to the tab. Tolls on the Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana roads added up to nearly \$150. We paid a toll on the Pa Turnpike for \$18.35 and got a receipt for \$6.10. *TRH-IT?*

In addition to the 'Gilmore', DeSoto members also visited the home of W. K. Kellogg, the founder of Kellogg Company; you've probably heard of or perhaps even consumed 'Kellogg's Coin Flakes?' Yea, well we were in Mr. Kellogg's summer home near Kalamazoo. Unfortunately, he wasn't there to greet us as he passed away in 1951. We toured the grounds and the buildings which were spectacular. The Kellogg property is being preserved by Michigan State University and The Kellogg Family Foundation. They are doing a superb job. Tours are arranged daily and this is a very worthwhile site to visit. Mr. Kellogg's home was large with many rooms, and although it did not contain the original family furniture that was in the house, the furniture was 'period,' tasteful and conveyed what the house would have looked like when the Kellogg family lived in their Neo-Tudor home named 'Kellogg Manor' which was built in 1925.

Prior to Michigan State University taking over the property, the United States Coast Guard used the site as a training facility. Gull Lake, a large natural lake is very close to the house and property and the Kellogg family availed themselves of power and sailboat cruises and lots of swimming with friends over the years. Jim, Willis and myself walked around the entire property and worked up a huge appetite. We were fortunate to dine in the cafeteria with employees of the property that keep it humming, and the beautiful gardens lush and colorful.

Those attending...

In addition to Jim, Will, Bob Lenio and myself, attending were: Tom and Anne Kenney, J. 'Ferd' and Thelma Driver, Jack and Cheryl Gallagher, and Ruth Graham. Ms Graham is a Michigan resident but belongs to Maryland Desoto Owners Club. She is the proud owner of a 1959 DeSoto Fireflight sedan with only 27,000 original miles on the odometer and won best of class. The Gallagher's beautiful, 1956 high-option DeSoto Sportsman Hardtop copped 2nd place in Class 4. Willis Terrett's 1955 DeSoto Sportsman coupe won the 'Peoples Choice' Award.

The Maryland Owners Club will be sponsoring the 2016 DeSoto National Meet in conjunction with the (Chrysler-DeSoto) Airflow Club. We will have separate awards and dinner but will share the showfield at THE TIMONIUM FAIRGROUNDS, July 5-10! 2016. Mark this on your calendar right now! We will be very nice at first and as the date

draws closer, we will resort to fear, threats and intimidation for people to visit our meet, if necessary. We learned a lot at the 2015 show and received valuable tips from Joe Youngblood and the good folks that were in charge of the 201 S event.

One of the gentleman whose car I helped judge said "so you are from Maryland?" "I replied, yes I am." Joe Moss then said, "hey, how is Francis Wemeth doing? I related that Francis celebrated his 80th birthday in January, to which Joe and National DeSoto official Bill Noble both said please wish Francis "all the best!" Small world indeed.



Jim Turner checks out a 1941 Studebaker at the Gilmore Museum at the weekly Wednesday evening 'cars & coffee'. July 15.



The above 1951 DeSoto Custom convertible is nearly perfect and scored very high in judging. The car is for sale for \$15,000. If you're looking for a nice 'turn-key' convertible this could be the one!

Photos by Bill Hureff



Even though it looks like a Ford Model 'A', its really a 1932 DeSoto rumble seat coupe. The car has nicely restored and also scored high in judging.