

The Spring Baltimore Streetcar Museum Show Lightly Attended June 26

The usually well attended Spring Baltimore Streetcar Museum show didn't have its usual turnout. Part of reason is the museum under went a renovation and wasn't open in April when the spring show is usually held. The date was pushed back and the show was finally held Sunday June 26.

John Shenton and his daughter 'Deb' were Officers-of-the-day and did a superb job of getting everyone safely parked amidst the Streetcars and streetcar tracks in and around the museum. As this show is usually held in early spring it is very much looked forward to and is often the first show of the season members attend. Another snafu was that the show

was not listed in the June edition of the Chesapeake Bulletin related to the date change.

The museum never looked 'spiffier'. The volunteers had a couple different and ancient streetcars to ride in and members took full advantage. The members that attended were, in addition to John and Deb, Ruth Synodinos with Don Andrews, Buzz Diehl, 'Lucky' Tom Golden with his friend, Bob Hensley, Paula and Gary Ruby, Ed Butler, Nick and Linda Prevas, Paul Habicht, Tom Young with grandson 'Caleb', Dan Denham, Vince Truant, Bill Wurzell, Helen and Jerry Gordon and from 'Ragin' Rats' Car Club, Wilmer Morrison and Bobby Robertson.



BEST IN SHOW! Dennis Pitchford of San Jose, California is all decked out in summer finery, as he stands beside his 1935 DeSoto Airflow business coupe. Dennis is the long-time treasurer of the National DeSoto Club and has attended numerous conventions around the country.

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Thursday's driving tour was to the Fire Museum of Maryland, the B&O Train Museum, and the Hampton Mansion, Baltimore County.

The Friday driving tour went to Pruitt Automotive Restoration shop in Glen Rock, Pennsylvania and to Maryland Public Television station where the long-running show 'Motor Week' with John Davis and Pat Goss is produced.

Bus tours went to the Eastern Shore of Maryland to the Fisherman's Crab Deck for lunch including steamed crabs followed by a ride to Annapolis for a boat cruise around the United States Naval Academy.

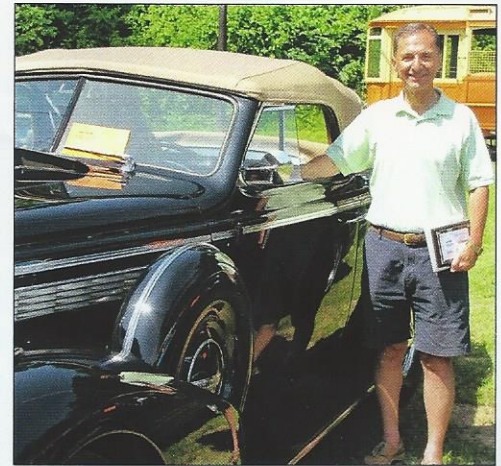
There was a bus tour to downtown Washington DC to the Smithsonian Institution and also a trip to the Air and Space Museum in Chantilly, Virginia.

The last bus tour was to historic Fort McHenry, the Museum of Industry and Baltimore's Inner Harbor. All venues that Chesapeake Region members are familiar with.

Wednesday evening a Welcome dinner was held with both clubs attending. The guest speaker was Jim Lucas, Program Chairman of Chesapeake Region AACA. His entertaining talk was on Baltimore traditions, Baltimore 'jargon', and the famous 'Hampton Hon' traditions. Thursday night there was an ice cream social and swap meet. The swap meet was attended by none other than J. Francis and Margaret Werneth. Francis, a founder and first president of the local DeSoto Club and of course a longtime member of Chesapeake Region.

On Saturday the judged car show was held on the infield of the Maryland State Fairgrounds racetrack. On Saturday evening July 9, a banquet dinner and awards program and was announced. Those attending the banquet were entertained by Bill Davis who sang his thrilling version of the 'National Anthem' and at closing, 'God Bless America.'

The awards program had many local DeSoto and National officers speak, including President James Turner and National President, Les Pesavento. The winners of the various class awards were announced by Activity Chairman, Bob Baer. The awards were handed out by Les Pesavento who 'mugged' it up with the winners while pictures were taken by co-editors of the National DeSoto Club magazine, Dan Lyman and Geoff Overley.



Vince Truant's outstanding 1938 Buick rumble seat convertible was chosen by museum volunteers as the 'Sponsors Choice' winner.

'Showfield Kerfuffle'

(They Asked For It!)

As many members of Chesapeake Region and The DeSoto Club know, my 1954 DeSoto Firedome sedan has been in the shop for over two months.

I only got 'Delovely' back on July 4th, the National Holiday and one day before the start of the National DeSoto Meet.

'Delovely' was a little forelorn having been exposed to the elements, the paint had dulled and there were little brown spots all over the exterior. I worked on the car in the early mornings of the convention. But, I still felt the car was not ready for a show. Therefore, I decided not to have the car judged. I know the issues the car has, so I don't need a judge telling me what I already know. However, everyone, especially Jim Turner and Willis Terrett were 'proding' me to allow judging of course, like the sharks they are they smelled blood in the water! They're thinking now is our chance to 'to beat Miss Fancy Pants', Delovely, with her power steering and power windows and fancy wheel covers. Reluctantly, I agreed to judging in class III, 1949-1954.

Turns out, Will's 1949 DeSoto Custom sedan won third place; Turner's 1953 Firedome (with aftermarket dual exhaust) garnered fourth place. **OUCH!**

You guessed it, 'Delovely' breezed into **SECOND PLACE** without even breathing heavy! She lost 'Best In Class' to a spectacular mint-green 1952 Firedome sedan with only 19,000 miles belonging to: Nelson Wilson of Kernersville, NC.

Turner and Terrett will no doubt claim Delovely got the sympathy vote from the judges, which rumor has it, Turner was trying to influence! He even resorted to 'stealing' one of Delovely's many trophies and placed in his backseat when my back was turned, true story.--Bill Wurzell