



The



Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 45 No. 2, February 2012

A Conversation with Don Dillehay



About 10 years ago, Don Dillehay and I were greeting people and directing them where to park their cars for that year's Mother's Day Car show. It was sunny and hot. A black Ford convertible, about a 1948, pulled in.

It had the top down and was driven by a man accompanied by at least two young attractive women. Neither of us recognized the people or the car. They said they were going to enter the show, entered the grounds briefly, then left. I've never seen the car nor the people again. The reason I mention this is that Don said his brother had had a similar convertible Ford when they were young. He said his brother would roar up the street with one set of girls in the car and come roaring back with a different set. You can ask Don how his brother described the purpose of the convertible. I'll just pass along Don's more recent description that the car had "Pickup Appeal".

Don was born in Malta, Ohio, and has two brothers and three sisters. He was in the US Air Force from 1948 to 1952, the end of his enlistment being extended due to the Korean conflict. His last deployment was at Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery. From there he ended up on Mobile because of, no surprise, a girl. Over the years he has worked in radio and TV repair, owning his own shop in the mid 1960's.

He worked as an instrument technician for Texas Instruments, Ingalls Shipyard and the DeGussa Chemical plant.

Don married his wife Frances in 1968. They were married for 39 years until her death in 2007. He met his current wife Ruth when she came to his church to play the organ. They were married in 2009. Don has two sons, one step-son and one step-daughter. He also has 13 grandchildren.

Don became interested in cars as a result of a high school automotive repair class. He said he started off working on Ford flathead V-8's. His first car was a 1939 Buick coupe which he bought in 1952. Some of the cars he's owned over the years include a 1951 and a 1952 Chevrolet, a 1952 Ford, and his first "real" Ford being a 1956 black and tan Country Squire wagon (a "woodie").

Don has had two antique cars, his 1929 Ford Model "A" and a 1956 Hudson Hornet. The Hudson was a beautiful tri-tone four-door sedan (pink, charcoal and white) with gold trim.



Conversation continues on Page 3

Message from the DSR President

Greetings to all,

I hope everyone is doing well. February is breezing right on by as we speak. As we are fast approaching our 2nd Car Club meeting (also Soup & Chili night) there are a lot of activities getting cranked up for the next several months throughout the area.

Zeno



DSR Officers for 2012

President Zeno Chaudron 251-423-0946
Vice President.Walt Fuller 215-602-1931
Secretary.Patt Paquet251-661-4009
Treasurer.Bobby Peterson251-342-8960
Editor Paul Dagenais251-433-0270
Activities Tim and Stacy Lawrence
.....251-433-8988
Member-at-Large.....Peter Pearce
.....251-422-7318

Appointees and/or Volunteers

Chaplain Kevin Crowell.... 251-802-4640
Historian Patt Paquet251-661-4009
Program ChairmanErnie Rogers
.....251-604-5368
RefreshmentsMartha Fuller
..... 251-602-1931
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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Contributions to the Sparkplug are welcome and encouraged. The Editor reserves the right to edit material submissions.



Annual Membership Renewal

You have only until February 29th to renew your AACA and DSR memberships. If you wish to save some time and a stamp, you may pay both AACA and DSR dues to Bobby Peterson, our Treasurer. He will pass along your AACA dues to the national organization. AACA dues are \$35. DSR dues are \$15. You must be a member of AACA in order to qualify for DSR membership. If you have already paid your AACA dues, just send Bobby \$15.00 to renew your membership.

DSR BY-LAWS PROVIDE THAT IF MEMBERSHIP IS NOT RENEWED BY THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY, MEMBERSHIP IS CANCELLED AND THE FORMER MEMBER MUST RE-APPLY.

Check out the Deep South Region Website at:

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

A Conversation with Don Dillehay (continued)

It had a Packard 352 engine paired with a four-speed automatic transmission. The front seats would fold down completely and you could sleep in it, not that he ever did. Around 2003, Don wrote up an article for the Sparkplug about his 1929 Ford Model "A".

