



The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 45 No. 12, December 2012

An Interview with the Third Elf

The holiday season is a very busy time of the year. This is especially so for Santa who's getting ready for his big ride. After going through various contacts, I was able to hook up via email with one of his Elves. It should be noted that the Third Elf is a pseudonym as, typical of elves, they are not always appropriate.



**This may or may not be
Third Elf**

Q. So, how would you describe the situation at the North Pole currently?

A. Short days, occasional run-ins with a polar bear, snow, the usual. Oh, and we are getting all the goodies ready to pack the sleigh.

Q. I've always wondered exactly how big is Santa's sleigh?

A. Well, its slightly bigger than a DeSoto but not as elegant as a '37 Packard. Of course, it tends to change in size and shape as needed. It's one of those Christmassy things that just happen. More presents, more space. We've been trained to be really good at power-packing thanks to Mrs. Claus. That woman is quite the packing maniac. She organizes the wrapping and placement of all the gifts. She says that if it was left up to Santa, Henry in Spokane would end up with Barbie and Suzie in Macon would get a GI Joe. Not good.

Q. So she's the power behind the red suit?

A. You bet and the woman can make a mean eggnog.

Q. Elves indulge?

A. Is the sky blue? Honestly, Dude....

Q. Well you know, we don't get a lot of exposure to Elves. We always think of them as kind of sweet.

A. It's the hats, those stupid hats. But, those hats can be handy – some keep their cigars in them while others hide their lottery tickets there. Since we wear them all the time, they're like wallets.

Q. Okay, so back to Santa and his sleigh. I always wonder how those tiny reindeer manage to pull that huge sleigh. Do reindeer pack a lot of, well, horsepower?

A. Again, it's one of those Christmassy things, you either believe or you don't. Those little fella's are scrawny – no heft at all. Of course, they do eat endlessly. And guess who gets to clean up? It's not those entitled reindeer, let me tell you. I hate shoveling out the stalls. And don't get me started on that showboat Rudolph...

Continued on Page 3.

Message from the DSR President

I don't know where the year went but in a few days 2012 will be a memory. I hope all of you have a great Holiday season with friends & family. I'm looking forward to the New Year bringing prosperity to all. Don't forget to winterize the old vehicles keeping the batteries charged & tires inflated so you can enjoy them on these pretty weekends.

I have really enjoyed this year, meeting a lot of new people with the same interest in old Cars & Trucks & not leaving out Motorcycles.

I would like to remind you all on renewing your membership for the 2013 year. I would like to say if any of you have any ideas for our Club activities please let us know. One thing that I really enjoyed was the two Road Rally's we have had, (WHAT A BLAST WE HAD). In closing I hope to see ya on Dec 29th for Breakfast at the Club. Zeno

Zeno



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Treasurer Bobby Peterson.....251-342-8960
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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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ANNUAL DUES

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 31st 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. Membership renewal is due December 31st.

An Interview with the Third Elf (continued)

Q. You know, when I was a kid, I always wondered why Santa didn't replace those puny guys with a Chevy big block?

A. Well, the older Elves do say that it was considered, especially when the reindeer unionized. Santa was concerned that with the improved grooming plan (hoof black is expensive!), extended vacations and flying lessons, he'd have to close them down. But then the 70's arrived and the oil embargo caused all these supply problems, especially for the higher octanes (you think Santa would use regular? Think again, the man has a lead foot). Plus, Santa was thinking that if he were to go all "Detroit", he'd want the batwing carburetor, dual exhaust with the thrush mufflers, etc. This of course would have caused a noise problem (as you know Santa flies at night) and a weight problem (do you know how tricky it is to park a sleigh on a grass hut?). So, it was a no-go, especially when Mrs. Claus said she'd never put a foot into the thing and we know who rules the "Pole".

