

# The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 48, No. 4, April, 2015

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## Meeting up with the Dahlenburgs

I had arranged to meet up with Darrin and Charlotte Dahlenburg for dinner to discuss their background and interests in cars. It took two attempts, but we met up at Butch Cassidy's in Midtown. They had said they liked a basic burger place since Darrin doesn't like fish or seafood. Charlotte does like seafood but she adapts. Butch's seemed a good spot especially as, being new to town, Darrin and Charlotte had not been there. As memory serves, neither actually ordered a burger which Butch's is known for. As it turned out, the restaurant was too noisy to really talk much beyond pleasantries so I ended up talking to Darrin over the phone to expand upon the information we received while chomping away.



Darrin was born in Rapid City, South Dakota. He has a sister and one surviving brother. He said that when he was growing up the family often visited other family members in Montana where he learned how to fish. He said he caught a lot of fish but doesn't prefer to eat them. Living in Rapid City is financially difficult. Because of the tourists visiting Mount Rushmore, costs are generally high, but the economy is poor. In 1998, he and Charlotte were making a tour through the south and stopped to visit Darrin's aunt in Huntsville. He said they loved the area so they bought land and moved in. Darrin worked in a body shop for about 10 to 12 years before opening his own mechanic shop. He closed the shop when they moved to Mobile.

Charlotte was born in Opelika (She may not act like a southerner, but the girl has roots, you know what I mean...). Charlotte has 4 sisters and a brother. Of interest is that her Dad was an inventor. He moved them around the country a lot as he did not need to have permanent residence. Charlotte spoke about spending a fair amount of time in the Northeast. Darrin disclosed that Charlotte's father invented the "hold" button on the telephone and the magnetic strip on credit cards. Apparently he had a home computer in the 1960's that filled the basement.

Charlotte had been living in Rapid City for some time when she met Darrin. She was set up for a blind date, but arrived late. One thing led to another and she didn't leave with her date. She left with Darrin.

In Rapid City Charlotte worked as a graphic designer for a newspaper. When they moved to Huntsville, she worked as a graphic designer for a newspaper then shifted to a church. She

**Continued on Page Three**

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**Message from the DSR President**

As of this writing we have 3 weeks until our Annual Car Show on May the 9th. Walt & others just about have everything in place for the show. We are still needing items for our Silent Auction. Contact Patt Paquet for all the details. A big thank you from me, to all who are helping to put this together. If you were going to bring some drinks or water, please bring them with you this Thursday night at our regular meeting.

Changing gears, I had a customer call the other day having a problem with an intake manifold leaking by the gasket. He had bought a 1957 Chevy BelAir with a matching number 283 single 4 barrel engine. After inspecting his intake manifold, he had a 265 cu in intake on the 283 heads. A lot smaller port than the heads have. After checking the #'s on the head they were correct for the 283 220 HP. The gasket was not sealing around one of the corners of the ports. Walt fuller had given me a GM book a couple of years ago with casting #'s to tell you what fits what. (Thank you Walt Fuller) We found the correct intake for the heads to solve the problem. We have to be careful when buying any vehicle if you are paying for a matching # ride. You better do your homework to make sure it is what it says it is.

See all of you Thursday at 7:00 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**

Chaplain: Kevin Crowell..... 251-802-4640  
Historian: Paul Dagenais.....251-610-4533  
Program Chairman: Patt Paquet .....  
.....251-661-4009  
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 \$20.00; AACA national dues are \$35.00. Ownership of an antique vehicle is not a requirement for membership.

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## The Dahlenburg's (continued from Page One)

currently works as a graphic designer here in Mobile. Darrin works for Jim Henderson. The Dalhenburgs moved to Mobile to care for an elderly aunt (who just happens to live on Dog River where Darrin keeps his boat).

Darrin has bought and sold many cars over the years. He said he had sold 4 or 5 before leaving Huntsville. He told me about his 1955 Bel Air 2-door wagon. He was quite to note that it is not a Nomad. The car was a special order. The original owner sold it to Darrin's father in the 1960's. As the third owner, Darrin has had the car for around 10 years. The wagon has 30,000 miles and the original brake shoes. The motor and transmission are replacements because the originals were stolen.



The Dahlenburgs also own a 1967 Ford pickup. It is all original except for the front seat. Other cars include a 1974 Buick Apollo and a 1929 Model A pickup which Darrin describes as half-way

finished. He said he is in the process of reshaping metal to replace the original wood components that came with the truck. His goal to have an original looking truck that is actually better than the original. Hopefully we'll be able to see more pictures as the project progresses along.

