



# The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 46, No. 11, November, 2013

## Pondering the Comet's Status – Part Two

Greeting. As I discussed in the October issue of the Sparkplug, we are thinking about selling the Comet. We don't have a lot of space and we really should be focusing on the DeSoto which is of ongoing concern. I gave a description of the Comet and found an article on the web entitled "Understanding the Condition Rating System by Tony and Michele Hamer (<http://classiccars.about.com/od/buyingadvise/qt/ratingtip.htm>). They summarize how to rate your classic car. I presented the guide and used it to evaluate the Comet. Price guides use 6 categories to rate the condition of a car along a range they define as "pristine" to "basket case".

To repeat: To appraise your car and determine what category it fits into, there are 20 items you rate. Each one is worth up to 5 points. Thus you can get a score for your car that is out of 100 points (20 items times 5 points). The following is the breakdown of the categories:

- Category 1 would be a 90+ point car
- Category 2 would be a 80-89 point car
- Category 3 would be a 70-79 point car
- Category 4 would be a 60-69 point car
- Category 5 is would be a 40 - 59 point car
- Category 6 is any car under a 40 point car

Here is the breakdown on how to get to 100 points and a score I've given the Comet:

Inspect and Rate the Exterior (20 points)	The Comet's Score
Body	3/5 – needs paint, small dings
Doors	4/5 – good shape
Hood and Trunk	2/5 – hood's okay, dings on trunk
Top	4/5 – good but aging

Inspect and Rate the Paint, Glass and Trim (15 points)	The Comet's Score
Paint	1/5 – poor, needs repainting
Trim	3/5 – its complete, aluminum is tired
Glass	4/5 – there's a chip in the windshield

Inspect and Rate the Interior (20 points)	The Comet's Score
Dashboard and Instrument Panel	3/5 – temp gauge doesn't work, has aftermarket below the dash
Upholstery	5/5 – this is strong point
Floor Coverings	5/5 – carpeting is new
Interior Trim	3/5 – all there, but tired and pitted

Continued on Page 3.

---

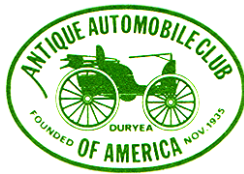
## Message from the DSR President

Greetings Everyone. We were on our way to Philadelphia, MS. on Saturday morning. Old Hwy 19 brings a lot of adventures along the way. Being the passenger you can see everything from a Mule in the field to an old vehicle beside the barn needing plenty of TLC. You see an old car or truck and wonder what their story was. All of them have plenty to tell when you see the rust most of them have. I think it's good to get on a country road and just drive. It's good therapy for the soul and mind to just enjoy the land and of course when you run up on an old vehicle.

We ventured to a store called the Williams Brothers. It reminded me of an old mercantile store of years gone by. You walk up to the front double doors and the first thing you see is bins of pecans and peanuts for sale a long with sugarcane, homemade cane syrup and honey. You could sample the nuts before you made a purchase. Needless to say there were plenty of takers. It's an old building but it was as crowded as some Walmart's I've been in with the butcher shop, grocery and clothing store. I noticed I had a few lookers, me wearing my Crimson Tide hat. I was surrounded by Miss State folks in their colors. "That's all I have to say about that," quoting Forest Gump.

I look forward to seeing you at Patt & Buddy's on Saturday for the club's Thanksgiving Lunch & meeting.

Zeno Chaudron, Pres.



---

## DSR Officers for 2013

President: Zeno Chaudron .....251-423-0946  
Vice President: Foy Bobo .....215-661-6133  
Secretary: Tracy Metclaf .....251-689-2926  
Treasurer: Bobby Peterson.....251-342-8960  
Editor: Paul Dagenais .....251-610-4533  
Activities: Tim and Stacy Lawrence.....  
.....251-401-3019  
Member-at-Large: Charlie Lyles .....  
.....251-973-2078

## Appointees and/or Volunteers

Chaplain: Kevin Crowell..... 251-802-4640  
Historian: Paul Dagenais.....251-610-4533  
Program Chairman: Ernie Rogers .....  
.....251-604-5368  
Refreshments: Pat Paquet.....251-661-4009  
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.

