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He did well in grade school and successfully convinced a college to accept him as a student. He graduated college with bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering. After college, he returned to his hometown of Hagerstown and worked at the Teetor-Hartley Motor Company. He remained with his family's company until they sold their motor division off in 1918. Then Teetor went to Camden, New Jersey to help the New York Shipbuilding Corporation balance turbine rotors on torpedo-boat destroyers in World War I. His highly developed sense of touch proved helpful in developing a technique for balancing steam turbine rotors used in Navy torpedo-boat destroyers—a problem that had stumped the ships' designers and engineers. Dynamic balancing of large components had puzzled others before Teetor solved the problem.



He is perhaps best well known as the inventor of automobile speed control. His inventions of the 1940s led to it being introduced into production vehicles in 1958. After the war, he returned home and designed a fluid-operated gearshift that he sold to Bendix in the 1920s. He began to work for the Piston Ring Company (later called the Perfect Circle Company), the successor to the Teetor family's piston rings manufacturing division of the Teetor-Hartley Motor Company. He oversaw the engineering division as director and vice president and became the president. He was posthumously inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn, Michigan, for his numerous contributions to the automotive industry and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for his cruise control efforts, improving safety and fuel efficiency.

Movie-style refreshments were graciously provided by Susan and David Skiles.

2026 Fairfax City Car Show

By Jim Nice, Show Chair



Saturday May 16th was an absolutely gorgeous day for our 2026 Fairfax City Car Show. The sky was clear and sunny, no rain, and temperatures in the mid-80s. The day started early with some cars arriving before 7:00 am. A quick scramble ensued to set up the registration booth and park arriving vehicles.

The City Hall side of Armstrong Street was already filled with vehicles by 7:30 AM as we began parking vehicles diagonally on the opposite side of the street. By 11:00 AM we had every available parking spot, including the back lot of City Hall, filled with display vehicles. We had a total of 126 registrants, with almost that many wonderful vehicles on display.

There were many interesting vehicles to view. Rick Lukens brought his 1925 Mack truck which won Best Commercial vehicle. The truck has a 1947 Flathead V8 with another flathead in the truck bed for show. The truck has chain-driven rear wheels. I had the opportunity at the end of the show to help Rick get the truck started and loaded on his carrier where it just fits. What a neat truck!



Rick Lukens' 1925 Mack truck



Steve Zimmerli won the Mayor's Choice Award for his 1936 Phaeton



Same truck with Flathead V8 engine



Dave Westrate won Best Pre-War Ford for his 1939 Woody

A 1957 VW Beetle won Best Import. The owner had a complete book detailing the history of its use in movies and its detailed restoration. The car had an original toolbox stored in the middle of the spare tire.



1957 VW Beetle with toolbox



Your show chair surprisingly won Best Postwar Ford for his 1951 Victoria. Fairfax City Mayor Catherine Read presented the award to Jim.

Our club was well represented at the show, with some members winning awards.



Bob Vignola's 1937 Ford Phaeton won Best of Show



Nick Arrington won Best Orphan Make for his 1959 Nash Metropolitan



Jerry Atkins won Best Sedan for his 1941 Ford Super Deluxe



Nelson Ford's Volvo



Hank Dubois' 1935 Ford 3 Window Coupe

In addition, Terry Thomann won Best Engine for his 1954 Corvette. There was also a beautiful cream-colored 1959 Cadillac 62 Series Coupe that won Best GM Product.

As always, our 50/50 raffle was a big hit. With \$588 raised, \$294 of it went to Anya Rentsch, the lucky winner!



Anya Rentsch, our 50/50 winner!



Rusty Rentsch's 1958 Lincoln



Bob Belsley and Susan Skiles preparing for the 50/50 raffle. Bob also ran the show's bullhorn, deftly announcing when the awards ceremony would begin.



David and Susan Skiles' 1949 Ford convertible



The Chaddertons working the registration booth

For this year's show, we introduced a modified registration process. Gay Harrington's registration team did a marvelous job of processing pre-registrants and day of registrants in separate lines. We also automated our judging system, allowing our judges to easily submit their selections and have the results tabulated. Thanks to our judges for handling this new judging system with aplomb!

The new automated judging process worked very well with one minor issue – a 1972 VW Beetle convertible won Best of the 40's (oops). A quick review of results will prevent an issue like this from occurring next year.

Thanks to Fairfax City Parks and Recreation team members Mitzi Taylor and Deanna Payne for helping us with the registration and judging processes and tabulating our judging results!



Mitzi Taylor and Deanna Payne



Bob Vignola with the trophies

The Knights of Columbus and Rita's Italian Ice provided great food. The cheeseburgers were excellent! Legacy Brass also provided us with great music.



Dave Westrate and Bill Simons announcing trophy winners

Mayor Catherine Read and Fairfax City council members Anthony Amos and Tom Peterson attended to select the Mayor's Choice award. Mayor Read presented the award to Steve Zimmerli for his 1936 Ford Phaeton.

Fairfax City Police and Fire Departments ran great activity booths for the kids. The City of Fairfax Public Works did a great job handling road closures and placing security barriers.

A huge thank you to Fairfax City Parks and Recreation, and especially Mitzi Taylor and Deanna Payne, for all their excellent work to make our show a reality!

Thanks to all our club volunteers who helped with registration, parking, judging, 50/50 and various other tasks: Gay Harrington, Dave Westrate, Bill Simons, Jane and Wayne Chadderton, Dave and Susan Skiles, Bob Belsley, Bill Selley, John Ryan, Rusty Rentsch, Bob Vignola, Nelson Ford, Nick Arrington, and Leo Cummings. We all had a great time.

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Blast From the Past



Ray Lambert 1990 with 1926 Model T Roadster. Note: Regular gas was \$1.18 per gallon.