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Chesapeake Region's First Annual Garage Tour

By Tom Kenney, Photos By Buzz Diehl

When the idea of a Chesapeake Region Garage Tour was proposed last fall at a monthly meeting there seemed to be sufficient interest from the members present for us to start developing an event that would generate participation. During our planning we were surprised by the "buzz" from both owners of desirable collections and members who wanted to see what other antique car enthusiasts had in their garages (and homes). We finally settled on a spring event, because viewing the garages is basically an indoor activity and we could drive antique or modern cars depending on the day's weather.

Carroll County was selected as the hub because we were aware of a number of interesting collections and garage setups in the area. We found that more garage sites were volunteered than we could use in just one tour. We probably have enough sites identified for next year and have had inquiries from several other members who want to be included. To facilitate a manageable flow of tour cars, we used the Poker Run model of sending touring cars in different directions. And, of course, we designed this tour to end with a late lunch at an affordable place where we could eat together in a dining room – and Bullock's seems to have worked out well.

The perfect spring weather (sunny and 70 degrees) was a definite plus on April 18th. Of the 47 cars on the tour, 35 were antiques and the garage sites took advantage of the good weather by placing some of their cars outside for viewing. The only downside of the really nice weather was it seemed that everyone who lives in Carroll County got out on the road – too nice to stay indoors – which did create a lot of traffic for us to navigate.

The Garage Tour had five stops over a 58 mile round trip, which permitted about 25 minutes between stops and 25 minutes at each garage. The thing we didn't factor in was that quite a few members became so interested in one or two places along their route that they ran out of time.

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Dottie Peddicord's garages held these '57 & '58 Chevrolet Cameo pickups



The main room at Dave Young's garage with three 1930s Plymouths in the foreground and two early Dodge Brothers cars in the background



Gary Ruby's '64 Chevelle in his garage & Lou Abel's Chevy's pulled outside

Garage Tour – continued

I can't decide whether it's poor time management on their part, or possibly these garage collections were so good that they couldn't leave until they looked at everything and asked a lot of questions.

Dave Young's collection is set in a barn with a car storage area, workshop with equipment and lifts, and several side rooms. Dave's collection is mostly Mopars – from a brass era Maxwell, to a couple of early Dodge Brothers cars, several 1930s to 1960s Plymouths, a DeSoto or two, and there's even a renegade car, an E-type Jaguar convertible. Some are restorations, but most are very nice original cars. There are lots of automobilia items in the barn and in the house. If you like Mopars this was a collection that kept people looking at the whole collection and then coming back to look again.

Another set of garages eleven miles away contains Dottie Peddicord's amazing collection of well preserved family cars, mostly GM, a couple of nicely restored 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air hardtops, and some nice automobilia including a working jukebox.

However, the real stars of Dottie's collection are the four Chevrolet Cameo pickups – one for each year of production, 1955 through 1958. The Cameo was a high-end pickup that emphasized passenger car styling. The rear fenders were fiberglass allowing the back end exterior to be as wide as the cab. All the appointments were

upscale from the cab interior to the paint and chrome trim. Because they were pricey, production volume was limited. An example of all four years in one place is rare.

The other three garages were: Lou Abel, who has a nice collection of Chevrolets; Gary Ruby, who always seems to have different cars to work on; and Gary Wilmer, who has turned his life-long hobby into a retirement business. All five garages are a mix of workspace with equipment, tools, and lifts; and storage for vehicles and automobilia. The garages of Gary Wilmer, Gary Ruby, and Lou Abel seem to have more lifts and equipment, but all the garages are like temples to the antique and collector car hobby.

At the end of the tour, 83 members and guests enjoyed lunch at Bullock's. Workers who helped make the tour run smoothly: Bud Currey, Bruce Knott, Anne Kenney, John Shenton, Sr., and Jr., and Nick Scholtes. Thanks to our workers and to the five garage owners who graciously opened their buildings to us.

On the tour were: Mary & Ed Allen, 1957 Chevrolet; Sally & Ken Briers, 1950 Ford; Larry Butcher, 1938 Lincoln; Buzz Diehl, modern; Lyndie Vantine & Ron Fleming, 1957 Chevrolet; Jo Ann & Bill Fox, 1954 Oldsmobile; Paul Habicht, Bob Johannessen & Jerry Gordon, 1984 Lincoln; Henry Horrocks, 1936 Ford; Web Utz & Dick Kaetzel, 1966

Corvaire; Bruce Knott, 1967 Ford; Mildred & Al Lawson, 1957 Chevrolet; Terry & Dan Materazzi, 1956 Corvette; August Meerschaert, 1948 Chrysler; Charles Elbert & Walt Meyers, 1953 Pontiac; Ken Stevenson & Jack O'Hara, 1947 Ford; Nick Scholtes, 1950 Ford; Charles & John Shenton, 1978 Dodge; P/J., Brandon, & John Shenton, Sr., 1965 Plymouth; Carol & Tom Turner, 1940 Ford; Craig Bober, Jack Stockling, & John Watkins, modern; Pat Wenderoth, 1969 Corvette; Margaret & Francis Werneth, modern; and John Young, Linda & Tom Young, 1980 Plymouth.

Also: Flo & Lou Abel, 1957 Chevrolet; Carrie & Dave Benson, modern; Bud Currey, 1959 Pontiac; Read Van Zile & Joanne Day, 1963 TBird; Bill Hensyl, 1940 Packard; Joel Berel & Martin Herman, 1968 Shelby Mustang; Edna & Earl Jackson, modern; Kirk Jackson, 1983 Chevrolet; Anne Kenney, modern; Tom Kenney, 1955 DeSoto; Dave Tyler & Denny Kephart, modern; Josie & Bill O'Donnell, 1937 Ford; Paul Schaffer & Dottie Peddicord, modern; Anne Marie & Don Ramsburg, modern; Paula & Gary Ruby, 1932 Plymouth; Marjorie & Harold Rupp, modern; Ted Schneider, modern; Sandy & Ralph Stroud, 1965 Mustang; Florann & Joe Sordillo, 1950 Ford; Ruth Synodinos, modern; Margie & Steve Turner, 1932 Ford; Linda & Buddy Wheat, 1934 Ford; Gary Wilmer, 1937 Ford; and Diane Taylor & Dave Young, 1947 Plymouth.



Dave Young's Texaco & Sinclair service station front



Lou Abel's house and outbuildings – a picture postcard