



The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 48, No. 7-8, July - August, 2015

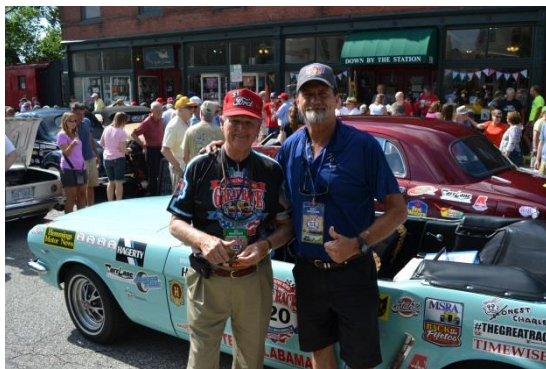
The Great Race Adventure Submitted by Mallory Henderson

Nine days, 2,100 miles, and 130 cars later....

The Great Race was grueling, intense, but definitely enjoyable. My dad and I traveled from Kirkwood, Missouri (a suburb of St. Louis) to Santa Monica, California down Route 66 in a baby blue 1964 and a half Mustang.



The Race is a time endurance rally where we are given only paper instructions, a clock, and a “good luck”. As a third year participant, we have finally started to grasp the concept and excel in the rally. Also as a third year participant, we have started to feel the true meaning of the Race. It isn't to win or having bragging rights, but simply to share the love of cars and this country with a big family. And that is exactly what the Great Race is—one big family.



I accounted this firsthand on numerous occasions whether it was from getting tips and tricks at dinner, or having a helping hand fixing the Mustang until the sun rose. This Race wasn't always fun or easy. My dad and I had our disagreements and there were some mechanical problems (we broke down in the middle of New Mexico due to a fuse blowing), but every night we resolved our issues and looked forward to another day.

Thanks to the race, I have begun to appreciate how immense and beautiful this country is. I never once realized that America was so encompassing, but I am so thankful I have gotten to learn about its history, and the importance of cars in its development. The Great Race, although strenuous and sometimes stressful, is now one of my favorite memories and one I hope to continue.



Message from the DSR President

Hope all of you are doing well. If we can survive a few more days fall will be in the air. The Dog days of summer have been on a roll this year. Coming up Thursday 27th we will be at Henderson's Car Museum. It's great to have such a collection right in our back yard. Jim & Nancy are always so gracious to open the doors to their place. What is so neat is the vehicles have a lot of history behind them. We plan to see you there.

As most of you know I run an Automotive Machine Shop. We get to see a variety of different engines in the work place. I still enjoy the engineering on some of the older engines & then see today's technology trying to represent it as being state of the art for today's engines. Whether you know it or not we had a lot of smart & creative people in the early days when it came to Automobiles & Drive trains. Kudos to them. When I see an old vehicle I try to imagine what these people's mind sets were when creating these Masterpieces that we know as the Automobile. Just some food for thought.

Beat Regards, Zeno



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The Sparkplug is published by the Deep South Region (DSR) chapter of the Antique Automobiles of America organization. The Sparkplug is non-profit and published for the information of club members and friends. DSR meetings are held every fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse located at 951 Forest Hill Drive in Mobile, Alabama. Membership in the Antique Automobile Club of America is required to be a member of this Region. Annual local dues are \$20.00; AACA national dues are \$35.00. Ownership of an antique vehicle is not a requirement for membership.

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The Henderson Cars go to the Movies. Photographs and text by DSR member Charlotte Dahlenburg

In the movie world, it was a winter day in San Francisco. But in reality, it was a scorching hot July weekday in South Alabama. Just ask any of the cast members who sweltered in their long-sleeved wool costumes, even as they tried to find respite under the stately live oak trees that gracefully line the streets of downtown Mobile, AL.



Some of those trying to keep their cool during the filming of the big screen motion picture movie, “USS Indianapolis Men of Courage” were members of the Deep South Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America.

Four club members – Scott Henderson, Mallory Henderson, Darrin Dahlenburg and Clyde Smith - were involved in the filming that took place in several locations around the Mobile, including: the Battle House Hotel, Saenger Theater, Spot of Tea on Cathedral Square, Blacksher Hall and the Federal Courthouse. Filming also took place in Coden, Alabama.

