



The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 45 No. 5, May 2012

An Interview with Nancy and Herb Thoms Submitted by Paul Dagenais

Okay, first of all, take a look at this marvelous picture. According to the Thoms, it was taken around 1955. Don't they look wonderfully happy? Nancy and Herb are about 17 in this picture and as Nancy disclosed, she is slightly older (months) than Herb. She was very proud of her "cradle robbing" abilities. Herb and Nancy met in the 7th grade. They started dating in their sophomore year of high school, dated for five years and were married at twenty. As Nancy said they truly were "high school sweethearts".



After high school, Herb entered Rutgers University on a football scholarship. He graduated in 1960 with a degree in history. Having completed the ROTC program in college, he enlisted in the Army as a 2nd Lieutenant. Nancy said that by that point they had 1 and ½ children. Nancy described her profession as "domestic goddess". They had two children, a boy and girl. Currently they have three grandsons, two step-grandsons and are about to be great-grandparents.

Herb was in the army for 27 years. He was deployed to Vietnam twice, Thailand and the Philippines. He pointed out that Nancy, not he, travelled more during that time. She travelled to Germany and Korea utilizing "space available" flights. Nancy has visited Austria, Germany and Switzerland with the Sweet Adelines, the women's singing group that she has been active with for over 25 years. The trip to Germany was through the USO.

Herb was posted to Mobile as part of the ROTC program at the University of South Alabama. From 1976 to 1980 he was an Assistant Professor of Military Science. Subsequently he was posted to the Philippines then Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia (Fort Monroe was decommissioned in 2011). Herb retired from the army in 1983 and they moved to Mobile in 1984.

Herb obtained a Master's degree in Educational Media from Springhill College. He initially taught at Bay Minette Middle School. He then taught computers at Corpus Christi School for eight years then instructional media at Springhill College for four years. After teaching computers to teachers in Baldwin County, he retired in 2000. Currently, both Herb and Nancy volunteer at Mobile Infirmary.

With respect to old cars, Herb's first car was a 1949 Mercury coupe (apparently not a memorable car).
(Continued on Page 3)

Message from the DSR President

Are we having fun yet? I want to say yes. Working with a group of people who have a passion for Antique Automobiles is just great. I have worked with a lot of folks in different capacities over the years but none compare to the level of all of you and for this I want to personally thank each one of you. As most of you know it takes special people like you to make events happen in our Car Club. I want to give many THANKS to Tommy & Sheila Miller for their wonderful hospitality & for coordinating our ROAD RALLY in April. They just went all out opening their Home to us for this event. What a time it was for all who participated.

Our 29th ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY CAR SHOW is in the history books now and without your help it would not have been the success it was. The weather was the only thing we had no control over but what a nice day it turned out to be. I thought to myself as I looked out the window Saturday morning "this is going to be a crap shoot" with an 80% chance of precipitation for the day. As we started arriving the clouds broke, the sun showed it's face and as NASA would say, our window of opportunity was here. Of course some people did not make it due to the weather forecast but we still had a great turnout in my opinion. Sometimes when you start thanking individual people for the job they have done you will always leave someone out unintentionally. So with that said I thought everything went off without a hitch, the club house & surrounding grounds looked so nice. Our DJ, Don & his wife were at their best with the music & announcements.

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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An Interview with Nancy and Herb Thoms (continued)

Nancy's first car was a 1946 Mercury coupe that her Dad put "some kind" of engine into so it would run. It was baby blue and referred to as the Blue Bomb. Herb got interested in old cars through his son who has a 1968 Plymouth Fury convertible. One of their grandsons saw an ad for a car in Pass Christian. It did not turn out to be a car Herb was interested in, but while he was there, he spotted his 1968 Cougar and bought it. When he sat in it, he just knew this car was right. Herb is the second owner of the Cougar and he's had it for 11 years.

When I was leaving, Nancy and Herb showed me their picture. I immediately said that I wanted to put it in the article. They agreed and Herb said he also wanted me to tell everyone of his appreciation of his wife who has tolerated him and the 26 moves they have made over the years. It looked to me like some high school sweethearts never change.

