



The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 46 No. 2, February, 2013

An Interview with Michael Palmer

When we were leaving the luncheon at the Rock Creek Catfish House in January, we making our first turn on the way back to Hwy 98 when I spotted Micheal Palmer's 1953 Chevrolet heading off ahead of us. For no reason other than to establish a small convoy, I tried to catch up with him. Now I know that his car has a six in it and it's got bias tires, and our Comet has a V-8 and radials, but no matter what I tried, I could not catch up with him. He disappeared off down the road. My assumptions: the man has a lead foot and he isn't afraid to put an old car through its' paces.

I met with Michael at his home in West Mobile. I was greeted at the door by Candy, the, approximately 5 pound attack-Yorkie who was using her intimidating bark. Michael explained that he'd had a pug that had passed away and an elderly lady had Candy but couldn't take care of her any longer. So Michael was adopted by Candy. I was impressed with her ability to scoot through a sizeable doggie door with ease.

Michael is a native Mobilian. He said he has never lived anywhere else. He has four brothers and a sister, some of whom also still live in Mobile. Michael graduated from McGill High School, being there when it transitioned from a boys only school. He worked at various jobs around town



until he joined one of his brothers in running a wholesale balloon business. He's been at it now for about 30 years. He had to explain that the types of balloons he sells are those that you see in the grocery store or floral shop, not the huge one's that people ride in. Michael's business keeps him busy and he travels quite a bit around the country on selling trips. He said this type of business requires that they work with vendors about six months ahead of any particular holiday. They only sell their balloons domestically, and try quite hard to only sell products manufactured here in the states.

Michael's first attempt at vehicle restoration was about 35 – 40 years ago when he bought a 1948 Chevy Pickup. He said he didn't have the time or the money then to do much, so after two years he sold it. About seven years ago, he was told there was an old "Ford" that was down the road from his business that he might be interested in buying. That Ford turned out to be the 1953 Chevy 210. While it still ran when he bought it, it took about two years to get it to where he felt comfortable putting it on the road. He's done some restoration himself, but farmed out most of

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Message from the DSR President

Greetings to all. I hope all of you & your families are doing good. I would like to say if you missed the Annual Catfish run we had then all I can say is you missed a treat. As most of you know our regular stop for Catfish had closed up & we decided to make the run to Rocky Creek outside of Lucedale Ms. I must say it was a very nice cruise & the food was good along with the fellowship. On the way back to Mobile I started spelling something like rubber burning. You know with these old cars there's (2) things you keep a look out for, and that's noises & smells. We pulled off the road at the State Line weigh station to check out the old ride. As I had my head under the hood, this vintage VW bus pulled up beside me with a couple inside. They asked if I needed any help. This bus must have been an early 1960 model because I noticed the front windshield was split and they were open on the bottom. Seemed like pretty nice folks when all of a sudden here flew a car up behind them. I made a comment that it appeared to be a Mississippi State Trooper. They said they would see me later DUDE! and they left pretty abruptly. As they left I looked back and here came Bob White & his friend Deborah Fos in his Ford Interceptor to see if I needed any help. It was all pretty humorous the way it happened. Anyway I didn't find nothing wrong and we continued home. That's my story & I'm sticking to it. See ya Thursday for our Club meeting & Chili Supper.

Zeno



NOTE: The chili supper starts at 6:00 p.m. with the meeting starting at 7:00. Don't forget to bring what you signed up to bring!

DSR Officers for 2013

President: Zeno Chaudron251-423-0946
Vice President: Foy Bobo215-661-6133
Secretary: Tracy Metclaf251-689-2926
Treasurer: Bobby Peterson.....251-342-8960
Editor: Paul Dagenais251-610-4533
Activities: Tim and Stacy Lawrence.....
.....251-401-3019
Member-at-Large: Charlie Lyles
.....251-973-2078

Appointees and/or Volunteers

Chaplain: Kevin Crowell 251-802-4640
Historian: Paul Dagenais.....251-610-4533
Program Chairman: Ernie Rogers
.....251-604-5368
Refreshments: Pat Paquet
..... 251-661-4009
Webmaster: Herb Thoms251-654-2933

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 \$15.00; AACA national dues are \$35.00. Ownership of an antique vehicle is not a requirement for membership.

