



# Summer fun at Classic Motor Museum

By CHRIS POLK

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**ST. MICHAELS** — Just as July heats up, a rare historic convertible that has “summer fun” written all over it is taking a turn on display at the Classic Motor Museum of St. Michaels.

The sunny yellow 1948 Jeepster that can now be seen at the motor museum made an appearance during the Antique & Classic Boat Festival on Navy Point a few weeks ago, complete with a plaid blanket and picnic basket.

Original “Jeepsters” were only produced for two years — 1948 through 1950 by Willys-Overland Motors.

Willys-Overland had been one of several bidders when the U.S. War Department sought an automaker that could begin making a lightweight truck for use in World War II.

The “Willys MB,” better known as the Jeep, began production that was shared between Willys, Ford and American Bantam in 1941. In total, 653,568 military Jeeps were manufactured.

After the war, Willys-Overland produced trucks and utilitarian-type vehicles.

The Jeepster was their attempt to enter the passenger automobile market. The yellow Jeepster lighting up the Classic Motor Museum is one of only 20,000 that were manufactured.

“Take off from the crowded highway, the mob is not for you,” the company’s advertising in *The Saturday Evening Post* proclaimed. “Seek the unspoiled spots and strange scenes. Go with the wind, commanding the power of the mighty Jeep engine.”

The American Motors Company tried to stage a comeback of the Jeepster in 1966 but ended production in 1973.

The Jeepster is only one of many rare, classic and historically significant vehicles in the rotating exhibits at the museum, located at 102 E. Marengo Street in St. Michaels.

And whether you own cars or just love cars, every Saturday



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The sunny yellow 1948 Jeepster that can now be seen at the Classic Motor Museum of St. Michaels made an appearance during the Antique & Classic Boat Festival at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum on Navy Point a few weeks ago, complete with a plaid blanket and picnic basket.

morning there’s a gathering on the museum grounds that automobile buffs don’t want to miss.

Cars & Coffee is a chance to get up close with some of the brightest, shiniest jalopies around while talking cars with other car lovers.

It’s always a surprise what might show up — from a Ford Model A to 1970s Corvettes to a bright red classic Cobra, Cars & Coffee is 9 to 11 a.m. every Saturday until November.

The free hot coffee is a special

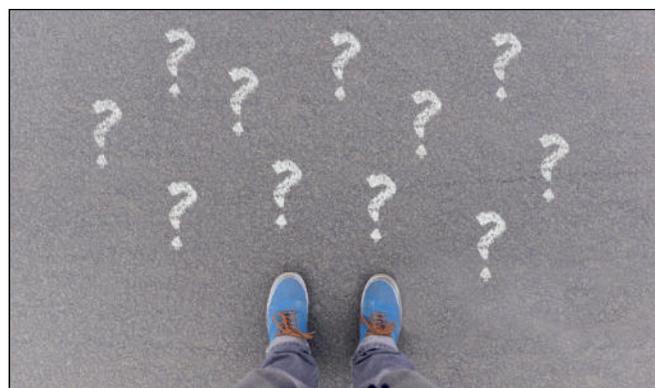
blend provided by Blue Heron Coffee of St. Michaels.

The museum’s fall fundraiser entitled, “Music, Motors and Mischief” will be held on October 19.

The Classic Motor Museum of St. Michaels is open seven days

a week, noon to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Visit their website at [www.classicmotormuseum.org](http://www.classicmotormuseum.org) and follow them on Facebook.



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