The first week of filming the cars - owned by Jim Henderson and belonging to the Henderson Museum Collection in Mobile - were loaded at Henderson’s museum onto car haulers and brought to the staging area in downtown, where they stayed, under security, throughout the filming. The staging area was next to wardrobe and the food tent. For night filming they served breakfast at 7 pm and lunch at 1 am and dinner early in the morning.

The following cars were used for the production:

- The 1923 *Premier* is one of two of that model left in existence and has a magnetic shifter that is operated with the clutch. The *Premier* was driven past the Battle House during an outside scene and driven past a fight scene that took place on a balcony.
- The 1929 *Lincoln* with the polished all-aluminum body was parked in front of the Battle House and the home of a judge during the filming in Coden.



- The 1929 *Plymouth* and a 1932 *Chrysler* convertible were driven past the Battle House in a scene and were parked in front of the courthouse in a scene where lead actor Nicolas Cage walked past. The *Chrysler* also sat in front of the balcony during a fight scene in an alley.
- 1940 *Packard* limo used in the movie, has already been on the big screen. It was driven by Humphrey Bogart “Casa Blanca.” In this movie it was character Judge Baxter’s personal car. The *Packard* was featured parked in front of the Battle House. Darrin Dahlenburg drove the *Packard* to the alley where the fight took place. Also sat in front of Judge Baxter’s house in Coden.
- 1937 *Cadillac* convertible drove past the balcony and sat in front of the Judge’s house as well as in front of the Battle House.
- 1940 *Ford* Sedan Delivery, previously owned by the University of North Carolina, was also driven past the Battle House in one of the scenes.
- 1915 *Borne* tanker truck, previously owned by the Atlantic Oil Company, and the 1957 *International* Coke-A-Cola truck sat in front of the alley fight scene.
- 1925 *Ford* Model TT one ton drove in front of the Battle House and sat in front of the alley during the fight scene.
- 1935 *Buick* Sedan sat in front of the Alley scene and the balcony scene.
- 1947 *International* Farm Truck KB2 was pulled from a warehouse after 20 years and driven the same day for the movie. The truck was character Bama’s personal vehicle and



was driven onto the property of the Judge’s house in the movie. It was also driven down a side road near the Judge’s house and driven around a square in downtown Mobile. Lots of up close and personal scenes were filmed in front of the Blacksher Hall with people filmed sitting inside it talking. The farm truck drove down the Judge’s driveway again on another day.

- 1970 *International* farm tractor was in one scene at the house in Coden. Bama’s mom

was working on the tractor when he came home in that scene.

Now, a little about the filming:

The first night there were six drivers. Not long after arriving with the cars four of the six men were told they had to shave. They were all sent to wardrobe to get a shirt and hat so they would be in costume as they drove the cars up and down the streets. Clyde Smith drove the 1998 *Chase* Trolley past the Battle House from 2 pm until 6 am the first night. He was the only one with air conditioning.

Also on the first night of filming the California license plates were placed on the back of the cars. Then the director said they needed to be on the front of the cars and later they were told to switch them to the back of the cars. The next week during the day filming another person came over and said the plates needed to be on the front of the cars.

One of the nights Darrin Dahlenburg needed to fix the fuel pump on the 1929 Plymouth. It was 8 pm and the only place to find parts was to go get them off of another car in the Henderson Museum Collection. After fixing the car somewhere around 2 am Darrin covered in grease was told that he was going to be a limo driver. He was sent to wardrobe for costume. Before he had a chance to get there they changed their minds and wardrobe came to him. Four girls were changing him in the middle of the street. At first he only needed a jacket. It was decided to have Darrin get out of the car. Now he needed pants and shoes. They changed him right there in the middle of the street!



Richard Renaldi the Executive Producer was sitting in the 37 Cadillac admiring the car. Scott Henderson could tell he wanted to drive the car so he climbed on the sideboard thinking he was going just down the closed off street. Instead Richard took off driving through town and Scott had to climb inside the car.

Mallory Henderson, our youngest member at 17 years old, landed a part as an extra in the movie. Her first day of filming was a social scene held at Bama's home, a residential home just off Florida Street. Bama was one of the main characters in the movie. There was a lot of time hanging around for the filming to start. Mallory spent time

getting to know some of the actors and wardrobe people. During this scene Mallory was standing with her “husband” and another gentleman asked her to dance. Mallory thought to herself “Well ok, bye husband.” Mallory was in another scenes toasting with all the survivors at Bama’s house. She was also a protester outside the Court house and was in the courtroom as an extra.

