

The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 47, No. 12, December, 2014

Editor's note: As most of you know, we lost Don Dillehay on November 30th. Don was a lifetime member of DSR. The following was printed in the February 2012 issue of the Sparkplug. I really enjoyed being around Don and I'll miss him.

Paul Dagenais

A Conversation with Don Dillehay



About 10 years ago, Don Dillehay and I were greeting people and directing them where to park their cars for that year's Mother's Day Car show. It was sunny and hot. A black Ford convertible, about a 1948, pulled in. It had the top down and was driven by a man accompanied by at least two young attractive women. Neither of us recognized the people or the car. They said they were going to enter the show, entered the grounds briefly, then left. I've never seen the car nor the people again. The reason I mention this is that Don said his brother had had a similar convertible Ford when they were young. He said his brother would roar up the street with one set of girls in the car and come roaring back with a different set. You can ask Don how his brother described the purpose of the convertible. I'll just pass along Don's more recent description that the car had "Pickup

Appeal".

Don was born in Malta, Ohio, and has two brothers and three sisters. He was in the US Air Force from 1948 to 1952, the end of his enlistment being extended due to the Korean conflict. His last deployment was at Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery. From there he ended up on Mobile because of, no surprise, a girl. Over the years he has worked in radio and TV repair, owning his own shop in the mid 1960's.

He worked as an instrument technician for Texas Instruments, Ingalls Shipyard and the DeGussa Chemical plant.

Don married his wife Frances in 1968. They were married for 39 years until her death in 2007. He met his current wife Ruth when she came to his church to play the organ. They were married in 2009. Don has two sons, one step-son and one step-daughter. He also has 13 grandchildren.

Don became interested in cars as a result of a high school automotive repair class. He said he started off working on Ford flathead V-8's. His first car was a 1939 Buick coupe which he bought in 1952. Some of the cars he's owned over the years include a 1951 and a 1952

Continued on Page 3

Message from the DSR President

Season Greetings to all.

We have been enjoying all the Christmas Parades & activities that go a long with them. Meeting new people & chatting with old acquaintances. Just a great time of year and Rheba & I want to express our warmest Christmas and New Year's wishes to you all. This being December we are well into our membership renewal. If you haven't done so please let's help get this behind the Club. If you were at the November meeting we agreed to increase the dues to \$55.00 - \$35.00 goes to the AACA & \$20.00 to our club. Not much of an increase but we thought it would benefit our Club. The Mobile Holiday Parade was canceled. The parade always gave us a \$500 donation for the use of our cars. On the other hand, the Dawes Christmas Parade gave us a \$125 donation for the Club. We want to personally thank Brad Sullivan and the people with the Dawes Connection. Great Parade!

In closing we lost one of our life time members, Mr Don Dillehay. I visited Don a few days before his passing. I caught him at lunch time. We had a very good conversation. He talked about his Ford Truck and everything he had done to it. The Nurse came in the room to remove his dinner tray and he told her not to touch his Buttermilk. We would ask that we remember the Family in our thoughts & Prayers. Don will be missed.

Our next Club meeting will be on January 3, 2015, which is on a Saturday morning. Breakfast will be served at the Club House.

Again all the best to you and yours,
Rheba & Zeno Chaudron.

DSR Officers for 2014

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Treasurer: Bobby Peterson251-342-8960
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Program Chairman: Patt Paquet
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Refreshments: Pat Paquet.....251-661-4009
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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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Don Dillehay (continued from Page 1)

Chevrolet, a 1952 Ford, and his first “real” Ford being a 1956 black and tan Country Squire wagon (a “woodie”).

Don has had two antique cars, his 1929 Ford Model “A” and a 1956 Hudson Hornet. The Hudson was a beautiful tri-tone four-door sedan (pink, charcoal and white) with gold trim.



It had a Packard 352 engine paired with a four-speed automatic transmission. The front seats would fold down completely and you could sleep in it, not that he ever did. Around 2003, Don wrote up an article for the Sparkplug about his 1929 Ford Model “A”.

Grandpa’s Ford, Henry’s Lady

For those who remember the year 1929 or have heard of the Depression, well that is the year my Grandpa bought this Model “A” Ford Town Sedan. Get this, it was sold for \$675.00!