Q. Well personally I'm glad the traditions are holding. Now, about the presents. How do y'all stay current?

A. Y'all? Really? Did you just write y'all?

Q. Look, Elf, I'm in Mobile, Alabama. Just deal with it. I assume Santa shares the goodies left out for him. You like the cornbread and greens? Watch what you type. To repeat: How do Y'ALL stay current?

A. EBay and Amazon, mostly on-line.

Q. I thought you guys made all the stuff.

A. Times change. Kids are not happy with a homemade wooden wagon anymore. They want Elmo and his friends and electronics! One word, man: Copyright. You think Mattel is just going to stand there and let us make knockoffs? (although I did make this really sweet app for my iPad...).

Q. Okay, I guess I need to let you go. Finally, as every parent and grandparent wants to know: Is everything set for Christmas Eve? All the presents lined up? Sleigh serviced (oil change? lube?) and ready to fly?

A. You bet. We have a mission and we're going to fulfill it. It's what we do and we're not going to let the kids down.

Q. Last comment?

A. Everyone have a wonderful Holiday!

Paul Dagenais, Editor

Parades and Shows

UMS –Wright Preparatory School, December 6th.



Dawes Parade, December 15, 2012



Pastor Brad Sullivan(Living Word Church) and his son.

Mobile Holiday Parade, December 15th



Not all things go off as planned. Club members such as John Pendergrass (with his friend Kay) and Charlie Lyles (our personal Santa) brought their cars. Club President Zeno Chaudron borrowed Walt Fuller's red Model A. The Model A proved to be recalcitrant, except when it decided to backfire and scare many half to death. Apparent Model A expert Bobby Peterson (nice butt shot, eh?), Zeno, Rick Chisholm and Ross Sloan were not overtly successful getting the car to cooperate. However other members, such as Tracy Metclaf, cruised through the parade, hopefully keeping the club's reputation viable.



DSR Seventh Saturday Breakfast
by Patt Paquet

HO! HO! HO! What a great way to begin the month of December. Pulling into the parking lot of the Golden Corral in Tillman's Corner just a few minutes shy of 7:30 a.m., we discovered the law enforcement officers and other volunteers for the Tillman's Corner Christmas Parade ahead of us waiting for the doors to be unlocked. DSR members rarely take a back seat when it comes to food so our group scurried to get behind them. Lucky us who were quick on our feet because a tour bus pulled in just as we got in line. Sadly, there were two members who were just a tad slow and got caught in the line that was piling out of the bus. But, they were fleet of foot and were only separated by a few of the "bus people".

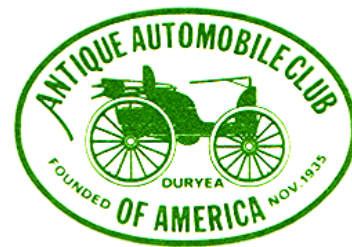
The restaurant was the gathering place for 11 members who tried valiantly to not be seduced by the calories and cholesterol food bar. The only person that I know of who had a skirmish was Kevin Crowell who took the word of the worker on the omelet station who said "It will be a short wait." When he went to pick up his order, it had been scarfed up by some unscrupulous and unknown person. However, our Kevin prevailed with other breakfast goodies.

Putting 2 Z. Chaudrons, 2 Crowells, P. Dagenais, 2 Lawrences, T. Metclaf, 2 Paquets and B. Peterson at one table provided a mixed bag of gossip, technical discussions, humorous stories, complaints about getting work done and last but not least great fellowship. When it was time to depart, the Chaudrons and Lawrences headed for the Henderson Car Barn to drive some of Jim's cars in the parade while others went to take care of business elsewhere.



Check out the Deep South Region Website at:

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



Gifts for Men Guaranteed to Turn Any Woman into His Queen

The following rules can make it so easy for us of the fairer sex to buy gifts for that special male in our life.

Rule #1. When in doubt, buy a cordless drill. It doesn't matter if he already has one; he could have 10 but you would never hear a complaint.

