

# CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN

VOLUME 65, NUMBER 2, FEBRUARY 2025



On Saturday, February 1st we held our first General Membership meeting of 2025 (thanks to January snowy weather). We had a record number of 52 attendees and it was so nice to see everyone and the camaraderie during the day.



We hope that this trend of high attendance continues throughout the year and we see lots of faces at our next General Membership meeting on Saturday, March 1st. As a reminder, this will be our Ice Cream Social as well as a Mardi Gras/St. Patrick's Day celebration.



# Paula's President's Message

## Hello Chesapeake Members!

### WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 2025?

As we venture into a New Year with Chesapeake Region let's see where you feel YOU will be in the club.

As we all know this is the 70th Anniversary of Chesapeake. We have a lot to be proud of in all that we have accomplished. We also are celebrating our 50th year holding our annual Flea Market and Swap meet. Our anniversary committee has put together a great list of ideas and events that we have planned to celebrate. A lot of the events will fall in conjunction with the monthly meetings and others will involve some travel that we will be offering transportation to attend.

The weather didn't cooperate in January for the first meeting, but we are moving forward. At February's meeting we held a Pizza party for all that attended the meeting which was FREE to everyone. Later this month we will hold our Members Luncheon at Graystone Golf course which the club is subsidizing the cost to members. In March we will have the Ice Cream social that was originally planned for January and also celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Mardi Gras. This event will be held at the membership meeting on March 1st at 12:30 at the church. Again, this is FREE to all attendees. Be sure not to miss out on the special treats and fellowship.

As you can see, we are already off to a busy year. If there is something that you would like for us to plan, please let me know. Be sure to read your emails and the BLASTS that are sent out keeping you up to date on all activities.

Please ask yourself "WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 2025, will you participate?". Get your calendars out and save the Dates. There is so much more to come.



Fondly,  
Paula Lynn Ruby



# MEET THE SWIMS

Allen Swim joined the club at the Fire Museum Show in 2023 and recently became our Treasurer. He is a Mechanical Engineer, retired from the US Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground as a civilian Test Engineer. Prior to his Army job, he worked in the private industry as a Design Engineer at a defense contractor, a Systems Engineer in the rail industry, and the Senior Engineer (ran the Engineering Department) for a small automotive up-fit company. This family business did 4 Wheel Drive Conversions on Full Size Vans, and Right Hand Drive Conversions for full size pickups that were shipped overseas (to right hand drive countries).

He has been a “car guy” his whole life. His Dad had a collection of Studebakers, and took him to numerous car events growing up in the Washington DC area. His first car was a 1964 Studebaker Daytona, which he bought with paper route earnings at the age of 15. Since then, he became interested in Pontiacs, owning various models through the years. Currently he owns 3 Pontiacs: a 1966 GTO Convertible, a 1966 GTO Hardtop, and a 1969 LeMans 350 HO with a 4 speed transmission. He also owns a 1972 Cutlass Supreme Coupe, as well as a garage-kept 1988 Chevrolet Silverado Pickup that he and Cindy inherited from her Grandfather, who purchased the truck new. Additionally, he has a 2000 Harley-Davidson Ultra Classic. The GTO Convertible is in the final stages of a complete frame-off restoration. This is his first frame-off restoration that is taking longer than anticipated. The GTO Hardtop is a unique car in that it was built at the Baltimore Assembly Plant, and was ordered with a non-Pontiac paint color (which you could do back then), as well as a Tri-power (3x2 Carburetors), and a 4 speed. It is numbers-matching (original motor & transmission), but is not currently running and needs a complete restoration. His LeMans is a “baby GTO” meaning that it is the same body style as a GTO, but came with a High Output (HO) 350 cubic inch engine (instead of a 400 found in GTOs). He has begun the restoration on this car, and plans to really dive into it later this year once his Convertible restoration is completed. This LeMans has special meaning to him: He owned a similar 350 HO when he was younger, and subsequently learned that Pontiac made only about 4000 of them in 1969, with only 1400 of those having manual transmissions, so they are unique. The 88 Silverado required some mechanical work (which he completed) when they got it because it had been off the road for nearly 20 years. he also learned how to buff and polish paint on this truck, so that he could show it at Hershey last year in the Historic Preservation class (HPOF). He remembers when Cindy’s Grandfather bought this truck (they were dating at the time). Working to make it roadworthy and look new again brought back great memories of her grandparents and our first years together.

