

**Your March 2009 issue of The Sparkplug follows this page
There are 12 pages in the newsletter including this calendar**

2009 Dates to Remember

- Mar. 26** Monthly meeting 7:00 p.m. clubhouse
- March 28** Lillian, AL Custom, classic and antique car show. Show held on US 98, 3/4 mile west of Perdido Bay Bridge from 8 am to 4 pm, rain or shine. Top 30 awards + 10 Best of Show awards. Entry fee is \$20 for 1st car and \$15 per additional car by March 14; \$25 and \$20 on day of show. Information: Lillian United Methodist Church 251-952-4335 or Ken at 251-962-4178 or Wade at 850-453-1023.
- April 2-5** AACA Southeaster Spring Meet—Charlotte, NC
- Apr. 4** Mobile Bay Mustang Club's 16th Annual Camellia Classic at Bellingrath Gardens
Gates open at 7:30, Registration from 9:00 til Noon, and Award Presentation starts at 3:30. Registration \$30.00 (day of show) or \$25.00 (mail in), and registration includes garden admission. The first 100 registrants get a dash plaque and a T-Shirt. There will be plenty of food and entertainment. Over 41 car classes!!
Info or to pre-register contact John Kaeser (251)675-7391, or Jim Whelton (251-661-5756
- April 11** Thomasville, AL 19th Annual "Nuthin New" Open Car Show. Walmart parking lot, Highway 43, Thomasville, AL. Registration from 8 am until noon; judging begins at noon. First 100 registered will receive a dash plaque. Registration is \$15 per vehicle. Contacts: Dennis @ 334-636-5663, Mike @ 334-636-5873 and Lewis @ 334-636-9588. Rain or Shine.
- Apr. 18** Mobile - Old South Antique Automobile Club's 43 Annual Show Abba Temple Shrine 7701 Hitt Rd, Mobile. Registration begins at 8:00 am. 100 dash plaques, door prizes, Top 40 awards presented at 3:00 pm. Registration is \$20 for first vehicle and \$10 for each additional until April 11. Day of show: \$25 for first vehicle and \$12 for each additional. Information: 251-443-5184 or 251-605-1635 or email snake@mobis.com.
- April 15-19** AACA Southeastern Divisional Tour (1984 and earlier vehicles)
Birmingham, AL - LET'S SUPPORT OUR SISTER DIXIE REGION!
- May 2** Mobile - Cpl. Chris Mason Memorial Car Show – Baker HS Football Stadium
Fee \$20 Benefits the Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund
- May 4-9** AACA Founder's Tour (1936-1984 vehicles)
Odessa & Midland, TX
- May 9** 26th Annual DSR Mother's Day Car Show partnering with Friends of the Mobile Animal Shelter

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



The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 43 No. 3 March 2009

DSR's annual soup & chili supper

By Nancy Thoms

There we were, standing in line again. But, **OH BOY**, was it the right thing to do! It was our yearly soup and chili night at the DSR clubhouse. The countertops and tables were loaded down with a smorgasbord of soups, chili, salads, bread and rolls plus plenty of desserts. What more could you want on a cold Thursday night in February? There's not much better than good food and good company (No shoving or cutting in line here!).



Janet Smith and Lycyle Crowdus had arrived early to get things set up. As members came bringing their contributions to the potluck supper, it began to look as if were expecting an army. Hence, the



DSR "meal motto", more is better. There were three choices of chili, a vegetable soup, Santa Fe

soup and Herb Thom's famous clam chowder. The recipe was available to those who wanted it.

On hand were **J. Bobo, L. Crowdus, 2 Crowells, D. Dillehay & Ruth Gunter, 2 Dylewskis, 2 Fullers, B. Givens, 2 Gorens, Ed & Eddie Grimes, 2 Jacksons, 2 Lyles, T. Metclaf, 2 Pendergrass, R. Sloan & Dianne Brown, J. Smith, S. Suttle and daughter, Cassie, and 2 Thoms.**

After everyone had their fill enjoying the food, we settled down for our regular monthly meeting. A guest, the pastor of a local community church attended. He was interested in talking with the club about how to put on a car show.

When the meeting was conclude, we pitched in to take care of the clean up. Another fun evening with friends of similar interests.

Congratulations to DSR's Editor and Webmaster

The 2008 AACA National Awards book is closed. Give the newsletter editor, Buddy Paquet, and the club's web site mechanic, Herb Thoms, a big round of applause. With your help, they were selected to receive an Award of Excellence and an Award of Merit respectively. The editor



also received a Master Editor Award.

