

Halloween Poker Run Sets Record

By Anne Kenney & Tom Kenney

We had a record turn out for this year's Halloween Poker Run on Sunday, October 29th. Ninety-nine antique car lovers participated with forty-four cars (only four were modern) for another fun-filled day of late fall touring over scenic back roads in northern Baltimore County. The weather was definitely seasonal, but it was clear and sunny.

The day started with registration in front of Carrabba's in the Hunt Valley Mall. Every car received Run directions and a set of road questions to be answered by the driver and navigator crew. Registration duties were handled by Carole Currey, Florann Sordillo, and Anne Kenney.

We started the cars off from the Hunt Valley parking lot on the 50-mile Poker Run, which had two stops on the way to Friendly Farm Restaurant in time to eat at 2 PM. We needed to spread the cars out, so it took an hour and 15 minutes at Hunt Valley to get everyone off on the Run.

Josie and Bill O'Donnell left ahead of the Run to be in place at Callahan's Country Store in Upperco, the first stop. They gave out a poker card to each car on arrival. Josie said the staff at Callahan's was thrilled that we were there and had a big sign up, "Car Show Today!"

The Run went through the sculptured gardens of Broadmead before splitting into two groups. On the way to Callahan's, both groups traveled along back country roads on a beautiful fall day with spectacular fall foliage. After the first stop, the Run went past Morris Meadows on the way to the second stop at Wally's Convenience Store in Rayville, where Run participants received another poker card.

There were about an equal number of EFV-8 and CRAACA members at the Run and about eight DeSoto club members. The oldest cars were Ferd Driver's 1930 Ford Model A, Jim Hatfield's 1933 Plymouth, Don Ramsburg's 1936 Ford, and Bill Dorsey's 1937 Ford. Car makes were divided as follows: 17 Ford Motor Company, 14 General Motors, 6 Chrysler, and 3 independents.

We met up with the Lawsons at Friendly Farm. They got hopelessly off course at the very beginning and missed the whole Run. Possibly they saw the sign advertising a nearby winery and got sidetracked. The Habichts ran into trouble with a faulty fuel filter. Eight cars came to their rescue and they all finished the Run.

Nancy and Bob Lynch told us they just celebrated their 50th anniversary. After the Poker Run, they were going to the divorce lawyer. They were kidding, they had a great time.

New members Thelma and Dave Johnson told us this was

the most fun they've ever had with their antique car.

Janet and George Merkle won the poker pot with three aces. The prizes for the most correct answers to the Run questions were won by four teams: Lois and John Krupinsky, Bruce Knott and Scott Chaney, Mike and Cheryl Bianco, and Jack O'Hara and Ken Stevenson. Jack and Ken traveled the entire route with the top down on their 1947 Ford and it was a little brisk out!

The door prizes, (gift certificates to Friendly Farm), were won by Scott Chaney, Paul Habicht and Owen Garland. Pies from Friendly Farm were won by Eric O'Dell, Helen Gordon and Jonathan Bianco.

The "Call a Tow Truck" award was won by Paul Habicht for the fuel supply problems on his Cadillac. The "Car for Sale" award was won by Mildred and Al Lawson for getting hopelessly lost.

The Poker Run is a joint venture between the Chesapeake Region, AACA, the National Capital Region of the Early Ford V-8 Club of America, and the DeSoto Owners Club of Maryland.

Besides Anne and Tom Kenney, the Poker Run Steering committee included Josie and Bill O'Donnell, Florann and Joe Sordillo, and Carole and Bud Currey. Without the help guidance, and good humor of the other committee members, we wouldn't have had such a successful event. We spent many months researching the best roads and finding challenging clues to situations along the Run route.

We had a lot of fun putting on the Poker Run and, based on all the reports that we heard, most everyone who came out for this event had fun too. We hope to see everyone back for the Third Halloween Poker Run next year.