Grandpa lived in a small, sleepy town named Waterford, Ohio, located on the Muskingum River in southeastern Ohio. He bought the Ford at McConnelsville, Ohio, located 20 miles north of Waterford, also located on the Muskingum River.



Memories of Grandpa began when I was about 6 years old. He would visit with us on Sundays, and I can remember how well he kept the old Ford. He would rattle the change in his pocket and would always give each Grandchild (7) a coin.

Later years, when I was 16 or so, I would visit with Grandpa in Waterford, helping him in his Hardware Store. This is about the time he had eye surgery, and guess what? I had to drive the old Ford with his instructions. Later, in the 50’s, my brother Bill bought the Ford from Grandpa, while I was in the Service. In 1977, my brother sold the Ford to me along with a 15-20 year collection of spare parts. Yes, I was very proud to be the owner of Grandpa’s Ford. I had managed to replace the top, re-ring the engine, and replace the clutch disk by the time Hurricane Frederick (1979) came to Mobile. A good friend (Jerry Pullian) allowed me to park the Ford in his brick building during the storm. To sum it up, it is neat having a Family Antique car as old as I am, and when someone say’s “Look at that Antique!”, it goes for the Ford as well as Me!

Submitted by Don Dillehay

Note: Don has sold the Model “A” to DSR club member Bert Sells, keeping this black beauty “in the family”.

Respectfully resubmitted by Paul Dagenais, Editor

DSR Thanksgiving Supper and Club Meeting Minutes
By Patt Paquet

It felt different walking into the clubhouse in the early evening rather than late morning as was the usual and seeing all the orange tablecloths in place, just waiting to have decorations put on along with napkins, eating utensils and condiments. But, times have changed and that's not bad. It was voted at the October meeting to combine the Thanksgiving meal with our regular November meeting but rather than doing it on Saturday, which has been the custom, to hold it on the third Thursday evening. Everything worked out very well. These days our members are busy and having a full Saturday in the middle of November can be a lifesaver.

There was food aplenty, all of which was very tasty. Entrees were chicken and dressing, baked ham and pork tenderloin with curried fruit, the latter of which was prepared by Kay Montgomery not knowing it was going to be the crown for the pork tenderloin and ham. Salads, casseroles, veggies, bread and desserts rounded out the meal. There was enough for those who wished to take home lunch for the next day thus leaving very little to deal with.



Following the meal, the meeting was called to order and business dealt with in short order.

We missed some of our members who had other obligations but taking part were 2 Bobos, 2 Z. Chaudrons, L. Crowdus, 2 Dahlenburgs, B. Daly, 2 Fullers, 2 Grahams, 2 J. Hendersons, S. Henderson, L. Lartigue, 2 Lyles, K. Montgomery, 2 Paquets, J. Pendergrass, 2 Thoms, and R. White.

Prez Chaudron reviewed the outing to Buddy's (Givens) Olde Town that was a big hit with all those who made the trip. Scott Henderson explained daughter Mallory's absence due to her being in San Francisco for an International Mock Law Trials with her school. This is her third event in this class for her to take part in.

Two discussions of importance were held. First a \$5 increase in membership dues (you will find more on this elsewhere in this issue) and second, have a catered breakfast at the clubhouse the first part of January in lieu of a Christmas party. The latter was voted on and passed. HOWEVER, following the meeting, a group of members talked with Walt Fuller who had opened the discussion and prevailed upon him to make some changes. He agreed to go along with their requests of the breakfast being cooked by members at the clubhouse. (Again, there is more on this elsewhere in this issue.)



It was a really nice evening and many, many thanks to the ladies who cleaned everything up afterward – you are a blessing.

**DSR membership dues change
By Patt Paquet**

Discussion at the Nov. 20, 2014 meeting about the amount of club dues was brought up to determine how those present felt about the amount of \$15.00 which is the amount now. Most were of the opinion that it is a low cost compared to other clubs to which they belong, particularly other automobile clubs.

It was the consensus that a \$5.00 increase bringing the annual dues to \$20.00 was not unreasonable and would be of at least some financial assistance to the club.

I was under the impression that the dues amount was set out in our current bylaws, but this was an error on my part. In order to change the amount, I thought would require a bylaws change which meant notifying every member at least seven (7) days prior to the date when a vote on the bylaws change would be made.