It takes a lot of time and effort to keep the website current. On occasion, it even takes a tremendous amount of frustration. The newsletter goes out every fourth week. It has be new from start to finish, also requiring much time and effort. **Congrats, guys!**



From the driver's seat

Winter ends and the car shows, cruise-ins and caravans begin. What a great time of year for classic car and truck enthusiasts. It seems every weekend provides an opportunity to take our rides somewhere. This also gives us the chance to make the car lovers community aware of our Mother's Day show.

We handed out over 200 flyers at the Christ United Methodist Church show. We also talked our show up to all who would listen. Many people are interested in participating a show that benefits a good cause. Our affiliation with Friends of the Mobile Animal Shelter (FOMAS) gives us an excellent means to attract these people.

DSR had four members at the CUMC show. Two managed to take home and award for their cars. I challenge all DSR members to become active in the many car events taking place our community. This allows our club to become much more visible and makes other clubs want to support our cause because we are supporting theirs. This is only one of the many ways to help ourselves as an organization while at the same time contributing to our community.

Changing the subject, I am still working on putting together the list of suppliers and vendors, people and generally anything having to do with getting work done on our vintage vehicles. If any members or friends of yours who may know of someone or companies that they would recommend, contact me and give the me with the information and I will add the name(s) to the list.

Steve Goren, President,

Quote of the month

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know why I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.



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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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share this
newsletter with
a friend.**



Antique car ownership is a partnership

Alex Saad and Gayle Dearman, DSR's newest members are not only best friends, they have also been date-mates for the past few years. They are co-owners of a 1947 Chrysler New Yorker.

The old car bug bit Alex in 1970 when he bought a 1961 BelAir. He's since had a '67 Malibu Supersport, a '62 Impala Supersport, a 1937 Ford and a 1954 Mercury. Although he and Gayle are having a blast with the Chrysler, Alex's favorite will always be the BelAir he had. Somewhat because it was his first car – but mostly because when he made a tight turn, the tail pipe separated from the exhaust manifold which made the car sound like it had a great set of glass packs! So of course, he always tried to make his turns real tight. He also liked knowing that, when he made the turn into his neighborhood, his mom could hear the car coming and knew he was almost home.

Gayle has been enthralled with antique cars since she was a little girl tagging along with her daddy to an antique car show. When she saw all that beautiful chrome shining in the sun and those handsome white walls for the first time, she never stopped wanting one.

They were aware of DSR-AACA from having lived in Mobile all their lives. They thought it would be fun to spend time with others who have the same interests.

Alex grew up in Mobile and Gayle in Saraland, AL; both attended local schools and Alabama universities. Gayle is a bookkeeper and says doing it from home makes it better than she could wish for since she has a 15 year old daughter, Emily. Gayle thinks Emily's biggest fear in life is seeing her mom drive through the high school carpool line in the '47 Chrysler! Alex went into semi-retirement last year with the sale of Gordon Oaks Retirement Community where he was administrator for 20 years. He has a daughter who is mom to a beautiful one-year-old – the apple of his eye. His family is rounded out with his son-in-law and a son.

Daphne is home to both Alex and Gayle. He likes to fish and hunt. Fortunately, Gayle enjoys photography so she can record all of his bagged trophies for later proof. Alex is pet-less at the moment but Gayle and Emily have what they consider to be the smartest, most loyal mutt ever. Lucky smiles really big smiles and is well-known in the neighborhood for his toothy grins.

They say it doesn't take much to entertain them. One of their favorite pastimes is simply being outdoors, enjoying nature. A storm rolling in, a sunrise or sunset in Blakeley State Park, or just watching deer in a field at Alex's farm. Bookstores can provide a good laugh as well as a new recipe or two for them to try.

Now, about the car. Alex and Gayle spotted an ad for it in the classifieds and, since they had a little time to kill and were in the area, they decided to go take a look just for the fun of it. They couldn't believe their luck when the owner offered to take them for a ride. They probably weren't out of the driveway before they both decided they had to have the car. They drove it home that day and gave their first "joy ride". They packed it with kids in their surrounding area (it holds a lot of kids!) and took it for a spin around the neighborhood. When they stopped for gas, an elderly man walked over to admire it and with a smile on his face, shared memories of the car. He said his daddy had had one just like it. It was then they realized just how much joy the car would bring other people – not only themselves. That has been the most enjoyable part of driving it. No matter where they go, they meet someone that it brings back wonderful memories for. It's also created some great memories for others as they have whisked away several brides and grooms from their wedding in it.



