



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 2017

Mount Airy Summer 2016 Meet Report

On Saturday, August 13, 2016, 63 plate collectors and their guests gathered in the air-conditioned gymnasium at St. Michael Catholic Church in Mount Airy, Md. for the seventh annual ALPCA Chesapeake Region summer plate meet.

Being a presidential election year, the meet's theme was political plates. Xavier Hadjadj clinched the best theme display award for his New Jersey political plates from 1950 to the present. Tim O'Connor once again won an award with his display of current-base passenger plates from all U.S. states and territories.

We had an amazing cross-country competition for the long distance award, with John Contreras beating out fellow San Diego, Calif. resident John Plag by only one mile per Google Maps. Both Johns attended the meet independently from each other and were unaware the other would be present. ■

Chesterfield, Va. Spring 2017 Meet Report

The ALPCA Chesapeake Region returned to Virginia for its first plate meet of 2017 on Saturday, April 29. For the fourth time, we assembled at the Chesterfield County Fairgrounds exhibit hall in Chesterfield, just south of Richmond. In attendance were 24 collectors and their guests.

The meet theme was motorcycle plates. Taking home award hardware were Bob MacMeccan for his display of very low-numbered 1930-41 Virginia motorcycle plates, Tom Norris for his display of Newport News city strips and metal permit plates from 1922-73, and Roy Graziano of Meriden, Conn. for the furthest distance traveled. ■

Mount Airy 2017 meet details at-a-glance

- **Date and time:** Saturday, August 12, 2017, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- **Location:** St. Michael Catholic Church of Poplar Springs, 1125 St. Michael's Road, Mount Airy, MD 21771.
- **Persons admitted:** ALPCA members in good standing, their guests, and prospective members who haven't attended before.
- **Cost:** Tables \$10 each, walk-ins \$5. No charge for guests of members.
- **Table reservations:** Strongly encouraged; payment required.
- **Food and drink:** Refreshments and lunch provided at no charge.
- **Meet theme:** Pre-state, porcelain, and first year issue plates.
- **Awards:** Best display of meet theme plates; best display of other plates; furthest distance traveled.
- **Scheduled activities:** Donation auction.

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 either secretary@alpcar.com or 118 Quaker Road, Hampton VA 23669-2024. ■

Chesapeake Region Summer Plate Meet in Mount Airy, Md. Saturday, August 12, 2017

Pre-paid table reservations recommended

The eighth annual ALPCA Chesapeake Region Summer Plate Meet will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2017 at its usual location in the gymnasium at the rear of St. Michael 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 Interstate 70 between Baltimore and Frederick.

Our Mount Airy meet draws 50 to 70 plate collectors every year, and there's no reason to think 2017 will be anything less.

This meet's theme is *Pre-States, Porcelains, and First Year Issue Plates*. Awards will be presented for the best display consisting of pre-state, porcelain, and/or first year issue plates; best general plate display; and furthest distance traveled. We're defining pre-state plates as home-made, kit, or locally-issued plates from before the first year of state-issued plates. First year issue plates are state-issued plates from the first year the state issued plates. Displays including other types of plates will be considered general plate displays.

About 50 to 55 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 pizza lunch will be available (at no charge again this year!), so plan to stay for the whole meet. We'll hold a donation auction as always, with proceeds going toward meet expenses and any amount above that going to the region treasury. Your donations and bids keep meet fees down.

Since 2014, we've assigned tables at Mount Airy a bit differently than at most plate meets due to having run out of tables in 2013. The ALPCA convention was out west in 2013, and we think that meant more east coast people came to our meet instead. Since this year's convention was in California, you'll want to pre-pay and reserve the tables you'll need.

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).
- Reservations will be guaranteed only for the first 50 tables paid for. (At this writing, 21 tables have been spoken for.)
- Members not reserving and paying for tables in advance may 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

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2017 Mount Airy plate meet *(from page 1)*

- registration will take place between 7:30 am and 8:00 am.
- If at 8:00 am there are not enough tables for everyone registered, 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. Only the first 50 paid table reservations can be guaranteed. Make checks or money orders **payable to ALPCA Chesapeake Region**, and mail to meet host Rick Kretschmer, 148 Oak Alley Trail, Clayton NC 27527. Please mail table payment early enough to ensure its arrival no later than August 9, 2017. If paying by mail is a problem for you, contact Rick.

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. 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. 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. Church is 0.4 miles on your left. Gym is in the back. ■

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 get our status updates.

Or, contact region president and Mount Airy meet host 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 11 and 12.)

President's message

Last year in this column, I apologized for the unusually skimpy newsletter and put out an appeal for more people to step up and help out with the many responsibilities and tasks necessary for a truly great ALPCA region. I regret reporting that that appeal mostly fell on deaf ears, so to speak.

Since I arranged to have the Chesapeake Region reactivated in 2010, I've cheerfully done nearly all the work involved. However, I've never wanted this region to be a one-man effort.

Even without all the regional responsibilities and tasks I take on, I'm a busy guy. I have a demanding full-time job, family commitments, responsibilities in other organizations, etc., just like many of you. Sometimes I just don't have enough time to do everything that needs to be done, or to do everything well.

Because of other demands on my time, I wasn't able to even produce a skimpy newsletter prior to the spring meet in Chesterfield this year, and I haven't submitted meet reports for inclusion in ALPCA Plates magazine in over a year.

While I'm happy to continue to serve as regional president and Mount Airy meet host, I would love to offload some of the other things I do for the region to other willing and capable volunteers.

Also, at our first meet next year (most likely the spring meet in Chesterfield), we'll be holding elections for regional board members, including president. That's another way you can get involved. Terms are for two years, Sept. 2018 – Aug. 2020.

If you see or know of something that needs to be done, or could stand to be done better, and there's any way you could lend a hand either on a one-time or ongoing basis, please track me down and let me know. I will be most grateful, and our region will be better for it. Thanks in advance.

Rick Kretschmer, ALPCA #9652
President, ALPCA Chesapeake Region

Your Chesapeake Region volunteers

Elected Board of Directors *(terms through August 31, 2018)*

- 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.
- Vice President of Operations **(position vacant!)**
- Vice President of Communications **(position vacant!)**

Other Chesapeake Region volunteers

- Mount Airy meet host: Rick Kretschmer
- Chesterfield meet host: Reid Williamson
- Newsletter editor: Rick Kretschmer **(help wanted)**
- Webmaster: Rick Kretschmer **(help wanted)**
- Facebook admins: Rick Kretschmer and Tim Guy ■