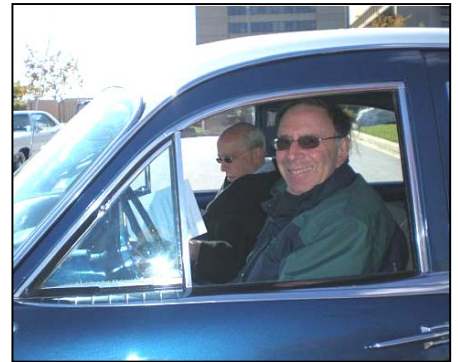
Participating on the Halloween Poker Run were: **Mary & Ed Allen, 1959 Buick; Carri & Dave Benson, 1957 Thunderbird;** Cheryl & Michael Bianco, 1974 AMC Hornet; Paul & Jonathon Bianco, 1983 AMC Spirit; Rosalie & Bob Brown, 1951 Ford; **Susan & Larry Butcher, 1938 Lincoln;** Pat Zeman + Thelma & Murray Cole, 1947 Packard; **Carole & Bud Currey, 1962 Pontiac;** Linda & Bill Dorsey, 1937 Ford; Anna & Sonny Nortman + **Thelma & Ferd Driver, 1930 Ford;** Wanda & Owen Garland, modern; Bill & Cindy George, 1974 Corvette; **Helen & Jerry Gordon, 1961 Cadillac; Ginny & Paul Habicht, 1959 Cadillac; Thelma & Dave Johnson, 1956 Thunderbird; Mollie & Jim Hatfield, 1933 Plymouth; Lynn & John Horn, 1965 Thunderbird; Anne & Tom Kenney, 1955 DeSoto; Scott Chaney & Bruce Knott, 1963 Ford; Lois & John Krupinsky, 1950 Ford; Mildred & Al Lawson, 1965 Mustang; and Nancy & Bob Lynch, 1970 Cadillac.**

Also on the Poker Run were: Maggie & Thomas McGovern,
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1969 Chrysler; Janet & George Merkle, 1950 Mercury; **Joan & Walton Meyers, 1953 Pontiac; Laura & Eric O'Dell, 1979 Pontiac; Josie & Bill O'Donnell, modern; Ken Stevenson & Jack O'Hara, 1947 Ford; Anna & Bob Peirce, 1955 Buick; Art & Boots Petrucci, 1964 Corvair; Jean & Gary Price, 1967 Plymouth; Sandi & Al Zimmerman + Anne Marie & Don Ramsburg, 1936 Ford; Carol & Allan Wellman + Elsie & Norman Reese, 1963 Chevrolet;**

Jennie Porter & Gary Rosecrans, 1965 Mustang; Eva & Milton Hartig + Mary Ellen & Fred Ritzman, 1960 Chevrolet; Ronnie Wineberg & Jerry Ross, 1954 Kaiser; Rose & Paul Smith, 1964 Thunderbird; Delores & Don Smallwood, 1972 El Camino; Florann & Joe Sordillo, 1950 Ford; Ruth & Jim Synodinos, 1941 Packard; Janice & Willis Terrett, 1951 Ford; Bernard & Mae Uhler, modern; Mary & Harry Wilhelm, modern; and Todd & Andrew + Vicky & Gary Wilmer, 1972 Chevrolet..



Pictured on arrival for the registration at Carrabba's - clockwise from left: Jack O'Hara & Ken Stevenson, who braved the brisk temperature with the top down, 1947 Ford; Joan & Walt Meyers, 1953 Pontiac; Ronnie Wineberg & Jerry Ross, 1954 Kaiser; Mildred & Al Lawson, 1965 Mustang; Ernie Nortman & Ferd Driver, 1930 Ford, the oldest car on the Run; and Laura & Eric O'Dell, new members, 1979 Pontiac.



From the left: George and Janet Merkle had the best poker hand – 3 aces; Eric O'Dell won one of the Friendly Farm pies; and Carole Currey, Florann Sordillo, & Anne Kenney give a thumbs up after registering 44 cars with 99 people at Carrabba's, the starting point.

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Heading out on the Poker Run pictured clockwise from the left: the Bensons, 1957 Thunderbird; the Gordons, 1961 Cadillac; Ferd Driver, 1930 Ford; the Wilmers, 1972 Chevrolet; the Habichts, 1959 Cadillac; and the Dorseys, 1937 Ford.

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