Scott Henderson was cast into a role as a southern gentleman. When he arrived for filming that morning he was sent to makeup and told to have his hair greased back. They decided to cut his hair instead. After getting his costume he went to where they were filming and Mario Van Peebles told Scott Henderson to sit at the table. They were rehearsing the scene about when they were discussing the dropping of the bomb. It didn’t take long for Scott to figure out to not over express but to act like he was paying attention. As they shot the scene over and over the director kept moving stuff around. Before he knew it, the cameras were focused on him. During the four hours of filming this scene the other actors asked Scott how long he had been doing movies. He of course said this was his first. They were jealous of Scott’s face time on camera. They all called him the guy with the pretty hair.



Scott had other scenes in the movie. One was to have taken place in Washington D.C. in the Judges Library. Wardrobe change was simply changing his tie.

Filming of was an awesome experience for Scott, Mallory, Clyde and Darrin as well as five other drivers that helped out.

THEDSR MONTHLY MEETING IS THURSDAY AUGUST 27TH AT 7:00 PM
THE MEETING WILL BE AT THE HENDERSON CAR MUSEUM ON HWY 90
THE MUSEUM WILL OPEN AT 6:00 PM



State Trooper to the Rescue

A motorist from Dalton, Ga., sent the following note following an encounter with an Alabama State Trooper:



"I was stopped by Trooper Gene Lyles from the Evergreen Post on the 14th of July. It was nighttime, and I was traveling with a camper without working lights, which I was 100 percent at fault. Trooper Lyles could have given me a ticket and told me to park the camper on the side of the road. Trooper Lyles showed great understanding to our terrible vacation situation. He also went above and beyond by escorting me

and my family to the closest exit. While at the hotel, Trooper Lyles also stated that he would help in anyway possible to get my vehicle in proper operations. Please advise Trooper Lyles that the family thanks him and thanks him for his service."

Trouper Lyles is Charlie and Robbie's son Gene.



Website Update

Thanks to an incredible effort by Charlotte Dahlenburg, the new web site is up and running. The address is deepsouth.aaca.com. The look is quite different from the old one, but contains basically the same info. We would appreciate any comments or suggestions from members. Also, members should visit our Facebook page. The old site is frozen, but still available at local.aaca.org/deepsouth.

Herb Thoms, Webmaster

Note from Lou Lartigue

I have a rear end out of 1939 Plymouth I picked up thinking I could use the break parts; but I can't. If you could put it in the newsletter I will give it to anyone who may need it if they come get it. It is heavy!

Generator and Alternators

After the Spring car shows, it became apparent that my DeSoto's battery was not holding a charge. As this is an expensive "look-a-like" battery with green caps and tar top style, I wanted to make sure the battery was the problem and not the generator. We never had the generator checked during the restoration. I took the generator and the voltage regulator to a shop on Government Blvd. (It is amazing how many old, rather ratty looking car shops you discover when you work on old cars). After soaking the generator in oil all weekend to get it apart, the verdict was that the generator needed new brushes but that the bushing and bearing were fine. The voltage regulator and the spare I have also checked out fine.



I reinstalled the generator and took it back for them to check out the car. After the two older gents argued for a while about the nature of the voltage output, it was decided that the idling charge was a little over 12 volts and that it got up to around 14.1 volts when they put up the rpms. It was suggested that I get a smaller pulley on the generator so it would spin faster to get the idle voltage up. The evil alternate was to replace it with an alternator.

I did some checking on the internet to see the difference between a generator and an alternator. To summarize, generators have *very* clean electrical output, producing pure DC. Most generators have a maximum output of 50 amps. Generators need a cut-out relay to cut power to the generator when not charging, so they do not pick up power from the battery and turn into a motor.

Alternators have field coils wound around a large bobbin and surrounded by two interlocking iron shells. The whole rotating assembly is known as a rotor. In the alternator, there is wire wound around a steel core, called the stator. The rotor spins inside of the stator. As the rotor spins, the alternating between north and south poles induces a current in the stator. The current is alternating current - hence the name "alternator." (Whew, follow all that?)

The current passes through a series of diodes changing the AC to DC current. Alternators produce over 160 amps. They last longer than generators but they can be inefficient.

So basically, the generators don't put out enough voltage (amps) when the car is idling whereas the alternator can. As my buddy Larry Zappone in Seattle said as more options were added to cars, the power demand increased and the generators couldn't keep up.