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An Interview with Michael Palmer (continued from Page 1)

the work. The motor which had a cracked block was replaced and the transmission rebuilt. Fortunately, most of the chrome and stainless were on the car, and he had it refinished. He hasn't gotten around to getting the grill refinished so, as shown in the photo, it's painted white. The car was originally blue but he changed it to mint green with the white roof and wheels (apparently not an original combination). The interior has been completely redone to original specifications.

Michael did some of the restoration himself on the car. He helped replace 3 of the 4 floor pans, replaced the side glass and installed the wiring harness. We agreed that once you figured out what to do, the re-wiring was kind of fun. Michael pointed out, with pride, two small stainless pieces that go between the front and back doors. Apparently these are those annoying, never-to-be-found pieces. As he couldn't find them, a friend cut some stainless for him and made the two pieces himself. (and hey, they looked really good!)

After talking about the car, we went out back to look at it. His lot is quite small, and it was amusing that he has his bright yellow single-car garage at about a 45 degree angle in the back corner. I was wondering if the neighbors thought he was nuts when he put it up. However, once he cranks back his retractable awning and swings open his gates he can get the car out fairly easily. I didn't see any residual grease, so while I thought it narrow, he apparently doesn't have to lube up the car to get it out.

Regardless of the fact that his nieces (or was it great-nieces?) are quite nonchalant (possibly indifferent) about his Chevy, Michael seems quite happy with his achievements. And that's all that matters, right?

Paul Dagenais, Editor

ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues for 2013 are due. For 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: AACA requires payment of dues by the end of February. In order to be listed in the club roster, this requirement must be met. If you haven't paid up, please bring your payment to the club meeting on Thursday, February 28th, and give it to Bobby Peterson.

DSR: Laissez Le Bon Temps Roule By Patt Paquet

It was an even dozen years on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013 for DSR participating in the Westminster Village Retirement Community's annual Mardi Gras parade. Punxsutawney Phil definitely wouldn't have seen his shadow this day.



The facility is in the eastern part of Spanish Fort, AL. This town was always a welcome sight to motorist returning from trips to any place in the north part of the state. At the top of "Spanish Fort hill" one could see the skyline of Mobile, day or night.

The very first time DSR was invited to help the facility celebrate Mardi Gras, drivers met at the Brunos (supermarket) shopping center and caravanned to our destination. Once in line, the cars were decorated to within an inch of their tailpipes while everyone chatted

with the residents.

Not much changed from times past as the cars all lined up while residents strolled or bicycled past offering compliments on the vehicles. We were scheduled to make two circles around the grounds which we did – much to the happiness of all those waiting for the beads, moon pies, stuffed animals, plastic cups and other trinkets to rain down for the viewers to scoop up. In addition to those who are permanent residents, there were their families along with many of the employees and their families. For as long as I can remember, the parade has been led by a lone bagpiper. Again, no change – he was strutting out just ahead of the Excelsior Band. Have no doubt, they had hands clapping and toes tapping.



Tacky Jack's Restaurant on the Causeway was the designated meeting spot this year and **2 Bobos, L. Crowds, M. Palmer, 2 Paquets, J. Pendergrass and R. White** enjoyed lunch and fellowship prior to the parade. Unfortunately, **B. Elliott's** schedule didn't allow for he and his family and drivers to join us but he arrived in plenty of time to get five of his beautiful vehicles in line. For some reason, the security guard at the gate did not deem Bob White's 1990's Ford Police Interceptor a valid entry but not to worry, Bob rode with Michael Palmer.

Back in 2002, DSR had six vehicles in the parade with 10 members. This year three of those ten were on hand to keep the tradition going. We missed the Z. Chaudrons who had to make an unexpected out of town trip and the Lawrences due to Tim's being waaaay under the weather. We all wish him well.

... And They're Off and Running (for Catfish anyway)



For years DSR has had a winter run for catfish. The place to go traditionally was David's Catfish house in Spanish Fort. Unfortunately, David's closed last year. When it comes to outings involving FOOD, the DSR membership is never without suggestions. This year's option was the Rocky Creek Catfish House, outside Lucedale, MS on January 28th. With iffy weather, members gathered at the Azalea City Church of Christ at Hwy 98 and Schillinger Road and headed to Mississippi.

After some messing around at an abandoned gas station we drove up to the restaurant. To me, it looked like a smaller version of a Cracker Barrel, both inside and out. Inside there was basically one large room and they had reserved the far end tables for us (obviously someone warned them that we are loud chewers). I was fortunate in that I found a seat in the middle and could participate in the conversations at either end. I was opposite Foy (and Judy) Bobo, so there was no lack of conversation. You can see Foy's interpretation of a catfish to the above.



