



# The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 45 No. 6, June 2012

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## An Interview with Zeno and Rheba Chaudron

Of course, everyone knows that Zeno Chaudron is our club President and that he and Rheba own a beautiful orange 1969 Camaro. They graciously agreed to this interview despite having been out at a family reunion for the day. Zeno said it was relatively small affair compared to a reunion of Rheba's family. She is one of 15 siblings and their reunions can exceed 150 people.

After roaming around their neighborhood in Tillman's Corner, Zeno flagged us down when we had stopped at this father's house because I recognized Zeno's truck. It turned that out Zeno's son Trey (also a DSR member) was visiting and had borrowed the truck. Zeno, Rheba and Evelyn (Trey's wife) welcomed us into a minor mad house with children bouncing around. The children included Trey and Evelyn's two children. Zheba shoo'd them off so we could talk.



Rheba was born in Butler Alabama and came to Mobile to work at the Vanity Fair factory. She worked there for 21 years until they closed. After Vanity Fair closed, she went back to school and obtained a ophthalmology assistant degree. She's been working at Vision America for 14 years. Rheba worked with Zeno's sister and mother at Vanity Fair. As a result of that friendship, she was maid of honor when Zeno's sister got married. While she had been aware of Zeno, she actually didn't meet him until the wedding. Rheba and Zeno were married in 1975 and Trey was born in 1977.

Zeno's father was in the Air Force and stationed in Limestone Maine when Zeno was born. The family moved to Mobile when Zeno was 17 months. Zeno got his first car, a 1969 Camaro Z28, when he was in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade at Theodore High School. When he graduated in 1972, he began working in automotive shops and started working in Woodrow Nolan's automotive machine shop in 1983. He bought the shop, Auto Fleet Parts & Machine, in 1990.

Zeno has always preferred drag racing. He said that while others, including Rheba, were headed to church on Sunday morning, he was headed out to the track. After Zeno and Rheba got married, Zeno sold his Camaro because he said getting a washer and dryer took priority over racing. He didn't start drag racing again until 1986. When he did, he raced his 1972 orange Nova

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## Message from the DSR President

Greetings to all. As we are getting well into the summer months I hope all of you are doing fine. With schools out & folks vacationing, it becomes a busy time of year. I would like to say the new roof on the club house is very nice & I'd like to thank all who made this possible with their generous donations. Also thanks to Walt Fuller, our VP, for overseeing the job.

I would like to share the British Invasion on June 16th at Auto Fleet Parts & Machine with ya. The South Alabama British Car Club toured our Machine Shop for one of their outings. We had a parking lot full of MG's, a Rolls Royce, even a Triumph Motorcycle. We had a good time with all. There were some very good questions asked about our profession. We also had Pierre Fontana who set up the event for them. Some of you may know Pierre as being one of the first group & President of our Deep South Region Car Club. Just luckily we had a 1973 1275cc MG Midget Engine that we were working on while they were there.

All of you keep a watch on the heat of summer and I'll look forward to seeing you at the Club meeting.

*Zeno*



**REMINDER!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Next DSR Meeting is June 28th at 7:00 p.m.**

## 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 ..... 251-61-4533  
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

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 Zeno and Rheba Chaudron (continued)**

SS. He raced it until 2000 when Trey took over. Zeno said that Rheba has always supported him in racing. She's gone all over with him. While they have primarily raced at the Irvington track, they've raced all over Alabama and parts of Mississippi. They keep the Nova at Zeno's shop on Halls Mill Road. I'm sure he'd proudly show it off if you drop in.

**Paul Dagenais**

### **Dolly Pendergrass**

As most know, Dolly Pendergrass died last week. Dolly and her husband John have been long standing DSR members. We offer our condolences to John and family. Dolly was a delight. To me, Dolly's most outstanding moment occurred when the club brought cars to a summer performance by the Mobile Pops Band at the bandshell in Langan Park. While the rest of us were pulling out tubs of potato salad, buckets of fried chicken, chips, dips and watermelon, Dolly and John arrived in the Packard and Dolly proceeded to place liver paté, brie, blue cheese, water crackers and grapes on their table. We looked like schlubs. All Dolly had to say was "I wish we could have brought some wine." The lady was a class act. We will all miss her.



**Paul Dagenais**

### **Mother's Day Car Show Winners**

#### **CATEGORY 1      PREWAR, 1942 AND EARLIER**

Winner                      Alley Elliot, 1932 Ford  
Runner Up                 Duke Miller, 1929 Ford  
                                    Walt Fuller, 1929 Ford

**CATEGORY 2      POSTWAR, 1946-1959**  
Winner                      Michael Palmer, 1953 Chevrolet

**CATEGORY 3      POSTWAR, 1960-1969**  
Winner                      Sandy Elliot, 1965 Mustang  
Runner Up                 Buster & Carolyn Pierce, 1961 Thunderbird  
                                    John Prince, 1969 Chevelle

**CATEGORY 4      POSTWAR, 1970-PRESENT**  
Winner                      Richard Cashdollar, 1995 Corvette  
Runner UP                 Johnny Holley, 1979 Malibu  
                                    Glenn Isaacs, 1994 Taurus