**Submitted by Paul Dagenais**



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to

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**NEXT DSR MONTHLY MEETING IS THURSDAY APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup> AT 7:00 PM**



## Mother's Day Car Show Update

I take this opportunity to report to you regarding the Mother's Day Car Show. As of now everything is in place to kick off our annual event.

Only thing remaining are volunteers. We will need people to arrive at the clubhouse at 7:00a.m. We have a tent to erect and other items to be put in place. We expect cars will be arriving by 8:00a.m. , we want to be totally prepared. Registration will be open and ready for business. If you can't stay all day please volunteer for a portion of the day. We will need people to help direct cars to their parking spaces, serve food, 50/50 sales, hang banners and etc.

We need everyone to bring at least one or more 12 pack of drinks or water to the meeting on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you for your donation to DSR. If you have items for the silent auction, please bring them to the meeting.

Please note Bob Peterson has flyers available at Southern Repro Graphics, please call (251) 665-7170 before going by for pickup. We need to saturate with flyers the upcoming car shows, cruise-ins and any other events to advertise our Mother's Day Car Show.

We have worked hard up to this point to make this a successful show. Help us finish the job. I want to thank in advance those people who have helped to make this show a success.

**Walt Fuller, Car Show Director**

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## More Mother's Day Car Show Update

Going...going...gone! I am hoping that our Silent Auction that is be done in conjunction with our car show will sell out early. However, unless we get more items, it will be over before it starts. I have tried sending out updates to keep everyone apprised on where we stand. As of today, April 17<sup>th</sup>, we are lacking in merchandise.

What we have as of today is the gift card from a caterer who is a friend of the club for a meal for 6 at their home on a date worked out between the winning bidder and the caterer, a Tequila Sunrise Basket, a Flowering Dogwood tree in a gallon container, tickets for 2 adults and 3 children for Seward Farms Corn Maze this fall. The birdhouse was taken by the Grahams, a tabletop grill to go with a BBQ Gift Set. We really need some items tying in with our car show and Mother's Day. Maybe a nice balloon bouquet for a Mom? How about a nice big wash bucket full of supplies? A gift card from a local auto store (several to choose from!)? What about a couple of good home baked goodies? Gift baskets are always good - think popcorn/movie, ice cream (gift card to get ice cream) plus cookies bowls, spoons and all the other fixins', snack basket for a fellow with jerkey, crackers/cheese, and whatever else you think of, a chocolate lover's gift basket you think of something. Also tickets are good, baseball, movies, etc. can be put in basket with other items.

I really need your help and will appreciate it.

**Patt Paquet - Chair, Silent Auction**



## Stretched Chevrolet Station Wagon from the Milton Hershey School joins the AACA Museum Collection

Reprint: "Daniel Strohl/Hemmings Daily, a publication of Hemmings Motor News."  
Photos courtesy AACA Museum



Buses were just too industrial for the Milton Hershey School in the early Sixties. Instead, the boarding school's administrators wanted to transport its students to and from student housing in a manner that more resembled typical family life. To do so, they commissioned a fleet of station wagons – extra long five-row 14-passenger station wagons – and now, decades after going out of service, one of the wagons has

returned to Hershey, Pennsylvania, and will soon go on display at the AACA Museum.

Located atop the hill overlooking the AACA swap meet and car show that takes place every fall in Hershey, Pennsylvania, the Milton Hershey School was founded in 1909 initially to provide a home and education for orphan boys, and later for impoverished boys and girls. With hundreds of students distributed among dozens of houses around the city, it needed not only a more intimate way to transport the students, but also a more efficient one than sending lumbering buses around to multiple houses.



So in 1962, the school purchased about a dozen Chevrolet Biscayne station wagons, each outfitted with a 250hp 327-cu.in. V-8 engine, three-on-the-tree manual transmission, power steering, and power brakes, then sent the wagons to Stagway Coaches in Fort Smith, Arkansas



(a

predecessor company to coachbuilder Armbruster-Stagway), where Stagway stretched the wagons a few feet and added two more doors per side and three rows of seats, including a rear-

facing seat all the way in the back. The last two rows of seats folded down to allow the wagons to do double-duty carrying meals for the students from a central kitchen to their houses. In addition, Stageway supplemented the stock rear coil springs with three-quarter elliptic leaf springs to handle the weight of more than a dozen boys and teenagers.



