

Sunshine Dual in Melbourne, Florida – 2008 Grand National & Winter Meets

By Al Storrs, Photos By Ray Gettings

Chesapeake Region was represented by several members at the Sunshine Dual Meet in Melbourne, FL on the weekend of March 14th and 15th. The Cape Canaveral Region, which hosted both the Grand National on Friday and the Winter Meet on Saturday, put on a wonderful combined event to start the 2008 National Show season. The warm Florida weather was a welcome respite from our cold mid-Atlantic winter up north.

Sue and Terry Bond, Mary Jane and Lou Fritz, and Al Storrs, were seen having a great time during the meet and they all were show judges on both days.

On the show field, Sandi and Al Zimmerman had their 1934 Ford Cabriolet entered in Class 28A. The Zimmermanns received a Repeat Senior Grand National award on Friday and a Repeat Preservation award on Saturday.

Laura and Eric O'Dell had their 1979 Pontiac TransAm entered in Class 36F. The O'Dells received a Repeat Senior Grand National award on Friday and a Repeat Preservation award on Saturday.

Congratulations to the Chesapeake Region members who received the following judging awards: Terry Bond 100 credits, Mary Jane Fritz 150 credits, Al Storrs 150 credits, and Lou Fritz 200 credits.

There were 385 registered cars for the Grand National. A GM FutureLiner display bus was there, as well as a rarely seen 1936 Stout-Scarab from North Carolina. The weather was beautiful in the morning – a balmy 79 degrees with blue skies – but it was announced that a thunder storm with hail was coming in. However, it did not arrive until that evening. At the Winter National Meet, there were 495 registered cars. The weather was also

fantastic with a sunny 90 degrees, a record for the day.

The Dual Meet had a true international flavor with the arrival of twelve cars from Puerto Rico. It was interesting to watch the cars, which were in blue sea-going ship containers, being off-loaded from the rollback trucks.

The Host Region did a great job in laying out the show field for both meets. An interesting show field feature for cars registered in both meets had the assigned space from Friday's Grand National be the same for Saturday's Winter Meet.

The next Winter National Meet will be in Lakeland, FL, February 27th and 28th 2009. And the next Grand National will be a dual meet in conjunction with the Central Fall National Meet in Topeka, KS on September 18th 2009. Hope to see you there at both meets.



Pictured clockwise from the top left: Al Zimmermann's 1934 Ford Cabriolet entering the show field on Friday, a rear view of the GM FuturLiner, a 1913 Ford Model T getting a push, and a 1960 BMW Isetta – the economy car of the future?