



The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 45 No. 4, April 2012

A conversation with our Rally hosts, Tommy and Sheila Miller Submitted by Paul Dagenais

The conversation with Tommy and Sheila Miller took place on the deck of their home overlooking a small lake. On the other side of the lake is a nine-hole golf course that Tommy and his son-in-law developed. Also on the other side is large building that holds many of their antique cars. The time was early evening and it was a phenomenally pleasant evening. I say this now because all of you will get the opportunity to experience this bit of heaven if you participate in the DSR rally this Sunday at 2:00 pm.

Tommy started by saying he was more interested in talking about their grandchildren than their cars. This couple is very family oriented. Sheila stated that they are both Mobile born and bred. They met in the 12th grade and were married two years later. They started their business in the backyard in 1977 and worked hard to make it grow. Along the way they had three children, two boys and a girl. Sheila stated that from their early ages, the children were informed that they were to remain in Mobile. Dating anyone who might at some time need to leave Mobile was discouraged. It appears that whatever the tactics, they got their wish. One son lives on Dauphin Island and the other in Theodore. Their daughter lives very close to them. Sheila pointed westward saying "she lives over there". They had had visits from all three within the last couple of days. With regard to grandchildren, they have six, three boys, three girls. They range in age 16 months to 9 years.



When Sheila retired from the business, they started to travel. They own a mobile home and pull a small car and sometimes a motorcycle. Tommy said they have visited all 50 states and parts of Canada and Mexico. They love to undertake extended trips. They often will take local tours when they reach different locations to get an overview of the area. If they find things of interest, they then return on their own to further explore. They both report that they have met many people on these trips some of whom they stay in touch with.

With respect to antique cars, they have had many over the years. They were members of the Corvette Club for a long time and have owned many Corvettes. Tommy said the nice part about the Corvettes was that when the need arose, he could get good prices for them to support a project, especially with the development of the golf course. Cars that they mentioned were a 1956 Chevrolet 210, a 1956 Nomad, a 1927 Model T that is close to show quality and a Model A that is under construction as a street rod. His favorite car was a 1966 Chevelle that he bought new. It was destroyed and they replaced it with the same model, only a better version. Other cars include a 1971 El Camino, 1971 Nova (their second new
(Continued on Page 6)

Message from the DSR President

On your mark! Get set! Go! Like so many of you I have been trying to make some of the Car Show outings. We have been enjoying our selves at several of the venues that have taken place in our area. The weather has been very nice. If you are a car person, it's good to see the participation at the shows with the big variety of vehicles available around the area.

I must say, bragging just a bit, some of our members have done quite well at the awards podium. That makes for a fun time along with visiting & meeting new people at the shows. If you haven't had the chance to take in a show, you need to. As my Grandma use to say "It's good for what ails you."

Talking about Car Shows, our show is right around the corner and I hope everyone is looking forward to the festivities that we have in store. I believe Walt has got a good grip on finishing up the loose ends for the show. Buddy and Patt handled getting all of the awards ordered and we are concentrating on our silent auction for the show. May 12th will be here before we know it.

Zeno



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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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Contributions to the Sparkplug are welcome and encouraged. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions.



Car Rally for the DSR Club: Sunday afternoon, April 22nd beginning at two p.m.

Where:

Tommy and Sheila Miller
8370 Theodore Dawes Road West
Theodore, Alabama
Phone: Home: 661-1822
Cell: 402-0315

You can find the house easily on google maps, or call for directions.

What is a Rally?

For those who are not familiar with car rallies, it is like a scavenger hunt from your car. Instead of collecting items, you answer questions listed on a sheet you will be given at the start of the rally. The rules will be printed for your review but to summarize, cars will leave at intervals depending on how many cars we have. Directions on where to go will be plainly stated. If you are looking for the answer to a question on the right side of the road, there will be an "R" in front of the question and in turn, on the left, there will be an "L" in front of the question.



How long does it take?

The Millers report the route should take from an hour to an hour and a half.

Requirements?

You must have at least two people in your car, a driver and a navigator. We don't want the driver writing down answers !!!

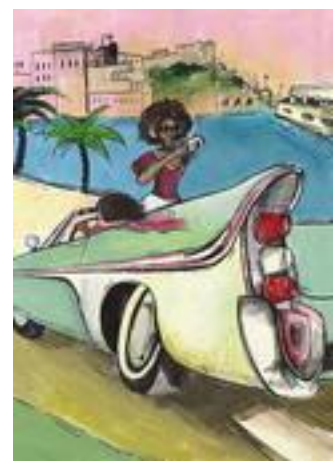
Alternative?