His Cutlass was his first restoration, which was a frame-on restoration. This car was his “beater car” in college (bought from a friend for \$150, who was planning to part it out). It was also the car he dated Cindy in (when it was still a beater), so it is very special to us.

The couple met at Fort Belvoir, VA where Cindy began her civilian Army Electronics Engineer career, and he was hired as a summer engineering student in 1986. The first date included a discussion of early Camaro tail-light designs, so Allen was pretty sure he’d met his future wife. They were married in 1991, and have a 24 year old daughter named Katie, whose first car was a 2014 manual-shift Chevy Cruze. Cindy is nearing retirement from the Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Cindy grew up a Chevy girl, under \*her\* Dad’s influence. Her first vehicles were; a 1964 El Camino, then a 1969 Rally Sport Camaro (which we drove away from our wedding in), and a manual (transmission) 1985 Chevy Cavalier. She grudgingly (at first) spent over 15 years in a Ford – a 1994 Thunderbird SuperCoupe with a 5 speed manual transmission. Now she is driving a 2006 Cadillac CTS-V with an LS2 (naturally aspirated) and a 6 speed manual. She calls this her 4-door Corvette (since the drivetrain was shared with the 2006 Corvette). What Allen does in his free time is pretty obvious, but they couple enjoys traveling, Cindy enjoys cooking and Allen enjoys eating!



# Additional Swim Pics

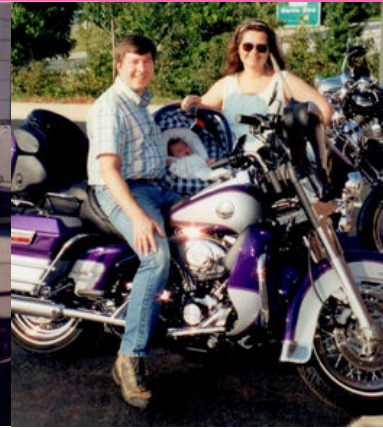


30th Anniversary

Allen and Cindy in 2021



1965 Harley-Davidson  
Electra-Glide, Cindy  
(6) & her Dad 1964  
Chevy El Camino in  
the background



## Student Corner - Elaina Gamble

Elaina is a sixteen year old High School student in McCall, Idaho. In my academics, I have always been driven to be more challenged, so I chose to complete my junior year early, during the summer of 2024, so I am now a Senior in High School and will graduate in May. After High School, I plan to go to Boise State University to study sociology with a minor in criminology for a pre-law degree. I would like further study either international law or criminal law and while very different areas, they both align with my passions. Living in the snowy town of McCall, I am an avid skier and born into it. I am also an actress, working with a local children's company in my area. In my most recent play, "The Tempest", I had the opportunity to act as Ariel, a flighty and mischievous fairy queen who works with the main character, Prospero, closely to control the Isle. I had a chance to write the music to all the songs in the play, and work with the lead singer of the band, "The Bouncing Souls", during production. This brings up another one of my hobbies, singing. I am an all-state choir singer for the state of Idaho and love singing. These are only a couple of my hobbies, but, by far, the most prominent in my life.

I got involved with the AACA when I was 13 years old. My grandfather, Tom Dawson, got me a membership for Christmas and I was thrilled. The Car Club has always been a massive fixture in my grandparents' life. My grandfather is an enthusiastic antique car owner, and my grandmother, Judy Dawson, has been working closely with the Chesapeake Region for as long as I can remember. My cousin and I both got involved with the club because it was such a joy for our grandparents, and we wanted to share that with them. Through chance and inheritance, I have come to be an antique car owner myself. My middle name, Darlene, was inherited from my Great Aunt Darlene, my grandfather's sister. Although I never had the chance to meet her, I have heard she was quite the character, and her antique '67 MG really shows it! When I was around 9 the MG came into my parents' possession here in Idaho, a gift from my grandfather, shipped all the way here from Maryland. It was only last year that they dropped the bomb that the MG actually belongs to me! I recently got my driver's license, and for my 16th birthday, my grandfather revealed that the MG was intended to become mine. It has become a labor of love for my family, and our favorite ice-cream-run car in the summer, and now it belongs to me! For the time being my parents will continue to take care of it until I graduate from college and can afford the insurance! My father loves to work on it, constantly making it better, and my mother loves to drive it and think of her Aunt Darlene, and her Uncle Norman and father who made sure it found its way to me.

