

**Your January 2010 issue of The Sparkplug follows this page
There are 10 pages in the newsletter including this calendar**

2010 Dates to Remember

- Jan. 28** **Monthly meeting in the clubhouse at 7:00 pm.**
- Jan. 30** **Westminster Retirement Center's annual Mardi Gras parade
Participation will be discussed/voted on at January Meeting**
- Feb. 6** **Mobile Chocolate Festival at the Fairgrounds—we're invited to display
Will be discussed/voted on at Jan. 28th meeting.**
- Feb. 11-13** **AACA 74th Annual Meeting - Philadelphia, PA**
- Feb. 16** **Mardi Gras**
- Feb. 20** **Orange Beach (AL) Sports Complex (Canal Road)
car show to benefit children playing in organized sports. More info later)**
- Feb. 25** **February Meeting with Soup & Chili Supper in the clubhouse—meal begins
at 6:00 p.m.—more details at the January 28th meeting.**

If your name is on this list, this is your
last newsletter because of non-payment
of dues.

Bell, Thurmond & Mini
Brown, Fred & Emily
Cox, Bill & Mickey
Cox, Eugene & Doris
Dearman, Gayle
Dillehay, Don
Givens, Buddy & Anne
Henderson, Scott & LouAnn
Jackson, George & Jeante
Jordan, Floyd & Betty
Saad, Alex
Suttle, Bill & Stella
Whiting, Bill & Sydney



The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 44 No. 1 January 2010



DSR's annual Christmas Dinner gets holiday season rolling for members

By Herb Thoms

The clubhouse was aglow with the Christmas spirit as we prepared for our December meal and meeting. Lycyle Crowdus, in her role as Mrs. Claus, and her merry elf, Debbie Bright, did a wonderful job of decorating the tables with the traditional red and green holiday colors thus creating the perfect holiday mood. The scent of fresh pine greenery didn't hurt either.

The food was prepared with care and ready and as soon as those who had driven their cars in the Mobile Holiday Parade were there, it didn't take long for members to start partaking of the excellent bar-b-que pork and beef from Saucy Q's. Potato salad, cole slaw and baked beans accompanied the plates or sandwiches with chips on the side completed the menu. The dessert table was laden with cookies, brownies and cakes. One of the cakes was magnificently decorated as a Christmas tree complete with wrapped gifts. I just had to put in a picture of it since it was so unique.

When the meal had been consumed, it was time to get on with our meeting before members fell into light comas from all the food. President Goren presided and business was taken care of in short order. The remainder of the food was taken to the Mulherin Home with the hopes all of the residents and staff might enjoy a fun Saturday night bar-b-que dinner.

Attending the get-together were **Foy & Judy Bobo** (resplendent in their incredibly authentic roaring 1920s costumes!), **John & Debbie Bright**, **Zeno & Rheba Chaudron**, **Lycyle Crowdus**, **Kevin & Mary Ella Crowell**, **Garrrette & Frieda Dylewski**, **Walt & Martha Fuller**, **Steve, Cathy & Trevor Goren**, **Ed Grimes**, **Charlie & Robbie Lyles** with her mother, **Mrs. Eunice Long**, **Buddy & Patt Paquet**, **John & Dolly Pendergrass**, **Bobby Peterson**, **Bert Sells** with grandson, **Morgan Ikner**, **Ross Sloan** with **Marcie, David & Wesley Gerald**, his daughter, son-in-law and grand-son respectively, **Clyde & Janet Smith** and **Herb and Nancy Thoms**.



Can you believe this really is a cake????!!

There was definitely one downside to the festivities. The Smiths had to return the Henderson vehicles to the car warehouse Clyde and his brother drove in the parade. By the time they got to the clubhouse, everything was over but fortunately, food was in the midst of being packed up and they agreed, after much arm-twisting, to at least put together some "take out" bbq sandwiches. Our apologies to Clyde and Janet for the foul up and promise them we will do better in the future.

As we left, we were all filled with the spirit of the season and looking forward to another great year for DSR.

From the driver's seat



Once again we have moved into a new year. 2009 saw growth for our club, which brought us many new friends who share our passions about the restoration of antique vehicles. This added so much to the club's already outstanding group of members.

As we begin 2010, I feel the club will continue to grow and develop. We can make it a place that all people who share an interest in vintage automobiles can come together and enjoy the hobby that we all have a passion for.