This is one time I am glad that I had made a mistake. Reading Article VI – Members Section 3 in the current Roster, I found that it states: “*The amount of dues payable to the Regional Treasurer shall be fixed by vote of the members.*” Therefore, a notice regarding a vote on the proposed change can be sent out at anytime.

A fair number of those attending the Nov. 20th meeting decided to go ahead and pay their 2015 dues and include the anticipated increase of \$5.00. If you’ve not paid yours and wish to do so, you can include the increase or you can wait until the Jan. 3, 2015 New Year’s Breakfast. (More on that elsewhere). As always, you can pay both AACA and DSR in one check payable to DSR and mail it to Bobby Peterson 5800 Innsbruck Drive Mobile AL 36608. He will forward the \$35.00 for AACA for you.

A NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT: The newsletter editor is the one who is charged with putting together the Membership Roster each year. It is due at AACA HQ on March 1 and without your early payment of dues, that just doesn’t happen. PLEASE use the form below to take care of your 2015 payment. There’s no penalty for early payment!!!!!!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____
(You can request any of these numbers not be published if you wish)

AACA#: _____ (Required)

The Dawes Christmas Parade Herb Thoms

The parade was made up of dozens of units from church, private schools scout, commercial, and government organizations as well as the DSR contingent. We estimate that the crowd was at least three times as large as last year, stretching from the start on Dawes;,turning down Cottage Hill, and ending in the Wynn Dixie parking lot. People all along the route. There are more pix on the web page.



Tillman's Corner Parade



More Tillman's Corner Parade



**And the Score is:
1940 Packard: 1
2012 Camry: 0**

Jim Henderson was driving one of his grandsons around in the 1940 Packard limousine when he was rear-ended by a Camry. This took place at Airport and University Blvds. I wanted to take a picture of the Packard before repairs were made but Jim said that despite the estimated cost, to date, of \$9000, you really couldn't see much in the way of damage. Most of the costs have to do with the fact it pretty difficult to find parts for these cars and when you do, they are expensive to buy and expensive to restore. Now the Camry on the other hand was nearly totaled. Jim said there were parts everywhere.

On another note, I found out that when you are told to put a sticker by the release handle for the convertible top of a DeSoto that says "Unzip rear window before lowering top", they are not kidding. Thanks to my 15 year old God son attempting to show off to his girlfriend, I now have to figure out how to get two tears in the vinyl fixed. The tears, while significant, did not show up well in photographs. This is probably a good thing as I won't have any pictures to remind me.

Submitted by Paul Dagenais

Grand Bay Parade

Tracy Metclaf, Paul Dagenais rode with Jim Henderson in the trolley driven by Marc Glenn. Darin & Charlotte Dahlenburg drove one of Jim's cars. As Jim commented, the trolley needs new windows that open up enough to throw throws threw (say that three times...). This was the first night time parade for me. The lights are great, the visibility not so much. We were not sure what the turn out would be like, but the route was jammed and we quickly ran out of the throws because we were to vigorous in throwing the throws through the tiny window openings.

Paul Dagenais




Check out the Deep South Region Website at:

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






Cruise-Ins

Time	Location	Address	For More Info Contact
1 st Saturday	Edgewater Mall	Hwy 90, Biloxi MS	Jimbo 228-596-0664
1 st Saturday	Kentucky Fried Chicken	Tillman's Square, Hwy 90	Jo Jo Johnson 251-367-6643
1 st Saturday	5 Guys	Airport At University	Brenda Drinkard 675-9226
2 nd Saturday	What-A-Burger	Airport & Snow Road	Bubba Blanton 251-610-4032
2 nd Saturday	Sam's Super Burger	Grand Bay	Southern Bay Cruisers 251-442-6877
2 nd Saturday	Dillard's	Eastern Shore Mall	Eastern Shore Cruisers
3 rd Saturday	Steak 'n Shake	Schillinger Road	Donnie Tanner 649-5397
3 rd Thursday	RPG Paint	I-65 Service Rd & Moffat Rd	Mobile Bay Mustang Club
4 th Saturday	Burger King	Highway 43 in Saraland	North Side Cruisers
4 th Saturday	Northrop Complex	Pascagoula, MS	Magnolia Classic Cruisers
4 th Saturday	Hooter's Restaurant	Airport Blvd.	Don Benson 251-680-9533
5 th 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



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