

The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 47, No. 7, July, 2014

When Old Friends Come Calling

During the Fourth of July weekend, my friend Paula came to town. She dumped her husband Bob and two daughters to come south. The primary reason was that Bob agreed to babysit a friend's huge mutt in THEIR home. Paula is a cat person. So she packed herself and her friend Amy (who dumped her boyfriend and her son) into her little white KIA and hit the road, first to Fairhope to shop then to our house.

I worked with Paula when we were at UAB and we have kept in close touch. One of her more blatant demands for this voyage was a ride in Belle (the DeSoto), with the top down. Paula has known about Belle since I got her (Belle, not Paula) in 1999. She (Paula) had seen her (Belle) in the past when she was not quite up to her current glory. Paula may only be about 5 foot 2 inches, but as indicated by her naturally curly red hair, she is not to be disobeyed. Plus she is a Mississippi Belle who was raised on a farm near Starkville, so I've learned not to mess with her.

On the morning of July 4th, I carefully put the DeSoto's door panel back together, We have some alignment issues with the stainless, but it could keep. I then spent about three hours cleaning it up. It had been a while so it needed some attention both outside and inside. A brief ride followed to assure myself that, indeed, the front end squeaks were still there and the scrunchy sounds coming from the brakes was also still there. I then parked the car in the driveway. Later I decided to move it back into the garage and put on its cover so there'd be a nice reveal the next day.



I started the car up and pushed the "R" button and the car starting to roll back. I tapped the brakes and the entire car leaped into the air (I swear it did!). This has happened before. When I next released the brakes, the car wouldn't move. It. Would. Not. Move. This had never happened before. It did happen to a fellow DeSoto club member when he attempted to pull out his yellow and black Fireflite so we could drive it. He told me he would have to take the wheel off and bang the drum a few times to release it. Fortunately, he had a green and white hardtop Fireflite which I consider a sister to Belle and this hardtop moved beautifully. But I digress.

I had no idea what to do but on a whim, I pressed the "D" button. The car Gods must have been smiling upon me, the car rolled ahead on its own down the drive. I tapped the brakes, it stopped, I put it in reverse and it rolled back into the garage. I covered it up. **Turn to Page 3.**

Message from the DSR President

Having first joined DSR in 2009 I have worked with a lot of you in different capacities to help put on events and shows in our region. It goes without saying it takes people who volunteer their time, effort and personal resources for the enjoyment of others and I would say for a bit of satisfaction as deservedly so. A lot of people who enjoy these venues don't know what it takes to put these events together. I don't know how many other Car Clubs in our area have their own Club House but I consider it a privilege to have it. It goes without saying the sacrifice that was made by others for us to have the Club House. I didn't have the pleasure to know some of the folks that made this possible but I can see the vision they had to make this happen. This is what they left for us to enjoy today. We all have the same passion for the old vehicles, wanting to see them survive long after us, for future generations to enjoy. These thoughts & comments have been a little scattered but our elder members know what I'm talking about. I would ask that you try to make one of our monthly meetings when you can. I know we are all living in a busy world but plan to come and help us plan for the future of this Hobby that we Love. See you all Thursday, July 24th at 7:00 pm at The Club house.
Zeno Chaudron DSR/PresZeno



DSR Officers for 2013

President: Zeno Chaudron251-423-0946
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Treasurer: Bobby Peterson251-342-8960
Editor: Paul Dagenais251-610-4533
Activities: John Pendergrass ..251-607-0028
Member-at-Large: Charlie Lyles
.....251-973-2078

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

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Friends (from page 1)

Paula and Amy arrived on Saturday. They drove from Birmingham directly to Fairhope, had lunch, shopped for a few hours and bought exactly nothing. We had ribs and couple of margaritas during the course of a very pleasant evening.

Come Sunday morning, the gloves came off. I forestalled the inevitable by an expensive brunch at Via Emilia's and a university tour. The clock ticked towards their departure time. Upon our eventual return, the jig was up. "I want my ride". So, up goes the garage door and off comes the cover. Much ooohhhing and aaahhhing followed. I started it and rolled it out. Fine. The top came down. Fine.



