FRIDAY THE 13TH + FULL MOON =TROUBLE?

Car Tour And Show At Saint Michaels Antique Boat Show

By Buzz and Barbara Diehl

Okay, so maybe a Friday the 13th and a full noon on the same day--a rare occurrence--wasn't the best day for an antique car trip, but an antique boat show in Saint Michaels sounded like a great idea. Besides, who believes in all that superstition stuff anyway?

Hmm, maybe we should ask John and Lynn Horn!

As planned, those going to the Antique Boat Show at Saint Michaels met at noon at the McDonald's restaurant located just prior to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge on Route 50. Our expected group of six couples unfortunately narrowed to three, as last minute issues prevented several from participating. We met at McDonald's to assemble a car caravan so everyone could cross the bridge together.

After a quick lunch, we all headed to our cars, ready to depart. Tom and Anne's 1960 DeSoto started right up, as did our 1990 Corvette. John and Lynn turned the key on their 1971 Ford Torino and...silence! After a third try, we realized the obvious: The Torino was not going to start. A jumper cable connection from the DeSoto also failed to remedy the situation. So John and Lynn insisted we continue on our way without them, and they put in a call to AAA Road Service. (Briefly it looked like Barbara and I might also have an extended stay at McDonald's when I opened the Corvette's door, the alarm system sounded for several minutes and the car would not start. Apparently I did something out of sequence and the car thought it was being stolen.) Thinking that might be the last we'd see of John and Lynn that weekend, to my amazement about an hour later they appeared at our Easton motel, with big smiles on their faces--and a new battery under the hood of the Torino. Great! After breakfast on Saturday, and now joined by Lou and Wanda Mendenhall, we departed for the Antique Boat Show, held on the grounds of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in historic Saint Michaels. There we were joined by John Shenton and his daughter 'Debbie' plus Craig and Mary Whitcraft, just for the day. The weather was perfect, and the event was well attended.

With limited space on the Museum grounds to park our antique cars among all the assembled antique boats on trailers, display booths and assorted nautical items, we were offered locations scattered throughout the property. Assisted by Tom Kenney, we parked in available spaces among antique cars from several othercar clubs. Thanks to Tom for a great job organizing this activity and our many other club activities.

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You could see the pride the owners of these antique boats take in their treasured collections, just as we do with our antique cars. Beautiful examples of lovingly restored wooden boats were on display, on land and in the water. With lots of permanent Chesapeake Bay historical exhibits to view in the Museum, plus lots of temporary nautical vendor's displays to visit, we had a most enjoyable time.

Afterward, some of our group left for home, while others stayed for a relaxing dinner on the outside patio of Harrison's Chesapeake House Restaurant in nearby Tilghman Island. Despite events of Friday the 13th, I'm sure everyone had a pleasant June 2014 weekend to remember.

Harford Rural Ramble...

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that is no longer manufactured. They had a prize for oldest orphan car which was owned and driven by CR's Chief Judge, Gene Sauter. Gene brought his 1937 'Wolseley.' An obscure British sedan that turned out to be the oldest 'orphan' car, Gene won the award. Bob and Kathy Baer from College Park, also members of Chesapeake Region who just happen to be 'chronic overachievers,' won the top prize for discovering the most clues. They accomplished the win in their 1946 DeSoto Custom two-door sedan. There were 38 clues and the 'Baer Team' got 32 for the win, believe me, quite an accomplishment. Tom and I only found twenty or so clues. I blame our poor showing entirely on Tom, after all, I'm a novice, green horn, slacker, take your choice.

It would be impossible for one person to drive and uncover clues along the road, not to mention dangerous. We were on roads we hadn't traveled before but the scenery was beautiful. There were plenty of stops along the way. Participants could skip the stops and keep moving. The first stop was at historic Eden Mill, then onto Rocks State Park and the old town of Abington. Steppingston Farm Museum, Rock Run Grist Mill and the Carter Archer Mansion. Sailors and sportsmen will appreciate the nearby 'Maritime Museum' and 'The Decoy Museum.'

Would I do it again? Sure, as a navigator. I'm not sure I would do a tour as long as this one in my DeSoto because I constantly strive to keep the mileage in check. I know Tom had to put well over a hundred miles on his car and it was a long day. I didn't get home until nearly 11 pm. It's obvious that a car tour like 'The Harford Rural Ramble' is a lot of work. It requires many hours of planning, scheduling, registering and a host of other duties and then, the weather is a 'crapshoot.'

Other Chesapeake Region members we spotted on the tour beside members previously mentioned, Mike and Cheryl Bianco with son Jonathon, J. 'Ferd' Driver; CR Secretary, Jim Turner; sorry if we missed anybody; people were scattered hither and yon. Additionally, there were so may nice cars on the tour I'd never seen, I was the kid in the proverbial candy store. As you might expect, there were lots of beautiful old Hudsons, Packards and Studebakers expertly restored.

Our congratualations to Tour Director, Jon Battle who has organized road tours for 25 years. The Harford Rural Ramble was Jon's last tour. WELL DONE JON, ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT!--*Bill Wurzell*

PRESIDENT GARY WILMER AND ALL CHESAPEAKE REGION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS A SAFE AND

Happy Fourth Of July Holiday!

DON'T FORGET TO FLY YOUR FLAG AND CELEBRATE 'OLD GLORY'

Above all, thank a member of the Armed Forces for their service, past and present, because Freedom Isn't Free!