So as we said last year "Let's have a great time in 2009" and I hope we can "Do it all over again in 2010"! Thanks for all your support of the club and me as your president. Let's go out and have fun.

You will receive this newsletter the same weekend as our traditional January outing to David's Catfish Cabin on Hiway 31 just past Spanish Fort. If you take notice of your calendar, you will see that we have several opportunities coming up to put our best selves forward on behalf of the club. The Westminster Retirement Center's annual Mardi Gras Parade will be on Jan. 30th.

Our new Activities Director, Foy Bobo, will have more details on it as well as the Chocolate Festival to be held at the Fairgrounds. Now that is something that everyone should want to attend!

I look forward to see all of you on Jan. 28th for our monthly meeting.

Steve Goren, President



2009 Officers

- President: Steve Goren.....(251)633-8171
- Vice President: Walt Fuller....." 602-1931
- Secretary: Cathy Goren....." 633-8171
- Treasurer: Tracy Metclaf....." 433-0270
- Activities: Foy Bobo " 661-6133
- Editor: Ed McCusker....." 344-1952
- Member-at-Large: Paul Dagenais....." 433-0270

Volunteers/Appointees

- Chaplain: Kevin Crowell....." 660-1888
- Historian: Patt Paquet....." 661-4009
- Webmaster: Herb Thoms....." 654-2933
- Program Chairman: Bert Sells..... " 824-2621
- Telephone Chair: Martha Fuller....." 602-1931
- Refreshment Coordinators: Clyde & Janet Smith
" 473-7834


The *Sparkplug* is non-profit and published for the information of our members and friends. DEEP SOUTH REGION meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the clubhouse located at 951 Forest Hill Drive. 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 Antique a vehicle is not a requirement for membership.*

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**Please share this
newsletter with
a friend.**





Thought for the month: If you can smile
when things go wrong, you must have someone in
mind to blame!



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Mobile Christmas Parade Experience

By Foy & Judy Bobo

On Saturday, December 19th, the DSR of the Antique Automobile Club of America participated in the annual Mobile Christmas Parade. Due to a change in the starting time, we were running about 15 minutes late. Upon arrival in downtown, we were misdirected to the Civic Center Theater parking lot at the rear of the building (the same location for the Veteran's Day Parade line up). Upon the arrival to the parking lot, we made a search for antique cars. Guess what? We were the *only* antique car in the parking lot. After calling our friend Walt Fuller, who was with the group who was on time, for information regarding the location of the antique car line-up, we proceeded to make our way out of the parking lot. Unfortunately, we were unable to maneuver from the back of the theater to the front without re-routing ourselves via Dauphin Island Parkway or Theodore. PANIC TIME!!! We phoned Patt Paquet to update her of our dilemma. She informed us that all Mobile city Council members had cars for the ride and we could fall in with the rest of the group in front of the Civic Center Theater. FINALLY, we were able to find a police officer to assist us. He directed us to fall in line behind the "USS Alabama Battleship" float that was also misdirected and lost. Unfortunately, we were in front of that float, thus requiring me to backup for two block with the "Baby Brother" hitched to the back of the Jag. Have you ever tried to back up a one-half scale four-wheel car that was attached to your regular four-wheel vehicle? The front wheels of the pulled vehicle do not want to cooperate with the two, plus the small vehicle cannot be seen in your mirror. I had to stand up and turn around in the car in order to see the two, while driving through the crowd at a turtle-pace of 1 MPH. Finally, I am in place behind the battleship float and we are ready to go!

Guess what?! Another dilemma!! In order to bypass the bands and crowds, we are instructed to take a short-cut. Cpl. Johnson personally leads us to an adjacent street, while redirecting traffic, moving marching bands and crowds. As we approach the destination, we find the entire street is

blocked with the Shriners' entourage. Cpl. Johnson instructs us to turn around and he will move the bands and crowds in order to place us on the adjacent street at the beginning of the parade. ALAS! Another problem! No place to turn around. Both the battleship and we are required to back up two blocks at a blistering speed of 1 MPH (remember, this street is adjacent to our previous back-up experience). Now, we're back to square one. However, we are now familiar with these two streets and the crowds on the sidewalks. Thanks to the assistance of Officer Johnson, the bands and crowds were moved aside in order that we could be placed in our respective lineup. We arrive at the theater corner ten minutes prior to the start of the parade where we are informed by the Parade Director that we will be place with our antique car group. We owe a debt of gratitude to Cpl. Johnson and the other police officers for their assistance and effort for a successful Christmas Parade.

