



# The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 45 No. 10, October 2012

## A Conversation with Charlie Lyles

I spent the afternoon with Charlie and his two dogs, Jake and Stripes, out at his shop. The result: I am totally in awe of Charlie Lyles. I believe the man has automotive creativity dripping from his pores. I trailed after him from car to car, many of which looked, to my inexperienced eye, to be total wrecks. As he explained what he was going to do with the cars and/or what he had already done, he left me speechless. Charlie is not into restoring cars to their original condition, he is interested into turning them



into unique masterpieces. He showed me his 1937 Plymouth four-door sedan (with suicide doors) and explained that the steering column was from a Ford, the steering linkage from a Chrysler (oriented front to back not side to side as they normally are), and that he had to alter the radiator because it was intended to lay flat, not vertical, with the filler hole originally on the bottom. All of the electrical components looked to be mounted on the inside of the firewall, but actually they are mounted on a board that will swing up under the dash so they are not visible when the car is finished. He plans to finish the car off in drab to look like a military staff car. Amazing.

Charlie was born in Anguilla Mississippi (their population was 907 in 2000). In 1958, while he was still in high school, the family came to visit his Uncle and Aunt who lived in Spanish Fort. He asked his father to stay an extra two weeks when the family went home. During that time, he found an auto repair shop for his father (who was a mechanic) and convinced his entire family to move to Spanish Fort. He graduated from Baldwin County High School in 1962.

He married Robbie in March 1963 and ten days later he entered the Air Force. Charlie was in the Air Force until 1967. He was stationed mostly in Europe and assisted in the installation of microwave relay systems in Italy. After his discharge, Charlie worked primarily for the Scott Company then Corning Glass. He started his own business out of a Texaco station about 30 years ago, transferring his mechanical and wrecker service to his present location off of Bellingrath Road one year later. As time has progressed he has phased out the mechanics work and maintained the wrecker service by himself. Charlie and Robbie have one son and one daughter and three grandsons and two granddaughters. One of their grandsons has recently moved back into the area. He called me later to ask that I include the three great-grandchildren, a boy and girl in Arizona and boy in South Dakota.



**Continued on Page 3.**

## Message from the DSR President

It's good to be enjoying the beautiful weather & I hope all is well with everyone. I didn't get to attend Foy & Judy's outing as planned for some sudden unexpected illness for me. The ones I talked with that went said they had a great time. We still have some of our group suffering with sickness & if you haven't checked on them lately lets drop them a card or an Email to let them know that we are thinking about them.

We attended the Semmes Community Center Sunday Oct 21st where Springhill Avenue Baptist Church decided to have their morning worship service. Following the service they had an afternoon festival & fellowship with the congregation & Friends. DSR was represented by (2) Chaudrons, (7) Elliotts), Bobby Peterson & Jack Wilson with (8) rides accounted for. Pastor Lee Havens along with the rest of the folk were very appreciative. All I can say is that there was plenty of food & drink that made for a good afternoon for all. I'm sure Kevin Crowell will be talking about Advance Auto Parts being back onboard for the 2013 Mothers Day Car Show in full force which I think is just great. I think it's good to get a early start for next year. Hope to see you Thursday for our monthly club meeting,

*Zeno*



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

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



### **2013 DSR/AACA Dues Payable by December 31<sup>st</sup>**

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 by December 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

## DSR Officers for 2012

President Zeno Chaudron 251-423-0946  
Vice President Walt Fuller 215-602-1931  
Secretary Patt Paquet ..... 251-661-4009  
Treasurer Bobby Peterson 251-342-8960  
Editor Paul Dagenais ..... 251-610-4533  
Activities Tim and Stacy Lawrence  
..... 251-401-3019  
Member-at-Large Peter Pearce  
..... 251-422-7318

## Appointees and/or Volunteers

Chaplain Kevin Crowell... 251-802-4640  
Historian Patt Paquet ..... 251-661-4009  
Program Chairman Ernie Rogers .....  
..... 251-604-5368  
Refreshments Martha Fuller .....  
..... 251-602-1931  
Webmaster Herb Thoms.. 251-654-2933

## A Conversation with Charlie Lyles (continued)

Charlie started working on cars when he helped his Dad restore a Model A in the 1950's. His first project car was a 1927 Model T high boy. His brothers helped him tote the steel body out of the woods near Spanish Fort as it was not accessible otherwise. He put the Model A on the



running gear of a 1954 Oldsmobile. He sold this car in 1962. Charlie was still in high school! He had a similar experience with a 1916 Model T truck that he dragged out of a dump in the desert near Nevada when he was in the service. He brought the truck back to Mobile and still regrets selling it.

