



Chesapeake Communiqué

The official newsletter of the ALPCA Chesapeake Region
Serving ALPCA members in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia, and beyond

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July 2015

Chesterfield, Va. Spring 2015 Meet Report

The ALPCA Chesapeake Region returned to Virginia for its first plate meet of 2015 on Saturday, June 6. For the second time, we gathered at the Chesterfield County Fairgrounds exhibit hall in Chesterfield, just south of Richmond. In attendance were 33 collectors and 12 guests, a slight increase from April 2011.

We were pleased to welcome these plate collectors attending their first Chesapeake Region meet (at least in this century):

- Bob MacMeccan, member #2034, Chesterfield, Va.
- Ray Smith, member #4164, Charleston, S.C.
- Nandor Thar, member #5298, Lehigh Acres, Fla.
- Gerald Strickland, member #8438, Wake Forest, N.C.
- James Hingley, member #10464, Glen Allen, Va.
- Bob Lesnik, member #11488, Hodgenville, Ky.
- Skip Stewart, member #12055, Valley Lee, Md.
- Doug Damon, prospect, Richmond, Va.

This meet's theme was *No Riders* (non-passenger plates). Taking home display awards were two local members, Reid Williamson for his display of non-passenger plates numbered 1 to 100, and Bob MacMeccan for his display of Virginia city and county strips. Steve "16 Lizards" Benson of Mesa, Ariz. had no serious competition for the long distance award.

A special shout-out to first-time meet host Reid Williamson, who stepped up and learned the ropes of what it takes to put on a successful meet. Reid also served as auctioneer. The donation auction brought in \$436 to go toward meet expenses.

Complementary doughnuts and pizza lunch were provided by the Region, and everyone had their fill except for treasurer Tom Smith, whose selfless dedication to calculating and collecting auction proceeds took precedence over pizza. ■

(See photos from the 2015 Chesterfield meet on page 3)

Future Chesapeake Region meets

We have no specific arrangements beyond August 2015, but we do plan to continue to hold a meet in Maryland each year. However, our costs to rent the Mount Airy church gym have risen significantly, and we've nearly outgrown it anyway, so we may need to find another venue for 2016. We're hoping a southeastern Virginia meet will be an annual event as well.

We are also very much open to holding additional meets and other events at other times of the year and in other locations within our territory. The only things stopping us are finding suitable, affordable venues and identifying members who are willing to help plan and host meets in these locations. Let us know if you know of such a venue or can be that person. ■

If you received this newsletter via snail mail, we probably don't have a good e-mail address for you. Send any mailing address, phone, or e-mail updates to Scott Mitchell, ALPCA Membership Secretary, at secretary@alpc.org. ■

Chesapeake Region Summer Plate Meet in Mount Airy, Md. Saturday, August 15, 2015

Pre-paid table reservations recommended

The sixth annual ALPCA Chesapeake Region Summer Plate Meet will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2015 at its usual location 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. Mount Airy is just off of I-70 between Baltimore and Frederick.

Our Mount Airy meet draws 50 to 70 plate collectors every year, and there's no reason to think 2015 will be any different.

This meet's theme is *Specialty License Plates*. Awards will be presented for the best specialty plate display, best general plate display, and furthest distance traveled. We're defining specialty plates as extra-cost, (usually) graphic, state-issued license plates that typically support or promote a cause, an event, an organization, etc. These plates are also called special interest plates, special event plates, organizational plates, and even "li'l picture plates". Displays including other types of plates will be considered general plate displays.

About fifty 8-foot tables will be available for \$10 each. Admission is \$5 for collectors not renting tables, with free admission for non-collector guests of ALPCA members.

Refreshments and lunch will be available (at no charge this year!), so plan to stay for the whole meet. We'll hold a donation auction once again, of course, with proceeds going toward meet expenses and any amount beyond that going into the region treasury.

The table allocation process we implemented in 2014 will again be used. In 2013 we ran out of tables, and there's a chance it could happen again. Due to this, last year we made changes to how we assign tables at Mount Airy. Those changes seemed to work well, so we'll do it the same way this year.

Please read this section for important table information!

- We strongly encourage reserving the table(s) you need by paying for them in advance (see instructions below).
- Members not reserving and paying for tables in advance will be limited to a maximum of one table and run the risk of not getting a table at all.
- Only those individuals with pre-paid tables or involved with set-up will be admitted to the gym prior to 8:00 am.
- **We will use a lottery system** for allocating any unreserved tables at the start of the meet. Lottery registration will take place between 7:30 am and 8:00 am.
- If at 8:00 am there are enough tables for everyone

(continued on page 2)

2015 Mount Airy plate meet *(from page 1)*

registered, there will be no need to hold the lottery. Otherwise, member numbers of those registered will be drawn randomly until all tables are assigned.