So, the bottom line for me: Get a new battery and buy a battery tender to keep the charge up (in other words, quit being a cheapskate).

Submitted by Paul Dagenais



Minutes
DSR Monthly Meeting:
June 25, 2015

The June meeting for the DSR opened with a request for thoughts and prayers for Kay Montgomery, Anne Givens and Herb Thoms who were all under the weather.

Old Business: There were no reports from the Treasurer, Editor, or Activity Director. Webmaster Herb Thoms reported continuing difficulties with the website. The site is accessible but frozen.

Charlotte Darlenburg reported that the Facebook page is up and getting good feedback.

Buddy Paquet reported that if anyone was interested, they could track the Henderson team in the Great Race at TheGreatRace.com.

As an ongoing discussion, the Word of Life Church on Dawes Road was requesting cars for their Men's conference. It was decided that any fees offered by the church would be donated back.

New Business: The Treasurer Bobby Peterson presented the monthly financial report. A move to accept the report was made by Jim Graham, seconded by Charlie Lyles and passed by all.

Under activities, Andy's Music Store is requesting cars for a Fall "Guitars and Cars" food drive concert. More information was requested.

It was announced that the OldTimers Car show in Monroeville, AL, would be on September 7th.

Under general discussion, it was suggested that the club develop cards to distribute at car shows to tell people about the DSR club.

The 50/50 pot was won by Amanda Pendergrass (John's daughter). A move to adjourn was made by Tracy Metclaf, seconded by Jim Henderson and passed by all.

Submitted by Paul Dagenais



Minutes
DSR Monthly Meeting:
July 23rd, 2015

The meeting was opened by Secretary Mallory Henderson as most of the officers were not available. The meeting did not follow the usual format.

The treasurer's report was submitted for the month. A move to accept the report was made by Tracy Metclaf, seconded by Patt Paquet and passed by all.

There was limited discussion about the club involvement with Andy's Music who want to have a "Guitars and Cars" food concert in the Fall. Details were still lacking.

Patt Paquet suggested the club initiate a red bean cook-off activity. She has talked to Shriners who would act as co-sponsor. Several dates in the fall were discussed with general interested expressed by club members. Further discussion will be held at upcoming meetings.

Webmaster Herb Thoms had nothing new to add to about the frozen website. Charlotte Darlenburg offered to help get it running.

Walt Fuller announced that the lawn was not cut before the meeting due mistake in the dates and due to a family problem with the owner of the service.

Applause was given to Lycyle Crowdus who as retired after 41 years.

The 50/50 draw was won by Scott Henderson.

Submitted by Paul Dagenais

Check out the Deep South Region Website at:

deepsouth.aaca.com _It's New!!!!

<http://local.aaca.org/deepsouth> ...It's Old and Frozen



Cruise-Ins

Time	Location	Address	For More Info Contact
1 st Saturday	Edgewater Mall	Hwy 90, Biloxi MS	Jimbo 228-596-0664
1 st Saturday	Kentucky Fried Chicken	Tillman's Square, Hwy 90	Jo Jo Johnson 251-367-6643
1 st Saturday	5 Guys	Airport At University	Brenda Drinkard 675-9226
2 nd Friday	Hooters	Daphne	
2 nd Saturday	What-A-Burger	Airport & Snow Road	Bubba Blanton 251-610-4032
2 nd Saturday	Sam's Super Burger	Grand Bay	Southern Bay Cruisers 251-442-6877
2 nd Saturday	Dillard's	Eastern Shore Mall	Eastern Shore Cruisers
3 rd Saturday	Steak 'n Shake	Schillinger Road	Donnie Tanner 649-5397
3 rd Thursday	RPG Paint	I-65 Service Rd & Moffat Rd	Mobile Bay Mustang Club
4 th Saturday	Burger King	Highway 43 in Saraland	North Side Cruisers
4 th Saturday	Northrop Complex	Pascagoula, MS	Magnolia Classic Cruisers
4 th Saturday	Hooter's Restaurant	Airport Blvd.	Don Benson 251-680-9533
4 th Saturday	Grand Bay Cruzer	TA Truck 'Stop, Grand Bay	
5 th Saturday	American Legion Post 1992 3824 Old Spanish Trail	Gautier, MS	Sons of the American Legion
Last Saturday	Sonic - Hwy 59 South	Robertsdale, AL	251-747-2022



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