Charlie raced cars at the Mobile International Speedway for years. He had a 1956 Ford 2-door post with a 6-cylinder (Pacer Division) car. He swapped to a V-8 when the track changed requirements. He stopped racing just before hurricane Frederick. He had built a car which didn't fit the track rules. Instead of changing the car, he stripped it down and sold it but kept the engine. He and his son have used it in several cars.

One of Charlie's favorite cars was the 1958 Ford convertible that he and Robbie used when they were first married. He said he's had too many cars to start reciting them all off. His current collection includes (but is not limited to!) the 1937 Plymouth, a 1947 Chevrolet 5 window coupe, a 1927 Model T (which has a Boss 351 Cleveland), a 1937 Pontiac and an unrestored 1977 Cougar. I realized as we were leaving his shop, that he had driven up in his 1957 Chevrolet 3100 pickup. Once again his genius and ingenuity are apparent with this truck. I challenge you to find the wiring on this truck. Try to find the battery – like me, you'll probably have to just give up and ask.

**Submitted by Paul Dagenais**





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### DSR Breakfast

Nine hungry DSR members descended up the Whistle Stop Café for breakfast on October 6<sup>th</sup>.



They were from left to right: Andrew, Stacy and Tim Lawrence, Buddy and Patt Paquet, Bob White, Paul Dagenais, Tracy Metclaf and Jim Henderson. (Don't know who the creepy guy on the upper right is) Some rode in style and some tried to recapture their youth (and hopefully didn't kill themselves).



### On the River with the Bobo's



Hate your luck. Y'all missed it. Good food, good company and good weather. Those attending were: The Bobo's, the Whites, the Weikels, the Crowells, T. Metclaf and P. Dagenais.

## **Deep South Region AACA General Membership Meeting Sept. 27, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by President Zeno Chaudron at 7:02 pm with 25 members, six of which were officers, in attendance. The invocation was given by Chaplain Kevin Crowell. The President offered condolences to Robbie Lyles and her family on the death of her mother which occurred early this morning. He then led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Old Business:** The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Editor and Activities Coordinators had no old business. Secretary P. Paquet asked for a motion to approve the August minutes as printed in the September newsletter. Being no corrections, additions or deletions, a move to accept was made by C. Lyles, seconded by B. Peterson and passed. The Member-at-Large was absent.

**New Business:** The President noted it was time for the formation of the Nominating Committee to find officers for 2013. He reviewed the duties of the Nominating Committee and asked for three volunteers. The club Chaplain, Kevin Crowell offered to serve on the committee; he was immediately named chairman. Two other members, John Pendergrass and Bobby Peterson, agreed to join the committee. The Vice President, Secretary, and Editor had no new business. Activities Coordinators, Tim and Stacy Lawrence had a list of events to be decided upon. First was a reminder and a sign-up sheet for the Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> outing at the Bobo's River House. There still has been a date given for the car display at Somerby Retirement Community. Next was a request by Springhill Baptist Church for cars at the Semmes Community Center from 12-2 pm on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>. A motion by W. Fuller was seconded by C. Lyles for the club to participate was approved by the membership. Third was a benefit for a member of the car community who is battling cancer. The family has a son whom the club has assisted by hosting a benefit. The benefit to take place on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at Highway 90 and Azalea Road is being sponsored by Car/Quest for the father, David Leff. A motion for DSR to be a part of this worthy venture was made by K. Crowell and seconded by Stacy Lawrence. Motion carried. Fourth on the "to-do" list is DSR being in the Mobile Veteran's Day Parade. There was no discussion necessary on this. Motion by T. Metclaf was seconded by R. Sloan, and heartily approved. Last, but never least, was the question of what members want to do for our annual Thanksgiving get-together. AC Tim Lawrence said a suggestion had been made that the club have another rally and end it at the clubhouse where we can have our usual dinner. Details would be worked out and provided at the October meeting. A motion was made by T. Metclaf that K. Crowell seconded. Motion carried. Discussion for a Christmas celebration will be on the agenda for the October meeting giving members time to think about what they might like to do.

A motion to adjourn was made by B. Paquet, seconded by D. Dillehay and carried.

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Patt Paquet**

## Upcoming DSR Activities

October

October 27<sup>th</sup>: Dauphin Way Baptist Church is having a benefit car show for Shirley Looney.