**Pondering the Comet's Status – Part Two (continued)**

<b>Inspect and Rate the Mechanics ((30 points)</b>	<b>The Comet's Score</b>
The Odometers Recorded Mileage	3/5 – 120,000miles (apparently original)
Engine Operation	5/5 – it's been resealed, runs great
Engine Compartment	3/5 – the chrome brake booster looks odd
Breaks and Steering	5/5 – added front disc and power
Transmission	5/5 – totally rebuilt
Undercarriage	5/5 – in excellent shape, no rust

<b>Rating the Authenticity, Special Features and Desirability (15 points)</b>	<b>The Comet's Score</b>
Authenticity	3/5 – added power brakes, discs, alternator, 4 barrel carb
Special Options	5/5 – hey, it's a convertible!
Desirability	3/5 hey, it's not a Mustang (sigh)

<b>Totals:</b>	<b>The Comet's Scores</b>
<b>Exterior (20 points)</b>	15/20
<b>Glass and Trim (15 points)</b>	8/15
<b>Interior (20 points)</b>	16/20
<b>Mechanics ((30 points)</b>	26/30
<b>Authenticity, Special Features and Desirability (15 points)</b>	11/15
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>70/100</b>



Rupert will be depressed if we get rid of it



Others will lament the loss of it's people hauling abilities

SO, the Comet squeaks into a **Category 3**. Strengths are the mechanics and weaknesses are the exterior condition. I actually think this is a fair rating for this car. It's not spectacular, but it's a very dependable driver and people like it at the shows and the parades, mostly because it's a convertible.

---

## Pondering the Comet's Status – Part Two (continued)

From the NADA guides: 1964 Mercury Comet Caliente, 2 door convertible:

	Low	Average	High
Original Base Price	\$2,744	\$6,825 - \$12,800	\$24,700
Options:			
289/271Hp Engine	55%	55%	55%
TOTAL PRICE:	\$2,744	\$10,578- \$19,840	\$38,285

So, if the Comet got a rating of 70/100, and you take the entire range of prices (\$2,744 - \$38,285) and take 70 percent of that rating, you end up with (Ta!Da!): \$ 26,628 – as if.... Using the Mid-range values, 10,578 - \$19840: \$17,061 - Still, as if....

**I'd take the \$17,000 even though I know it is inflated. But of course, a car is really only worth what someone is willing to pay for it (right?).**

**Submitted by Paul Dagenais**

---

### Announcements

**Monogramming:** Lou Lartigue tracked down where to get monogramming of club shirts: Joyce Young, owner of Azalea Monograms & Designs, has moved to 4082 Leroy Stevens Rd, Mobile, AL, 36619. Her number is 661-9361.

---

### Photographs from Sawmill Days in Stockton



By Zeno Chaudron



---

## The Somersby Outing

It was a beautiful Fall afternoon at the Somersby assisted living facility. This time of year there is so much going on we only had three members vehicles accounted for. We did have some extra club support which was great. Ross Sloan, John Pendergrass with Ms. Kay Montgomery, Bob White, Michael Palmer, Rheba & Zeno. We had a great time with all the good people & their families. You know even with just a few cars there we had plenty to talk about with the crowd. Plenty of questions & a lot of comments about our rides & the ones they had way back. It's great to hear some of the stories told surrounding an automobile.



---

**NOTE! NOTE!!! NOTE!!!! NEXT MEETING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**The DSR Thanksgiving Dinner and Monthly meeting is to be held November 23rd at noon at the Paquet residence.** If anyone is interested in going but has not made contact, please call Patt Paquet at 251-661-4009 to make arrangements (something to bring and share, directions, timing, etc)

## THANK YOU

**Herb Thoms Lt. Col. (R) US Army**



US flag displayed by Mobile Fire Department from aerial ladders.

On November 10, 2013 the Mobile Bay Area Community Action Group conducted a Lumineers for Veterans Celebration in McNally Park. The activities began with music provided by the B.



C. Rain Band. The call to order was made by the Master of Ceremonies Col. Nick Matranga (RET) Marine Corps. After the blessing, the colors were presented by the Mobile Police Department Color Guard. This was followed by the Pledge of Alligance and the singing of the National Anthem by the Pride of Mobile Men's Chorus. City Councilman C. J. Small and County



Commissioner Jerry Carl then made short speeches thanking veterans for their service. Additional musical selections were provided by the South Brookley Methodist Church Choir, the Pride of Mobile Men's Chorus, and Jack Lynch on the harmonica.

