



# Chesapeake Communiqué

The official newsletter of the ALPCA Chesapeake Region

Volume 1, Issue 1

Special Debut Issue

July 2010

## We're back!

The ALPCA Chesapeake Region is now back in business after an 11 year break.

The ALPCA Board of Directors unanimously approved the re-activation of the region in late March. The Chesapeake Region will serve ALPCA members residing in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia, and beyond.

Check out the Chesapeake Region web site at [www.alpca-chesapeake.org](http://www.alpca-chesapeake.org). We're also on Facebook; find us by searching for "alpca chesapeake".

## Volunteers needed

The Chesapeake Region is just getting started back up, and we're not very well-organized yet. That's where you come in.

There are a number of slots for officers, committee chairs, and other positions of responsibility that we need to fill. Consider stepping up and contributing your time and talent to help make the region better for everyone!

Although we don't yet have regional bylaws, we'll hold elections for these positions at the August 14 meet.

- **President** – Responsible for the overall operation of the region. Point of contact for ALPCA. Conducts meetings.
- **Vice-President** – Takes over for the president should he resign or otherwise be unavailable. Assists the president as needed. Other duties to be determined.
- **Treasurer** – Maintains the region's funds and financial records.
- **Secretary** – Prepares agendas for and records minutes of all meetings. Maintains meet attendance records. Supervises region elections. Recruits and oversees other volunteers involved with regional communications.

We also need volunteers to perform, coordinate, or assist with the following:

- Plate meet site selection
  - Plate meet operations: act as meet host, set up, man registration table, judge displays, sort donation plates, auctioneer, auction "plate runners", refreshments, photography, clean up, etc.
  - Publicity
  - Member communications
  - Awards
  - Region history
  - Web site administration
  - Liaison with Maryland MVA for state-issued ALPCA license plates.
- (continued on page 2)*

## Maryland plate meet is a "go" for August 14

**Make plans now to attend the first Chesapeake Region meet of the century**

The newly-reestablished ALPCA Chesapeake Region is pleased to announce its first regional plate meet, to be held in Mount Airy, Maryland on Saturday, August 14, 2010.

The first annual "Dog Days of Summer" plate meet will be held in the gymnasium at the rear of St. Michael's Catholic Church of Poplar Springs, 1125 St. Michael's Road, Mount Airy, Md. 21771, from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm.

This meet's theme will be *A Century of Maryland License Plates, 1910-2010*. Awards will be presented for the best Maryland plate display, best general or non-Maryland plate display, and longest distance traveled.

Tables cost \$10 each; admission is \$5 for collectors not renting tables. Non-collector guests of ALPCA members will be admitted at no charge. About fifty 8-foot tables will be available, similar to last year's independent meet in Sykesville.

A donation auction will be held. Net proceeds after meet expenses are covered will be used to establish the Chesapeake Region's treasury. Therefore, please be generous with your donations of plates for the auction, as well as your bids on these plates. Of course, we'll also gladly accept cash donations, if anyone is so inclined.

Refreshments and lunch will be available at nominal cost, so plan to stay for the whole meet. We'll also have a business meeting to elect regional officers, among other things.

For more details, or to reserve table(s), see the *For more information* box on page 2.

### Directions to meet

Mount Airy is between Baltimore and Frederick, along Interstate 70. St. Michael's Road is off of Md. Route 144, which runs parallel to and south of I-70 between exit 68 (Md. Route 27) and exit 73 (Md. Route 94).

Detailed directions and maps are available online at [www.alpca-chesapeake.org](http://www.alpca-chesapeake.org).

**From Baltimore:** From I-695 (Baltimore Beltway) take exit 16, I-70 west toward Frederick. Take I-70 exit 73, Md. Route 94, and turn left at the end of the ramp onto Md. Route 94 south toward Lisbon. Go 0.4 miles to the traffic circle, and turn right onto Md. Route 144 west. On Route 144, go 1.7 miles, then turn left onto St. Michael's Road. The driveway into St. Michael's Catholic Church will be 0.4 miles on your left; just before the intersection with Hardy Road.