Mother's Day Car Show May 12, 2012

The poster features the 'Advance Auto Parts' logo at the top with the slogan 'Keep the wheels turning.' Below this, it reads '29th ANNUAL AACA Deep South Region MOTHER'S DAY CAR SHOW MAY 12, 2012'. The location is 'DSR Clubhouse, 951 Forest Hill Drive, Mobile, AL'. It also states 'Benefitting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation' and 'TROPHIES AWARDED IN 11 CATEGORIES'. The poster is decorated with small images of various classic cars and a bicycle.



**Mother's Day Car Show
May 12, 2012**



Winners of the
Mother's Day Car
Show will be listed in
the June issue of the
Sparkplug.



The First DSR Car Rally, April 22, 20112
Submitted by Paul Dagenais

What. A. Blast! That is how I described the first DSR car rally to a co-worker. The day was absolutely beautiful, the luncheon was delicious, our hosts more than gracious and, thankfully, the Comet decided to mind her p's and q's. Other than a slight braking problem, she ran like a top. Being the driver, I was assisted by not one, but three navigators, Tracy Metclaf and two of our friends, Melissa and Medea. Some were saying that we had an advantage with three navigators. To that I say "au contraire!". Having three navigators is like having three nagging mothers breathing down your neck at the same time!

Sheila and Tommy Miller obviously spent a huge amount of time setting up the course. We all thank them profusely. Sheila reported that 39 daring souls turned up and the rally was a wonderful scavenger hunt; answers to some questions were obvious, others were not (I still don't know where the two damn Volkswagens are!) and others sneaky (fine, a 30 ton weight limit is equal to a 60,000 pound limit, puh-lease!).



Cars were to leave in two minute intervals, departures regulated by Zeno Chaudron, our president. By the time members of our crew cleared the restroom, Zeno was nowhere to be found. The itch must have become too much for him - his magnificent orange Camaro was gone. So we left, following a beautiful silver Porsche Carrera and being followed by a drool-worthy red Chevy Nomad. Our initial action was to pull over and let the Porsche get ahead. In the rear view mirror, I saw the Nomad doing the same.

The course was fairly straight forward until we, somehow, ended up in St. Elmo with four questions unanswered. It is truly amazing how three navigators can growl, laugh and yell conflicting information, all at the same time. At this point, I realized that being the navigator who had to write down answers was not necessarily the best assignment either. I believe that if he could, Tracy would have lined us up like Larry, Moe and Curly and slapped us into next week. I am sure that in the Paquet vehicle, things were much more civil with watch-dog Patt and eagle-eye Lycyle politely indicating to Buddy where and how he might have erred. (upon reflection, Buddy looked exhausted at the end, so, maybe not so much...)

So, at St. Elmo, we had the following vehicles returning towards us: the maroon Buick convertible, the orange Camaro, the amazing '37 Ford and a bright red Corvette. The Nomad had disappeared. As we gathered answers and bailed on the "two foreign vehicles in the field to the left" (have I mentioned them before?), we ended up tailing Bobby Peterson and his lovely navigator Donna in his dark red Covette convertible (with the top up, the cowards). We followed them down Highway 90 until they suddenly scooted off into Jimmy Lowe's parking lot and we left them behind (later Bobby would report that they had missed the Zip code question).

After a short foray into Theodore, we headed up Carol Plantation Blvd and were directed to find red doors in a subdivision I had never known existed (truth be told, we hit several). We quickly came to the conclusion that Tracy needs to have his color vision checked. We had a crabby discussion about the fact that brown and maroon are not red. Red is red.

Regardless, we all survived the rally and, speaking for myself, I'm ready for another! Of course, it doesn't hurt that Tracy, Melissa, Medea and I won. Not that we're gloating, but the gauntlet has been tossed folks!

Check out the Deep South Region Website at:

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

REMINDER!!!!!!!!!!!!

