

# The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 48, No. 6, June, 2015

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## Meet Jim and Connie Graham

Perhaps those of you who participated in the last trip to Vinegar Bend remember the bit of excitement on the way up to have lunch. A Model A pickup hit a drop in the pavement and blew a transmission line. It was a rather smoky situation and provided something novelty to the trip. The truck in question was Jim and Connie Graham's. When I spoke with them this past weekend, Jim said that he'd had the front end worked on since and has had taller springs installed that gives the little hot rod better clearance and a better ride.

The Grahams have a very nice home in West Mobile. They live there with their two dogs and, currently, four stray cats. They have two adult children who live "away." Connie is from Mobile, having grown up in Midtown. She obtained a degree in Biology from the University of South Alabama. For a time she worked for USA at the Medical Center and in the College of Allied Health. While it has been a time since she was at USA, we still managed to find at least one person we knew in common. She subsequently worked as a medical sales representative and regional manager ending up in Atlanta.



Jim is from Oklahoma. He said he was born in Texas but escaped two days after his birth. He attended Oklahoma State University, Georgia State, and LSU. He was in the army, was in Vietnam and left with the rank of Captain. His career has been in banking. He has held positions as Vice President or Senior Vice President with several financial institutions. He also taught management and finance at LSU for eight years. He stated that as a Banking Management Consultant, he's worked on the six continents for different banks. Jim and Connie said that as a result of living in Germany when their son was quite young,

he became fluent in German and as a result developed an ear for languages. He is fluent in several.

Jim and Connie met in Atlanta. They've been married for 27 years and in that time have moved 7 times, living at one point in Singapore. Connie said that with all the moves, she eventually stopped working and focused on raising their son. They have had their current Mobile home for about 10 years. They moved to Mobile to be closer to Connie's parents who were getting older.

**Continued on Page 3.**

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## Message from the DSR President

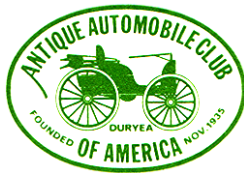
IT'S SUPPERTIME!!!!

How many of you remember hearing that phrase? Well, it's also summertime and that means no one wants to cook.

The Grahams provided a really tasty spread for the May meeting and everyone who was there thanks them.

Now we are moving toward the end of June and it's time to do something different. Usually, this is the month we do a sandwich and salad supper. The club can provide the bread, meats and cheeses. We could use a couple of bowls of salad, maybe potato, and that old standby, macaroni. Add a bag of chips and maybe fritos. The lettuce –tomato - pickles are taken care of and we have plenty of ice and tea along with soft drinks and water. A couple of desserts would be helpful. This is one of our months that is usually lacking attendance - we know the Henderson Team is on the Great Race, the Fullers are in NC and Brian Daly is on the other side of the pond enjoying a trip after his recent retirement. In view of all this, it would be especially helpful if you would let me know if you will (OR WON'T) be at the meeting so we can plan accordingly. Your reply will be appreciated. Hope everyone is well and I look forward to seeing "y'all" Thursday at 6:00 pm at the Club House.

Zeno



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## DSR Officers for 2014

President: Zeno Chaudron ..... 251-423-0946  
Vice President: Foy Bobo ..... 251-661-6133  
Secretary: Mallory Henderson 251-709-8150  
Treasurer: Bobby Peterson .... 251-342-8960  
Editor: Paul Dagenais ..... 251-610-4533  
Activities: John Pendergrass .251-607-0028  
Member-at-Large: Charlie Lyles .....  
..... 251-973-2078

## Appointees and/or Volunteers

Historian: Paul Dagenais ..... 251-610-4533  
Program Chairperson: Patt Paquet .....  
..... 251-661-4009  
Webmaster: Herb Thoms..... 251-654-2933

**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 Grahams (Continued from Page 1)**

They also have 15 acres of land on a lake in Mississippi. Jim is in the process of retiring from IBM. His retirement will be complete in December of this year. He's had a very successful career receiving numerous awards and receiving two patents with two more to come.

Jim said he learned to appreciate cars from his Dad. Over the years he's had various sports cars such as a Porsche Targa and Mercedes SL. With the advent of a family, he transitioned into more traditional sedans - for the most part. At one point he bought a 10 year old Ford F100 while visiting family in Oklahoma. He added air conditioning and kept the car through various moves. He eventually sold it while living in New Jersey as he had quite a bit of driving to do and the pickup wasn't quite cutting it. He returned to a Mercedes.

During an internet search that didn't go the way he anticipated, he ended up on a classic car webpage and started looking around for something fun. He found the Model A closed cab pickup hot rod which was located in Destin. He bought it about a year and a half ago. It is not quite stock. It's on a Chevy S-10 frame with a Chevy V-6, Pontiac front end with disc brakes and custom suspension. What I found was interesting was the vertical shift (literally coming out of the floor in front of the seat) transmission. Connie said she's only driven the truck once and had to get someone to put the trunk in the right gear in order to get it home. As with most older vehicles, they've got work to do on it, such as redoing the interior. In the between time, they'll have some fun with it.

**Submitted by Paul Dagenais**

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**NEXT DSR MONTHLY MEETING IS THURSDAY JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:00 PM**

**ITS SUMMER SANDWICH TIME!!!**

**IF YOU CAN COME, LET ZENO KNOW SO THEY HAVE A HEAD COUNT**



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## **Brian Daly (no, he's not dead)**

Brian retired May 29, 2015 from the NWS and says he will miss the work and his fellow workers but not the shift work. We look forward seeing more of Brian during the rest of the year.

