

Virginia Pin Swap

Harry Fulwiler, III

The 28th consecutive Virginia Pin Swap is now history. It again was a great success with traders from all over the U.S. and Canada. What a great swap to visit old friends and make new acquaintances. There were 209 registered for this great swap. Thanks to the efforts of PCC **Bill Smith**, Book 5 of The Motorized Land Transportation series was released at the swap and most of the traders were hot after the new pins. In addition to the Transportation pins, the Pin Traders Club of Virginia (PTCV) had their twenty four pin set, a Swap Breakfast pin, a Regular Swap pin, the Swap Registration pin, and their Early Bird pin. The swap, breakfast, and the registration pins were all in the Transportation series. Additionally, the PTCV hosted the fall meeting of the LITPC Board of Directors on Wednesday night and made a special pin for that occasion. All of these pins are shown in this report.



Lion Harry Fulwiler is the trader on the right and he's trying to tell PCC Bill Smith some of the fantastic pins that he has collected since arriving in Winchester.



There were 24 just like this one, except each had a "unique" color.

The annual twenty four piece PTCV set for the swap was a Monkey this year in honor of the annual International Convention in Thailand for 2008. These are traded quite rapidly since each person in the set gets one set of 24 and then has 76 to trade. Due to a high demand for these pins, the ground rules will be changed beginning next year. Next year it appears that we will probably be ordering 125 pins with each person receiving one set and having 101 pins to trade. There is some talk about limiting those in the set to only one set and not allowing them to trade for another. This would allow the full complement of 101 pins to be traded to those individuals who are not members of the set. The problem in the past has been, if a member in the set decided to trade pins from his 76 for another set it would reduce those available to others to 52. If he wanted to trade for two sets, it would cut the number of sets available to outside members to 28 and so on. The rules have not changed yet but are expected to be at the next PTCV Board meeting. (Editor's note. The writer of this article, Lion **Harry Fulwiler** has spent countless hours on developing and distributing these pins and deserves a big THANK YOU for his efforts.)

The Thursday Silent Auction was another fine job by PDG **Richard Evans**. We had some pretty good pins for sale and the dollar volume was in excess of \$1,300. While handing out plaudits to Richard, he and his helpers should also be thanked for another fine job in setting up all of the tables and chairs. This is a tough job that Richard seems to make easy by his organization abilities. Very big thanks to PDG **Jerry Romig** of the Missouri Pin Traders for his continued help in setting up the tables over the past couple of years.

The swap got off to a good start Wednesday with some trading going on in the rooms. Quite a few people congregated in the Hospitality Room Wednesday evening for drinks and snacks. Lion **Ann Harris** did another great job running the Hospitality Room but she can not do it alone, as always she was assisted by Lion **Jim Golladay**, who stores the supplies and shops ahead for the event, PDG **Rich Evans** and Lion **Susan**, **Jennie Fulwiler** and **Penny Sharpe** who help decorate, warm, prepare, and clean each evening. On Thursday evening, the fare consisted of many types of chili donated by **Ann**, **Penny**, **Lew Adams**, and **Dave Harris**, as well as beef & pork BBQ, hotdogs, Chicken Tenders (Buffalo Style and plain), veggies, cheeses, chips and **Norma Shoemakers's** famous brownies and bugle mix, cookies, **Fred and Vrla's** Benson fruit cake, etc. The Friday night fare featured the world's famous corn chowder prepared all afternoon long by that famous chef from California, Past LITPC President **Al Stack**. In addition there was more chili, **Annie's** Chesapeake Crab Dip, the **Mikulecky's** Bean Dip, drunken wieners, Shaw House Pear Chutney with ginger snaps, just to name a few. Ann extends a very special *thank you* to all those who donated items and especially to **Rich**, and the two **Black Eyed Susans** and **Doc Walter Johnston** from Mississippi for help in packing up on Saturday. The hospitality room's success is a result of having a great support team.



Thursdays pin trading was hot and heavy and only subsided for a few moments when Lion **Bill Russell** and his band of older Marines took to the stage to honor the Marine Corp and abuse the other pin traders with their rendition of the Marine Corp Hymn. It is good to see such dedication. When properly sung it is a beautiful hymn.

