

WE GIVE IT A “98,” MR CLARK

By Vic Bary



It had a good beat, and even though we couldn't dance to it (the dance floor was closed), the 26 members and spouses attending the December 8th Holiday Luncheon at Dick Clark's American Bandstand in King of Prussia, PA gave the affair a “98.”



The idea for a holiday party was hatched at this year's Corvettes at Carlisle by several Chapter members from Eastern Pennsylvania as a way for members to have a Chapter function between the October Annapolis event and the planned April 26-27, 2003 Williamsburg event. Maureen Strazdon, Vice President-elect and Meeting Planner, selected Dick Clark's after a reconnaissance by local member Paul Catinella confirmed that it was all that its website promised.

Just an event for a few locals, right? Don't tell that to John and Cheryl Buchanan who drove 146 miles from Salisbury, Maryland or Bill and Carol Conlon who drove 134 miles from Silver Spring, Maryland and Jan Hyde who drove 106 miles from Brooklyn to be with us. And, Pennsylvania being the large state it is, Doug and Joan Appler, Ray and Faith DeCesare, and Mike and Barb Boyer drove almost as far as Jan, all while remaining within the Keystone State. In fact, the average distance traveled by all attendees was 75 miles.

(Doug Appler and John & Cheryl Buchanan)

Besides a wonderful buffet meal featuring pasta, chicken marsala and pot roast, the afternoon was full of interaction and information exchange. President Brad Bean brought photographs of a 1960 solid axle painted a rare Cascade Green. Unlike the turquoise green color given that name in 1956-57, the 1960 color (not shown on the paint charts and believed to have been used on only 140 cars, of which only 65 were painted with white coves) was a subtle metallic light green. Brad is, of course, at work on a new shirt. (Well, after all, didn't President Harry Truman start as a haberdasher?) Additionally, he's proposing to SACC that the 2006 National Convention be held in Williamsburg, Virginia with our chapter as co-sponsor. And speaking of Williamsburg, if conversations around the room are any measure, this upcoming 2003 event is going to have a terrific attendance!



Jan Hyde brought photographs from the Monterey Historic Races and described, from an event early in his racing career, what it's like to get sideways at 130 mph and then meet an immovable object. Ouch! As several members discussed their early racing careers, they discovered they had raced the same circuits and may well have raced against one another.



(Jan Hyde and Al Schwacke Compare Notes)



(Pat & Don Whitehead and Bill Conlon)

Members used one another as sounding boards and resources for restoration and repair questions. Bill Conlon described the solution for an ammeter that doesn't rest at "0" when neither charging nor discharging. By the way, if Bill – a self-described gearhead – doesn't know the fix to a problem, it probably doesn't exist. Don Whitehead helped another member sort his way through multiple carb float valve problems.

All in all, the four hours went by way too fast. But, the consensus was that the first ever holiday party at Dick Clark's was a "98." We wouldn't be at all surprised if this was just the first of many holiday parties to follow. (Note: For those of you too young to remember, and that includes our entire membership, new songs on American Bandstand were rated on a scale of 35 to 98 – and 98 was a winner! Editor) 🚗