Lesson learned: *"GET TO THE CHURCH ON TIME"*

Those DSR members who were where they were supposed to be when they were to be there were **Walt Fuller, 2 Paquets, 2 Pendergrass, B. Peterson, and C. Smith and his brother Pete driving two of Jim Henderson's cars,**





A change of editors ...

I guess some of you may know me and probably some do not. My name is Ed McCusker and I have been associated with DSR and AACA off and on for around 12 years. Off and on means that I left for a while then joined up again three or four years ago. I became interested in old cars when I was about 12 years old and a neighbor had the exact same car, which I rode in many times, that I have today

Barbara and I grew up and went to school/college in New York City. We've been in Mobile for 16 years now so I guess it's home. I'll be 72 years old next April 7th and still work eight hours and day, five days a week as an Aircraft Quality Assurance Inspector at Mobile Aerospace Engineering. Barbara retired a year or so back from Providence Hospital.

We have two sons; Gary and his family live in Louisville, KY and Kevin and his family live in Portsmouth, NH. We have one granddaughter and three grandsons. We enjoy camping, fishing and pets but at the moment we have none of the latter. We did have a Golden Retriever/Chow mix that just showed up one day and stayed for 12 years but he died about a year ago.

Someone asked me recently what would be the perfect vacation for an old car enthusiast. As of this time, it would be attending the AACA's 75th Anniversary Celebration in Louisville, KY. As you saw earlier, one of sons lives there, so we are "a go-in".

As most of you are aware, Buddy and Patt have decided to take a well-deserved break after a combined total of 13 years as editors of our club newsletter. When Buddy asked me if I would be available to take over, I said I would try my best in coming up every month with a newsletter.

I have limited computer skills and am going to need help from all of you in order for the club to have a good newsletter. What I am trying to get across is the fact I would appreciate any help. The kind of help I am referring to is stories and articles from you, the members. Do you ever watch the TV show *60 Minutes*? It is all about the telling of stories

by people just like you and me. Everyone has a story; it just has to be told.

Some folks can write very well, some cannot even if their life depended on it. The fact remains that we all have a tale to tell and I'll be more than willing to help in getting yours down on paper if you have a problem doing so. Those of you who can write – start thinking back into the past about all those people, trips and places you went with friends and loved ones.

You will find some changes, which I hope you will like, starting with this issue but some things will remain the same. The President's column and some "Editor Speak" which I've been told is a must.

One change is on this page, the "Vintage Ad of the Month". I thought it would be fun for all the guys to see what we missed by not being around in those early years of automobiles. The other new addition to each issue you will find on Page 7.

Like I said, my computer skills are limited and I am sure this will create problems from time to time. Feel free to point out any mistakes I make but don't forget to send the fix for the mistake.

Contact me at 344-1952 or e-mail me at edmcusker10@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you and getting to know each of you better during the coming year.

Ed

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Mr. & Mrs. Donahue and their "different" Model A Ford

By Ed McCusker

At the time in my life that I was a boy, way back when, a gentleman and his wife lived across the street from my family's home in a small house on one city lot. The garage (basement) was under the front end of the house facing the street. The car in the garage was a Model A two-door coupe with a rumble seat that to my knowledge I never saw in the open position. For that matter, the top over the cab was also never seen in the open position either. The reason for these two things never being open was that they were both sealed shut with a coating of roofing tar. When a spring gave out, they were replaced with 2 x 4 wood blocks. Mr. "D" said the ride was a little rough but it suited them just fine for the distance they traveled each week.

The traveling was done on Sunday mornings to the local church; then to the bakery for Sunday goodies and the newspaper, then back home. The distance for this weekly outing was about one-half mile.

One thing I do remember well was the shine on that car. It was done with a high gloss oil-based house paint brushed on by Mr. D. The couple always went to church about the same time every week and I well remember the struggle Mr. D had getting his car up a steep incline from the garage doors to the street. The pedal was to the metal and everything that four-cylinder had was on display.

Mr. D was a taxicab driver six days a week and lived mostly on his tips. His wife was a homemaker and the only woman I knew at the time who swept the street in front of their home, which at the time my friends and I found a little odd. When I now clean up in the front of my house, I often think of her and go back to clean the street.

Every year I had to sell a book of chances for the grammar school I attended. I would knock on their door to ask if they would buy a chance. They always asked me in; poured a glass of milk and put out some homemade cookies on a plate and talked with me before they bought a chance.