If you don't want drive the route, the Millers welcome you to come and enjoy the fellowship and visit with them while waiting for the teams to return.

NOTE:

It is very important to know in advance how many people will be attending. The club is furnishing the entree and we don't want to over buy or not have enough. Members are asked to bring a veggie, salad or desert. If you have forgotten what you signed up for, call the Millers.

If you know of someone who might be interested in becoming a member of our club, invite them to join us for this function to get to know our members and see just how much fun we have!!! This would be a good chance to promote the Mother's Day car show.



(Unfortunately, the DeSoto won't be there)

The following article appeared in Issue 76 of Gasser Wars Magazine. The Story was written by Phil Morris and the photographs were taken by DSR member Peter Pearce. Not all photographs appeared in the article.

WOMPIN' WAGON – C&E Gasser

Thirty five years after a piece of southern drag racing history was retired and put in storage, Peter W. Pearce brings the 'WOMPIN' WAGON back to life.

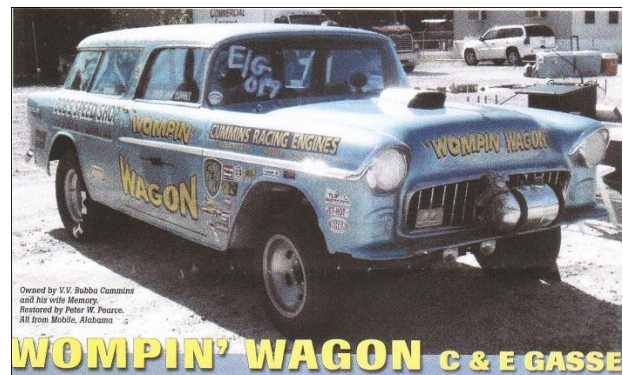


Peter, who was a life long friend of Danny Cummins, the driver of the '55 Nomad Gasser, is also the crew chief on the restored gasser. He spent countless hours bringing the Nomad back to life. The Wagon was honored on the cover of RPM magazine November 2011, a Top 10 pick at the prestigious Old Drag Races Reunion in Panama City, FL, and Best Restored Race Car. The car has also won many awards and trophies. Danny passed away in 2004 and now his brother Bubba drives the car at several drag strips.

The original Nomad was found in a junk yard ready to be crushed when a friend of Bubba Cummins told him about the find. In 1963 Bubba, Brother of Danny and Dickie Saunder started the build on the gasser. There were not many Nomad gassers, as these originally were about \$260 more than the Bel Air Convertible, somewhat of a luxury vehicle.

The wagon was built by Bubba, roll cage, interior, engine assembly, chassis and rear section. His friend J.C. Sizemore installed the straight axle. J.C. was a well known Southern legend and known all over the south with his famous 1955 Chevy "The Golden Rod".

The engine is a 1960 Chevy small block bored to 301 with Bow Tie Angle Plug iron heads J&E 12:1 pistons, Comp cam, Edelbrock Scorpion Aluminum Hi Rise manifold with Holley 780 cfm carburetor. Bubba still owns the original Hilborn Injection. The spark is from MSD 6AL, Hooker Special Wagon 3" headers, Aluminum valve covers with red detail, Moon tank and pressure pump, breathers and some nice detail pieces.



The engine is set back ten percent. The transmission is a Turbo 350 with an A-1 converter with 3500 stall hooked to a 1955 Chevy rear.

Front suspension is 1939 Ford spindles connected to a 1928 Ford Model A straight axle and springs. Front brakes are 1955 Chevy with 1970 Dodge rear brakes. The front wheels are early Kidney Beans and Steel in the rear with N&H slicks.

These Alabama boys did a great job. Body work by Jerold Nichlos, the '67 Marina Blue by DuPont was sprayed by Johnny McDonald of Classic Paint and Body. Other body modifications are a glass removable front end, '55 with Nomad trim pieces. A Nomad rear bumper is Pression Metal.

A T-Bird bucket seat with blue & white trim by Port City Trim Works and full Aluminum Interior. A 60's style Sun 8500 tachometer, Stewart Warner gauges, dash has original '55 trim, original style removable steering wheel, and car is lettered as it was in the sixties.