**CATEGORY 5      STREET RODS AND MODIFIED**  
Winner                      Roger Pugh, 1932 Reo

Runner Up Brian Elliot, 1941 Willys  
Brian Elliot, 1964 Pick up

**CATEGORY 6 MUSCLE CARS, 1960-1984**

Winner Pete Alcocer, 1965 GTO  
Runner Up Pat McCabe, 1967 Chevelle  
Brian Elliot, 1969 Camaro

**CATEGORY 7 SPECIAL PRODUCTION 1985-2012**

Winner Larry Hagamaker, 2008 Mustang  
RUNNER UP Eddie Click, 2007 Dodge  
Rheba Chaudron, 2010 Camaro

**CATEGORY 8 VINTAGE MOTORCYCLES**

Winner Bobby Peterson, 1973 Honda

**CATEGORY 9 TRUCKS**

Winner David Wells, 1955 Ford Pickup  
Runner Up Julian Fowler, 1966 Ford Pickup  
Charles Lyles, 1957 Chevy Pickup

**CATEGORY 10 RAT RODS**

Winner Billy Whidbee, 1923 Ford  
Runner Up Joe Chapman, 1946 Hudson Pickup  
Tom Malahan, 1931 FORD PICKUP

**CATEGORY 11 IMPORTS**

Winner Stacy Lawrence, 1988 Mercedes Benz 560SL  
Runner Up Tom Schmitt, 1973 Volvo  
Betty Wilson, 1984 Mercedes Benz

**BEST OF SHOW**

**PREWAR:** Alley Elliot, 1932 Ford

**POSTWAR:** Pete Alcocer, 1965 GTO

**BEST GM:** Buster Pierce, 1971 Chevy Pickup

**BEST IMPORT:** Stacy Lawrence, 1988 Mercedes Benz

**BEST FORD:** Eddie Anderson, 1965 Mustang

**BEST TRUCK:** Brian Elliot, 1956 Ford

**BEST MOPAR:** Eddie Click, 2007 Dodge

**BEST CORVETTE:** Bob Joyce, 2002

**BEST OF SHOW:** Larry Hagermaker, 2008 Roush Mustang

## Amphicars Would Have Been the Way to Go...

... on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> when nine brave DSR souls ventured out in what was *not* – but seemed to be – a tropical depression to have breakfast together at the Tiny Diny Restaurant. Holding down the table (in a small private dining area) when Buddy and I arrived were Paul Dagenais, 2 Lawrences, Tracy Metclaf, and Robert White.

Unfortunately, his significant other, Deborah Fos, had fallen twice in the past week and was unable to join us. We had no more than sat

down to a cup of hot coffee when 2 Z. Chaudrons found us. After handshakes and hugs all around, our waitress was waiting to take our orders.



It was just the right amount of time between the ordering and the serving of our food for all of us to catch up on what had been going on since the May meeting. It was sad to see Rheba Chaudron with a cast on her right arm – another victim of a fall. The chatter slowed somewhat while we dug into everything from the standard eggs and meat to pancakes and hashbrowns. The food was hot and good with a steady supply of coffee.

Conversation resumed as everyone finished and we spent a good half-hour or more sharing stories and laughter. Although the weather was wet and dreary, we had a great time. Our new member, Robert White, shared information about what he does with International Shipping. You can look forward to hearing him as a speaker at a future meeting.

Over in our neighboring town of Lucedale, MS, there is a breakfast cruise-in on the second Friday of each month at a local Hardee's. Although a Friday wouldn't be feasible for DSR, perhaps a specific Saturday each month might. A definite time could be set and rotate among the good breakfast places we have around Mobile. Think about it and it can be discussed at the June meeting.

### Patt Paquet



L to R: B. Paquet, Stacy & Tim Lawrence with Zeno & Rheba Chaudron at the end of the table



L to R: Paul Dagenais, Tracy Metclaf & Robert White



**Check out the Deep South Region Website at:  
<http://local.aaca.org/deepsouth/>**

### **Saturday Morning Breakfasts**

We enjoyed breakfast at Tiny Diny earlier this month with six other members. We are going to choose a different place for next month and do it again. If anyone has a suggestion please share it with us. Watch your email for more information on this.

We are planning an outing on July 14th down to Bayou La Batre to visit Charlie Lyons restoration shop. We also are planning on having a meal at the Lighthouse Restaurant which is right next door to Charlie's shop. At our next meeting we will need to decide if we want to meet somewhere and drive down together and also decide on the times. We hope everyone will put this on your calendars and make plans to be with us for this fun time.

Also just wanted to let everyone know that we will not be needed for the DYW (Distinguished Young Women) event this year. There were some changes to their budget this year and they have had to change some of the events. Hopefully next year we will be part of the event again. See you at the meeting.