Alex Saad and J. P. Dearman, Gayle's dad, who completely rewired the car for them

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It was a “By Invitation Only” affair

By John Pendergrass

Please don't let the title mislead you. But the appearance of our DSR and two cars belonging to members of our Deep South Region AACA was by just that. On Thursday, March 5th, our club crossed the road to participate in an evening of cocktails, buffet dinner and a Norman Rockwell art display at the Mobile Museum of Art.

The request came to the club for two old cars, 1930s vintage, to help celebrate the collection of Norman Rockwell paintings now on display at the museum. At least some of us remember the Rockwell covers of the *Saturday Evening Post*.

The museum's curator explained to us that Norman Rockwell had many supporters, one of which was the Upjohn Drug Company who commissioned a number of paintings related to medicine. The collection is now known as the Phizer Exhibit in that Phizer acquired Upjohn a few years ago, hence the name.

The lobby of the Museum was decorated with artifacts of the 1930s as well as many beautiful flowers. We questioned the availability of fresh sunflowers this time of year. None of the flowers were locally grown. Museums use only fresh flowers that have been especially grown and certified to be insect-free. Some insects are fond of paper, paint or other things an artist might use on a project. No one wants to be responsible for bugs damaging art, ergo, only certified flowers.

The DSR cars were given a place of prominence, the middle of the circle drive in front of the building. Walt and Martha Fuller met Dolly and me early, about 5:30 p.m., time enough for some pictures to celebrate the occasion. The photographer positioned the cars with their best sides forward.

The 1937 Pendergrass Packard & the 1929 Fuller Model A Roadster



After the photos were made, we were treated to a very nice cocktail party before enjoying an exceptionally good buffet dinner. It was unfortunate only two cars were



L to R, John & Dolly Pendergrass, Martha & Walt Fuller were requested but we were happy to represent DSR and to have been guests of the Mobile Museum of Art at their thank you to the 2008 Donors to the Museum.



26th Annual Car Show Update

By Scott Henderson

Planning is coming along well. The Friends of the Mobile Animal Shelter (FOMAS) is definitely back on board and looking forward to the event. The show is a major fund raiser for them. Their President, Donna Turner, has asked DSR members be contributors again this year to the silent auction. They are getting the flyer together and will start publicizing soon.

The Car Show Advisory Committee consisting of our President, Steve Goren, Kevin Crowell, Walt Fuller and I met on Feb. 17th to discuss several items brought up at DSR's January meeting. The outcome of our discussion was a decision to add one new category. There will now be seven categories with 10 trophies in each. It was also decided to have a "FOMAS Best of Show" selected by their staff. The idea has been presented to Ms. Turner and it will be on the next Board Meeting agenda.

Progress is being made in getting the myriad of details in place. The major sponsor, Interstate Batteries has not yet given a firm commitment as of this writing but I think we will get most of the 2008 sponsors re-upped for this year. I have had discussions with food vendors and feel this will be finalized by our March 26th meeting.

Please be at the meeting so you can choose what you want to do on the day of the show. There are still lots of openings. I know we can have a successful show with all of us working together. I look forward to seeing you at the monthly meeting.

A man and the pursuit of his automotive dream

By Buddy Paquet

There once was a man who dreamed of owning a very specific vehicle. This was not an ordinary dream but one that was all-consuming. A dream that caused the man much heartache and anguish.

This man was, and may still be, an independent antiquarian bookseller who dealt with “choice” books of local, regional and special interests. He began his trade in Atlanta, Georgia during the early 1970s. He exhibited his wares at community fairs, festivals, book fairs and antique shows. In 1976, he relocated to New Orleans, setting up in the historic French Market. He continued all the while to seek the vehicle of his dreams.

He wasn't happy in the Big Easy and returned to Atlanta to spend several years in retail management and outdoor outfitting before going back to the book business in the mid 1980s. The Atlanta Lakewood Fairgrounds served as a base of business operations and the man began traveling throughout the southeast selling his books and looking for his dream.

A trip to Charleston, SC in 1988 enticed him to relocate once again. He set up shop in the Charleston City Market, becoming a fixture in the historic covered sheds and came to be known as “the bookman of Market Street”. Once each month he loaded up his wares to go to the monthly antique show at the Lakewood Fairgrounds.

During all his years of travel, he had a variety of VW busses, a 1966 Microbus, a 1966 Westphalia, a 1973 Transporter and a 1974 Westphalia served him well. He always kept an eye open for the one vehicle that would satisfy his heart's desire and make his life easier.