Peter who's nick name was "Sneaky Pete" has done a remarkable restoration for his friend "Dirty Dan" Side by Side and Hand in Hand, Always. Were these guys the original Alabama Gang?



March 17th 5th Annual Racers Swap Meet and Car Show Reported by DSR Member Zeno Chaudron

It rained until about 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning but the Doppler radar showed it had moved out of the area. I called Pete Pearce to check the status of the show, and he said it was starting to fair off and the show was going on as scheduled. There were quite a few people for the swap meet and they had about 85+ cars and trucks. Representing DSR were Jack & Betty Wilson, Lee Wilson, Brian & Brian Jr Elliott, Pete Pearce and yours truly. The proceeds were going to the Mobile Rape Crisis Center. Flatop with Bob's Speed Shop told me they they cleared \$5000.00. Betty Wilson received a award a long with the (2) Elliotts, Brian & Jr. Bringing up the rear in awards was yours truly.

Check out the Deep South Region Website at:

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

REMINDERS!!!!!!!!!!!!

Next DSR Meeting is April 26th at 7:00 p.m.

**DSR Mother's Day Car Show
Saturday May 12, 2012
DSR Club House
951 Forest Hill Drive, Mobile, Alabama**

Conversation with Tommy and Sheila Miller (continued)

car) and a C-5 Corvette. In 1973 they started drag racing, attending races in 11 different states, many sites being on the NASCAR circuit. It was through drag racing that they met our DSR President, Zeno Chadron.

The Millers have worked hard to put Sunday's rally together. They are hoping for a good turnout. There's more information about the rally on page 3 of this issue of the Sparkplug. Tommy and Sheila are heading out to the northeast, especially Maine, in a few weeks. Let's hope we have a good turnout at the rally so they'll have good memories as they head off down the road.

March 117th, Semmes Azalea Festival Car Show Reported by DSR Member Herb Thoms

This car show was part of the 10th annual Semmes Azalea Festival. It was held in and around the grounds of Mary G Montgomery High School. Taken as a whole, this event included more of everything for everybody than any car show I have ever attended. There was a 5K race, live entertainment all day long, dozens and dozens of arts and craft and food vendors and of course, the cars. Representing DSR were Zeno Chadron, his son Trey and yours truly. Zeno took a first place sponsor's trophy and I received a third place sponsor's trophy. There were over 80 vehicles present. Registration included a very colorful T-shirt and a meal from Hickory Pit Too. The meal of pulled pork, beans and a roll was very tasty. The positioning of the vehicles in relation to the other events insured that there was a constant stream of people coming through to look at and comment on our cars. It being St Patrick's Day, there were a lot of folks dressed for the occasion. Some interestingly decorated dogs also. All things considered, this was a fun time. The weather was outstanding and the venue pretty good for a car show and all the other activities.



Mobile

Bay

Mustang Club 19th Annual Camellia Classic Car Show Reported by Herb and Nancy Thoms and Zeno Chaudron

Once again the Great Lawn at Bellingrath Gardens was transformed into a glittering sea of chrome and radiant paint of all colors and proud car buffs eager to show off their rides and claim rewards for the tender loving care devoted to these gleaming beauties. April 14th 2012 was a beautiful day that brought almost 250 of the best Classic and other categories of cars. When Nancy and I got there at about 9am, it seemed as if some of the folks must have arrived as the sun was coming up. We were fortunate to find the last area with any shade, albeit we were the furthest away from everything. If we were any further out we would have been on the grounds of the mansion. One advantage however, was the fact that we were away from the deafening PA system.

I brought the Cougar and Nancy her 2001 Dodge Ram Cargo Van 3500 camper. This was actually the second show for the “B” as she calls it. More about this later. Able to park in this area with us were Steve Goren and friend with his 58 Biscayne and 96 Corvette, son Trevor, and mother Rheba. All-in-all, DSR members did well for themselves. Zeno Chaudron was much closer to the award ceremony and was able to provide information on DSR winners. He took first place with his Camaro. Brian Elliot took 2nd place with his 1941 Willys, 1st place with his 1956 Ford Pickup, and 2nd Place with a 1955 Ford Truck in the same truck class. Tim & Stacey Lawrence took 3rd place with their 1988 Mercedes convertible in the Import Class. Pat Hagamaker was also there with a Dodge pickup. DSR members in attendance, who did not enter vehicles, were Ed and Eddie Grimes and Buddy Givens.



