

THE CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN

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Antique Automobile Club of America

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EIGHT VEHICLES SHOWCASED JANUARY 1 TO 4

Member's Display 'Luminous' At 2015 Motor Trend International Auto Show, Baltimore Convention Center

By Bill Wurzell, Editor

Eight hardy Chesapeake Region members began the club's 60th anniversary off right, rolled the dice and accepted the challenge of placing their vehicles in the 2015 Motor Trend International Auto Show at the ideal venue of The Baltimore Convention Center. Rolled the dice? Challenge? It certainly is, who knows what the weather will be going in and coming out? This year we lucked out. Pleasant going in, light rain and pleasant leaving.

Activities Director, Tom Kenney kept in touch with members as to how many spaces we would be allotted for members cars. Turns out, we were given ten spaces but Tom didn't know this until the last minute. I stalled long enough to determine the weather was going to be acceptable on both days so I signed on with my 1954 Desoto in the mix. This year's show wasn't my first; my car appeared in the 2012 show and I had an absolute blast. This show is so rewarding and so much fun. Lots and lots of spectators asking all sorts of questions about each car.

All good things...

As with years past, exhibitors heard comments from people saying how much they appreciated C.R. members sharing their antique automobiles. Also, heard the comment multiple times: 'these cars are so much more fun to look at than the new cars!' This venue and show truly is an antique automobile owners dream

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Many spectators 'gushed' over the vehicles Chesapeake Region had on display. However, all would agree the most spectacular vehicle was the 1938 Packard '12', 1608 Phaeton Convertible with aluminum body by Derham.



The group above displayed their vehicles at the 2015 Auto Show sponsored by Motor Trend Magazine. Ron King did not have his 1985 Buick Riviera at the show as it's in the body shop for 'splash panel' repair. That made the group all orphans! Ron was there everyday, bell to bell, he took great care of the other entrants by wiping each car down daily. L-R: front: Ron King, Sandi Deeds, middle: Tom Kenney, Gene Sauter, Jerry Ross, Gary Wilmer, back: Bill Wurzell, Mark Deeds. (Missing from picture, Pat Wenderoth.) Fully 25% of the people in this picture are eye doctors; no animals were harmed taking this photo.

event. The crowds were steady all during the show, especially on opening day, January 1st and Saturday, January 3rd.

Members cars in the show included new members, Mark and Sandra Deeds, displaying an eye-popping 1964 Mercury Comet Caliente Convertible in 'Chile Pepper Red' and a 1969 Mercury Cougar XR7 convertible with all white interior and contrasting maroon exterior. Mark and Sandi were there everyday, mostly all day. They didn't hesitate to jump in on the children's judging event Tom devised to get kids (and parents) involved in the show.

Also on display were Tom Kenney's eye-catching 1960 DeSoto Adventurer four door hardtop and Jerry Ross's 1954 Kaiser Manhattan sedan. I talked to a fellow in his fifties that lingered around the Kaiser for an hour and he just could not believe the styling and interior of Jerry's Kaiser Manhattan. He was seriously 'blown away' by the car's unique features. He wasn't the only one.

The only '30's' vehicle and category killer of the show was the

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Pat Wenderoth's 1928 Studebaker Eight Sedan



Mark and Sandi Deeds 1969 Mercury Cougar XR7 Convertible



Sandi and Mark Deeds 1964 Mercury Comet Caliente Convertible



Jerry Ross's Outstanding 1954 Kaiser Manhattan Sedan

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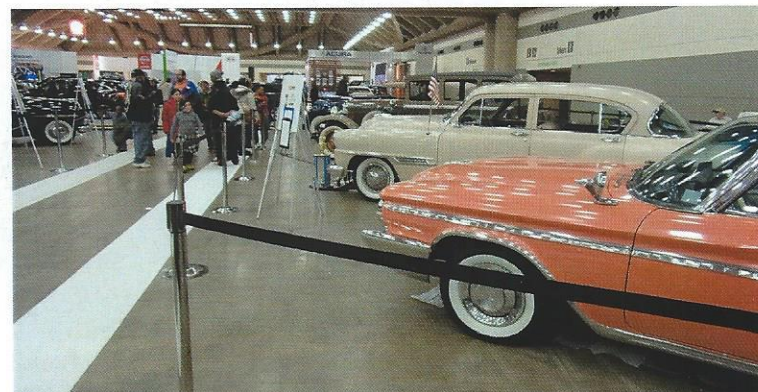
stunning 1938 Packard four door touring convertible with side curtains (not installed) owned by 'renaissance man for all seasons', 91-year-young, Mr. Charles Gillet. The Packard is lovingly cared for, represented and driven solely by Chief Judge, Gene Sauter. Gene, a longtime associate of Mr. Gillet's, having worked at Mr. Gillet's Porsche, Audi, Volkswagen and Subaru dealerships. Gene is also involved in the extensive restoration and maintenance of the priceless collection. The Packard is a 'one-off'; with body by Derham. From the firewall back, the body is all aluminum, a *conservative* value on the Packard is \$300,000. The Gillet collection is currently restoring a 1930's Pierce-Arrow four door convertible.

Charles Gillet, is a Baltimore native, Yale University graduate and former editor of Road & Track Magazine. Gene and I accompanied him to the show on Friday, January 2. Charles had a delightful time visiting with friends and spectators. He was delighted to see his award winning Packard convertible in the CR display.

Other cars drawing attention were Pat Wenderoth's original 1928 Studebaker Eight sedan. Pat purchased the car from the original owner in 1960. He has driven the Studebaker throughout the United States and Canada. An engine overhaul is planned for 2015. Gary Wilmer's rare, immaculate and unmolested 1950 Mercury Sport Sedan drew many admiring looks, especially from a certain group of 'lead sled' lovers that were imagining the car with the grille from my 1954 DeSoto Firedome...'back the truck up buddy!'



Display looking West



Display looking East