Being in AACA has helped me to stay close to my family, even while living on the other side of the country. Being close to my grandparents and cousin through this club has been an important connection for me, and for that I will always be grateful.



# Chesapeake AACA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes, February 1, 2025

The meeting minutes will be distributed by email as soon as they are ready for distribution. Please check your email for details.

Fondly,  
Judy Dawson

## Swap Meet Volunteers

Our biggest fundraiser, our 50th annual Chesapeake collector car swap meet, is coming up on March 7th and 8th at Howard County Fairgrounds. We need lots of help in many different ways.

### Friday, March 7th

9:00 AM Field Layout - Marking the field for vendors - Please contact Gary Wilmer (443-340-7703) or Phil Hack (410-292-3656)

### Saturday, March 8th

Starting at 5:30 a.m. - Providing Vendor direction - Contact Tom Young at 443-744-6338

Starting at 5:30 a.m. - Directing Public Parking - Contact Tom Dawson at 410-688-8358

Food Preparation - Please contact Vicky Wilmer at 443-340-7703

Sloppy Joe/Beef BBQ, Chicken Noodle Soup, Chili, Baked goodies such as cookies, brownies, muffins, slices of cake, slices of pie, rice krispie treats, etc. All must be placed in individual baggies when delivered

Servers throughout the day - 5:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (you do not need to stay all day)

Clean up Crew: We need people to help break down and clean up the fairground beginning around 1:30.

Please help out to make this day a success. We are looking for about 30-50 members to help during the course of these two days.

## Chesapeake Region Recognized



On Saturday, February 1st, our President attended the Toys for Tots Appreciation Banquet and received a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the club for their ongoing support of this organization.

# Classic Auto Mall Trip



On January 14th, several members ventured to the Classic Auto Mall in Morgantown, PA to enjoy a day of friendship followed by a delicious meal at Shady Maple Smorgasbord. The trip was focused on the men in attendance as they dreamed of owning the cars within the Auto Mall and did lots of window shopping. The ladies kept telling them, no dear. We did welcome a new member that day.



## Region Activities 2025

| Date                 | Time    | Event   | Location            |
|----------------------|---------|---|---------------------|
| <b>February 2025</b> |         |   |                     |
| 2/15                 | 9:00    | All Clubs Breakfast, Bel Air Moose            | Bel Air, MD         |
| 2/23                 | 1-4     | Member Luncheon, Graystone Golf Club          | White Hall, MD      |
| <b>March 2025</b>    |         |   |                     |
| 3/1                  | 12:30   | General Membership Meeting, Divinity Lutheran | Towson, MD          |
| 3/7                  | 9:00    | Swap Meet Set Up, Howard County Fairgrounds   | West Friendship, MD |
| 3/8                  | ALL DAY | Swap Meet, Howard County Fairgrounds          | West Friendship, MD |
| 3/21-22              | 8-2     | Sugarloaf Swap Meet                           | Westminster, MD     |

# Tech Talk...with Phil Hack

Tech Talk is Dedicated to Gary Ruby, Sr.

Last month I gave a recap of the tech session where we removed the engine from my 1972 Oldsmobile Cutlass for cleaning and detailing both the engine and the engine bay. I mentioned that this operation opened a can of worms. BOY DID IT!

I continued on to steam clean the block and engine bay. I then removed the valve covers and intake manifold revealing a horribly cruddy valve train. This mess was simply more than I could deal with in my shop. The engine block and all rotating components would have to be completely disassembled and sent out for professional cleaning.

The good news: the lower end was remarkably clean. The crankshaft, bearings and cylinder bores are in excellent condition. Regardless, I'm going for a complete overhaul with new bearings, piston rings and oil pump. Stay tuned.

The Olds is now sitting on rollers and can easily be moved around the shop. The lift is available for other projects. What's on your list for this winter? If you need some help, give me a call.



*Phil Hack*

## Social Media Reminder

As a reminder, Chesapeake Region has an active Facebook page where we share information regarding our Club and upcoming events. This is a great opportunity for publicity on the active nature of our club. If you have not already joined the page, please search for Chesapeake Region AACA and share with your friends.