Grandpa's Ford, Henry's Lady

For those who remember the year 1929 or have heard of the Depression, well that is the year my Grandpa bought this Model "A" Ford Town Sedan. Get this, it was sold for \$675.00! Grandpa lived in a small, sleepy town named Waterford, Ohio, located on the Muskingum River in southeastern Ohio. He bought the Ford at McConnelsville, Ohio, located 20 miles north of Waterford, also located on the Muskingum River.

Memories of Grandpa began when I was about 6 years old. He would visit with us on Sundays, and I can remember how well he kept the old Ford. He would rattle the change in his pocket and would always give each Grandchild (7) a coin.



Later years, when I was 16 or so, I would visit with Grandpa in Waterford, helping him in his Hardware Store. This is about the time he had eye surgery, and guess what? I had to drive the old Ford with his instructions.

Later, in the 50's, my brother Bill bought the Ford from Grandpa, while I was in the Service. In 1977, my brother sold the Ford to me along with a 15-20 year collection of spare parts. Yes, I was very proud to be the owner of Grandpa's Ford. I had managed to replace the top, re-ring the engine, and replace the clutch disk by the time Hurricane Frederick (1979) came to Mobile. A good friend (Jerry Pullian) allowed me to park the Ford in his brick building during the storm. To sum it up, it is neat having a Family Antique car as old as I am, and when someone say's "Look at that Antique!", it goes for the Ford as well as Me! Submitted by Don Dillehay

Note: Don has sold the Model "A" to DSR club member Bert Sells, keeping this black beauty "in the family".

DeSoto Update (aka the insane Dagenais project):

So, we started with this in 1999:



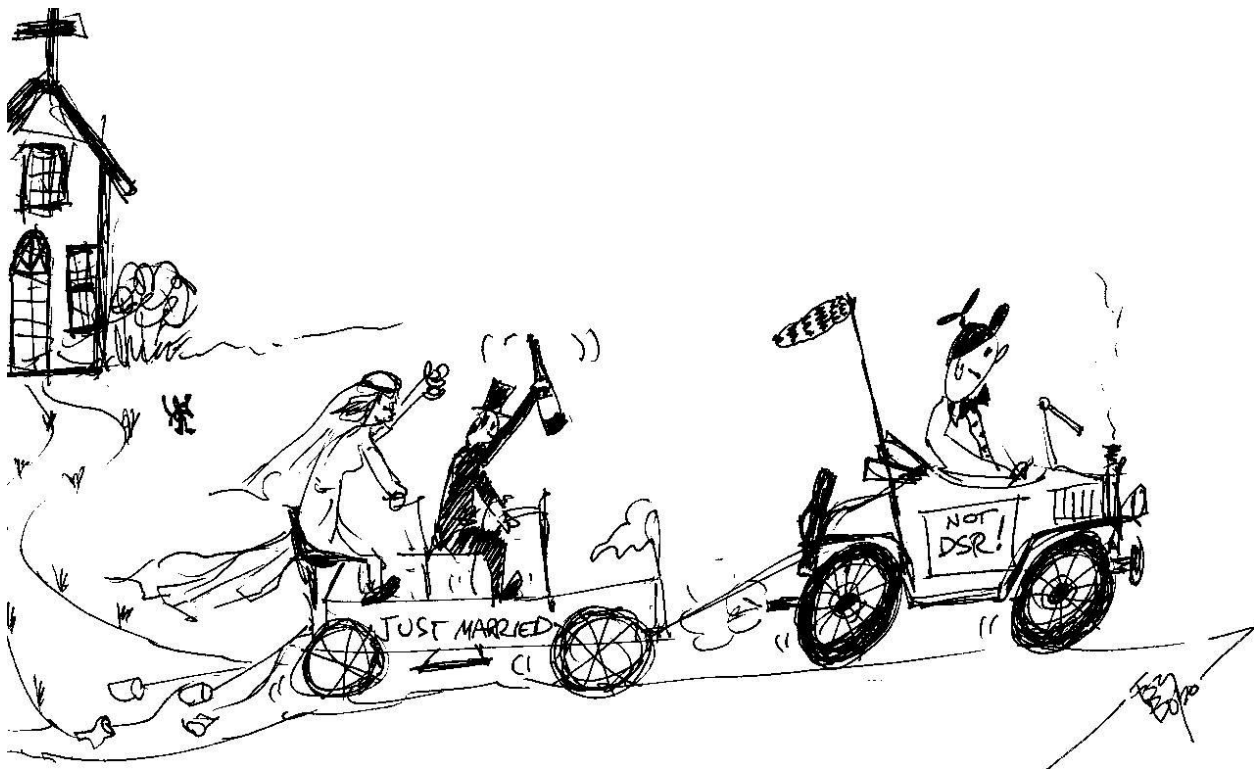
And we're up to this:



