



The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 45 No. 7, July 2012

An Interview with Walt and Martha Fuller

I met Walt and Martha at their home and was introduced to two of their grandsons who were passing through their living room. As always, the Fullers were amusing and informative, even if it must be said that to get a storyline straight from Walt Fuller would best be done with a blood hound and a staple gun. Thank God for Martha!



Martha was born in Mobile while Walt was born in Greenville, AL. Walt arrived in Mobile at age 15 after a brief pause in Fairhope. They met while attending Vigor High School and started dating at age 16. They married when they were 19. Walt was drafted as a professional baseball player for St. Louis when he finished high school but his mother wouldn't let him go. The situation would not have worked out as he then experienced a sports injury and he was out of contention.

Walt was a registered research analyst for the International Paper Company from 1960 to 1970. He entered the army as an officer in 1970, partly because they allowed him to attend school full time. He obtained a pre-law degree from the University of Athens in Athens, AL. While in the army, he was posted to Germany for two years, did a stint in Vietnam, then seven years in Huntsville. At that point he resigned from the service but remained in the reserves.

The family moved to Lubbock, TX, where Walt worked for Texas Instruments as a semi-conductor logistics manager. They later moved to Dallas where Walt was the market and contract manager for the armament division of Texas Instruments. Walt retired from the reserves and from Texas Instruments in 1992.

When we first started talking, Martha implied that she was a homemaker. Phooeey! She worked for Texas Instruments in Lubbock for five years then for a medical software computer company as a corporate trainer for 22 years. She retired in 2005. After he retired in 1992, Walt became Martha's valet. As her job required a lot of travel, he made travel arrangements, rented car, checked into hotels and carried her luggage – everywhere (as a part of role reversal: "he did for her," so listen up



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Message from the DSR President

As the month of July is winding down our country celebrated it's 236th birthday that we know as Independence Day. This is a holiday known mostly for barbecues, watermelons & fireworks. When you reflect back for what it stands for it opens up several generations of people that stood up for freedom in this country. We are constantly talking about the freedom we all enjoy. However, it did not come without the sacrifice of hard work to make our very lives what our families enjoy today. So stop & remember our ancestors that paved the way down through the years for this great country in which we live.

I would like to thank Charlie & Tammy Lyons for allowing our Car Club to visit their car restoration shop on the 14th of July. If you have never been able to see some of the work it takes to put an old ride back together you really missed something. Thank-you Charlie.

I look forward to seeing you at the next Club meeting. Good Health to all,

Zeno



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

**Next DSR Meeting is July 26th 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 251-610-4533
Activities Tim and Stacy Lawrence
..... 251-401-3019
Member-at-Large Peter Pearce
..... 251-422-7318

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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.

Views expressed in the Sparkplug are not necessarily those of the Region officers, members or AACA. Permission to copy material is hereby granted provided the source is disclosed and credit given to the author. Some material maybe be copyrighted and permission to use is granted to this publication only. Contributions to the Sparkplug are welcome and encouraged. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

An Interview with Walt and Martha Fuller (continued)

Walt has always liked cars. His first car of note was bought in Huntsville. It was a 1963 split window Corvette. He said he eventually sold it in Texas to a man who had too much money. They bought and sold several Corvettes then bought the first Model A in 1992. This is the 1929 red roadster that they still own. Walt gave it to Martha on Valentine's day which is why it is red. It's considered HER car. He then bought the blue four-door touring 1929 Model A (HIS car). Walt has outfitted the blue Model A with all modern conveniences because he wanted both he and Martha to be comfortable while touring. They have completed many tours, often experiencing heat and cold records. A Glidden tour of note was completed in five days in Virginia where they travelled over 2000 miles. The Fullers recently bought a 1931 Model A open cab pickup. They found it in Loxley. It's currently a rust-covered gray. While it runs, you have to sit on a bucket as it has no seat. When finished, it will not be returned to its original green color.