Next DSR Meeting is May 24th at 7:00 p.m.



Way to Go Satusuma!
Submitted by Herb and Nancy Thoms

By all accounts, the Spirit of Satsuma Marching Band's 2nd Annual Car Show at Satsuma High School was a great success. Over 50 car buffs displayed their vehicles and enjoyed the amenities provided by our hosts. There was food, music, many nice door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, and even a dunking booth. (We understand that after the show, the band director was to be the last one dunked.) According to one of the folks involved in running the show, the Port City Corvette Club provided invaluable assistance in helping make it a real success. There were many trophies and plaques awarded. Since there were no entries in one category, they decided to give a trophy to the most unique vehicle there, the "B". If we could charge everyone who tours the B \$1.00, we could pay off the clubhouse roof in no time. We took this opportunity to pass out flyers for our car show.

Some of the vehicles on display.



Nancy the "B" and her trophy.



Deep South Region AACA General Membership Meeting April 26, 2012

President Z. Chaudron called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm with 25 members that included five (5) officers. The invocation was offered by Chaplain K. Crowell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business: The President asked if there was anyone present who still didn't have member name tags and if so, (Brian & Sandy Elliott and Gene & Doris Cox) to see him after the meeting. VP Walt Fuller, who is in charge of Building and Grounds noted that the steps in front of the clubhouse will suffice to make it through this year's car show but he would defer discussing the roof situation until the end of the meeting. Secretary P. Paquet asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting if there were no corrections, deletions or additions. Motion made by H. Thoms, seconded by P. Dagenais and carried. The Treasurer, Editor and Webmaster had no old business. The Member-at-Large and the Activities Chairs were absent. Due to Tim Lawrence's illness and absence, the Present thanked the Millers for hosting DSR's first-ever rally. They received a rousing hand-clapping for their efforts and many hoped they would do it again. The President presented trophies to the first, second and third places winners. They were Paul Dagenais, Tracy Metclaf and their ladies, Tim and Stacy Lawrence and Kevin and Mary Ella Crowell who tied for second and third places. The Car Show Chair Walt Fuller noted the dash plaques are in hand and trophies are to be picked up on May 4, 2012. The grounds will be mowed and cleaned and all will be in place by Friday prior to the Saturday, May 12th show. All workers should be at the clubhouse no later than 7 o'clock on the day of the show.

New Business: The President greeted two guests, Robert White – who completed membership forms on site, and Bill Shultz who also accepted membership forms. He also asked members to recognize Gene and Doris Cox, members of the past few years, who due to circumstances beyond their control, were able to only renew this month. They were welcomed back with a round of applause. He reminded members that there will be a Silent Auction held in conjunction with the car show, proceeds of which will go entirely to DSR and anyone who has not yet brought any items to please do so prior to the car show date so they can be worked into the event.. Building and Grounds Chair, Walt Fuller, noted that work on the AC is still ongoing but will be completed ASAP as inexpensively as can be done. The Secretary and Editor had no new business. Treasurer Bobby Peterson distributed the current Financial Statement for members' review. A motion to accept as presented was made by B. Paquet, seconded by K. Crowell and passed unanimously by the members. Webmaster H. Thoms noted that pictures from the April 22nd Rally were posted on the website and if there were any members whose cars were missing and they wanted them posted, they should contact him ASAP for how to do it. Although the Activities Chairs were absent, there are none pending at this time. The VP had deferred his old business to the end of the meeting in order to discuss the building's roof situation. He has four quotes (he excluded the \$15,000+ metal roof quote) starting at \$6600 for a 25 year/\$7850 30 year shingle from Colson Roofing, \$6975 from Mizzell Roofing, A-1 \$930 for a 30 year shingle and D. Wever for a 25 year at \$5800. There was much discussion which resulted in R. Sloan offered to match any members' contributions totaling up to \$1500 received by the day of the Mother's Day Car Show. With a sincere thank-you to Ross, the President allowed a short time for continued discussion. H. Thoms moved that the Executive Committee take the situation under consideration and report back at the May meeting. This was seconded and passed. With no further business to come before the membership, the 50/50 pot drawing (\$38) was won by Brian Elliott due to the absence of Charlie Lyles and Judy Bobo who seem to be perpetual winners. A motion to adjourn was made by T. Metclaf, seconded by B. Paquet, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Patt Paquet

