

I have heard and thought of many reasons for our shortcoming this year, such as “too new of car”, “wrong type of car”, “not enough member participation”, “economy”, “too small engine”, “too big engine”, “wrong color”, “maybe a Trans-Am”, “not a Mustang”, “maybe a GTO.” About the only reason that I have not heard or thought of was “too much rain.”

It could have been any number of reasons. We had about the same amount of member participation that we have had in past “very good” years. I do not think that was it. But we always could use more.

The wrong car? This was an original “red”, V8 (301 cubic inch) car, with a good looking interior and about 50,000 original miles. The car was old enough for classic plates and to show at our car show. A solid car that the Region could be proud to sell chances on. I don’t think it was the car. But maybe an older car would have done better?

I have been involved with “picking” the chance car during the past 10 years. I have understood that the goal has always been to find a “nice” (not perfect) car in good drive-able condition that hopefully will sell a \$5.00 ticket. A car that would permit the Region to have a successful fundraiser. A car that could be driven by members all year and not need many repairs. A car that is in a good starting condition to encourage the winner to join the antique automobile hobby. Each year the GM, Ford and Chrysler members look for their chosen brand. Over the past 10 years we have had Fords, Chevy’s, a Chrysler, and now a Pontiac. We have also been lucky with all of the cars as they did not require any major repairs and many of the tickets sold.

I must admit that it did seam harder to sell tickets this year. I personally thought I sold half-as-many tickets at specific outings as I have done in the past. However, in years past I have also spent evenings selling somewhere around 4 tickets at places like Twin Lakes and the Westmoreland Fair. I did not have outings that bad this year. But maybe if the economy were better?

Bottom line is that while we all may have our theories, know one knows why we did not sell as many tickets this year. We did cover all associated costs, are able to purchase a car for next year, and will be able to fund our club functions. I would have to say the 2005 Chance Car was a successful fundraiser. And while some belt tightening may be in order, our Region remains on solid financial ground.

The search is on for a car to be our 2006 Chance Car. Should it be a Mustang, a Camaro, a Charger? What ever it turns out to be, it’s our Region’s major fund raiser.

One problem that always crops up is where to store the car. Please let one of the Directors know if you have a space available.

Hope to see you at the October 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting. 🍷