Patt Paquet

### **In His Own Words... A Bio for Brian Daly**

I got interested in weather as a boy watching clouds, and experiencing Hurricane Carla which affected us as it went in at Port O'Connor Texas in Sept '61. I was also interested in volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.

I got my Bachelor's degree at University of St Thomas in Houston and worked for the Meteorology Department in their consulting areas including forecasting weather, wind and seas for oil rigs, especially in the Grand Banks. We also did statistical and environmental studies.

Did seismic record processing for oil exploration in Houston and learned about rock acoustics. Graduate work at Penn State in 1977-1979 and at Texas A& M 1993-1994.

I enlisted in the Navy in December 1979 and was commissioned in May 1980. First duty station was as a duty weather officer at Naval Oceanography Command Center-Joint Typhoon Warning Center Guam, Fleet Numerical Oceanography Center, Monterey CA, instructor in Mapping Charting and Geodesy at the Defense Mapping Agency, then Meteorological Officer/ OA Division Officer overseeing Aerographer's Mates or "Weather Guessers", on USS Inchon (LPH-12).

I left the Navy in January 1990 and joined National Weather Service in Galveston as a radar observer on the legacy radar, the WSR-57. We went through some big events including an F-4 tornado that hit Channelview just east of Houston. In the Naval Reserves I worked at the Naval Research Lab (NRL) including a 1995 research project in the Persian Gulf with the Royal Air Force, and was the meteorologist for the Cobra Gold in Thailand in 1998.

1995 -1998 NWSTC Kansas City. I was assigned as an Instructor. I created lesson plans for courses and also presented a poster on South African tornadoes at a joint conference there in 1997.

1999-now: WFO Mobile. Big events included Ivan and Katrina, and Gustav which made a fist at us in '08, plus the 2012 Christmas Day tornado outbreak, and the 2013 ice storm, to name a few. I was out of country during the big event of April 2014 and the tornado outbreak of 2011 in SE Miss. In 1999 I put together some data on wet microburst forecasting and from that I made a PowerPoint presentation to present in November 1999 to 4 weather agencies in Asia.

Low points were storm damage surveys. Many impoverished people in rural areas had their lives uprooted by tornadoes and it was heartbreaking to see their lives turned upside down like this. However I have known storm surveyors who had actually seen death and horrific injury to the point of needing professional counseling. I have not had it half bad after all.

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## Website Update ???

Herb Thoms, our webmaster, has some more important concerns recently. We hope he is recovering well and may attend the monthly meeting this week. Read on:

Members:

Our faithful DSR member and Web Master needs your thoughts and prayers. He went in to have a bronchoscopy to determine a spot on one of his lungs and it has been downhill from there. He required what is called an "ablation" to get his heart back in rhythm. This went well for a while but later there were some complications which required the insertion of a pacemaker.

He is to go home today but calls to his number are discouraged but Nancy (422-3727) can use encouragement if that is your thing but cards will be most welcome : 9579 Polo Place North Mobile AL 36695

Steve Goren has been with him throughout both procedures and Herb and Nancy's son Steve and D/I/L Clarissa are now here to help both Herb and Nancy through this difficult time.

Let's all get a move on and give Herb the biggest Card Shower in DSR history.

Hugs to all

Patt Paquet

Team Henderson and the Great Race: Checking the website, Team Henderson must have run into problems during Stage 2.

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### **Team Henderson – Great Race Update (From Mallory Henderson on Facebook: Henderson Great Race 2015)**

June 22, 2015: Last night we stopped in Oklahoma City and today we are headed to Amarillo! Yesterday was an interesting day (we missed the exit to go to the finish line) but we're still managing to be in 3rd in our division! We're hoping today is a little easier and that we can make up for the losses.



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**Minutes**  
**DSR Monthly Meeting:**  
**May 28, 2015**



- Under Old Business
  - Motion to approve the financial report was motioned by Herb Thoms and seconded by Paul Dagenais.
  - The approval of the April minutes of the Sparkplug was motioned by Pat Paquett and seconded by Paul Dagenais.
- Under New Business
  - Paul Dagenais said that the MOPAR club meets monthly at the PDQ restaurant thus having minimal expenses. All benefits from their car show go to the Mulherin Home and they have donated up to \$60,000 over the past 10 – 20 years. This brought discussion of starting a fundraiser to help both the community and the club itself.
  - There is a men's conference next week at Living Word Church on Dawes Road and the church asks our attendance in a drive-in on Friday June, 6th at 11 AM. A motion to approve this as a club function was motioned by Buddy Paquett and seconded by Tracy Metclaf.
  - Progress on the website is slow but happening. The Sparkplug is now on the new webpage with updated officer list.
  - Jim Henderson reported that a movie is being filmed in Mobile about the USS Indianapolis. Some of his cars (13 or so) will be in the movie and there is a request for drivers. The time frame is stretched over a few days. The filming will be in the latter half of July. If you are interested, contact Scott or Jim.
  - There is a car club page on Facebook. There was a request to like and share the page.

The motion to adjourn was made by Buddy Paquet and seconded by Scott Henderson. Robbie Lyles won the 50/50 drawing of \$22.

**Mallory Henderson, Secretary.**

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**Check out the Deep South Region Website  
at:**

<http://local.aaca.org/deepsouth>



**Cruise-Ins**

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

**Car Shows**

July 4<sup>th</sup> --- Grand Bay Watermelon Festival, Shine and Show, Odd Fellows Festival Park  
 July 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> --- Baytown Throwdown, Mobile, AL

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