



The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 46 No. 1, January, 2013

An Interview with Kevin and Mary Ella Crowell

I met with Kevin and Mary Ella at their home in west Mobile. I was met at the door by their more-than-friendly dog who's name is Yehti. They can explain the name to you. I want to thank Kevin and Mary Ella for allowing me to invade their space, especially as they had both just gotten home from work and were getting ready for dinner.



Kevin was born in Fort Wayne Indiana and has one brother and four sisters. He said that there's no family left in Indiana with all the siblings being scattered to the winds. Having not been one who stayed in school, Kevin reported that he travelled to Juno Alaska when he was nineteen. One of his sisters had moved there previously so he wasn't entirely alone. He didn't keep his job in a mailroom for long and decided to visit Mobile where another sister lived. He thought he could get a good deal on a car if he got out of the north.

While it doesn't appear that he had any ideas about staying in Mobile that changed when he met Mary Ella. She was 15 and he was 19. Mary Ella said that her father was not too pleased that she met someone she was so serious about. She was a teenager going to school and working part time at the Crystal on Airport Blvd (where 5 Guys is now) which is where she met Kevin. The couple got married four years later.

Mary Ella was born in Mobile and has always lived here except for when she attended school in Nashville for two years. She has one brother who also lives here. She taught 7th grade math through pre-calculus and was in charge of Year Book at Mobile Christian Academy for 23 years (She has also attended Mobile Christian as a student). After she retired, she took a year off then worked at Remington College for one year. She started at Faulkner State University as their Registrar during the summer of 2012. Mary Ella stated that one of the pleasures of the new job is that, at the end of the day, she can walk away. When she was a teacher, she always felt obliged to be available to her students at all times.

Kevin said that he started to work on cars when he was about 13. He said he appears to have a knack for it. He got his first car at 14. The car was a 1964 Ford Galaxy 500 with a blown head gasket. His mother and step-father told him that if he could get it running, he could have it. Kevin said he had a neighbor who worked on cars and would tell him what to do to fix the car and he'd do what he was told. Kevin's favor car was a 1967 Camaro convertible that he had had for years. He was restoring it until about 2 years ago when he decided to sell it. Other cars they've had include a 1968 Camaro Z-28 and a turquoise 1968 Chevelle which Mary Ella said

Continued on Page 3.

Message from the DSR President

I want to comment that we got through the Holidays unscathed and I hope you all did too. Further, I hope you all are doing well as we get rolling into the New Year.

In December we didn't have enough folks to sign up for the Dec. 29th breakfast buffet & thought it best to cancel. I do realize that a lot of you had other plans for the Holidays & we thought it made good sense to cancel & install our 2013 officers at the January meeting. We have several new faces to fill Officer vacancies. I thank those who served last year on the board for all they have done.

I don't think it's too early to start getting ready for our 2013 Mother's Day Car Show that comes up in May. We need some volunteers for the car show committee & if you could help in any way please let us know at the next meeting.

On another note, this will be the 10th anniversary for the AACCA MUSEUM in Hershey. They have sent a letter out which I will have at the meeting asking for all the regions for support in different capacities to help the continued growth of the Museum during this momentous time. I have not had the pleasure to visit there but I hear it is great.

January is the month we normally make our Annual David's Catfish Cabin run but unfortunately they closed their doors in Spanish Fort. After talking with several of you a long with Tim & Stacey we will be heading to Rocky Creek Catfish House in Lucedale MS on Hwy 63 on the 26th of January. You should have already received a Email from the Lawrences about this. We will have additional information at the Thursday Club meeting coming up on the 24th at 7:00 pm. Hope to see all of you there.
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 \$15.00; AACCA national dues are \$35.00. Ownership of an antique vehicle is not a requirement for membership.

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Interview with Kevin and Mary Ella Crowell (continued)

hated her. She asked how many cars had I driven that the clutch pedal just broke off?

Kevin worked as a mechanic for almost every auto dealer in town before opening up his own shop in 1999. He said that when he opened the shop, he started from scratch. However by that time he had built up a reputation in the community and many customers he had dealt with over the years followed him and helped to make the shop a success. Both Mary Ella and I commented that it was amazing how many vehicles he could get into his yard as it is one of the smallest we both have ever seen.