Almost there, with a whole bunch of tweaking to be done!

DSR Membership Takes a Stand on Marriage (again)

The DSR is not really concerned about who marries whom, we're just concerned with how to get to the church and back. During the January 2012 DSR meeting at the club house, Activities Officers Tim and Stacy Lawrence stated that they had received some requests for antique cars for weddings. People making requests had gotten their number from the DSR website. The website "suggested" that the club did not hire out to weddings, but the statement was vague. This set off an amazing flurry of comments, all loud and all in support of NOT providing cars for weddings. Basically, these activities are considered inappropriate to the charter of the club. They can't be sanctioned by the club and without sanction, there can be no AACA insurance coverage. Comments were made by Tim and Stacy, Buddy Paquet, Ross Sloan and Zeno Chaudron. Herb Thoms (our Club Webmaster) stated that after consultation with Zeno (our President), he had already changed the website to state that the club did not provide cars for weddings or other private social events. Walt Fuller (our Vice-President) pretty much ended what appeared to be a one-sided debate by reporting that the club had previously passed a motion to not provide cars, so the current discussion was moot. Finally, Patt Paquet, as Secretary, pleaded for some action. A motion was made and passed. This offering from Foy Bobo pretty much summarizes this portion of the meeting:



David's Catfish Annual Event

Saturday, January 21 found a large group of DSR members and guests converging on David's Catfish for our annual gathering at one of Spanish Fort's fine seafood restaurants. There was some confusion about a meeting place so we could "parade" together to the restaurant. We came from far and wide. However, we ended up at the same place, and a good time was enjoyed by everyone. We left with bellies full, smiles on our faces, and looking forward to next year. It was noted that only one antique automobile made the trek this year, our Comet Convertible. Submitted by Tracy Metclaf



Westminster Village Mardi Gras Parade

We had a real good time at the Westminster Village Mardi Gras Parade in Spanish Fort on the 11th. DSR furnished 11 vehicles along with 22 participants to help add some fun for the people. There were 2



Chaudrons, 4 Elliotts with company: David & Charlotte Wells & David Jr, David III & Tori Wells & Jeremy Johnson, 2 Grimes, Jim Henderson, 2 Lawrences, 2 Paquets & friend Connie Thorman, Pete Pearce & Ross Sloan. What a great time we had watching all the Elders & families as we paraded around the facility. Afterword's we congregated at Ed's Seafood for some serious conversation & some food. Everyone expressed having a good time. Submitted by Zeno Chaudron

Deep South Region AACA General Membership Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Zeno Chaudron. The invocation was offered by Member-at-Large Pete Pearce in the absence of Chaplain Kevin Crowell. The President then led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 31 members including six officers and two guests in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS: The President reviewed the status of nametags for those who do not have them. The Vice President noted that the roof leak had not fixed itself and he will take further action to get it repaired. The Secretary asked for and received a motion to approve the December minutes, motion seconded and carried. Treasurer B. Peterson noted he will be accepting 2012 dues following the meeting. Buddy Paquet who is preparing the 2012 Membership Roster, urged anyone whose dues are not yet paid to do so ASAP so the new roster can be handed out at the Feb. 23rd club meeting as well as to comply with AACA's requirement that the information be in their office by March 1st. Paul Dagenais, Editor asked if there was anyone who did not received their January publication. Being none, he was given a big hand of applause for his first and most enjoyable issue. Tim & Stacy Lawrence, new Activities Coordinators, thanked all who attended the annual January Catfish Run in Baldwin County and apologized for the mix-up in the meeting location.

