

THE CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN

Volume 48 - Number 4

April 2008

Visit our website: www.aaca.org/chesapeake

Published monthly by the
Chesapeake Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America



The 35th Flea Market . . . It Was Wet . . . But We Still Had Fun!

By Tom Young & Mary Allen

The annual Flea Market is the Club's first event of each year and signals that the active driving season with our antique cars and trucks is just a few weeks away. Officially it's still winter, but that's not what most of us are thinking. The Flea Market is also a great time for all of us to catch up with the hobby, talk about new cars acquired, share restoration project progress, and talk about the coming season's Club, regional, and national events.

The Club's setup crew started Friday, March 7th, to prepare the Howard County Fairgrounds for our Flea Market. Equipment and supplies were moved from the storage locker and set up in the buildings. The vendor spaces were laid out and the parking control barrels and cones were set up.

By sundown Friday we were prepared for the big event, but with the knowledge that Saturday's weather forecast was for a big late winter rain

storm followed by another weather front that would bring high winds and rapidly dropping temperatures – the old “March in like a lion” thing.

Bob Johannessen was back at the Fairgrounds Saturday morning, March 8th, before 5 AM to start the coffee brewing. Chuck Talbert showed up early with dozens of great looking and tasting fresh donuts that he bought and donated to the Club. Thank you Chuck for this thoughtful gesture.



Pictured above clockwise from the top left: Ben Harris, Dave Johnson & John Watkins in foul weather gear directing parking; a '40s Dodge pickup in the Car Corral waiting for a buyer; Franklin Gage was busy buying several items including this pair of tires; and Henry VerValen was hawking literature from his trunk in between the rain drops.

Continued on the next page >>

35th Flea Market – continued

Because of the predicted rainy weather quite a few vendors did not show up. For those vendors who braved the wet weather, we were able to open a couple of extra cowpen buildings and move those who wanted to be under cover. But there were still a few vendors who either had tents or other cover devices.

You would think that this year's Flea Market was a wash out, but that was far from the case. In spite of the weather, there was a good crowd of shoppers and spectators. Many vendors reported better than average sales, probably because there was less competition. Or maybe, shoppers who needed parts or supplies came out and spent their money. Everybody seemed to be upbeat and ready to have another great hobby year.

The Club's food and hot drink operation did very well considering the smaller crowd. At the end of the day we were pretty much sold out. The homemade pastries were popular, as were the tasty homemade soups, and we

sold more than 400 hot dogs. Vicky Wilmer and Mary Allen kept the food crew working smoothly throughout the day. Helping on the line were: Paula Ruby, Wallace Mitchell, Terri Materazzi, Anne Marie Ramsburg, and Mable Frank. Cashiers were Josie O'Donnell, Helen Gordon, and Joanne Day. And our busy hot drink purveyor was Bob Johannessen, who handled this job the whole day. Thanks to all of you for your hard work.

And thanks to the many Club members who donated homemade soup and pastries, plus those who made cash donations.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Cecil Polan, a Ford V-8 club member. Anne Marie Ramsburg sold him the ticket. The raffle was quite successful this year because of some changes we made in procedures. Selling tickets during the day were: Larry Butcher, who staffed the table; Read Van Zile, who hawked tickets at the end of the food line; and Jerry Gordon, who sold tickets to vendors.

About 2 PM the Flea Market activity slowed down quite a bit, so we started to shut down operations and clean up. The last couple of workers left about 4:30 PM, just before the second weather front hit with high winds and driving rain. So for the second year in a row, we missed the bad weather by a few hours.

Members who helped with the set-up Friday, parking early Saturday, and knock-down and clean-up later Saturday were: Bud Currey, John Shenton, Jerry Klapka, Dick Alexander, Dave Sturgis, Butch Cornes, Paul Habicht, Art Petrucci, Ben Harris, Al Lawson, Jim Synodinos, Jerry Gordon, John Watkins, Dave Johnson, Ed Allen, John Young, Harry Wilhelm, Dan Materazzi, and last, but certainly not least Franklin Gage, who left with me at 4:30.

In all, 35 members were present to help with various parts of the Flea Market and there were about 10 or so who had vending spaces. Thanks everyone. I'm proud of this group's effort!



Pictured above clockwise from the top left: Read Van Zile & Joanne Day; Larry Butcher who managed 50-50 raffle sales; Paula Ruby in front of the Club's banner; John Shenton flanked on the left by son Charles and on right by son John III; Anne Marie Ramsburg was busy on the food line; and our Mr. Coffee, Bob Johannessen who served up hundreds of cups.