*(continued on page 2)*



## Chesapeake Region? Say what?

**We try to clear up some misconceptions and answer some of your questions**

**Q:** *Why do we even need an ALPCA region? For years now, we've gotten along just fine having independent meets in the Mid-Atlantic states.*

**A:** There are several reasons. One is that having the backing of ALPCA provides access to affordable liability insurance for meets. Having this opens up more options for meet locations, as many venues require the renter to have this insurance.

Another reason is that by working together, we can be more organized and intentional about when, where, and how we hold plate meets, making for a better experience for all involved.

**Q:** *Who's running the ALPCA Chesapeake Region right now?*

**A:** At the moment, it's pretty much a one-man operation. Rick Kretschmer is acting as interim president of the region until elections can be held. Tim Guy is administering our Facebook page. So far, Rick has been doing pretty much everything else that needs to be done, only because no one else has yet stepped forward to help.

**Q:** *Will I have to pay dues to the Chesapeake Region?*

**A:** The plan is to not charge regional dues, not have a separate regional membership roster, and not issue regional membership numbers or regional membership cards. We are a regional chapter of ALPCA, not a separate organization. Plus, it's just simpler for everyone that way.

As a result, the region will be dependent on regional meet fees and donations in order to fund its operations. This could change, though, if we find it's not working.

**Q:** *So who exactly is considered a member of the Chesapeake Region?*

**A:** Our designated regional territory consists of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. Therefore, and since we're not charging regional dues, all current ALPCA members residing in these jurisdictions are automatically considered to be members of the region.

Also, any current ALPCA member from outside our territory who has recently attended one of our meets, and therefore has paid table or admission fees, will also be considered a member of the Chesapeake Region.

Keep in mind that there's absolutely no reason why an ALPCA member can't belong to more than one ALPCA region.

**Q:** *If I don't live in your territory and haven't attended one of your meets, how did (or how can) I get on your mailing list?*

**A:** We will be sending meet notifications to any ALPCA members outside of our territory who live within a reasonable distance to the meet location – certainly anyone who lives within 100 miles or so. (Hopefully our neighboring regions will do the same for us.)

As we get started up, we will also mail to folks outside of our

territory who have recently attended independent meets that were held within our territory.

Otherwise, to be added to our mailing list, simply ask. See the *For more information* box, below, for how to contact us.

**Q:** *Will non-ALPCA members be allowed to attend Chesapeake Region meets?*

**A:** Generally, one must be an ALPCA member to attend any regional meet. However, members may bring guests who are not collectors (such as spouses or kids). Also, a plate collector who is not a member of ALPCA may be admitted on a one-time basis as a prospective member. ■

---

## Maryland plate meet *(from page 1)*

**From Frederick, Md.:** Get on I-70 east toward Baltimore. Take I-70 exit 68, Md. Route 27, and turn right at the bottom of the ramp onto Md. Route 27 south toward Damascus. Then take the first left onto Md. Route 144 east. On Route 144, go 3.9 miles, then turn right onto St. Michael's Road. The driveway into St. Michael's Catholic Church will be 0.4 miles on your left; just before the intersection with Hardy Road.

**From Washington, D.C.:** From I-495 (Capital Beltway), take either exit 35 or 38 onto I-270 north toward Frederick. At I-270 exit 16, take Md. Route 27 north toward Damascus. Follow Route 27 north through Damascus and toward Mount Airy. Approximately five miles past Damascus, just before the I-70 interchange and Mount Airy, turn right onto Md. Route 144 east. On Route 144, go 3.9 miles, then turn right onto St. Michael's Road. The driveway into St. Michael's Catholic Church will be 0.4 miles on your left; just before the intersection with Hardy Road. ■

---

## Volunteer *(from page 1)*

There are many ways you can help with the successful operation of the region without making any long-term commitments. Lots of people are needed to share in the work of holding a regional meet before, during, and after each meet.

To volunteer, or for more information, see the *For more information* box, below. ■

---

### **For more information**

Our web site at [www.alpca-chesapeake.org](http://www.alpca-chesapeake.org) always has the most up-to-date information. It also provides the means to submit questions and comments via e-mail.

Or, contact Rick Kretschmer, ALPCA #9652 via e-mail at [rickkret@gmail.com](mailto:rickkret@gmail.com), or by phone at 919-553-7975 (home) or 919-673-7719 (cell). Best time to call is between 7 pm and 10 pm ET weeknights, or between 12 noon and 10 pm ET weekends.