We had some serious eaters as noted to the right and some happy eaters as noted below.

I had the fried shrimp as catfish is not high on my list (I come from Canada where a catfish is considered a true bottom feeder. Others obviously did not have this problem as plate after plate of the fish kept appearing. It also must have been good as some of the residual fish was safely stored away in a few purses.



As Zeno noted, we also started to smell what could have been wires burning as we approached the Alabama state line. The gauges on the Comet didn't show anything so we just kept going and the smell went away. We didn't have Zeno's "Dude" event, although that would have been a lot of fun.

Those attending were **Miss Lycle Crowdus** (who still won't agree to an interview), **2 Paquets**, **2 Grimes (Pere et Fils)**, **B. White** and friend **Deborah**, **P. Dagenais**, **T. Metclaf**, **2 Bobos**, **2 Fullers**, **2 Chaudrons** with family member **Greta**, **2 Crowells**, **2 Wilsons** and **M. Palmer**.

Paul Dagenais

**Deep South Region
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2013**

President Zeno Chaudron called the meeting to order. Kevin Crowell gave the invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Lou Lartigue introduced his visitor, Max Menacker. The installation of 2013 officers was conducted by Patt Paquet.

Old Business: Foy Bobo discussed the repair to the front steps of the clubhouse. Foy stated that the steps will be repaired. The November, 2012 meeting Minutes were approved upon motion by Charlie Lyles and second by Kevin Crowell.

New Business: President discussed the removal of Advance Auto Parts as sponsor for the 2013 Mother's Day Car Show. A possible sponsorship by CarQuest is being pursued. A car show committee was appointed and approved by acclamation: Kevin Crowell, Chairman, John Pendergrass, Lou Lartigue, Brian Daley, Tim and Stacy Lawrence, Foy Bobo and Bobby Peterson , members.

Purchase by the Club of a banner to hang in the AACA Museum for the next year was approved in the amount of \$250. Following the year at the Museum, the banner will be sent to DSR.

Lou Lartigue discussed the possibility of participation in a Blue Star Commission car show at the Battleship Park. Members had many questions concerning the event, and, although the membership expressed a desire to support efforts that would involve benefits to U.S. Armed Forces Veterans, more information was needed. Lou agreed to research and report back at the February Meeting. A motion was introduced by Herb Thoms for DSR to participate in a Blue Star Commission car show at the Battleship Park on May 18, 2013. Buddy Paquet seconded the motion and it was passed.

Foy Bobo introduced a new multi-purpose sign-up sheet to be used at meetings.

Activities scheduled: Saturday, January 26, 2013, participating club members will meet at the Azalea City Church of Christ in Semmes, AL to drive to Rocky Creek Catfish House near Lucedale, MS for lunch. The event was declared an official club activity on motion by Patt Paquet and second by Paul Dagenais.

Westminster Village Mardi Gras parade participation on February 2, 2013 was approved upon motion by John Pendergrass and second by Patt Paquet. Patt also passed around sign-up sheet for chili/soup supper to be held at February meeting as well as a sign-up sheet for 2013 refreshments at club meetings.

Patt Paquet resigned as Historian, and Paul Dagenais volunteered and was approved by acclamation to serve as the DSR Historian for 2013. Herb Thoms, Webmaster, requested members forward pictures of their cars to him to be posted on the website.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Lou Lartigue's guest, Max Menacker. Buddy Paquet motioned and Herb Thomas seconded that the meeting be adjourned. All agreed, and the President drew the meeting to a close.

Tracy Metclaf, Secretary

Upcoming Activities



UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY'S 12TH ANNUAL BBQ CHAMPIONSHIP CAR AND BIKE SHOW

On March 8th & 9th, United Cerebral Palsy of Mobile will be hosting the 12th Annual BBQ Championship and Hog Wild Festival, to be held at the Greater Gulf State Fairgrounds. Over 100 teams will fire up their grills for a chance to compete in this nationally sanctioned contest. This year, in conjunction with the bbq contest, UCP will host a motorcycle and car show, to be held on Saturday, March 9th.

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. 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 next meeting.

Patt Paquet
2013 Refreshments Chair

Check out the Deep South Region Website at:

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

Cruise-Ins

Time	Location	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

For Sale: Old car parts for Hudson, Willys, Model A Ford and others. If interested contact Ed Behm at 251-209-6909.




Bobby Peterson

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