Walt and Martha are extremely involved with the Model A Club. Martha is the current editor of their club newsletter. Walt is a Trustee of the Model A Ford Foundation, Inc. He has been closely involved in the establishment of the Model A museum in Hickory Corner, Michigan. While their building was structurally finished and handed over in September, the official opening of the museum will be May 15, 2013. This museum will be part of the Gilmore Auto Museum which has individual buildings dedicated to different makes of cars.

Submitted by Paul Dagenais

Deep South Region Outings

Breakfast at the Bama Belle

On July 7th, we had about 20 people come for breakfast at the Bama Belle Restaurant. This idea seems to be taking off so we will do it again next month. We'll be posting an email as to the location using the club email account.

Charlie Lyons Restoration Shop

On July 14th club members toured Charlie Lyons' Restoration Shop down to Bayou La Batre followed by a meal at the Lighthouse Restaurant which is right next door. It was a terrible weather day but we had a big group turn out anyway. About 30 people turned out. The shop was very interesting with lots of cars "in Progress". The food at the Lighthouse was delicious!

Submitted by Stacy Lawrence



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



Belle DeSoto, Class of 1956

Belle DeSoto, a green and blue 1956 Fireflite Convertible, recently was escorted to Chattanooga Tennessee for what she refers to as a “beauty pageant.” She had been getting ready for this for a long time and was quite pleased with the outcome. It just seemed appropriate for a few comments for the Sparkplug.

Editor: First of all, congratulations Miss Belle on your recent success in Chattanooga. I understand that you won second place in the 1955 – 1956 Class at the 27th Annual National DeSoto Convention.

Belle: Well thank you. Most gracious of you to have noticed. Yes, I made sure I was shiny and polished with my white walls gleaming. Of course, the rain didn’t help. You know how it goes, you just get your canvas dried off and here comes another gust.

Editor: So, Belle, how come only second place? I understand the admirers were many.

Belle: Indeed they were. I was concerned some might actually drool on my paint! A group of teenage girls came squawking up exclaiming how pretty I was and almost touched my stainless. Fortunately an older and wiser lady intervened. As to the procurer of first place, well, what can one say about a car from a Professional Restoration Shop? We Hobbyist cars may not be able to compete, but we certainly have souls. The black and gold Adventurer who stole my crown had her “work” done in Kansas while her owner lives in south Florida and jetted up for the awards banquet. Besides, black and gold with gold hubcaps can be so tacky.

Editor: Belle, you sound somewhat miffed.

Belle: Not really miffed, but it would seem that there should be two pageants, I mean competitions. One should be strictly for Hobbyists and one for Professionals.

Editor: So what was it like to be judged?

Belle: I was told it would be glorious, but it was actually quite humiliating. Hood up! Trunk up!, it was like being told by a big burly policeman to “assume the position”. Or worse yet, some pervert gawking at your garter belt for heaven’s sake.





Editor: Given your name and frank attitude, can I assume you are from the South?

Belle: Well, truth be known, I'm a Detroit girl. I do have brethren from California. However, my formative years were spent in Oklahoma, especially my enforced retirement in a farmer's field there. But since I had my "work" done, I like to glory in being a Southern Lady. Don't you think my colors reflect the Southern lifestyle?

Editor: Any plans for the future?

Belle: I do have to have a few things left to be tweaked. How do you think Raquel Welsh remains a beauty? And I won't be brow beaten into telling what. It's between me and my boys. I would truly love to get rid of the interloper Comet. Her sad yellow paint is just bringing down the neighborhood and I think we should be a one show-stopper family.

Editor: So, you plan on being a loner?

Belle: I don't think there is anything wrong with that, do you? However, I know my boys, and as people say, there's always a stray cat that wanders into your backyard and takes up residence.