- Everyone who has registered by 8:00 am will have an equal chance of obtaining a table, so there's no advantage to arriving significantly early.
- Any tables remaining will be available to members arriving late on a first-come, first-served basis, limit one table.

To reserve one or more tables... Table reservations will only be accepted when accompanied by payment of \$10 per table. Make checks or money orders payable to *ALPCA Chesapeake Region*, and mail to meet host Rick Kretschmer, at 148 Oak Alley Trail, Clayton NC 27527. Or, pay Rick in person at the ALPCA Convention in July. Please mail table payment early enough to ensure its arrival no later than August 12, 2015.

Directions to meet

Mount Airy is between Baltimore and Frederick, along I-70. The church address is 1125 St. Michael's Road, Mount Airy, MD 21771. Get directions from additional places and maps online at 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. St. Michael's Catholic Church is 0.4 miles on your left. Gym is in the back.

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 make an immediate left onto Md. Route 144 east. On Route 144, go 3.9 miles, then turn right onto St. Michael's Road. St. Michael's Catholic Church is 0.4 miles on your left. Gym is in the back.

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 roughly five miles beyond 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. St. Michael's Catholic Church is 0.4 miles on your left. Gym is in the back.

Questions? Rick Kretschmer is the meet host. See the *For more information* box at right for his contact information. ■

New member April-May 2015: We welcome this new ALPCA member who lives in the Chesapeake Region.

- #12077 – Ronald J. Willis, Star Tannery, Va. ■

PLATES magazines wanted: Don't throw away your ALPCA Plates magazines after you're done with them! Donate them to the Chesapeake Region. We like to give them to prospective members as a recruiting tool, but we've run out! ■

Volunteer for August 15 meet and ongoing

We can always use volunteers at the upcoming meet for the following tasks. Members and/or their guests can help!

- Arrive early (7:00 am) and help with any remaining set up
- Arrive early (7:00 am) and control access to the hall
- Arrive early (7:15 am) and run the table allocation lottery
- Man the registration desk, even for just a little while
- Take photos of the meet action with a quality camera
- Judge displays (but not if you brought a display yourself)
- Organize plates donated for the auction into lots
- Be the auctioneer
- Be an auction "plate runner" (a great job for kids!)
- Stay late and help clean up after the meet

Here are just a few other ways you can make a difference:

- Write the meet report for ALPCA Plates magazine
- Identify possible venues for future plate meets
- Host a Chesapeake Region plate meet!
- Write for, edit, print, and/or distribute region newsletter
- Web site design, administration, and content
- Organize region activities other than plate meets (for example, a "boys night out" at a restaurant)
- Be the region historian and interview old-timers
- Liaison with Maryland MVA for the production of state-issued ALPCA organizational license plates

See the *For more information* box below for contact info. ■

Your Chesapeake Region volunteers

Elected Board of Directors *(terms through August 31, 2016)*

- Director, President, and acting Board Chairman: Rick Kretschmer, #9652, Clayton, N.C.
- Director: Ed Burr, #8359, Kensington, Md.
- Director: Christopher Jackson, #10844, Olney, Md.
- Director: Tom Smith, #1328, Goochland, Va.
- Director: Reid Williamson, #5198, Manakin Sabot, Va.

Appointed officers

- Treasurer: Tom Smith, #1328, Goochland, Va.

Other Chesapeake Region volunteers

- Newsletter editor: Rick Kretschmer **(help wanted)**
- Webmaster: Rick Kretschmer **(help wanted)**
- Facebook admins: Rick Kretschmer and Tim Guy ■

For more information

Our web site at www.alpca-chesapeake.org and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/alpca.chesapeake always have the most up-to-date information. If you're an active Facebook user, be sure to "like" our page to automatically get our status updates in your news feed.

Or, contact region president Rick Kretschmer directly via e-mail at rickkret@gmail.com, or by phone at 919-553-7975 (home) or 919-673-7719 (cell). (Cell phone only on August 14 and 15.)

Recent plate finds: 1931 Maryland electric vehicle plate; Maryland War of 1812 prototype plate with Kentucky or North Carolina dies, both from the collection of Rick Kretschmer. ■



Photos from the 2015 Chesterfield meet

Top row, left to right: Mike Glauboch, Rick Kretschmer, and Reid Williamson; Christopher Jackson presenting display award to Bob MacMeccan.

Second row: Reid Williamson's award winning display of non-passengers numbered 1 to 100.

If you haven't yet been to a Chesapeake Region plate meet, this is just a small sampling of what you're missing! ■