In addition, please be sure to look to our website at <https://chesapeake.aaca.com/our-chesapeake-region/> for all of our information including past Bulletins, Upcoming Events and Flyers. Our website manager, Buzz Diehl, spends a lot of time to ensure that our information remains current as well as a helpful resource.

# Elected and Appointed Officers for 2025 (Elected Positions Make up the Executive Board of the Club with full voting rights)

| Position            | Name                | Email                     | Phone        |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| President           | Paula Ruby          | paulaspackard@hotmail.com | 410-627-1642 |
| Vice-President      | Mark Stershic       | markstershic@gmail.com    | 410-371-6540 |
| Secretary           | Judy Dawson         | jdgibson1920@gmail.com    | 410-812-2090 |
| Treasurer           | Allen Swim          | jaswim@comcast.net        | 410-599-7064 |
| Membership Chair    | Vicky Wilmer        | wilmervicky@gmail.com     | 443-340-7703 |
| Director at Large   | Thomas Young        | tbirdtoms60@verizon.net   | 443-744-6338 |
| Director at Large   | Gary Wilmer         | wilmervicky@gmail.com     | 443-340-7690 |
| Activities Chairman | Thomas Dawson       | tomdawson315@gmail.com    | 410-688-8358 |
| Chief Judge         | Henry Chaudron, Sr. | henrypoly61@gmail.com     | 443-520-8541 |

| Position                     | Name                 | Email                         | Phone        |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Technical Director           | Philip Hack          | phack126@gmail.com            | 410-292-3656 |
| Publicity & Website          | Harold "Buzz" Diehl  | hdiehl60@hotmail.com          | 410-377-5265 |
| Sunshine                     | Margaret Werneth     | jfdesoto@aol.com              | 410-668-3749 |
| Historian & Program Director | Walter "Chip" Miller | michellemiller209@hotmail.com | 443-681-0236 |
| Editor                       | Rachelle Bodvin      | chesapeakeeditor@gmail.com    | 717-515-1042 |
| Social Director              | Judy Dawson          | jdgibson1920@gmail.com        | 410-812-2090 |
| Legislative Liaison          | Michael Natale       | mrnatale@verizon.net          | 443-465-7492 |

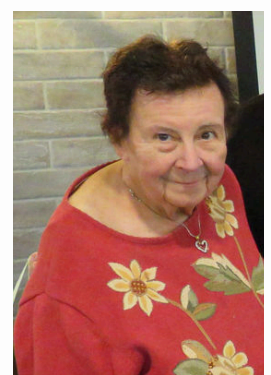
### SUNSHINE REPORT FROM MARGARET

Get well cards were sent to Nancy Zimmerman and Mary Whitecraft.

Sympathy cards were sent to Carolyn Walters on the passing of Everett Sammis, William Anderson on the passing of his wife, Betty, Bobbie McDaniel on the passing of Paul and Craig Whitcraft on the passing of his wife, Mary.

The Chesapeake Bulletin is published monthly and is the official newsletter of the Chesapeake Region AACA. Articles and comments are welcome and should be sent to the editor, Rachelle Bodvin at: chesapeakeeditor@gmail.com, telephone: 717-515-1042 by the 1st of the month for inclusion in the current month's edition. All ads must be submitted to Marketing Manager, Paula Ruby at: paulaspackard@hotmail.com, telephone: 410.627-1642. If you have not received your copy of the Bulletin, please look to our website for your most recent and older copies.

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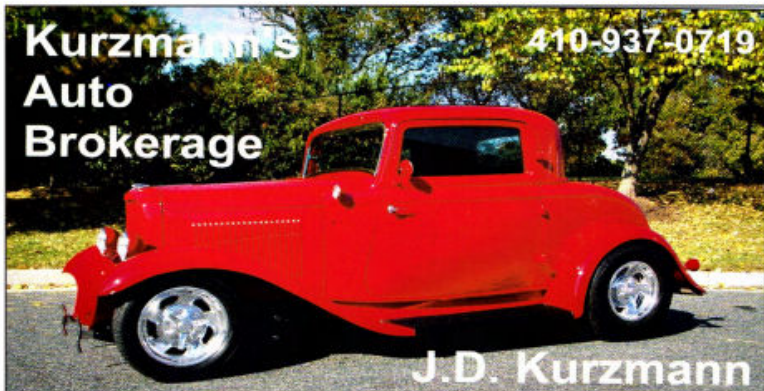
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