Deep South Region AACA General Membership Meeting June 28, 2012

President Zeno Chaudron called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. The 22 members, including six were officers, established a quorum. Chaplain K. Crowell gave the invocation followed by the members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business:

The President noted members who are/have been ill and those who have had deaths in their families. Three visitors – the Chaudrons two grandchildren and the Crowell's grandson were present along with our speaker for the evening. Mr. Bill Gray and his wife, Cheryl, established a youth ministry through All Generations Missionary Church Planters & Developers to work with children who are considered "at risk" in their communities. He gave an overview of the background and how help had come from unexpected areas. One in particular is DSR member Bobby Peterson who takes the youngsters flying. It was a very informative and interesting presentation and obviously a very worthy project.


Business resumed with the Secretary asking for a motion to approve the May meeting minutes as published in the June Sparkplug. A motion was made, seconded and passed. The Treasurer and Editor had no old business. The Member-at-Large and Webmaster were absent. Car Show Chairman Walt Fuller thanked everyone who had helped to make the May 12th Mother's Day Car Show a success.

New Business:

The President had no new business. VP/Building and Grounds Chair Walt Fuller noted that repair of the steps in front of the clubhouse was postponed until after the May car show. There are some blinds that need to be replaced due to deterioration by heat and sun. Z. Chaudron stated that he and Rheba had talked about repairing the steps and would be glad to see what was needed. Charlie Lyles made a motion to determine what it will cost and report back at the next meeting. This was seconded by Brian Daly and passed. The Secretary and Editor had no new business. Treasurer B. Peterson had handed out copies of the Mother's Day Car Show and June Financial Statements. He asked for a motion for approval if there were no questions. A motion was made, seconded and passed. Activities Coordinator T. Lawrence reviewed the outing planned for July 14th to Charley's Classic Cars restoration shop followed by lunch at the Light House Restaurant. It was agreed to meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Tillman's Corner Lowe's store and go as a group. He also announced that the July Breakfast would be at the Bama Belles Restaurant on Highway 90 on Saturday, July 7th at 8:30 a.m. for anyone wishing to attend. The Member-at-Large and Webmaster were absent. The 50/50 Pot held a total of \$24 and Judy Bobo was the lucky winner who took home \$12.00


There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. Members moved to the kitchen to enjoy refreshments and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted
Patt Paquet



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DSR Executive Committee Meeting – Thursday – June 28, 2012

DSR President Zeno Chaudron called this meeting to attempt to expedite club business and also to hopefully determine more ways to make the meetings more interesting for members. It was called to order at 6:33 pm with six (6) officers in attendance. Some club members arrived early for the regular membership meeting and were in the room. The President, who had stated the purpose of the meeting in his opening remarks, asked each officer in turn for input. VP/Building & Grounds Chair Walt Fuller announced the building's new roof had been completed and paid for. Timberline 30-year shingles were used. At this time member Buddy Paquet stated that although he was not a member of the committee he wished to make note that it was his opinion that the cost had never come before the general membership for a vote. He stated the DSR Bylaws required a vote of the members. Several comments from most of the Executive Committee and Buddy were exchanged on this. It was the majority opinion of the Executive Committee members present that a motion by member Herb Thoms at the April 26th meeting allowed the EC to decide how best to proceed with re-roofing the building and get it done. This discussion was concluded and the EC moved on to other business.

The Secretary reported she had mailed the appropriate cards to those members who have been ill or experienced a death in their family. The Treasurer (B. Peterson), Editor (P. Dagenais) and Activities Co-ordinator (T. Lawrence) had no business to be addressed. Member-at-Large P. Pearce was absent. This completed the meeting which was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Patt Paquet

Upcoming Local Car Shows

When?	What?	Where?	More Information?
July 28 th	Early Bird Auto Show for Anchor Assembly of God	Bayou La Batre, AL	251-660-0791
October 7-14 th	16th Annual Cruisin' the Coast	Biloxi, MS	www.cruisinthe coast.com
October 20 th	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:

"Whatabuger 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 restaurants for all. Info: Fred Minke 251-709-5900 or flminke@bellsouth.net"

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