**Tim and Stacy Lawrence**

### **Deep South Region AACA General Membership Meeting - May 24, 2012**

President Chaudron called the meeting of 18 members which included four officers to order at 7:02 pm. He asked Buddy Givens to offer the invocation in the absence of Chaplain Kevin Crowell. The President then led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business: A heartfelt thank you was given to everyone who worked to make the May 12<sup>th</sup> Car Show a success by the President. He had no other old business. VP Fuller was absent attending the wake of a friend. Secretary Patt Paquet asked for a motion to approve the April minutes as published in the May newsletter if there were no corrections, additions or deletions. Motion made by C. Lyles, seconded by T. Metclaf and passed by the membership. Treasurer Peterson was absent. Newsletter Editor Paul Dagenais had no old business. Activities Chair T. Lawrence noted that in the May 16<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting, a short discussion was held relative to asking club members to assist in planning outings in order for the club to have more opportunities to do things together. P. Paquet volunteered for she and Buddy to plan one for June. Since that time, he (Tim) had spoken with a member of the car community who owns a restoration shop in South Mobile County who had offered to have the club visit his place of business in June. The outings will be worked out and members notified of the date, time and place. Member-at-Large Pearce was absent. Webmaster H. Thoms announced the pictures from the recent car show are up on the DSR website.

New Business: The President had no new business. He noted that discussion on the building roof and the 2012 Mother's Day Car Show will be handled at the next meeting when the chairman can be

in attendance. The Secretary asked members if they became aware of any fellow members who were ill or just needed to be remembered with a bit of cheer to call her so she can put a card in the mail to let them know they are remembered. T. Meclaf had distributed the May Financial Report in the absence of the Treasurer. He reviewed it and asked for any questions. Being none, a motion to accept was may by C. Lyles, seconded by P. Dagenais and carried. The Editor and Webmaster had no new business. T. Lawrence, Activities Chair, noted that this is the month when the Distinguished Young Women of America (formerly Junior Misses) are in Mobile. Last year the club was asked at the last minute to provide automobiles to get them to their "Prom". This necessitated having to do a telephone vote followed by formal approval at the next club meeting. In order to eliminate the same situation this year, he asked if the club would like to go ahead and approved the transport, if we are asked, in advance. Motion made by B. Paquet, seconded by R. Sloan and approved.

In view of the small attendance, the 50/50 drawing was replaced by a trivia game with prizes. The first place winners were new members, Robert & Deborah White, with Buddy Givens coming in second. A motion to adjourn came and 7:50 pm by C. Lyles and seconded by P. Dagenais. Motion carried, members adjourned to the kitchen for refreshments.

**Respectfully submitted**  
**Patt Paquet**

#### Condolences

DSR members wish to offer our sincere condolences to member Brian Elliott and his family on the death of his stepfather Mr. Joseph "Randy" Collier. A contribution will be made in Mr. Collier's memory to the American Heart Association, Mobile Unit.



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## Upcoming Local Car Shows

When?	What?	Where?	More Information?
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Benefit for the Child Advocacy Center	UJ Chevrolet, Mobile, AL	Tom Ebel @ 251-379-0211 or www.pasttimecruisers.com.
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Early Bird Auto Show for Anchor Assembly of God	Bayou La Batre, AL	251-660-0791
October 7-14 <sup>th</sup>	16th Annual Cruisin' the Coast	Biloxi, MS	www.cruisinthecoast.com
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	8th Annual Brewton Liions Club Car Show	Brewton, AL	Sam @ 850-937-8894 or Glen @ 251-867-4781

## Cruise Ins

### **First Saturday Night of the Month:**

Krystal Located on Highway 90, beside Skyline Bowling. 5:00 pm until 8:30 pm. 1972 & Older vehicles only. Street Rods \* Classic Cars \* Antiques \* Customs \* Contact JoJo Johnson @ 251-367-6643.

### **First Thursday Night of the Month:**

"Whataburger at Airport & Snow Rd , 50/50 pot , door prizes . this a pre 72 only cruise in! More info call Bubba Blanton 251-610-4032 . truckjunky24@yahoo.com "

### **Second Monday Night of the Month:**

"Beef O'Bradys on the corner of Moffat Road and Schillinger Rd in Mobile. Music, door prizes, Hosted by the Mobile Bay Mustang Club. Information: mobilebaymustangclub.org"

### **Second Saturday night:**

Every Second Saturday of each month starting in March. From 5 pm to 9 pm at Sam's Super Burger, Hwy 90 and Grand Bay Wilmer Rd (Exit 4 off I-10) in Grand Bay, AL. Contact: 251-509-9192 or 251-648-8174. Hosted by Southern Bay Cruisers & Classics

**Third Saturday Night of the Month:** "Eastern Shore Cruisers Monthly Cruise in. March to November. Meet in the Dillard's Parking lot, at the Eastern Shore Centre in Spanish Fort, AL. 6:00pm- 9:00pm. DJ Daddy O turning out the oldies, 50/50 drawing, and the Madisen's Choice Award. Take I-10 to the Spanish Fort/Daphne Exit # 38. Lots of shopping and resturants for all. Info: Fred Minke 251-709-5900 or flminke@bellsouth.net"



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