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Hershey 2010 - The World Series of Car Collecting Was Terrific

By Jerry Gordon & Ted Schneider

The Eastern Fall Meet in Hershey has so many features that are unique compared to other AACA meets, or to any collector vehicle event for that matter.

This year, beginning at dawn on Wednesday you could wander for three full days in the flea market areas and the car corral looking for bargains and also seeing some amazing things automotive. Then if the car corral asking prices didn't surprise you, there was a two-day auction at Hershey Lodge run by RM Auctions featuring a lineup of excellent, high-end vehicles. So, at one meet you had the options of finding a complete project car in the flea market, or a decent, ready to drive vehicle in the car corral, or something unusual in brass, chrome or muscle at the Hershey Lodge auction.

And the Hershey Meet had another unique feature for 2010 – beautiful weather, a clear sky and warm temps from Wednesday to Saturday, October 6th through the 9th. Those of us who remember the old blue, red and white flea market fields that became mudslides during Hershey week because it always rained welcomed the beautiful weather

and the completely paved flea market fields.

Besides all the flea market activity, those car enthusiasts looking to occupy their evenings could put on their fancy duds and attend the AACA Museum Gala on Wednesday night. Then there were old-time movies on Thursday night and a talent show Friday evening – both of which were free. During mid-day Friday, the Hershey Region had the traditional High-Wheeler Event and the Race Car Condition Run. The great weather certainly was a factor in attracting the large crowd that came to the stadium to watch these events.

Most of the week the AACA Museum and Library had extended hours to encourage members from all over the country to visit. Special exhibits and programs were offered to showcase these two valuable national resources and reinforce the AACA's mission statement – *America's premier resource for the collectible vehicle community.*

Saturday's car show in itself was a unique experience starting with the "parade of vehicles" that went along about a mile

of roadway before entering the showfield. The whole route was lined with spectators (in places they were standing several rows deep) looking at and taking pictures of the show vehicles.

Chesapeake Region was well represented on the showfield with forty-one vehicles registered in the judged classes, plus HPOF and DPC classes. Members received three Senior, three First Junior, and twelve Preservation awards. The show results appear on page 2.

On the showfield Saturday, almost everyone turned into a spectator looking at the estimated 1,300 vehicles and wandering through the field to find old hobby acquaintances and also making new friends. It seems that everyone is more than willing to talk about their vehicles and the hobby.

There is one Chesapeake Region member, however, who really didn't have much to say. While he did seem to be enjoying the car show he was more interested in snacking and taking a short nap on a warm day. I'm referring to Clinton O'Dell, who is only thirteen months old, but has set some sort of AACA record

Continued on the next page >>



Shown above are two members' cars in the HPOF (Historic Preservation of Original Features) class. On the left is Bruce Knott with his 1967 Ford Galaxie 500, which received a repeat HPOF Certification. On the right is new Chesapeake Region member George Spicka at his first Hershey show with his 1969 Chevrolet Caprice, which received a HPOF certification.

2010 AACA Eastern Fall Meet – Show Results Chesapeake Region Members' Vehicles

Class	Name	Year/Make	Award
17A	Ralph Stroud	1927 Chrysler	Repeat Preserv.
18D	Dave Phillips	1927 Franklin	DNJ
20E	Larry Butcher	1938 Lincoln	Repeat Preserv.
20F	Paul Habicht	1940 Packard	
20F	Allan Weinstein	1941 Hupmobile	Third Junior
25A	Dave Benson	1955 Jaguar	Senior
25A	Henry Ver Valen	1953 Jaguar	
25D	Randy Moss	1971 Jaguar	First Junior
25E	Doug Ehmann	1984 Porsche	Senior
25E	Chuck Visconage	1972 DeTomasso	First Junior
26B	Tom Yannuzzi	1949 Chrysler	Repeat Preserv.
26C	Owen Garland	1951 Ford	Repeat Preserv.
26C	John Krupinsky	1950 Ford	
27D	John Gambo	1961 Metropolitan	Repeat Preserv.
27D	Jerry Gordon	1961 Cadillac	Repeat Preserv.
27D	Tom Young	1960 Thunderbird	
27E	Bob Johnson	1963 Studebaker	Second Junior
27F	Roy Kidwell	1965 Plymouth	Repeat Preserv.
27G	Courtney Shenkle	1967 Buick	Repeat Preserv.
27L	Royce Emerson	1977 Cadillac	Repeat Preserv.
27O	Ted Schneider	1983 Oldsmobile	DNJ
27P	Bob Johannessen	1984 Buick	
30A	Dan Materazzi	1958 Corvette	First Preserv.
33	Ed Allen, Sr.	1957 Chevrolet	Repeat Preserv.
36B	Gary Wilmer	1963 Chevrolet	Repeat Preserv.
36C	Ray Adler	1969 Dodge	
36D	Bob Johnson	1968 Shelby Mustang	First Junior
36F	Eric O'Dell	1972 Pontiac	Senior
DPC	Scott Chaney	1980 Chevrolet	Repeat Certif.
DPC	Ferd Driver	1952 DeSoto	Repeat Certif.
DPC	Rick Hollar	1972 Buick	
DPC	Tom Kenney	1955 DeSoto	Repeat Certif.
DPC	Tim Krewson	1948 Hudson	
DPC	Tommy Thompson	1973 Chevrolet	Repeat Certif.
DPC	Tom Young	1980 Plymouth	Repeat Certif.
HPOF	Ed Hainke	1975 Cadillac	Certified
HPOF	Bruce Knott	1967 Ford	Repeat Certif.
HPOF	Walt Meyers	1953 Pontiac	Repeat Certif.
HPOF	Alan Sandler	1966 Buick	Repeat Certif.
HPOF	George Spicka	1969 Chevrolet	Certified
HPOF	Pat Wenderoth	1964 Lincoln	Certified