The school continued to buy stretched wagons until about 1975, switching from Chevrolets to Pontiacs in about 1968, but the wagons remained in service until the early 1980s, when the school phased them out in favor of Dodge Tradesman and Ford Econoline vans. According to John Hanawalt, a past president of the school's alumni association, the school had owned as many as 85 of the wagons over that timespan.

This particular Chevrolet the school sold off as surplus to an area resident in 1972 or 1973, according to AACA Museum director Mark Lizewskie. By the early 2000s, it had ended up engineless and with a crumpled quarter panel in a central Pennsylvania junkyard, which in turn sold it to its previous owner, who installed a big-block Chevrolet V-8 and welded the center doors shut on each side in an attempt to turn it into a limousine.

Then in 2009, a group of Milton Hershey School students, led by Rosario Sollazzi, one of the school's alumni, began a search for any remaining MHS station wagons. The school had already acquired one of the Chevrolet wagons, but it was in such poor shape that the school ended up scrapping it. Another alum had one of the Pontiacs in his collection in California, but the only other Chevrolet wagon that came up was the one in Pennsylvania. After a few years of negotiations and after the school decided not to pursue the purchase of another wagon ("They just didn't want to get into the auto restoration business," Sollazzi said.), Sollazzi, Hanawalt, and Hanawalt's brother Jim bought the Chevrolet and donated it to the AACA Museum in the interest of preserving it.



While volunteers at the museum are now preparing the wagon for display in the museum's upcoming station wagon exhibit, the museum has also started a fundraising campaign for the wagon's eventual restoration. "We're looking at a minimum of \$40,000 to restore it," said Lizewskie, who noted that the museum will entrust the restoration to the students of the Pennsylvania College of Technology's auto restoration program, who most recently finished a 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle 454 SS for the museum. "This car was always destined to be an

educational tool of some sort, so it's just living up to that destiny by going to them," Lizewskie said.

The AACAMuseum's "A Family Affair: Station Wagons" exhibit will run from May 23 to October 11. For more information on the exhibit, visit AACAMuseum.org. And for more information on the Milton Hershey School station wagon, visit AACAMuseum.org/wagonrestoration.

- See more at: <http://blog.hemmings.com/index.php/2015/03/19/stretched-chevrolet-station-wagon-from-the-milton-hershey-school-joins-the-aaca-museum-collection/#sthash.n9Xdexl9.dpuf>



### Web Site Update



The old web site is functional. It still works. In fact I got a call from another web master who had to switch to Word Press asking for help.

Progress on the new site is not happening and technical problems will delay further work on it until 26th of this month.

The old address up for now with the caveat that it is not current but still works and we will keep members informed when new one is operational.

**Herb Thoms, Web Master**

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### Another Old Car Finds a Home in the Henderson Museum By Buddy & Patt Paquet

Jim and Nancy Henderson have a new acquisition parked by in the work area of the facility where so many other beautiful vehicles are on display. This one is white over turquoise and is going to get a lot of attention. You can bet it is a Ford but this one is not a 1951 – it's a 1954, a rather rare one at that. The Skyliner is a Crestline two-door pillarless hardtop with a green tinted plexiglass insert in the roof over the front seat. There were on 13,144 built.



BUT, there is something else that makes it collector-worthy so keep reading. Public presentation of the original 1954 Ford line was made Jan. 6, 1954. The engine is a 239 cid OHV

– this is a first for Ford in this production cars. Here is what makes this vehicle so desirable – it has a plexiglass insert in the hood so the engine can be seen in all it’s glory. This was done so when the car was featured in the big automobile shows at the beginning of the new car season, it wasn’t necessary to raise the hood. Some were made available to dealers for their showrooms.



If your curiosity is getting the best of you, the Crestline series was the top trim level for 1954; it included all the Customline trim plus three chrome hash marks behind the quarter panel stone shields, chrome “A” pillar moldings and additional chrome trim along the bottom of the side windows and wheel covers. There were three new models introduced in 1954: the Skyliner, the Sunliner and Ranch Wagon. The latter, a two-door station wagon in the Mainline series but now had the Customline appearance features. The Sunliner was a Crestline convertible.

Convenience options that year included automatic overdrive (\$110), Ford-O-Matic transmission (\$184), Power steering (\$134), Power brakes (\$41), Radio (\$88-99), Heater and defroster (\$44-71), Power windows (\$102), Power seat (\$64), and White sidewall tires (\$27).