NEW BUSINESS: The President, Vice President, Secretary and Webmaster had no new business. Patt Paquet asked to speak to the membership for Refreshment Chair Martha Fuller who was running late. She passed out a sign-up sheet for the February Soup & Chili Supper as well as a sign-up sheet for monthly refreshment volunteers. Treasurer B. Peterson reviewed the January Financial statement, asked for and received a motion to approve that was seconded and carried. The Activities Coordinators reviewed several car shows and display opportunities for the club's participation that are on the calendar during the next few months. They also presented two requests for cars: (1) Two cars for the MARC campus Mardi Gras parade and (2) the Westminster Retirement Community's campus Mardi Gras parade. Both were approved by the membership. Member-at-Large Pete Pearce asked for the club's help for vehicles for his 50th Murphy HS reunion. He briefly described what he had in mind for the April event and details will be worked out ASAP and he will get back with them by the March meeting. An idea for a car rally to be held in the second quarter of 2012 was presented. The membership is not familiar with what is involved. A volunteer committee of B. Peterson Chairman and Paul Dagenais, T. Lawrence and T. Miller will work out the details and bring them back to a later meeting. A motion to approve the rally was made, seconded and carried. Mother's Day Car Show Chairman Walt Fuller reviewed where we are with regard to sponsorship this year by the company who provided it last year. He offered several ideas that might work if the sponsor does not come through. There were several suggestions made by members that were accepted with enthusiasm. A short discussion regarding DSR position on providing vehicles for birthday or retirement parties and especially weddings. A motion was made that it be a DSR policy we do not do "for hires" due to insurance restrictions. A motion to approve this policy was made, seconded and passed. The Webmaster was asked to change the wording on the club's website and the Activities Coordinators were instructed to reply that DSR is not in the transportation business as much as we would like to help those in need.

Being no further business, the 50/50 pot drawing was won and a motion to adjourn was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted
Patt Paquet

NOTE: This is a condensed version of the minutes but a longer and detailed version is on file. Anyone wishing to have a copy can request it by e-mail and call the Secretary (661-4009) and a copy will be brought to the next meeting.

Local Spring Shows

When?	What?	Where?	More Information?
February 29 th	Azalea Festival Car Show	Mary G. Montgomery School	www.azaleafestivalcarshow.com
March 3rd	West Harrison High Marching Band Open Show	10399 County Farm Rd. Gulfport	Misty: 228-596-9158 Mike: 228-596-9160 Randy: 228-669-9096
March 3 rd <u>RESCHEDULED</u>	Port City Corvette Club Show	Bass Pro Shop, Spanish Fort	Gary Babel 251-586-1306
March 10 th	Annual Open Car Show Good Time Cruisers	Popularville, MS	www.goodtimecruz.com
March 10th	A Day at Charles MS Coast Mustang Club	Waveland, MS	www.mscoastmustangclub.com
March 17 th	Girl Scouts Car Show	Mobile Dragway Irvington, AL	tillman.tiffani@gmail.com
March 17 th	Shine & Ride for a Cure	Tillman's Corner	Glen Hilton 251-666-0730
March 31 st	Gnat Nationals Open Car Show	Bay St. Louis, MS	Terry: 228-216-1259
April 14 th	Camelia Classic Open Car Show	Bellingrath Gardens Mobile, AL	http://www.mobilebaymustangclub.org
April 21- 22 nd	Southern Hospitality Open Car Show	Isle Casino, Biloxi, MS	www.mscoastmustangclub.com
April 28 th	Mopar at the Battleship	Battleship Park Mobile, AL	http://www.southernmopar.com
May 5 th	Wind Creek Car Show	Atmore, AL	www.windcreekcasinocom
May 12 th	Deep South Region Mother's Day Car Show	DSR Club House 951 Forest Hill Dr. Mobile, AL	http://local.aaca.org/deepsouth/
May 19 th	Show by the Shore Magnolia Classic Cruisers	Pascagoula, MS	www.magnoliaclassiccruiser.com
May 25 th	May Show Antique Automobile & Engine Club of MS	D'Iberville, MS	Peter: 228-832-7710 Bill: 228-596-3730
May 26th	Oscar Johnson Memorial Library Antique & Classic Show	Silverhill, AL	Frank: 251-945-5506, 215-9630 Mitch: 251-609-3323