DSR Executive Committee Meeting Wednesday – May 16 2012

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. with all members in attendance (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Activities Coordinator and Member-at-Large). The purpose of this meeting was for the EC to determine the best solution for the clubhouse's leaky roof. VP Fuller had prepared a package outlining five separate quotes for a new roof. After some discussion, the highest and the lowest bids were discarded leaving the three middle ones to work with. After more discussion and a through reading of the quotes presented, the consensus was that Mizell Roofing offered the best quote for the money. Building and Grounds Chair, a/k/a Vice President Walt Fuller, noted that this company's representative seemed to put more interest into what would best solve the problem without the club going into any kind of debt. A document indicating that Mizell Roofing would receive the contract was signed by all EC members. This took care of the primary reason for this meeting.

Another recent clubhouse dilemma has been a problem with the AC. Fortunately, this has also been resolved with no expense to the club. The cost of repair, which can be described at the May 24th meeting, has been paid for by two private contributors who wish to remain anonymous.

EC members reviewed the recent car show. There were two minor complaints from participants, both of which were resolved on site. There are still some minor income and expense matters to be handled but net income is approximately \$4060.00. This amount has been added to the "roof fund". The "roof fund" was created by club member contributions of \$4200.00. This makes the total available approximately \$8260. The amount is sufficient to cover expenses without additional monies from the general fund. Some ideas were forwarded to make sure there will be sufficient funds for maintenance of the clubhouse during the next few years.

Lastly, the EC members discussed ways to make meetings more enjoyable for members. First, and foremost, was to eliminate extensive discussion of money matters when the May meeting finalizes the immediate problems with the roof. Also it was noted there is a need for more programs at the monthly meetings that are related to our hobby and monthly activities for members to enjoy. The initial flurry of car shows are over leaving more free weekends for DSR to have fun. With this having been said, the Secretary volunteered she and her husband to plan an outing for June which will be announced at the May meeting. Anyone not in attendance will be notified via E-mail.

Being no further business to come before the EC, a motion to adjourn was made and passed at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Patt Paquet, Secretary



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Upcoming Local Car Shows

| When? | What? | Where? | More Information? |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|
| 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 Baptist 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.cruisinthecoast.com |

Classic Car Cruise to Benefit the Wounded Warrior Project

Editor's note: The cruise described below is offered by a for-profit business. DSR has no involvement. The text has been altered for neutrality. This item was included because of possible readership interest and because the company supports the Wounded Warrior Project.

“Last February classic car lovers from all over the country sailed out on the First Annual Classic Car Cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas. The concept of the cruise was to have classic car buffs network with like minded individuals while sailing the Caribbean Sea. Onboard everyone was able to participate in workshops, games, a sock-hop, private cocktail parties, as well as the first ever virtual car show at sea which was sponsored by O'Reilly Auto Parts. Another purpose of this cruise was to raise money for Wounded Warrior Project. Over \$2000.00 was donated this year. There was money donated from every cabin booked and from a silent auction onboard with items that were donated by various vendors.

With the success of the first cruise, preparations are underway for the 2nd Annual Classic Car Cruise. The Royal Caribbean's Jewel of the Seas will sail out of Tampa, FL in 2013. This will be a 5 day sailing to Grand Cayman and Cozumel, February 11-16, 2013. There will be a pre-cruise museum tour of the Tampa Bay Automobile Museum on Sunday, February 10, 2013, as well as a bon voyage party. This cruise will also be a benefit for Wounded Warrior Project. A cruise for 2 for a wounded veteran who has a passion for classic cars will be given away. There will be an essay contest and the winner will be picked based on that essay. www.classiccarrcruise.com”



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