

# The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 46 No. 4, April, 2013

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## A Conversation with Lou Lartigue

Lou was one of the club members who showed up with his 1931 Dodge Brothers businessman's coupe at the Murphy Highschool reunion on Saturday morning. While shivering in the brisk wind with the rest of us, he agreed to an interview at his home later in the day.

Lou and his wife Betty are native Mobilians. His family owned a part of what is now Brookley Field which they sold in the 1940's and moved further south to Cedar Point. In the late 1950's they moved to a house on Dog River which is very close to where they currently live. Lou said he met Betty when they were 15 and as they lived close to one another "dated by boat". Lou graduated from McGill High School then attended the University of Southern Mississippi. He and Betty married in 1966 during their Junior Year. Lou and Betty have three adult children. Their son is in the process of moving his family back to Mobile as he himself prepares to retire from the Army. He has two children. One of Lou's daughters is a teacher at UMS Wright Preparatory school. She and her husband have 2 children. Lou's other



daughter and her family live in North Carolina. They have four children. Lou said that they have their own plane and visit Mobile often.

When Lou graduated from college he accepted a commission in the Army. He was in the Army for 20 years and was given 15 different assignments. I counted them from a display in their dining room. He was assigned to various sites domestically as well as to Thailand and Germany. Lou is a Vietnam Vet. When he retired from the Army, Lou and his family stayed in the Washington DC area for another 18 years.

In 2004, the Lartigues decided to move back to Mobile in order to take care of family members. They were lucky to find a house that is located in the midst of family. Back in Mobile, Lou and Betty completed the Volunteers of America Program at the University of South Alabama. As a result they developed a caregivers program by which they provided relief for those who were taking care of others. In his capacity as Commander of the VFW Post 49, Lou prepared more than 6000 meals as part of the Post Katrina relief. Lou helped to establish the Senior Citizen's Community Center on Dauphin Island Parkway. If this is not enough, Lou is a Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus and is President of the South Alabama Veteran's Council.

**Continued on Page 3**

## Message from the DSR President

We are in our roller coaster weather season from one day stormy & the next just beautiful for outside activities. Saturdays have been blessed with such nice weather & I hope it can hold at least through Mother's Day weekend so we can get our Car Show in.

Speaking of the Car Show, the committee has just about everything set for May 11th. We have worked hard to have a successful show this year. Speaking for myself & Kevin Crowell, I want to thank all of you for the your efforts to make this possible. With Carquest Auto Parts as our major sponsor, we also have some new associate sponsors this year & for that I THANK YOU!

Let's don't forget Thursday evening at 6:00pm at the club house is our Italian Dinner along with our meeting to follow at 7:00pm. Joan Fowler with Carquest will be there speaking on behalf of the DSR/Carquest fund raiser for the show. She & her crew are working hard for this cause. Every one of their delivery drivers are handing out Car Show flyer's when they deliver parts to their customers. I ask all of you to invite somebody to the Show to make it a Great Success for all of us. We will see you Thursday at the meeting. Thank you,

Zeno

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

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



## DSR Officers for 2013

President: Zeno Chaudron .....251-423-0946  
Vice President: Foy Bobo .....215-661-6133  
Secretary: Tracy Metclaf .....251-689-2926  
Treasurer: Bobby Peterson.....251-342-8960  
Editor: Paul Dagenais .....251-610-4533  
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 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 \$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 Lou Lartigue (continued from Page 1)**

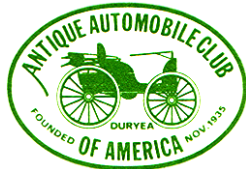
The only antique automobile that Lou owns is his 1931 Dodge. He is the second owner. The car was bought new by his great uncle in 1931, in Mobile, for \$841. The car has a 6 cylinder motor and hydraulic brakes. As it doesn't have turn signals, Lou has to use arm gestures. He said most people probably think he is waving hello at them. Chrysler bought out the Dodge Brothers in 1928 and used the Dodge as their experimental car. In 1961, Lou's great Uncle sold him the car for one dollar. He made Lou sign an agreement that he would keep the car as is. Lou was 15 then and had some plans for making a hotrod. Now he is very glad that he couldn't. When he got the car, his father and uncle helped him to rebuild the engine. Then the car sat for a year until he got his license.

Lou said he often took the car to Hattiesburg when he was in school. He said he was sure that he irritated many truck drivers who couldn't pass him as he chugged along at 35-40 miles an hour. While Lou was in the Army, he tried to keep the Dodge with him, purchasing a tandem axel trailer to pull it around. The car has been hauled to such states as North Carolina, Arizona and New Jersey. When he was overseas, Lou would return to find the car needing repairs and restoration. While they were in Maryland, someone vandalized the car and with other things going on, it sat for 8 years. This was 13 years ago. Lou hired someone to retore the car and then entered it in some shows and parades and won some prizes. At that time he joined a car club but it didn't work out for him.



Upon their return to Mobile, the car sat up again. After Katrina, Betty encouraged him to get the Dodge running again. Lou said she wanted the garage space for her own car (common complaint). By 2007, he had it running again and was winning local shows. Lou said he joined the DSR for two reasons. One was to find a good mechanic. This he found in Kevin Crowell who got his car running properly in about 10 minutes. The other reason was to get involved with people who also enjoyed old cars. For one, I can say that I'm really glad he joined.

**Paul Dagenais, Editor**



## Club Meetings Refreshments

### DSR will have an "Italian Dinner" before the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting

Stella Suttle and Patt Paquet will be coordinating the above for your dining pleasure. If you were at the March 28th meeting and put your name on the sign-up sheet, "Thanks". If you were not there but will be able to attend the dinner/meeting, let Patt know and she will advise what is still needed to make it a real feast. Dinner will begin at 6:00 pm with the 7 o'clock meeting to follow.

