

# THE CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN

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

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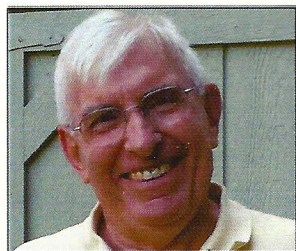


## 'WHITE KNIGHT' TO THE RESCUE

# Willis Terret Completes A Remarkable Restoration

By Bill Wurzell, Editor

At great risk to my personal safety and knowing that I'm going to be subjected to the slings and arrows of many members of Chesapeake Region, we're going to shove another... no, check that, we're going to regail you with another episode in the harrowing life of a certain 1949 DeSoto Custom sedan that spent FORTY YEARS in solitary confinement in McLean, Virginia.



'Sir' Willis

This is a story of 'transformation.' Earlier this year *The Bulletin* featured a piece about a DeSoto that was looking for a 'white knight' to rescue her from possible oblivion; or should I say, 'crusher?' Oh, heaven forbid.

Well, the white knight appeared in the form of Sir Willis Terret from the Hamlet of Millersville, County of Anne Arundel.

The owner of the stored DeSoto, fair maiden 'Barbara', needed to make the DeSoto go away because she wanted to sell her manse. Barbara and Sir Willis reached an agreement that she would sign over the title for the DeSoto, provided the car would not be 'hot-rodded' (I swear, Barb's words, not mine) or even worse, 'crushed.'

Since then, Willis had the DeSoto removed from confinement via rollback, and transported to his good friend Murry's well equipped livery. While there, the DeSoto was fitted with a new fuel tank, fuel and brake lines, new brake lining, brake drums, wheel cylinders, master cylinder, radiator, belts and

*continued on page 3*



February 2014, emerging into sunlight after 40 years!



August 2014, from gritty, grimy and forlorn hulk to the above with knowledge, dedication and tender loving care.



J. 'Ferd' Driver past-president of DeSoto Owners Club of Maryland presents DeSoto National Appreciation Award to James Turner. Looking on: J. Francis Werneith, Co-founder and former president of the club.

## Secretary James Turner Receives National Award

As many members know, Chesapeake Region Secretary, Jim Turner, is also President of DeSoto Owners Club Of Maryland.

For the past year, Jim has been involved in getting the local club recognized as a full fledged chapter of the National DeSoto Club. This was a time consuming endeavor that only few people would have the fortitude to pursue. Research and 'due' diligence are immense, even requiring changes to the local club's by-laws. However, the benefits for the local club are numerous.

What many people don't realize these days in our litigious society, is that their club or organization cannot or should not sponsor an event without some type of liability insurance coverage. If they don't have liability coverage, the officers and the organization can be sued and held responsible for an injury to a spectator. When the local DeSoto club came under the 'umbrella' of the National Club, liability coverage is automatically applied.

Recognizing Jim's effort, the National DeSoto Club chose to present him with an 'Award Of Appreciation.' for outstanding dedication to the National and local clubs. Congratulations, Jim!

*'Restoration'...continued from page 1*

new wiring, new valves and perhaps the most important item, the six cylinder motor was unstuck! It now purrs like a kitten and can't be heard with the hood closed...based on my hearing.

Willis also buffed and polished the blue paint to a point where it's as good as it will get; ditto for the bright work. He brought it back to a high luster. Only a little 'pitting' on the cast metal parts.

On Tuesday, August 26, 'The Two Muskeeters' Sir Daniel of Materazzi, Sir Thomas of Kenney and their

coachman, yours truly, visited Sir Willis at his castle and observed first hand the amazing transformation of the DeSoto.

All jesting aside folks, what Willis Terret has done with this car is beyond amazing and he did it with what must be considered a very reasonable amount of funds. Certainly,

not because he's cheap but because it's so easy to go off the deep end. The value added to the car well exceeds expenditures.

After an hour long examination of the car, we were treated to a ride in the DeSoto, now with 'Historic' Maryland registration. Willis demonstrated the semi-automatic 'tip-toe' shift transmission. The 65-year-old sedan rode and drove beautifully, exhibiting plenty of power and excellent road worthiness. The car is now a 'driver', most of the mechanical work is completed. As mentioned, the exterior is now very shiny. The interior, including the seats, door panels, floor-

ing, headliner and dashboard are excellent. The left and right front door pulls will be recovered.

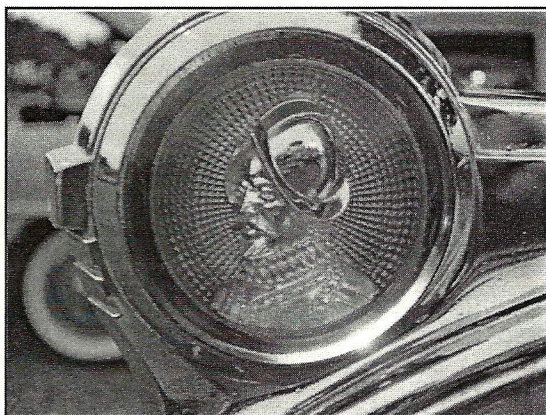
**Public debut...**

I for one could not wait for Willis to share this gem with the public. On Saturday, August 30th, I was planning on attending the

weekly cruise-in at Marley Station Mall in Glen Burnie. This is a really fun event and most Saturdays you can expect to see 400 to 500 cars and always something different. Before I left for the cruise-in, I sent Willis and email asking him to think about bringing the DeSoto out. To my amazement, he shows up with his good friend 'Murry,' in the DeSoto. The car was gleaming. I noticed there was a group of 6 or 8 people following the car on foot. After Willis parked the car, there were people surrounding the car and quizzing Willis and Murry the remainder of the evening. To top things off, it made it even more special because this particular evening, President Gary Wilmer and Gary Ruby attended the Marley Station cruise in, both long time friends of Willis.

Being involved with the saga of the 1949 DeSoto from the beginning as a forlorn hulk to this wondrous transformation is so satisfying. It's a testament to what the capabilities of Chesapeake Region members can achieve. Of course, not all members have the time, place, skill and wherewithal to take on a project of this magnitude and bring it to fruition in only six months.

***Our hats are off to Willis Terret!***



*Hernando Lights Up!*

July 30, 2014

Dear Members:

One of the requirements Chesapeake Region of A.A.C.A must follow, is publication of changes to the Club's By-Laws. Changes and revisions to the by-laws must be printed in *Two Consecutive Months* of the Club's bulletin for distribution to members. Below are changes raising annual dues from \$15 to \$20.

**CHESAPEAKE REGION, ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA  
(As Revised and Adopted May 2014)**

**Article VII:Dues**

- Sec. 1** The dues shall be \$20 per year for Individual and Joint Membership, \$12 per year for Student Membership, \$10 per year for Junior Membership, and \$300 in one payment for Life Membership. Membership status is governed by Article VII.
- Sec. 2** Membership renewal notices shall be included with the November issue of *The Chesapeake Bulletin*.
- Sec. 3** The annual dues shall be payable concurrent with AACA dues. A member whose dues have not been paid by the AACA dues cutoff date, or who has not maintained his membership in AACA, shall automatically be suspended.

*President: Gary Wilmer and Board Of Directors*

*Second Notice*