The guy in the middle is that old Marine, Lion Bill Russell and his bride Carol. The lady to the right is Helen Gianiny and she's in shock listening to Bill

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The high light of the day came when the PTCV honored two of its members, **Lion Everett Gianiny** and **Lion Bernard Burch** with a birthday cake shared by all for having achieved 90 years of life on planet earth. What an honor to have been able to trade pins with two such fine gentlemen over the years. We are looking forward to many more years of trading with these great pin traders. On Thursday evening the PTCV hosted a nine hole golf card tournament with Director of Golf and PT Club Nine Hole Golf Professional **Lucille Romig** running the show. We had multiple representatives from at least nine different pin trading clubs in the game. In the end it was our own PTCV member **Jennie Fulwiler** who took first place honors with her husband **Harry** in second place and **Bob Whitman** of the Pin Traders club of Ohio coming in third. It was a nip and tuck affair with **Elwyn Beane** of the Wisconsin pin traders bringing in his own band of rooters who almost rooted him home as a winner. Beane got so excited he actually drank a can of beer. This is only the second time in 30 years that I have see Beane take a drink other than Coke. We had first time players such as **Meg Ager** from New Hampshire at the tables who did very well indeed. We also had players who have been in many of the games who are always a pleasure to be with. All in all in was a great game with the fan favorite coming in 2nd. Big thanks to Lucille for putting up with all the nonsense and taking all the abuse in running such a fine golf tournament. She is a fine lady who brings fun to everything she does.



Here, President Phil Sharpe making a presentation to Lions Bernie Burch and Ev Gianiny.

Our Friday night auction, under the leadership of PTCV President **Phil Sharpe** was another success. The auction sold pins totaling in excess of \$7,900. The marquee pins that went on the block was the 1963 Connecticut Helicopter that went for \$1,000, the 1968 Virginia Jorge Bird pin which went for \$525, and the 1960 Virginia Flat "L" pin that fetched \$500. There were one hundred twenty five lots in the Friday evening auction. Some of the pins bringing higher than expected prices and some bringing far less than expected. It seems that the trend at most auctions now is for lower prices with some of the very rare pins still bringing in the big bucks. As usual the auction team of **Fred Leach, Alex and Cindy Caldwell, Bill and Gerri Quinn, Harry Fulwiler, Charlie Kipps**, and Chairman **Phil Sharpe** did their usual great job. It is always a pleasure to have **Lion Boyd Richie** from the New Market Lions Club as our auctioneer.

Saturday morning's breakfast was as usual, a great meal at a great price. It was great to see everyone at breakfast before they all left for their trip back home. One of the highlights of the Breakfast was the unveiling of the quilt that is being auctioned by LITPC for Sight First II. What a beautiful quilt. It is appropriately named "Luncheon in the Butterfly Garden". It is absolutely a work of art. I informed my wife that if we happen to win it I certainly will not sleep on it. A work of art that nice should probably be donated to a museum. I don't mind selling raffle tickets on something that nice. We suspect most of the participants at our swap picked up quite a few pins. With all the trading how could anyone miss? **Lion Verle Malik** picked up the find of the swap when he found a 65 Clarksville, Va. pin. Now we know that there are two collections containing this pin. All in all it was another great job by our PTCV Swap Chairman Jim Golladay and his helpers. If you plan on attending next year you should get your reservations in as soon as possible to insure getting a table and a room. The early registration form will be out shortly. Dates for the 2008 swap are Nov 6th thru 8th at the Best Western in Winchester, Virginia. It seems we often run out of space so get your forms in early for next year.



Of this threesome, **Lion Ken Jones** of Indiana looks like he's just starting, and PDG "Beanie" and **Lion Boyd Engbloom** of Wisconsin look like they had rather be at home in bed



Here's PDG **Bob Wittman** trying to figure out how to beat the Fulwiler's in that Nine Hold Golf Tournament on Thursday Night. Give up Bob, those guy are "pros"!!!!

Snapshots from Pin Swapping in Winchester 2007



Lucy Barnhill on the right and Dorothy DeRouchey agree that without the mad hatter, it just wouldn't be a good Swap



Here's some of the more than 200 who attended the Swap in Winchester in 2007.



Lucille Romig, Director of the Nine Hole Golf (Card) Game is about to announce the winner during the Annual Breakfast. President Phil Sharpe is apprehensive, as well he should be because Lucille didn't pull any punches with the rowdy bunch who participated. Our own Jennie Fulwiler, the real champion in the Fulwiler household, was the big winner.



What would a pin swap in Virginia be like without the "Judge", a.k.a. Lion Bill Hadden. One thing for sure, the man is never at a loss for words.

PTCV President Phil Sharpe and PTCV PP Dave Harris passing out some of the hospitality bags that were presented to the members of the LITPC Board of Directors.

