

Back Roads Along The Halloween Poker Run

By Tom Kenney

Someone said that the countryside north and west of metro Baltimore is one of the most beautiful rural areas in America. The rolling hills, farms, trees, and rambling roads make for an enjoyable driving experience, especially if the weather is nice. And that certainly was the kind of day we had for the 4th Halloween Poker Run on Sunday, October 26th.

We had a record turnout of fifty-six cars (including the support crew), which overflowed the Friendly Farm lower parking lot by 10:30 AM. After picking up their driving packets and enjoying coffee and pastries, cars started departing for the fifty-mile tour in small groups.

We designed this Poker Run to take advantage of the scenery in Maryland's Carroll and Baltimore counties, and Adams county Pennsylvania. As cars departed the parking lot, half turned left. The other half turned right and drove the Poker Run route in reverse order so that the roads and stops didn't become overrun with traffic. It was common to see Run cars coming from the opposite direction and making turns not on your set of directions.

Besides just having a wonderful Sunday drive, there were fifty-seven questions about things one could observe on the roadsides along the route. The Navigator in each car was busy keeping the car on track and finding answers to the questions. The Poker hand cards were distributed at the start and finish, and at three stops along the way – Cramer's woodworking shop, Cadorus State Park near Hanover, and Crenshaw's Auto Restoration.

For those with an eye for spotting

antique cars along the route, there was one set of farm buildings with a 60s Chevrolet parked on one side of the road and a 40s Dodge pickup parked in the barn. Further on, another barn like garage had two early Mustangs under restoration.



Before the start of the Poker Run, some of the cars parked while participants had coffee and pastries

Everyone was due back at Friendly Farm by 2:15 PM for dinner and to find out who won the Poker Hand and answered the most questions correctly. There were a few late arrivals, but most returned in plenty of time. At dinner, we had 127 in the banquet room, which



Anne Marie & Don Ramsburg had the highest score on the Poker Run questions for the second straight year

filled almost every table.

After eating, the questionnaires were distributed for grading. The location on the road for each question was shown on the big screen with a close up of the correct answer. Some of the correct answers surprised many. No one had a

perfect score, but for the second year, Anne Marie and Don Ramsburg had the highest score. We may need to give them a handicap for next year!

Gary Ruby had the winning poker hand, a full house. And Ed Stagner won the 50/50. Door prizes were won by Cheryl Bianco, Joanne Day, Carolyn Conlon, Dave Berman, Walt Meyers, and Marie Copeland.

Many thanks to members who worked on the Poker Run: Josie & Bill O'Donnell, Carole & Bud Currey, Florann & Joe Sordillo, Paula & Gary Ruby, and Dixie & John Raffensparger.

Drivrs of the participating cars were: Gary Ruby, 1961 Chevrolet; Tim Seeds, 1964 Chevrolet; Boots Petrucci, 1964 Corvaire; Doug Robinson, 1978 Thunderbird; Tom Kenney, 1955 DeSoto; Jim Synodinos, 1941 Packard; George Merkle, 1950 Mercury; Read Van Zile, 1963 Thunderbird; John Raffensparger, modern; John Horn, 1965 Thunderbird; Don Ramsburg, 1936 Ford; Bill George, 1974 Corvette; Dan Materazzi, modern; Bob Peirce, 1955 Buick; Ken Schaffer, 1936 Ford; Milton Hartic, modern; John Krupinsky, 1964 Ford; Gary Wilmer, 1937 Ford; James Batchelder, 1964 Chevrolet; Joe Sordillo, 1950 Ford; Don Orr, 1972 Chevrolet; Tom McGovern, 1969 Chrysler; Bob Brown, 1951 Ford; Gary Price, 1967 Plymouth;

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Poker Run - continued

Fred Ritzman, 1960 Chevrolet; Walton Meyers, 1953 Pontiac; Paul Habicht, 1959 Cadillac; Jim Hatfield, modern; and Chuck Chaney, 1980 Chevrolet;

Also driving cars were: Vince Schittino, 1956 DeSoto; Bill O'Donnell, 1940 Ford; Bud Currey, 1965 Pontiac; Dale Mealey, modern;

Ed Allen, 1957 Chevrolet; Ferd Driver, 1952 DeSoto; Bill Conlon, 1960 Corvette; Willis Terrett, modern; Daniel Stagner, 1967 Chevrolet; Wayne Dietz, 1950 Ford; Ted Schneider, 1983 Oldsmobile; Larry Butcher, 1938 Lincoln; Tony Woodward, modern; Paul Bianco, 1974 Ford; Toma Keller, 1966 VW transporter; Tom Young,

1980 Plymouth; Arnold Darnell, 1972 Chevrolet; Judy Noel, 1981 Corvette; Mike Bianco, 1966 Plymouth; Clarence Jones, 1977 Dodge; Jonathan Bianco, 1956 Chrysler; Kyle Copeland, modern; Dave Benson, modern; Eric O'Dell, 1972 Pontiac; Mike McDaniel, 1935 Ford; David Berman, 1932 Ford; and JoAnn Lancaster, 1929 Ford.



Lois & John Krupinsky's 1964 Ford Galaxie



Laurie & Doug Robinson with their 1978 Thunderbird



Todd, Andrew, Vicky, & Gary Wilmer in their 1937 Ford



Gary Price's 1967 Plymouth Barracuda



Don Ramsburg's 1936 Ford



Ferd Driver's 1952 DeSoto