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Chesapeake Region's 2009 Flea Market Was Very Successful

By Tom Young & Mary Allen

It was still dark on Saturday morning March 14th when we arrived at the Howard County Fairgrounds to open the gates and get all the vendors set up in their spaces. What a surprise we had because there were vendors parked on the Fair entry road all the way out to Route 144. Based on our pre-registered space sales, we knew that this year's Flea Market was going to be good, but it was better than good!

Because of the demand for vending space, we had to access undercover spaces in four of the cow pens, which was the most we've ever used. We also had more car corral spaces sold than in prior years. Plus, we stocked up with extra food, but completely sold out about 1 PM. Buyer and spectator traffic matched the increased number of vendors. The whole feel of this year's Flea Market reminded several of us of what it used to be like in the old days of the Hershey Meet, but without the mud.

Weather wise, it was overcast most of the day and seasonably cool, but it was dry until very late in the day when everyone had gone. The lack of bad weather probably was an important factor that helped create the good turnout of vendors and heavy buyer and spectator traffic.

We had a new vendor in Dennis Carpenter (Ford V-8 parts) who sent a flea market rig from their North

Carolina base. We believe that this is the first time we've had a large national vendor at our Flea Market.



Pictured on top is a nice 1971 Pontiac project car on its way out of the car corral. Shown below are some of our gate guards – from the left: Franklin Gage, Ray Hirsch, and Dave Benson.

In walking around the Flea Market, it seemed that almost all the vendors were selling real automotive restoration items and parts. There were very few examples of imported tool sellers.

Support from Club members was excellent. We had more than enough

volunteers this year, and we had several members who bought vending spaces or came out to shop. One person estimated that about 100 Club members participated in one way or another during the two days.

One of the first volunteers working in the morning was our Mr. Coffee, Tom Kenney, who was at his spot bright and early to start the coffee pots perking. Tom and Anne made sure that coffee was flowing all day.

We want to extend a special thank you to all the Club members who provided home made pies, cakes, brownies, cookies, soups, and barbeque. As always, the homemade food is much better tasting than most store bought items. But we started the day with a bunch of donuts provided by Chuck Talbert, who deserves thanks for helping some of us start the day the right way with coffee and a donut.

And a big thank you to our food line workers: Anne Marie Ramsburg, Vicky Wilmer, Ginny Habicht, Helen Gordon, Josie O'Donnell, Paula Ruby, Anne Kenney, and Thelma Johnson.

The 50/50 Raffle also did well with tickets selling right up to the 2 PM drawing. Clayton Miller, a Club member, was the winner. This year, Art Petrucci handled processing the 50/50 mail solicitation and Larry Butcher collected the mailed-in money

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Flea Market – continued

and staffed the booth on Saturday.

Joanne Day and Ted Schneider walked around the Flea Market making 50/50 sales to vendors. Thanks to this group for their efforts.

On Friday and Saturday the following members helped bring equipment in

and set up the Flea Market, parked vendors, guarded the gates, packed-up afterwards, and did the final clean-up: Ray Hirsch, Dave Johnson, Franklin Gage, Gary Wilmer, Paul Habicht, Dan Materazzi, Dick Alexander, John Shenton, Ed Allen, Bud Currey, John Young, Jerry Gordon, Dave Cavey, Ralph Stroud, Dave Benson, Butch

Cornes, and Dave Sturgis. A big thank you to all these folks.

And finally, thanks to Buzz Diehl, who did the publicity, and to Linda Young, who staffed the phone line.

Every member who played a role in the 2009 Chesapeake Region Flea Market should take pride in a job well done.



The hard working crew on the food line included from the left top row: Ginny Haicht, Anne Kenney, Paula Ruby, Anne Marie Ramsburg; bottom row: Thelma Johnson, Josie O' Donnell, Mary Allen, and Vicky Wilmer



Dennis Carpenter Early Ford V-8 parts



Our Mr. Coffee



This vendor was ready for any kind of weather



Car Corral



Petroliana Items



Yorkies walking their owners