To help pay the bills, they rented out the front of their single story home to a couple who had four

little children while they lived in the back in two small rooms. They had to be frugal because more than once when I was there, they were counting out Mr. D's tips on the kitchen table. Money was tight but I guess lots of people everywhere were in the same boat. They were fine people who didn't have much in the way of material things but were rich in so many other ways.

When I look back, I think the lady of the house was a real good person as was her husband. I'm sure she was proud that they owned their home plus a car to boot.

Mrs. Donahue died first but Mr. D lived there until he passed away. For the life of me, I can not remember what happened to their Model A. My loss.



Additional thank-you

Dear Deep South Region Friends,

I lost Sarah, my friend; my buddy, my soul mate.

Your expressions of sympathy have been a continuing source of comfort to me.

Your generous contribution to St. Mary's Church will be used to provide a lasting memorial to Sarah.

Thank you very, very much.

Since becoming a member of AACA and especially DSR, I have found everyone to be so welcoming, extending a feeling of family.

*Thank you
Bert Sells*

Your role in the future of AACA

By Brenda Shore-Kaiser, Vice President – Membership



This year, 2010, we will celebrate our 75th anniversary. There will be a Special Meet to recognize this event as well as activities and memorabilia to commemorate this phenomenal achievement. Since the beginning in

1935 when 14 gentlemen and one woman met to share the common love of antique cars, we have grown to be an internationally recognized organization with over 60,000 members representing 50 countries. There is nothing that says bigger is better but our grown has been remarkable and would certainly surprise our original founders.

If you could do it all again, would you join AACA? What makes you continue to participate in local and national events? What would it take to share your thoughts with a potential member?

I served as your Vice President of Membership this past year. The position is responsible for facilitating the Membership Roundtables that are held at each National Meet, working with you, the member, to identify ways to increase our membership and coordinate the staffing of the Membership Booths at Hershey. All of this is important and a lot of fun, but it is not my job alone; attracting and retaining members is the responsibility of all of us. There is no one person that can build our membership or, who alone, represents the organization; it takes all of us working together to get ready for the next 75 years of the AACA.

Every time you welcome a person to your local meeting, say hello to someone at a car show or talk about your favorite car, you are representing AACA. Do you realize how important you are to our future? You have direct access to people who might like to join our club. You can let someone know what we do, how much fun belonging to the AACA can be, and how he or she can join. Show someone our extraordinary magazine. Invite a guest to go to a meeting with you and introduce them to your friends.

Remember that the more you know about the club, the better you can be generating enthusiasm and getting new members. Attend our Meets, visit the Library and the Museum (at least online) and participate in one of our tours. Better yet, volunteer to help with some part of the club – local or nationally. Come to a Membership Roundtable or make a suggestion to a Board Member of something we can do differently to improve, or to get new members. I need you, and the future of AACA needs you. Just like our founders when they started the club we also want to believe that the AACA will be around to celebrate its 100th anniversary and more. This isn't just the responsibility of the Vice President of Membership. It is your job too! I hope to see you soon at a Roundtable, a meet, or on a tour in Kentucky later on this year for our Diamond Jubilee! Go get a new member and get ready for the future!

Editor's Note: I read this in the Rummage Box on the AACA website and thought it very appropriate in that our own VP, Walt Fuller, challenged each one of us at the December meeting to bring in at least one new member this year.



Congratulations to Bob and Linda Gechijian on the January 14th arrival of their third grandchild. Elliot Joseph Gechijian weighed in at 7# - 8 oz and stretched out to his full 19 inches. Dad Joey (son) and Mom Katie and baby are doing well out in Keller, Texas.



Our new Editor, having had several months to look over newsletters that DSR receives from other Regions/Chapters asked if I would put together something of particular interest to the women of our group. This will be the first issue with the new addition. Future issues will be more interesting if you ladies will be willing to contribute to “your” page. The first member’s contribution comes from Mary Ella Crowell and is a great recipe that everyone could use from time to time.

Ham & Cheese Rolls

Ham Swiss cheese
2 packages of small rolls

Slice rolls horizontally, layer ham and cheese on bottom half the replace tops.

Mix together:

2 T mustard
2 T sugar
1 T poppyseed
1 T minced onion (the one from the spice section in the grocery store is fine)
1 Stick melted butter or margarine

Spoon mixture over top and place in 325° oven 10-15 minutes until cheese melts.

Just for the ladies...