Amy is on the left, Paula on the right

The ride started with the two ladies in the back (a modified Driving Miss Daisy, I guess). Somewhere near Dauphin Street downtown Paula insisted I stop so she could get up front. She hopped over the seat (with her bare feet hitting the leather! – You can't take the farm out of the girl....). Belle behaved herself and I ignored the on-again, off-again brake squawk. We eventually went to Cammy's Old Dutch for ice cream, Amy got to ride up front and we made it home. Hugs, kisses and they hit the road.

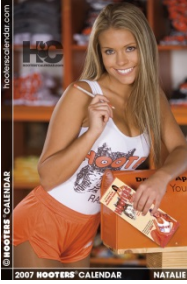
The car went back into the garage, the cover went on and the door was closed.

The next day I spoke with Don at Mack's Garage on Holcomb Avenue about looking at the brakes. I took it in on Tuesday and he had it for two days. He called to say the entire brake system was extremely loose and one brake shoe was out of round. He fixed it. I have to get it back to him to put in a new parking brake cable. A parking brake is essential as there is no park on these cars and the parking brake is a small drum and shoe assembly on the back of the transmission.

Don said the car, which he had parked outside a large majority of the time, attracted a lot of attention. He asked how long it took to restore. I said from 1999 until now. I had paid \$2500 for it and it was located in a farmer's field in Oklahoma with license plates that said 1968. Don smiled and offered me \$3000 for it.

Paul Dagenais, Editor





Hooters Cruise-in is this Saturday July 26th starting at 5:00 pm till 8:30 pm at the Airport Blvd location. If you are in a Antique vehicle they will issue a Hooters card that you can receive 15% off your meal ticket, good for any visit you make at this location.

AACA Deep South Region
Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2014

The June 26 meeting of the AACA Deep South Region was called to order by the President followed by the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Chaudron outlined the financial report from the May 2014 car show. After all expenses were paid, and all contributions were received, the show netted \$2067 profit. Thanks were expressed to our sponsors, CarQuest, Ross Sloan Insurance and Mobile Lumber.

While the proceeds were a nice boost to the treasury, it was noted by several members that much more will be needed to sustain the club financially through the next year. The Finance Committee may be called for a meeting in July to discuss options.

Minutes for the May 22, 2014 meeting were approved upon motion by Patt Paquet seconded by John Pendergrass.

John Pendergrass reported that the car show at Carrington Center had a good turn out and the people there were most appreciative. Mention was made of the upcoming Stockton Sawmill Days and the Hooter's Cruise-in beginning Saturday June 26 and continuing every 4th Saturday of the month. A suggestion was made that the club investigate the possibility of a DSR outing to Cruising the Coast.

The Editor had suggested placing the Roster of Members on the webpage so that updates could be made easily during the year, and members could have immediate access to the information. Some concern was expressed about confidentiality. Herb Thoms, Webmaster will investigate.

Foy Bobo requested that new member's names be made available to him so he could make name badges.

The Financial Report was presented by the Treasurer and approved upon motion by Buddy Paquet seconded by Charlie Lyles.

Following discussion and upon motion made by Tracy Metclaf seconded by Buddy Paquet it was voted that left over drinks donated to the Club for the car show be delivered to the Mulhearin Home.

The Club has been contacted to provide some support to a motorcycle show to be held at Fort Conde. An invitation will be extended to an authorized representative to present details at the July 24, 2014 meeting.

Following the 50/50 drawing, Buddy Paquet made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconds were made by several members simultaneously, and the meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracy Metclaf, Secretary

The next club meeting will be July 24th at 7:00.

Check out the Deep South Region Website at:

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

Cruise-Ins			
Time	Location	Address	For More Info Contact
1 st Saturday	Edgewater Mall	Hwy 90, Biloxi MS	Jimbo 228-596-0664
1 st Saturday	Kentucky 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
2 nd Saturday	What-A-Burger	Airport & Snow Road	Bubba Blanton 251-610-4032
2 nd Saturday	Sam's Super Burger	Grand Bay	Southern Bay Cruisers 251-442-6877
2 nd Saturday	Dillard's	Eastern Shore Mall	Eastern Shore Cruisers
3 rd Saturday	Steak 'n Shake	Schillinger Road	Donnie Tanner 649-5397
4 th Saturday	Mings Café	Highway 43 in Saraland	North Side Cruisers
4 th Saturday	Northrop Complex	Pascagoula, MS	Magnolia Classic Cruisers
5 th 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



Bobby Peterson

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