It is out of Louisiana and can be traced back through two owners. It has had some restoration work and is a good-looking driver. Over the past few years, the club has held it’s August meeting at the Henderson Deep South Museum. If that tradition holds, maybe we will get to see the new addition.

Historical data from Standard Catalog of American Cars 1940-1975  
Revised 4<sup>th</sup> Addition by John Gunnell

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**Minutes**  
**DSR Monthly Meeting:**  
**March 26, 2015**

Under Old Business:

1. Approve minutes of Feb sparkplug: Motion Buddy Paquet, second Tracy Metclaf
2. Herb Thoms stated with dismay that the DSR website is still down. However, it is still up for viewing, just not editing.
3. Walt Fuller on the topic of the Mother’s Day car show. There is enough money for the show to commence. CarQuest put forward money along with two other donors to come to a cumulative \$1,100. He stated that the car committee met twice in three weeks and discussed various topics. If anyone wishes to buy personal awards, they should go ahead and do so. The price is \$60. There will be 8 major categories: trophies for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place and plaques. The announcements will be printed on colored paper (to attract attention)—yellow, and will be



8.5 by 14 inches. However, instead of door prizes, there will be an outside silent auction consisting of 10-12 items. If anyone has any items they would like to be auctioned, they need to bring it to the April meeting. These items need to be nice and be able to sell. Food will include pulled pork sandwiches and possible plates, roasted corn cobs, Coca-cola with toasted peanuts. Coffee and glazed doughnuts that will all be sold. There will be no rain date set in place. On the morning of the show there will be 6 people needed to set up the tent. For 50/50 tickets, everyone will have to get at least one and a Mother's Day Brunch will be given to the winner.

4. The 2015 roster is now up.

Under new business:

1. Bobby Peterson presented the monthly financial report. A motion was made by Walter Fuller and seconded by Scott Henderson to accept it.
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> annual USA car show will be held Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 2 PM at the corner of Old Shell Road and Jaguar Drive in the Shelby Hall parking lot. The 2015 Supermileage vehicle will be announced. Entry fee is \$15 per vehicle.






The motion to adjourn was made by Buddy Paquet with second from Scott Henderson. Foy Bobo won the 50/50 drawing and gave all the money back to the club.

**Mallory Henderson, Secretary.**

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Check out the Deep South Region Website at:

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

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|  <p><b>Southern<br/>Repro Graphics</b><br/>"Customer Service the Southern Way"</p>   | <p><b>Bobby Peterson</b><br/>924 Butler Dr.<br/>Mobile, AL 36693</p>   |  <p>DEEP SOUTH REGION<br/>MOBILE, ALABAMA<br/>AACA</p>          |
|   | <p>(251) 665-7170 Office<br/>(251) 665-7172 Fax<br/>(877) 547-3776 Toll Free<br/>bpeterson@southernrepro.net</p> |  <p>ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB<br/>FOUNDED OF AMERICA NOV 1915</p> |

| <b>Cruise-Ins</b>        |   |                             |                                       |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <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<br>228-596-0664                 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday | Kentucky Fried Chicken                              | Tillman's Square, Hwy 90    | Jo Jo Johnson<br>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<br>251-610-4032         |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday | Sam's Super Burger                                  | Grand Bay                   | Southern Bay Cruisers<br>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 Cruzer                                    | TA Truck 'Stop, Grand Bay   |                                       |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday | American Legion Post<br>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**

April 25 --- Mopars At The Battleship 20th Annual Mopar Show and Swap Meet, pre-registration \$25 which includes a free T-shirt. Show proceeds to benefit the Mulherin Custodial Home.

April 25 --- 5th Annual Spirit of Satsuma Band Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show, 10AM-3PM, free sandwich and drink included in \$20 registration fee.

May 9 --- Deep South Region of AACA Annual Mother's Day Car Show, 951 Forest Hill Dr. Mobile, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. Pre-registration \$20, \$25 at the show.

May 16 --- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Panhandle Cruisers' National Car Show, Pensacola.

June 6<sup>th</sup> --- Gulf Coast Mopar Mania, Fort Walton Beach, FL.

July 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> --- Baytown Throwdown, Mobile, AL

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

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



**NEXT DSR MONTHLY MEETING IS THURSDAY APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup> AT 7:00 PM**

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