I was very surprised when they called my name and asked me to drive the Cougar to the awards area to receive the trophy for the “Pull Apart Pick”, sponsored by Pull-A-Part Used Auto Parts. As I mentioned, I was way out in left field and it was quite an adventure to maneuver the Cougar into position to receive the award and have pictures taken. I also tried something different this year. Having been very successful in the 1960-69 Ford Production Class, I decided to enter the Muscle Car Class. Third place.



Now, more about the “B”. So called, because it is a Class B motor home. It was built in Saskatoon, Canada. The first show it was entered in was the Salute to Veterans show at the University of South Alabama, sponsored by the local chapter of Sigma Nu fraternity. DSR represented by Nancy and I tied for first in Best Club Participation. We are still waiting for plaque to be mailed to us for the club. Steve Goren and Tracy Metclaf stopped by during the day. As happened at Bellingrath, Nancy was kept busy all day giving tours of the B. One of the best features of having the B at a show is that you are never very far away from the potty.

Deep South Region AACA General Membership Meeting March 22, 2012

President Zeno Chaudron called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. He asked Chaplain Kevin Crowell to give the invocation and then led the 30 members which included six officers in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our speaker for the meeting, Joe Rytlewski, representing the Mobile Boys and Girls Clubs was then introduced by the President. Mr. Rytlewski, who is the Area Coordinator for South Alabama, gave a very interesting presentation on this organization and answered questions afterwards. He is the owner of a 1966 Corvette and told the group about a recent rally that was held in Georgia that he and his son participated in. He was most proud that he had no problems with the vehicle on the roundtrip there nor during the event.

Old Business: The *President* thanked Foy Bobo for providing name tags for new members as well as any other members who were without identification. *VP Fuller* offered figures for two quotes he had gotten on having a new roof installed. He noted both companies stated there would need to be some structural repairs made when the building was re-roofed. (Note: The roof of the original part of the building was put on in February 1985 and the addition's roof was done in March 1995.) The VP will get at least two more quotes before we make a decision. The AC issue last month was nothing more than odor coming from it being turned on after being unused during the winter. A specialist checked it thoroughly and it is in good condition. *Secretary P. Paquet* asked for a motion to approve the February minutes as published in the March newsletter if there were no corrections. Motion was made by H. Thoms, seconded by R. Sloan and approved. *Activities Coordinator T. Lawrence* noted that he and Stacy passed out DSR car show flyers at the St. Jude's Benefit Car Show then asked the Millers to give an update on the April 22nd DSR rally they will be hosting. Sheila passed around a signup sheet for food items. P. Paquet suggested the club provide the meat entrée from the club's part of the 50-50 pot. Motion made by Charley Lyles, seconded by Bobby Peterson and carried. The deadline to sign up for the event is April 16th. The Millers will be providing drinks, paper products/utensils and condiments for the meal. Editor P. Dagenais passed a current membership list with e-mail addresses for members to review. Changes could be made on the sheet. *Buddy Paquet* announced the *2012 Membership Rosters* were available for pick up. The **Treasurer, Member-at-Large** and **Webmaster** had no old business.

New Business: President Chaudron announced there would be a silent auction held in conjunction with the DSR Car Show to help fund the new roof that is needed. He asked members to search for any items that could be used and bring them to the April 26th meeting. Items should not be of a "garage or yard sale" type but those which will receive good bids. Treasurer B. Peterson reviewed the current financial statement. There was one small money item that was questionable which he will report back on at the next meeting. A motion to approved the March report was made by H. Thoms, seconded by B. Paquet and approved. T. Lawrence, Activities Coordinator reviewed one request for a display on April 15th in Axis, AL. There was no interest expressed. Also an invitation to participate in the Mobile Bay Bears baseball team's Saturday Night Auto Showcase was provided. Several questions about this were made. Tim will report back on those at the next meeting. He noted that one of the few people in Mobile with an antique auto, Tommy Britt, has had a mild stroke and is not able to handle the requests for weddings. If anyone is interested in doing this or knows someone who would be, there were asked to see Tim after the meeting adjourned. Walt Fuller, 2012 Mother's Day Car Show Chairman reviewed all of the jobs that need to be done for the show. He had several members who volunteered their time as well as helping the show be a success by sponsoring trophies. He will finalize any other openings before the April meeting. The VP, Secretary, Editor, Member-at-Large and Webmaster had no new business.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Betty Wilson prior to the 8:30 adjournment.