**Patt Paquet**  
**2013 Refreshments Chair**

### Murphy High School Class of 1963 50<sup>th</sup> Year Class Reunion

On a blustery but sunny Saturday morning, a small group of DSR members brought their vehicles to the Christ Church on Halls Mill Road. The occasion was the 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion for the Murphy High School class of 1963. Those in attendance were Lou Lartigue, Buddy Paquet, Zeno Chaudron, Charlie Lyles, Paul Dagenais, and Tracy Metclaf. Zeno, who had the newest car there, left his lights on and killed his battery. Fortunately, the ever resourceful Buddy had booster cables and got him up and running quickly.



Buddy and Charlie checking out his '57.



Zeno's battery eating hotrod ride



The Comet minded her own business.  
Note: See Lou's Dodge on Page 3



Patt's Buick saved the day

**Deep South Region  
AACA  
Meeting Minutes  
March 28, 2013**

The March 28, 2013, meeting of the Deep South Region of the AACA was called to order by President Zeno Chaudron. Chaplain Kevin Crowell presented the invocation that was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Old Business:** Murphy High School Class of 1963 50<sup>th</sup> reunion requested a display of cars for Saturday, April 20 at 9:45 for one hour and then on to a barbeque restaurant for lunch. The Reunion is to make a cash contribution to DSR. Motion to participate was made by Buddy Paquet and seconded by Charlie Lyles. The motion was approved.

The Great American Race is scheduled to end in Mobile at Bienville Square on Sunday, June 30, 2013. Deep South Region has been requested to be a Host Club. A motion to approve participation as a club activity was made by Jim Henderson and seconded by Patt Paquet. The motion was approved.

Secretary Tracy Metclaf moved that the January minutes be approved as presented in the Sparkplug. Patt Paquet seconded the motion and it was approved.

**New Business:** Vice President Foy Bobo requested help with cooking and food service for the Mother's Day Car Show. Members were also reminded to bring at least 2 twelve packs of canned drinks to the next two meetings. The Vice President also reported that the clubhouse steps would be replaced before the Car Show.

Treasurer Bobby Peterson reported that the Mother's Day Car Show sponsorship fee had been received from CarQuest. He presented the March Financial Report. A motion was made that the Financial Report be accepted as read and following a second by Tracy Metclaf, the motion was approved.

Two additional club activities were approved during the meeting. Crowne Health Care requested cars from 11:00am until 2:00pm on Saturday, April 13. Patt Paquet moved that the activity be approved. The motion was seconded by Walt Fuller, and then approved by the membership. With more information to follow, a motion for DSR participation in the Stockton Sawmill Days on November 2, 2013 was made by Kevin Crowell and seconded by Bobby Peterson. The motion was approved.

Webmaster Herb Thoms reported that he is building a new page on the website. He requested members send him pictures of odd, strange, or unusual cars or awards for posting on the page.

Kevin Crowell reported on the Car Show activity progress. CarQuest will hold a silent auction during the Car Show. Donations to the auction can be dropped off at the CarQuest location at Azalea Road and Highway 90. CarQuest is still investigating charities to benefit from the show.

Lou Lartigue will be heading up trophy sponsorship acquisitions. A 100% dedicated photographer is needed for the day of the show.

Robbie Lyles, Queen of the 50/50 winners, took home the winnings from the night's 50/50 drawing.

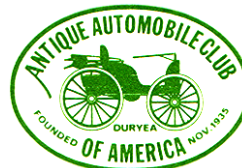
Following the 50/50 drawing, the meeting was adjourned by the President.

**Tracy Metclaf, Secretary**

**NEXT DSR MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY April 25th, 2013 AT 7:00 PM**

**DON'T FORGET THE ITALIAN DINNER STARTING AT 6:00**

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING 2 PACKS OF DRINKS FOR THE MOTHER'S DAY CAR SHOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**





**South Alabama Veterans Council**

*an organization for all people, serving all Veterans  
A coalition of Veterans, Friends and Organizations  
working to benefit and further the Cause of Veterans*



**ARMED FORCES DAY 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
BLUE STAR SALUTE  
CRUZE - IN**



**Motorcycle Clubs**  
PG Riders  
AL Riders  
Rolling Thunder  
Semper FI Riders

And more

**WHERE:** USS ALABAMA BATTLESHIP PARK  
**WHEN:** SATURDAY, 18 MAY 2013, 9:00-1:00 PM  
*(Try to have cars in place by 8:30 am)*  
**WHAT:** ALL ANTIQUE & CLASSIC CARS, STREET RODS,  
MOTOR CYCLES, AND MILITARY VEHICLES  
**WHO:** CLUBS AND INDIVIDUAL CARS WELCOME  
*Free & Open to the Public, \$2 parking, food vendors on site*

- Program Honoring those who served, have served & those who have fallen in Military Service.
- Opening Ceremony/Welcome at 9:00 am
- Music by 15<sup>th</sup> Alabama National Guard Band
- Two Times Flag Raising Recompment
- Gold Star Memorial Service
- Static Displays

**Car Clubs**  
Deep South Region AACA  
Gear Jammers  
Mobile Mustang  
Port City Corvette

And more



### Cruise-Ins

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




**Bobby Peterson**

924 Butler Dr.  
Mobile, AL 36693

(251) 665-7170 Office  
(251) 665-7172 Fax  
(877) 547-3776 Toll Free  
[bpeterson@southernrepro.net](mailto:bpeterson@southernrepro.net)








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