

Another Fabulous Crab Feast Enjoyed By All



By Bonnie Mielke

What's better than getting together with a bunch of old car enthusiasts to feast on Maryland crabs and jumbo shrimp in a beautiful park on a fabulous summer day? Well, nothing.

On Saturday, July 21st, more than 100 Chesapeake Region members and their guests gathered in Avalon Pavilion #105 at Patapsco State Park to prepare all the components that we have come to expect at the Club's annual Crab Feast – steamed crabs, shrimp in Old Bay sauce, grilled hot dogs, Maryland farm-fresh corn-on-the-cob, home made side dishes and desserts, and lots of cold beverages. After the early morning crew finished getting everything ready, Art Rutledge gave his usual moving invocation and then we all lined up and served ourselves buffet style. There was more than enough to satisfy everybody. If you went home hungry, you didn't have anyone to blame but yourself.

After we ate, many of us visited with members and some of us played a spirited game of softball on the grass field behind the pavilion.

Then, auctioneer Larry Butcher started selling off the table of items brought by members. There was spirited bidding for several must-have items. Larry was assisted by Tom Young and his daughter Amy. This crew generated significant proceeds for the Club's benefit. At the end of the day, our cleanup crew decluttered the pavilion, because the park's policy of no trash barrels means that all trash must be taken out of the park.

There were eleven antique cars parked in front of the pavilion – Josie & Bill O'Donnell's 1936 Ford roadster, Bruce Knott's 1963 Falcon convertible, Laura & Eric O'Dell's 1979 Pontiac TransAm, Margaret & Art Rutledge's 1976 Pontiac, Henry VerValen's 1967

Jaguar, Kim Bathon & Tom Black's 1978 MG Midget, Bob Wilhelm's 1972 Buick, Frank Lindberg's 1952 Buick, Barbara & Buzz Diehl's 1966 Pontiac convertible, Betty & Ed Hainke's 1941 Ford panel truck, and Thelma & Dave Johnson's 1956 Thunderbird.

Weather wise, the Club experienced another summer day with temps in the 80s and almost no humidity. July 2007 has had many nice days like this. Members who helped make this event so special were: Mary & Ed Allen, Helen & Jerry Gordon, Bonnie & Lou Mielke, Harry Wilhelm, Mildred & Al Lawson, Bruce Knott, and Paul Habicht.

Will we have a Crab Feast next year? Silly question about the Club event voted the most popular. We have reserved the same pavilion for July 26, 2008, which is one week later than usual. Mark your calendar.



Laura & Eric O'Dell with their 1979 Pontiac TransAm



Bonnie Mielke managed registration and Lou Mielke was our grill master



Betty & Ed Hainke with their 1941 Ford Panel truck



Kim Bathon & Tom Black's 1978 MG Midget



Tom Young & Auctioneer Larry Butcher busy selling a pair of shocks



Avalon Pavilion #105 is located in a beautiful setting at the park