Bobby Peterson

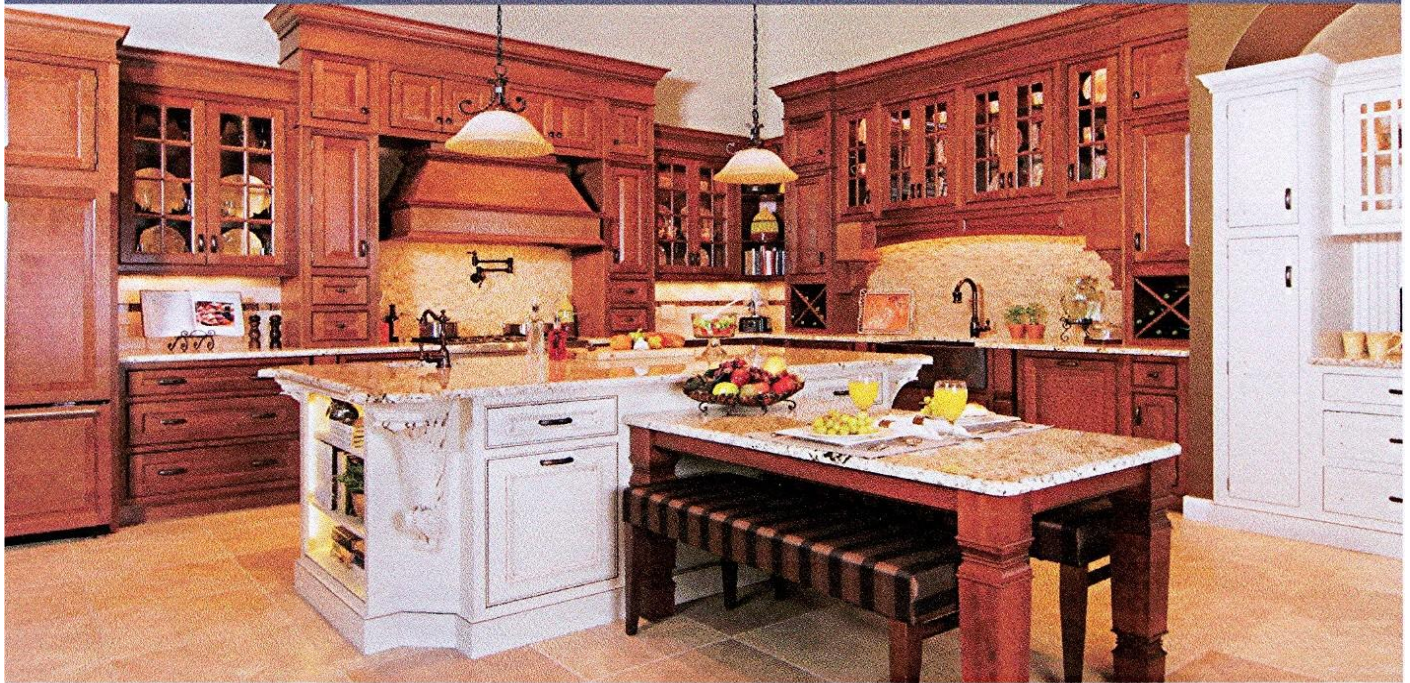
924 Butler Dr.
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