

THE CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN



The Official Monthly Newsletter of Chesapeake Region
Antique Automobile Club of America



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WEST VIRGINIA/GAN JULY 14 TO 19

Large Group Of Chesapeake Region Members Attend DeSoto National Meet in Kalamazoo

By Bill Wurzelt, Editor

If you missed a few people at the July 13 membership meeting it's probably because they were getting ready or had already left to attend the 2015 National DeSoto Convention and Meet in Kalamazoo, MI.



DeSoto Club and C. R. member, Will Terrett pulls into line for a photo op just prior to the beginning of 'Show Day' at the 2015 DeSoto Annual Meet in Kalamazoo, July 19. Will's DeSoto went on to capture third-place in Class 'A' and more importantly the prestigious 'People's Choice' Award. Bill Wurzelt photo

Your intrepid reporter accompanied fellow travelers, Will Terrett and James Turner, Chesapeake Region's Secretary and President of Maryland DeSoto Owners' Club. We departed Will's palatial residence in Anne Arundel County in the wee hours of Tuesday July 14. Will trailed his 'outstanding' 1955 DeSoto Sportsman two-door hardtop that was a big hit on show day, July 19th. The 'Show Day' gathering was held at the hard to describe Gilmore Car Museum (www.gilmorecarmuseum.org). It's hard to convey the vastness of this facility. There are buildings that were erected precisely to look and feel just like automobile dealership buildings of the 1930's, '40s and '50s. C.R. member, Bob Lenio remarked "the buildings not only looked like dealerships, they 'smelled' like them." Bob is a longtime DeSoto devotee and has attended over twenty five national DeSoto conventions.

'The Gilmore' has something for everybody. Whatever marque you

Continue to Page 11, 'DeSoto' Meet..

RON SIEGRIST DOES IT AGAIN!

Great Day For B&O Railroad Museum Show

By Bill Wurzelt, Editor

Two years in a row now; first at the 2014 Maryland Fire Museum show in Lutherville and this year at the 2015 B&O Museum show, Ron Siegrist wins the 'Sponsor's Choice' award. So you say, 'great car', Ron deserves it, right? After all, he bought the car new in '52! Well, both times Ron's 1952 Oldsmobile '98' convertible was parked right next to my DeSoto Firestone. Its obvious to me, I'm bringing Ron extraordinarily good fortune! What else could it be? *Congratulations Ron!*

If we would have offered an 'unusual' or 'oddball award' the car that would have captured it would most likely have been a 1957 Mercury 'Commuter' two door station wagon with three speed manual transmission on the column. Even more unusual is what was under the hood: large displacement V8 with two four barrel carburetors along with a racing cam and pistons. I spoke to the owner, John Harding, my question was "how much of that is stock?" "All of it" Harding replied. He then explained that Mercury Division manufactured 100 such motors for the Mercury Racing Team in 1957. Before all the motors could be utilized, parent Ford Motor Company ended the stock car racing program. Many of the motors wound up in police pursuit vehicles and some were made available to the public; at a 'slight' additional cost. Harding's Mercury Commuter wagon was one of the lucky recipients.

That's what I like about the events in which Chesapeake Region participates, you never know what you'll run into.

Continue to page 6 for participants..



Ron Siegrist is all smiles, June 28th, after accepting the 2015 Sponsor's Choice Award from Steve Madewell, Education Director of the B&O Museum. Steve selected Ron's 1952 Oldsmobile '98' convertible for the award. Bill Wurzelt photo

HELP!

Dear Members: We need your help! In order to meet our minimum obligation for the Aug 1st 30th, 60th Anniversary Picnic, we urgently request your reservations 1/0~ tickets are only \$10 for adult members; \$5.00 for junior members. Complete and mail registration form on page 12 or from www.chesapeakeaaca.org Please, do it now!