

Umbrellas Sold Well At The Flea Market

By Tom Young & Vicky Wilmer

One of our biggest concerns about the 2010 Flea Market on the first of March was how we were going to handle the snow mounds that still remained on the outdoor vendor spaces and parking fields at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Well, Mother Nature has a way of taking care of situations like that and as the Flea Market weekend approached, warmer weather made the snow disappear. But, another big nor'easter blew into the area before dawn on March 13th and we had to handle placing as many vendors under cover in the cow pens as we could. In fact, we opened up all the cow pens, which is a first for our Flea Market. At least it was warm enough to just soak the entire event thoroughly.

In the past, vendors who actually show up when it's raining have learned that wet weather seems to have almost no effect on their sales. Shoppers still come out, especially this year after February's big snowstorms gave everybody cabin fever. Car hobbyists are a hardy bunch and most of us have been through plenty of wet HersheyWeek flea markets so that we know how to handle the inconvenience. Our flea market motto "Buy – Sell – Trade" is true in all kinds of weather.

Because of the growing demand for vending space the past few years and the big increase in shoppers, for the 2010 Flea Market we developed a new layout for the outdoor vending spaces, traffic control, and shopper parking. We had to quickly switch to Plan B Saturday morning. But with the excellent turnout of volunteers, we had enough help to make a smooth transition.

The bottom line on the 2010 Flea Market was that we sold more spaces than in any year in memory. And that was with almost no vendors showing up to buy space on Saturday.

An important feature of the Club's Flea Market is the food line, which provides snacks, hot beverages, soup, and hot dogs. The food line was busy steadily as vendors, shoppers, and volunteers stopped in for breakfast, lunch, or just a quick cup of hot coffee. Donations of homemade pastries and soup are important to the success of the food operation. We want to extend a special thank you to all the Club's members who

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On the food line, Vicky Wilmer (right) with her mother Ellen Kelley.



Despite the wet weather, this 1950 Chevrolet wasn't the only vehicle in the car corral. The hood was up for viewing several times during the day, but it went back home with the guy who brought it to the Flea Market.



On Saturday there was a steady flow of customers at the food line and that's where the 50/50 Raffle ticket booth was set up – under the Club's banner. Shown here from the left: Al Lawson, Jerry Gordon, and Larry Butcher.



At Gary Wilmer's booth in building #2 – from the left: David Kelley (Vicky's father), Gary and Andrew.

Flea Market – continued



took the time and made the effort to prepare some really delicious food.

During the day, we had excellent support from Mary Allen – who is the co-manager, Anne Marie Ramsburg, Terry Materazzi, Ginny Habicht, Barbara Muldowney, Paula Ruby, Buzz Diehl – this year’s Mr. Coffee, Barbara Diehl, Helen Gordon, Joanne Day, Read Van Zile, Henry Chaudron, Chris Young, and Chuck Talbert. And of course my mom, Ellen Kelley, who baked pies and helped get the hot dogs made. A really big **THANK YOU** to each of these members for their hard work.

This year, set-up was a two-day task headed by Dan Materazzi. We lined all the vendor spaces on Thursday. Of course that work was washed away early Saturday. On Friday, we set up the buildings and cow pens with vendor spaces, plus electrical and equipment. The following members and friends of the hobby who volunteered were: Dick Alexander, Gary Wilmer, Butch Cornes, Dave Sturges, Franklin Gage, John Young, and David Kelley. We owe a big **THANK YOU** to these volunteers.

Anyone who volunteered for outdoor duties Saturday deserves an extra kudo for coming out in dawn’s early light dressed in rain gear to work for several hours. Besides Bud Currey, there was Dave Cavey, Ralph Stroud, Tom Kenney, Ryan Frederick, Franklin Gage, John Shenton Jr., Ed Allen, John Shenton III, John Horn, and Denny Kephart. So, here’s an extra big **THANK YOU** for helping.

The 50/50 Raffle drawing was done on Saturday afternoon and the Club’s own Jim Popp was the winner. The 50/50 was a cooperative effort by Art Petrucci preparing the solicitation mailing and Larry Butcher gathering all the responses and selling tickets on Saturday with the help of several other members. And a big **THANK YOU** to the members who made this important fund-raiser happen by selling or buying tickets.

The commitment from everyone involved in the Flea Market keeps making this a better event each year. The promotional effort by Buzz Diehl and Ted Schneider has resulted in people finding us from a three or four state area, and in some cases even further.

All of us are looking forward to a great hobby year and one rainy day certainly didn’t change that. I’m proud to be a member of a Club that can run a good flea market year after year.

Oh by the way, we were just kidding about the umbrellas. There weren’t any vendors who had umbrellas for sale; really a missed opportunity.

Shown on the left are some of our food line workers starting at the top left across by rows: Mary Allen, Ginny Habicht, Anne Marie Ramsburg, Joanne Day, Paula Ruby, Barbara Diehl, Helen Gordon, Read Van Zile, Buzz Diehl, and Barbara Muldowney.