

AACA Annual Meeting, February 6-8, 2014 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

By Vicky Wilmer

Gary and I have just returned from the 78th AACA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. An ice storm struck our area on Wednesday (Feb 5) before we were to leave and knocked out our power for over 17 hours. We were unsure whether we would be able to go and not sure what the conditions were in Philadelphia. Since schools were closed on Thursday and my parents were able to come up from Chestertown to stay with the boys, we decided to leave in the afternoon. Buzz Diehl rode up with us and we had no trouble on the road until we got close to Philadelphia. Once we got close to Philadelphia we saw the effects of the ice storm. There were many down trees and power outages which were evidenced by the number of traffic lights out along our route. Thankfully the Sheraton Hotel had power when we arrived at 5:30 pm. After we checked in, we ran into some friends from other regions. After catching up with them, we decided to search for a good place to proudly display our new Chesapeake Region banner. We found a spot on the stairway where everyone checking in could see it. We found a great place for dinner not far from the hotel called Mace's Crossing. The food was good and we were in the company of other AACA members. What more could we ask for.

On Friday, Gary headed down to register for us while I got ready for the First Ladies' Breakfast hosted by Tammy Cox, the first lady of 2013. At the breakfast I sat at a table with Chesapeake member, Mildred Lawson as well as ladies and one gentleman from other regions. Over a delicious breakfast we discussed the weather and how we all hope for spring to come soon! After breakfast Tammy introduced Hilary Becker, AACA National Director. Hilary shared a movie with us about the Amelia Island Concourse d'Elegance. After the movie, door prizes were awarded and the final prize was two tickets to the Amelia Island Concourse d'Elegance for 2015. Unfortunately neither Mildred nor I won those tickets. While I was at breakfast, Gary attended three seminars that were offered. He went to one on auto values, one on General Motors literature presented by Chesapeake member, Al Storrs and one on Crosley automobiles and appliances. They were all well done and informative. For lunch we walked to an Irish Pub (the hotel had provided us with a coupon) a couple of blocks from the hotel. We enjoyed a wonderful meal there before heading back to attend more seminars. Gary attended a seminar showing old film shorts and commercials relating to cars. The President's dinner was held that evening. The President of each local region or club is invited to attend this dinner along with their spouse. At each table a national AACA Director was seated. That allowed us time to discuss any concerns or questions that we had. Also at this dinner, presidents from several regions and clubs present checks to the AACA Museum and to the

AACA Library. Due to the hard work of all of the Chesapeake members, Gary was able to proudly present a check for \$500 to the AACA Museum for the Cammack Tucker Collection and a check for \$500 to the AACA Library. Afterwards there was a silent auction to benefit the AACA Museum.

Gary was up early on Saturday to attend a seminar about HPOF judging and one presented by Chesapeake member Jim Lucas on tips on automotive electronics. After lunch at a local sub shop, Gary headed to a seminar on restoration tips. Gary and I then headed to the General Membership meeting. Here is where they announce the new board members and the new president for 2014. Our new President of AACA for 2014 is Maureen "Micky" Bohne. She was unable to attend as her husband had a medical emergency the week before. At this meeting any member can stand up at the roundtable and ask the board any question that they would like. A roundtable is held at every national meet and is well worth the time to attend. Then it was time to get ready for the National Awards dinner. Chesapeake was awarded the Award of Excellence for our Newsletter and our Website. Congratulations to Nick Prevas and Buzz Diehl for all of their hard work. In years past Chesapeake Region has had many National Award winners. This year was no exception. Franklin Gage received the Drivers Participation Award. This award recognizes an outstanding car and owner who exemplifies the spirit of maintaining and driving a collectible vehicle. Congratulations Franklin! What a thrill to hear one of our club member's name announced and see him receive this prestigious award! One thing that was emphasized at the Awards Banquet was that often times these cars are nominated 2 to 3 times before they actually receive their National Award. That just tells me that we have a lot of wonderful cars in AACA and the competition for these awards is steep. Just being nominated for a National Award is a honor. This past year Ron King was nominated. Congratulations to Ron! Bring your cars out to National shows to qualify for these awards!

Early Sunday morning Buzz, Gary and I departed for home. We were concerned about another snow storm headed our way and we were able to get home before it arrived. The Annual Meeting is a great time to renew friendships and make new ones, learn how AACA works and learn something new at the seminars. Thanks again for the opportunity to represent the Chesapeake Region at the Annual Meeting.

Sighted in Philadelphia were Franklin Gage, John Young, Tom Young, Mildred and Al Lawson, Al Storrs, Elvon Lloyd, Terry and Susan Bond, Jim Lucas and Buzz Diehl. Sorry if I missed anyone.

Don't miss the March 10th membership meeting! Nick Prevas will present Part 2 of a video on the Don Garlits Collector Car Museum, Ocala, Florida.