Hershey 2010 – continued

by attending his fourth National Meet since last year's Hershey Meet. Clinton's parents, Laura and Eric O'Dell, received a Senior Award on their 1972 Pontiac Trans Am.

Club members had a couple of hard luck experiences that resulted in cars being scratched from Saturday's car show. Before coming to Hershey

Tom Young's 1960 Thunderbird began having braking problems that caused a steering issue. Tom worked frantically in the days before Hershey week, but was unable to resolve the problem, so he left the car home and just brought his 1980 Plymouth Volare.

In another hard luck story, John Krupinsky left for Hershey at 6:30 AM in his 1950 Ford with Bill Dorsey riding shotgun. Near Glen Rock on I-83 the Ford stopped running and John quickly pulled over to the side. They determined that the car had an electrical problem that drained the battery. It was a situation that couldn't be fixed out on the road, so John called a Pennsylvania towing company to take it back home. But the towing company refused to cross the state line into Maryland. So John and Bill had to arrange with friends in the Glen Rock area to get back home, then return with a trailer to retrieve the Ford. Not the best Hershey Show for John.



Laura & Eric O'Dell's 1972 Pontiac Trans Am received its Senior Award on the showfield Saturday. While the car was being judged, Clinton O'Dell was enjoying a nice day – it looks like he is saying “I have a better gig than the E-Trade dude”.

The Club had six members' cars in the HPOF class, including George Spicka's 1969 Chevrolet Caprice. Hershey 2010 was George's first AACA National Meet and the car received an HPOF Certification.

George is new to the hobby and the '69 Caprice is his first antique/collectible car. His interest in cars dates back to childhood when he built model cars from those Revell kits you could buy at the hobby shop. Through the years George just admired collectible cars.

In the spring of 2009 that changed while he was getting his daily driver serviced. George overheard the shop owner tell another customer “They don't make them like that anymore.” George was curious so he



looked behind the building and saw this **1969 Chevy Caprice**. He was amazed by the condition of this

forty-one year old car. There were hardly any marks on its original lime-frost paint, and the interior was

Continued on page 4 >>

Hershey 2010 – continued from 2

even better. A sign on the windshield said it was a Survivor Car, with only 54K miles. The engine was a big-block 396, but with an economical 2-barrel carburetor. Seems that this one-owner West Virginia Chevy was always garage-kept. When the owner passed away, his family decided to sell it and George's mechanic ended up with it.

George noticed that the Caprice's price had been reduced substantially. As he drove back home, he kept thinking about the beautiful, well-kept machine. Later that day while checking online, George found that the listed '69 Caprice value in good condition was a lot more than the asking price. George

realized that if the Caprice got away he would be kicking himself for a long time. So, he drove back to the garage and put down a deposit. In less than a month, the Caprice was featured on WBAL-TV morning news.

The final part of George's story covers what he learned about the antique/collectible car hobby. He was amazed at the number of possible events during the driving season. When he went to some of the them with the Caprice he was again amazed at the number of people attending and showing cars. His first event was a spring festival at the county seat. The following week it was a school fund

raising event. Then it was an event for a Fallen Officers Scholarship Fund. Between car shows and cruise nights, George found that there were activities almost seven days a week.

Besides showing off the Caprice at events, one of George's big pleasures is walking around, looking at and taking photos of the other vehicles.

At the end of the Hershey car show on Saturday, the field began to empty as all the vehicles either headed to their trailers or left for home. The World Series of Car Collecting was coming to an end, with only the Awards Banquet left. This is a great hobby!



Pictured in Row 1 above on the left: a scene along the road to the showfield entrance on Saturday morning; and John Gambo with his 1961 Metropolitan. Row 2 from the left: Pat Wenderoth's 1964 Lincoln; Dave Phillips 1927 Franklin; and Henry Ver Valen with his 1953 Jaguar XK120 fixed head coupe. Every year at Hershey big crowds of spectators flock around the race cars in the Competition Racing Vehicles classes: shown in Row 3 from the left: a 1949 Allard; 1931 Chevy Dirt Track Dominator; and a late '40s Offenhauser powered Kurtis Kraft midget.