Kevin and Mary Ella have three sons. The oldest lives in Boston with his wife, the second lives in Nashville and has a 3 year old son and their youngest is a senior at the University of Alabama. None of their sons have followed in their father's footsteps. Kevin did help one son restore and 1972 Camaro and another a 1972 Chevelle. You may have seen the Chevelle as it stays in Mobile because there's no place for it in Nashville. Mary Ella and Kevin were slight sheepish to admit that their youngest son has no interest in cars and drives a 2008 Ford Focus.

As most of you know, Kevin is our Club Chaplain. He says he's changed a lot since he was somewhat of a wild teenager. He and Mary Ella have attended the Azalea City Church of Christ for 28 years where is he one of three church elders.

Paul Dagenais, Editor

ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues for 2013 are due to be paid by the end of the year. DSR dues are \$15.00. AACA dues are \$35.00. AACA dues may be paid directly to AACA or you may provide a check payable to DSR for \$50.00. DSR will forward your AACA dues for you. Please note your AACA membership number on your check.

Please send your dues payment **IMMEDIATELY** to:

Bobby Peterson
DSR Treasurer
924 Butler Drive
Mobile, AL 36693

Note: You must be an AACA member to have a membership in the DSR. Membership renewal is due typically by December 31st.

New Members

DSR would like to offer a welcome to our newest members, Leah Dees, Rod Cooke and D.R. Jordan.

Upcoming Activities

Just wanted to share some information about two upcoming activities which will have to be approved by the membership:

January 2013

Saturday January 26th - Lunch at the Rocky Creek Catfish House in Lucedale, MS. Reservations have been made for 25 people for 11:30. We are thinking we could gather up and have a nice drive up Highway 98. We will have a meeting Thursday the 24th to nail down any last minute details.

February 2013

Saturday February 2nd - Kathy from Westminster Village has contacted us about their Mardi Gras parade. Just like last year we would line up at 1:00 with parade beginning at 1:30. The route is two times around the facility. There was a really good turn out last year and the residents had a great time. Again we will talk more about this (and have a sign up sheet) at the meeting on the 24th but just wanted to get the information out to you so you can get the date on your calendar.

See you at the next meeting!

Tim and Stacy Lawrence

Club Meetings Refreshments

We are beginning a new year and it's time for members to sign up to provide goodies for munching following meetings. It has been suggested that two couples partner making it easy on everyone.

We will have the annual soup and chili supper in February and a sign up sheet will be passed at the January 24th meeting. Having a meal before the meetings seems to be something that most everyone enjoys. Plans at this time are to have one every other month starting with the soup and chili supper.

If you have an idea for something different than the usual potluck, feel free to suggest it. We have had Italian with spaghetti/pizza/salad; sandwich/salads; and hamburgers/hot dogs with the usual fixings.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the January meeting. It's been a long time since we've all been together.

Patt Paquet
2013 Refreshments Chair



Check out the Deep South Region Website at:

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



Time	Location	Cruise-Ins Address	For More Info Contact
1 st Thursday	What-A-Burger	Airport & Snow Road	Bubba Blanton 251-610-4032
1 st Saturday	Edgewater Mall	Hwy 90, Biloxi MS	Jimbo 228-596-0664
2 nd Friday	Down Town Cruise	Ocean Springs, MS	N/A
Every Saturday	Burger King	Pensacola Nine Mile Rd at Chemstrand	N/A
2 nd Thursday	5 Guys	University at Airport	info@mobilebaymustangclub.org
1 st Saturday	Kenducky 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
4 th Saturday	Mings Café	Highway 43 in Saraland	North Side Cruisers
2 nd Saturday	Sam's Super Burger	Grand Bay	Southern Bay Cruisers 251-442-6877
4 th Saturday	Northrop Complex	Pascagoula, MS	Magnolia Classic Cruisers
Last Saturday	Sonic - Hwy 59 South	Robertsdale, AL	251-747-2022




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