The lumineers were arranged so that they represented the flag of the United States. The lighting of the lumineers was accompanied by the reading of the names of veterans that had been provided by attendees before and during the activities.



DSR was represented by Walt and Martha Fuller, Ross Sloan and family members, Nancy and I, and Lou Lartigue (who had a part in putting on this activity in addition to all the other things involving veterans he has been doing). As a veteran (and participant) I want to take this opportunity to thank all who made this a wonderful and touching occasion especially Susan Rouillier, Chair Person.



**AACA Deep South Region  
Meeting Minutes  
October 24, 2013**

The October 24, 2013 meeting of The AACA Deep South Region was called to order by President Zeno Chaudron. The invocation was given and the membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve Minutes for the September 21, 2013 meeting as published in the SparkPlug was made by Nancy Thoms and seconded by Walt Fuller.

Plans for the Thanksgiving Dinner to be held at noon on November 23, 2013 were discussed. The Club will provide the entre and members attending will bring side dishes and desserts.

The Financial Report for September was presented by the President in the absence of the Treasurer. A motion was made by Herb Thoms to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Paul Dagenais.

President Chaudron reported that CarQuest has been purchased by Advance Auto and that the likelihood of continued sponsorship for the 2014 Mother's Day Car Show is undetermined at this time.

The Webmaster, Herb Thoms, renewed his request for photos of activities and member's cars for posting on the DSR Website.

Tim Lawrence, Activities co-chair, presented a list of possible activities:

Herb Thomas moved and Walt Fuller seconded the motion that the Club participates in the Dawes Christmas Parade to be held on Saturday, December 4 at 10:00 o'clock.

Following the 50/50 drawing, successful motion to adjourn was made by Herb Thoms and seconded by Paul Dagenais.

**Respectfully Submitted, Tracy Metclaf, Secretary**

**Check out the Deep South Region Website at:**

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



### Cruise-Ins

Time	Location	Address	For More Info Contact
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	What-A-Burger	Airport & Snow Road	Bubba Blanton 251-610-4032
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Edgewater Mall	Hwy 90, Biloxi MS	Jimbo 228-596-0664
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Kenducky Fried Chicken	Tillman's Square, Hwy 90	Jo Jo Johnson 251-367-6643
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	5 Guys	Airport At University	Brenda Drinkard 675-9226
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	5 Guys	University at Airport	Port City Corvette, Mobile Bay Mustang Club
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Sam's Super Burger	Grand Bay	Southern Bay Cruisers 251-442-6877
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Dillard's	Eastern Shore Mall	Eastern Shore Cruisers
3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Steak 'n Shake	Schillinger Road	Donnie Tanner 649-5397
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Mings Café	Highway 43 in Saraland	North Side Cruisers
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Northrop Complex	Pascagoula, MS	Magnolia Classic Cruisers
5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	American Legion Post 1992 3824 Old Spanish Trail	Gautier, MS	Sons of the American Legion
Last Saturday	Sonic - Hwy 59 South	Robertsdale, AL	251-747-2022



**Bobby Peterson**  
924 Butler Dr.  
Mobile, AL 36693

(251) 665-7170 Office  
(251) 665-7172 Fax  
(877) 547-3776 Toll Free  
bpeterson@southernrepro.net








# NEW SHOWROOM NOW OPEN!

Mobile's Premier Kitchen Design & Resource Center



## Discover Remarkable Value in Beautiful Kitchens

**COAST DESIGN**   
**KITCHEN & BATH**

A Division of Mobile Lumber & Millwork

Our Resource Center is available for 24/7 client consultations by our Certified Builder & Remodeler program participants. Contact us to find out how your organization can take advantage of our facility to grow your business!

- √ Locally owned & operated since 1975
- √ Large selection for every style & budget
- √ Huge in-stock inventory ready to ship
- √ 25,000 sq ft cabinet assembly facility
- √ Service in Alabama, Florida & Mississippi
- √ Remodel & New Construction Experts
- √ Professional kitchen & bath designers on staff
- √ On-site consultation, sales & service
- √ Professional installation
- √ Pre-closing punchout services
- √ Model home & rebate programs
- √ Commercial credit & financing available

5253 Highway 90 West • Next to Mobile Lumber • Tillman's Corner  
Phone (251)666-7920 • Fax (251)666-7923