Rule # 2. If you cannot find a cordless drill, buy him anything with the word "ratchet" or "socket" in it. Men love saying either of those words. *No one knows why.*

Rule # 3. Never buy a man anything that says "Some assembly required" on the box. It will ruin his day and will, of course, have many parts left over.

Rule # 4. Men love remote controls almost as much as they love tools. You can get him one to replace the one that is worn out. If you got a lot of money, buy your guy a big screen TV with the little picture in the corner. Watch him go wild as he flips and flips and flips.

Rule # 5. Rope. Men love rope. Apparently it takes them back to their cowboy origins or at least the Boy Scouts. Nothing says love like a hundred feet of rope.

Rule # 6. Buy him a label maker. It's almost as good as a cordless drill. Within a couple of weeks he will have labeled everything in the garage/workshop and started in the house. Cups. Saucers. Coffeemaker. Sink. You get the idea. Again, *no one knows why.*

Rule # 7. Men enjoy danger. That's why they never cook – but will BBQ. Get him a monster grill with a 100 pound propane tank. Tell him the gas line leaks. Whoa! "Oh, the thrill! The challenge! Who wants a 'burger?'"

Rule # 8. Good places to shop for men are Home Depot, Lowes, John Deere, nearly any RV center or even local tire stores. Gift cards from NAPA or Sears are excellent men's' stores. "From NAPA, huh? Must be something I need. Hey! Isn't this a great starter for a '68 Ford Fair-lane? WOW! Thanks, honey!"

Rule # 9. Finally, if things are really tough, just get him anything for his car; a 99-cent ice scraper, a small bottle of deicer or something to hang from the mirror. Men love gifts for their car. Another of those *no one knows why.*

A Few Helpful Holiday Party Food Tips to Get You "Thru the Season

1. Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet has no Christmas Spirit. Go next door where they've probably got good stuff, like rum balls.

2. Drink as much eggnog as you can, and quickly. It's rare. This is the only time of year you can find it. So drink up! Who cares if there 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you'll turn into an eggnog-aholic.

3. If something comes with gravy, use it. That's the whole point of gravy. It does not stand alone. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes and fill it with gravy.

4. As for the mashed potatoes, always asked if they're made with skim or whole milk. If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like a low-slung, red sports car with an automatic transmission.

5. DO NOT, under any circumstances, have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a Christmas party is to eat other people's food. For free. Lots of it. Hello?

6. If you come across something really good at the buffet table, like frosted Christmas cookies in the shape and size of Santa, position yourself near them and don't budge. Have as many as you can before becoming the center of attention. They're like a beautiful new pair of shoes; if you leave them, you'll never see them again.

7. Same for pies. Apple, pumpkin, mincemeat. Have a slice of each. Or if you don't like mincemeat, have two apple and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else do you get to have more than one dessert? Labor Day?

8. Absolutely do not exercise between now and New Year's. You can do that in January when there's nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you'll need after circling the buffet table with a 10 pound plate of food and a vat of eggnog.

9. Did someone mention fruitcake? Granted it's loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories, but avoid it at all costs. I mean, have *some* standards.

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive well preserved body, but rather skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, champagne in the other, body used up and screaming "WOO HOO, what a ride!"



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Deep South Region AACA General Membership Meeting Nov. 17, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm after members and guests had enjoyed a very good lunch provided by club members following our Fall Rally that was lots of fun. There were 23 members in attendance, six of which were officers. The meeting was held one week early due to the coming of the Thanksgiving holiday. The President led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OLD BUSINESS: President Chaudron asked for a report of the Nominating Committee. In the absence of the Chairman, Kevin Crowell, committee member John Pendergrass presented the slate for 2013: President Zeno Chaudron would continue for a third term, Vice President – Foy Bobo, Secretary – Tracy Metclaf, Treasurer – Bobby Peterson, Editor – Paul Dagenais, Member-at-Large – Charlie Lyles. Webmaster Herb Thoms will continue to care for our website. Buddy Paquet made a motion to accept the slate by acclamation that was seconded by Walt Fuller. Motion carried. VP Fuller noted that the clubhouse had been cleaned prior to our Thanksgiving meal at a cost of \$50. This was paid for by a member. Since the clubhouse had not been cleaned since our May car show, VP Fuller asked that reimbursement be made. N. Thoms made the motion; B. Peterson seconded and was approved. Secretary Patt Paquet asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Motion by H. Thoms, seconded by C. Lyles and carried. The Treasurer, Editor and Webmaster had no old business. The Member-at-Large was absent. Activities Coordinator Tim Lawrence reviewed the Veteran's Day Parade noting that although it had been cancelled due to weather, we were allowed only two slots, which would have been used. Discussion regarding future parade participation was held with the consensus being that if we were not moved from the last unit in the procession, we would decline future involvement.