By Patt Paquet

The Antique Car Wife

The Amiable Wife: One who good naturedly lets her husband use her best bedspread to cover his new project provided he gives up Monday night football for a romantic evening alone with her.

The Bewildered Wife: One whose husband has just returned from Hershey and announces he bought a 1930 Dual Cowl Phaeton

The Cute Wife: One who smiles sweetly and hums as she helps her husband disassemble the parts car that fell apart in the driveway.

The Darn Mean Wife: One who giggles gleefully when in pouring rain her husband is sloshing through mud at a swap meet and she is nice and warm in the motor home or cozy motel room.

The Disappointed Wife: One who wishes for a 2010 Lincoln for her birthday and get a 1910 Ford instead.

The Foolish Wife: One who made her husband give up golf for antique cars so they could spend more time together.

The Deluded Wife: One who thinks antique cars are only for a few weekends in the summer.

The Dishonest Wife: One who makes her husband think she knows what makes the car work.

The Sensitive Wife: One who cries when it rains on her husband’s new convertible top.

The Vain Wife: One who refuses to be seen in hr husband’s unre-stored antique

I have had this in our Newsletter folder for many years but with nothing to indicate where it came from. Many thanks to the author.

A handy hint

A good trick when you go away for a few days is to place a baggie with a few ice cubes in the freezer. If a power failure occurs while you’re gone and the food thaws and refreezes, you’ll know about it when you get home.

Mobile won't let cold weather put the skids on a parade!

By Travis Henderson

This is at least the third year I have helped my grandfather, Jim Henderson, by driving one of his cars in the GMAC Bowl parade. This year was a lot like the others, cold! I guess I wouldn't think so much about the cold weather if we didn't have to be at the parade site two and one-half hours before the parade starts. But this year it was freezing, honestly, and the wind was blowing so that thing they call the "wind chill" must have been way down there.

All of the drivers met at "Pops" car museum at 3:15 on Tuesday afternoon, January 5th to make our way to the Mobile Civic Center parking lot which was the form-up location. You better have had a really big lunch or bring a sandwich because it is usually somewhere around 9:00 p.m. when we get back to the car warehouse. There's nothing to eat and the restrooms are always the farthest thing away from the line-up spot. I know we are really supposed to be having fun with the old cars but sometimes I wonder what the definition of "fun" is. But what the heck, I got to see some really good-looking girls and that's my definition of fun.

One of the wildest things about this parade is the HUGE Greer's motorized shopping cart. I don't know what it's top speed is but it's about 10 feet tall and you can actually ride in the basket part. There were lots of floats, most of which belonged to local Mardi Gras societies. But after all, the city was putting on a Mardi Gras parade for the people from out of town who were here to go to the football game. There were quite a few local high school bands in addition to the ones from Troy and Central Michigan.

The Mobile newspaper said the parade crowd was estimated to be around 40,000 and I think most of them tried to "sardine" themselves in just a few blocks. Good way to stay warm, I guess. All of the cars were carrying VIPS and more "throws" than I think I've ever seen for one parade. But by the end of it, everyone was out.

Of course the two universities that were playing in the game had lots of fans plus families of the players I guess standing along the street, all in the schools colors but I saw a lot of people with some kind of Alabama clothing on; hats, caps, jackets, etc. Also I was kind of surprised to see so many with Saints things on.

It would have been good if someone had thought to bring a camera and take pictures but then again, it was so cold, you really didn't want to take your hands out of your pockets.

Pops had eight vehicles in this year; a 1963 Cadillac, a 1976 Cadillac, the 1957 Chevy, the 1975 Olds, a 1958 Chevy, a 1960 Buick, the 1953 and 1979 Chevy trucks (new to the parade this year) and believe it or not, my grandmother Nancy's 1937 Cadillac. Pops was out of town and didn't get to drive this year but maybe next year.

Dear Deep South Region Friends,

Thank you so much for all of the food you shared with us from your Thanksgiving Dinner. The residents thoroughly enjoyed eating food prepared by someone other than our staff; it was like going out to eat. Not only did the "kids" enjoy themselves but it gave our staff a break.

Sharing the bar-b-que from your Christmas Party was really a treat. We set up a buffet and after the meal, we had a movie night so this was grand treat.

Were it not for the help of families and friends like you, we would not be able to provide as well as we do for our residents. You can be assured your donation was used wisely and carefully to provide for and bring fulfillment to our residents.

We are truly grateful for you generosity.

*Rose Pugh,
Executive Director*

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