November

November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Breakfast TBA

November 10<sup>th</sup>: Benefit for David Leff at McDonald Muffler on Azalea Road. He is battling cancer.

November 12<sup>th</sup>: Veterans Day Parade in Mobile.

November: Before the Thanksgiving dinner. Details at the October meeting.

We will update with times and additional dates as they come in. We will discuss these at the next meeting. This is just a heads up that we have a lot of opportunities to do some things in the next couple of months.

**Submitted by Stacy and Tim Lawrence**

**For Sale:** 1966 Mustang Coupe, 289 CID V-8, P/S, A/T, A/C. Needs TLC. Featured as centerfold for Oct. 1993 Mustang times. Belonged to former Deep South Region, AACA member Jerry Finley. For more info, contact Mike Dean (251) 442-5030 or Gina Dean (251) 421-0202.



**Trunk or Treat**  
**CAR SHOW AND**  
**KIDS Halloween Festival**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**10 A.M. - 2 P.M.**

**Battleship USS Alabama**  
2703 Battleship Parkway & Mobile, Alabama 36602

All proceeds benefit St. Mary's Home  
Event is sponsored by the  
Alabama Power Service Organization - Plant Barry Chapter

Don't be SCARED to come out and show your ride and support the children of St. Mary's Home!

For more information or to obtain a pre-registration form, please contact Stacy Simmons at (251) 829-2781 or [stsimmon@southernco.com](mailto:stsimmon@southernco.com)

- OPEN SHOW
- ALL cars, trucks, & motorcycles WELCOME!
- \$20 Pre-Registration
- \$30 Entry Fee - Day Of
- Categories:
  - TOP 25
  - PEOPLE'S CHOICE
  - BEST OF SHOW
- Cruise-In @ 8 a.m.
- Judging starts @ 10 a.m.
- Winners @ 2 p.m.
- Participants are encouraged to bring treats for children and dress in your finest Halloween garb
- Silent Auction, DJ, Food, Kids' Events & More!



## Shows

October 27, 2012: Dauphin Way Baptist Church will be hosting the 3rd Annual “Shirley Looney Memorial” Car Show on

October 27, 2012: The Alabama Power Service Organization – Plant Barry Chapter will host the Trunk or Treat Car Show at the Battleship Park.

November 3, 2012: UJ Chevrolet, Mobile, Al.. (Airport Blvd.. - 1 mile East of the Airport) 10a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Benefit for the Child Advocacy Center.

November 10, 2012: 5th Annual Cub Scout Pack 18 Open Car Show at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 12450 Hwy 188, Grand Bay, AL

November 17, 2012: Mississippi Coast Mustang Club show at Edgewater Mall in Biloxi Open to all brands of domestics and imports are welcome. Registration is from 8 to 11 am on the day of the show

<b>Cruise-Ins</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>For More Info Contact</b>
1st Thursday	What-A-Burger	Airport & Snow Road	Bubba Blanton 251-610-4032
1st Saturday	Edgewater Mall	Hwy 90, Biloxi MS	Jimbo 228-596-0664
2nd Friday	Down Town Cruise	Ocean Springs, MS	N/A
Every Saturday	Burger King	Pensacola Nine Mile Rd at Chemstrand	N/A
1st Monday	Lighthouse Resturiant	Bayou La Batre	<a href="mailto:info@mobilebaymustangclub.org">info@mobilebaymustangclub.org</a>
2nd Thursday	Five Guys Burgers	University at Airport	<a href="mailto:info@mobilebaymustangclub.org">info@mobilebaymustangclub.org</a>
1st Saturday	New KFC	Tillmans Corner	Jo Jo Johnson 251-367-6643
1st Saturday	5 Guys	Airport At University	Brenda Drinkard 675-9226
4th Saturday	Mings Cafe	Highway 43 in Saraland	North Side Cruisers
2nd Saturday	Sam's Super Burger	Grand Bay	Southern Bay Cruisers 251-442-6877
2nd Saturday	Dillard's	Eastern Shore Mall	Eastern Shore Cruisers Fred Minke 709-5900
3rd Saturday	Steak and Shake	Schillinger Road	Past Time Cruisers Tom Ebel 379-0211
4th Saturday	Northrop Complex	Pascagoula, MS	Magnolia Classic Cruisers
Last Saturday	Sonic - Hwy 59 S.	Robertsdale, AL	251-747-2022

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"Customer Service the Southern Way"



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