Respectfully submitted

Patt Paquet

Local Spring Shows

When?	What?	Where?	More Information?
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.windcreekcasin.com
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 26 th	Oscar Johnson Memorial Library Antique & Classic Show	Silverhill, AL	Frank: 251-945-5506, 215-9630 Mitch: 251-609-3323
June 9 th	Open car show	Kushla-Bethany Batpist Church, 6145 Hwy 45, Eight Mile, AL	lillyhopper03@yahoo.com
June 16 th	32nd Annual Alabama Blueberry Festival Car Show	Downtown Brewton, AL	Glen Freeman: 251-867-4781 Brewton Chamber of Commerce: 251-867-3224
October 7-14	16th Annual Cruisin' the Coast	Biloxi, MS	www.cruisinthe coast.com



Bobby Peterson
924 Butler Dr.
Mobile, AL 36693

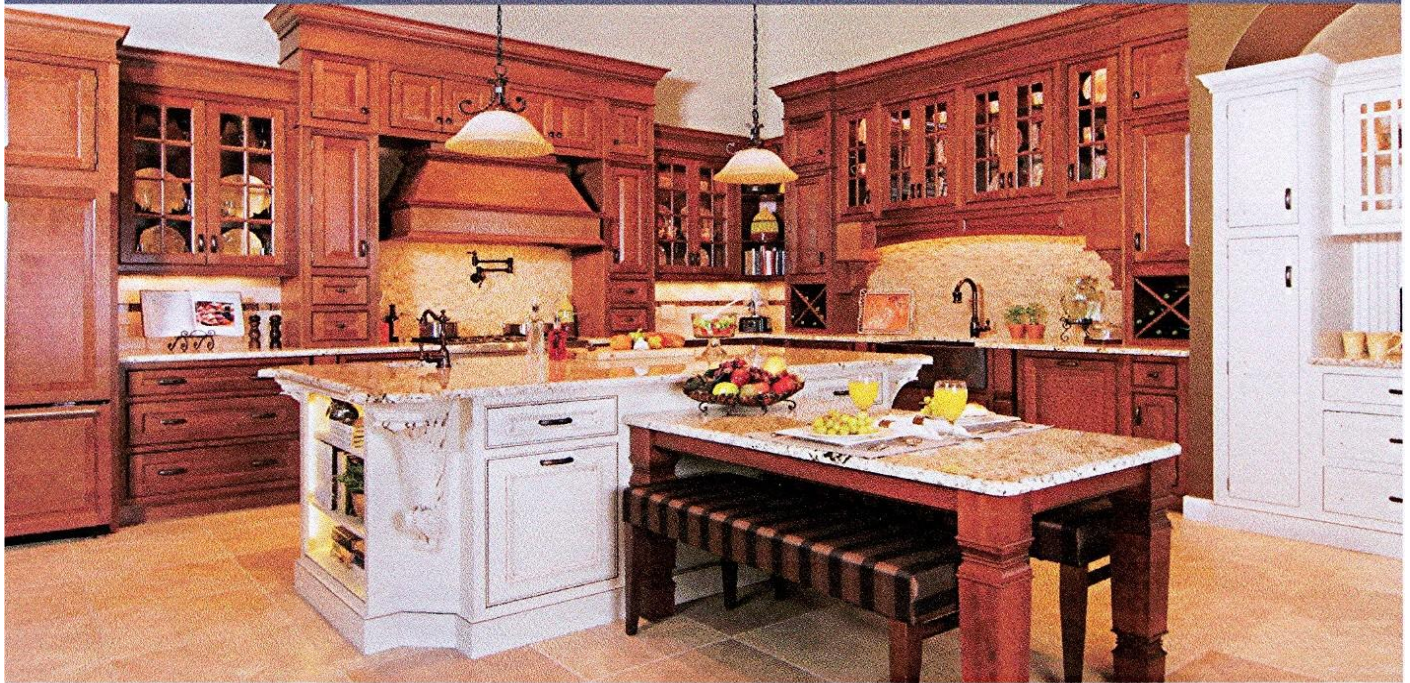
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