NEW BUSINESS: President and Secretary had none. VP Fuller reminded members that there was a need for the 2013 Mothers Day Car Show Chair, that he would not be able to do it again this coming year. Bobby Peterson, Treasurer, reviewed the current Financial Statement. There

being no questions, a motion to accept was made by C. Lyles, seconded by J. Pendergrass and carried. The Activities Coordinator reviewed the many requests that had been received: (1) A display for a UMS teacher (Lou Lartigue's daughter) for a display on Nov. 27th was approved by motion, (2) Help with the Tillman's Corner Christmas Parade on Dec. 1st was approved by motion, (3) Request from North Mobile Nursing & Rehab on Dec. 6 was declined due to the timeframe by motion, (4) Request from the Mobile Holiday Parade on Dec. 15th for cars to transport dignitaries was discussed. Due to problems encountered last year, the request was declined by motion (a letter will be sent), (5) Request from the Dawes Community for their first annual Christmas Parade on Dec. 15th was approved by motion (throws allowed). The question of what members wished to do for our Year-End Get-Together was presented by the A/C. After few suggestions, it was decided to let the Activities Coordinators, with help by members, plan the event. A question about our First Saturday Breakfast was posed due to our participating in a parade with a 9:00 am line-up on that date. It was by mutual agreement that we would meet at the Golden Corral at 8:00 a.m. then go to the parade.

C. Lyles announced that a benefit auction for a member of the car community would be held on Dec. 15th at 10:00 a.m. Items will consist of mostly tools and Charlie can provide more information.

The 50/50 Pot held \$38. Winner Herb Thoms donated it to the McDonald Muffler Benefit that was held on Dec. 10th. A motion to adjourn was made at 1:07 pm by P. Dagenais, seconded by B. Paquet and carried.

Members gathered their belongings, cheerfully wished a Happy Thanksgiving to each other and departed.

Respectfully submitted by Patt Paquet

Christmas Holiday Gathering

DSR voted to have a year end event after the Christmas holidays and it is scheduled for Sat. 12/29/12. It will be a catered breakfast by Creative Catering at the clubhouse with serving to begin between 8:45-9:00 am. Coffee will be ready at 8:30. The cost is \$10 per person for scrambled eggs/bacon or sausage, cheese grits, gravy, hot biscuits with jelly and maybe a few surprises to go along with the other items on the menu.


The South Alabama British Car Club will be joining us which should make for an interesting morning. If I have not been able to get in touch with you or you've replied to the E-mail sent earlier this month, I must have your reservation by Dec. 26th. There will be a VERY short meeting to install our 2013 officers.

Look forward to seeing everyone.

Patt Paquet Telephone: (251) 661-4009, email: ms63falcon@bellsouth.net

Cruise-Ins

Time	Location	Address	For More Info Contact
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
2nd Thursday	5 Guys	University at Airport	info@mobilebaymustangclub.org
1st Saturday	Kenducky Fried Chicken	Tillman's Square, Hwy 90	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
4th Saturday	Northrop Complex	Pascagoula, MS	Magnolia Classic Cruisers
Last Saturday	Sonic - Hwy 59 South	Robertsdale, AL	251-747-2022



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