Early in the 1990s, the man had an opportunity to visit Herbie Livingston's Antique Auto Museum in Mt. Pleasant, SC. Having been a very successful retailer of fireworks allowed Mr. Livingston to indulge his passion for vintage vehicles and automobilia. His building near Patriot's Point, SC was filled with an eclectic, eccentric collection of vehicles of many types and various eras.

It was during this visit the man espied the vehicle of his dreams sitting amid the collection. It was a 1949 Chevrolet Panel Truck Bookmobile that had been used in library service in North Carolina prior to being acquired

by Mr. Livingston. The man told himself, his family, his friends and anyone else who would listen that if he had the opportunity, he would do everything in his power to own that vehicle. Or one like it.

Being a traveling seller of books, the man knew bookmobiles, in some form, had been around since the latter part of the 1800s. Preceding bookmobiles, the primary library outreach to rural areas were small rotating collections of books called traveling libraries. These usually contained anywhere from 30 to 100 books and were located in a post office, store or even someone's home. A volunteer acted as caretaker of the collections.

The man also knew in the 1920s and 1930s the bookmobile was the only outside contact many farmers had. It was a way for the entire family to learn more about the country they lived in.

Tucked away in the man's memory was the fact that early bookmobiles could be ordered from the manufacturer “as is” or they could be customized to fit the needs of the buyer. He knew the one he had seen would not only fit his needs but would fulfill the dream he had to



Model T Bookmobile

own one.

Soon after the man's visit the Herbie's Antique Auto Museum, Herbie passed away. By the mid 1990s, his widow decided it was time to get rid of the bulk of the estate – land, buildings, vehicles, etc. – at auction. The well-known Kruse Company automobile auction firm was called in, the date set and advertising began throughout the old car communities.

The man discussed the upcoming event with his family. He arranged for one of his brothers, a vintage vehicle fanatic and die cast car replica collector, to bring sufficient certified funds from the family partnership to ensure he could obtain his dream, the bookmobile. For reasons that remain unclear even up until August 2007, the brother did not show up at the auction. This left the man without the certified funds that were to provide a cushion, if necessary, to enable him to bid on the vehicle. The man, being of relatively modest means, had a limited amount of cash in hand which he hoped would be enough to secure the bookmobile at auction. However, he watched in shock as the bidding went just (Cont'd on Page 6)

Bookmobile

past what he had in hand – although within what he had been prepared to bid. In disbelief, he watched as the bookmobile was driven past him, the auctioneer remarking about the buyer taking the vehicle back to his private collection on the Gulf Coast. He was too stunned to even think about attempting to meet with the buyer or obtain information about the winning bidder from the officials with Kruse Auction Company.

At the same time as the auction, the business environment of the Charleston City Market was changing as well as the book business in general. The man decided to pull out and devote his time, energy and resources to the restoration of his home. It was a beach cottage built in 1933 on Folly Island. He did continue selling books privately and by correspondence to old customers. When he had taken the home rehab as far as his means, knowledge and lifestyle would allow, he sold it to a preservation oriented couple with the resources to conclude the restoration and maintain the home.

A few years later, the man experienced a health crisis. During his initial recovery and treatment phase, he took a long hard look at his life to determine what was most important. He kept coming back to books, of course – and the bookmobile that had gotten away in 1995. He decided to return to his “calling” as a bookman and determined to seek out that vehicle. Thus, began a quest to find the elusive 1949 Chevrolet Panel Truck Bookmobile.

He contacted Kruse and other major auction companies, automotive museums, numerous dealers and collectors, visited countless web sites, ran 100s of internet searches, placed ads in automotive magazines and even consulted a “Gypsy Oracle” who told him the vehicle was in Tupelo, MS.

One of the search engines the man used directed him to a forum on the AACA website. There was a picture, posted by West Peterson, the editor of our *Antique Automobile* magazine, of “a bookmobile shown at a 2006 AACA meet in Mobile, AL. It is one of several cars owned by Jim Henderson”.

The man visited the Deep South Region AACA website plus looked at the 2006 Winners List that came with the last issue of the *Antique Automobile*. Using

more internet resources, the man tracked down Jim Aug. 4, 2007 with several \$64,000 questions via e-mail. (1) Was he the buyer of the bookmobile sold at Herbie’s auction in 1995? (2) If so, would he consider now or in the future the sale of the vehicle to the man? (3) If not now, would he let the man know if he ever did decide to sell it?

A second E-mail was sent to Jim’s office the following day to arrange a date and time for the two lovers of the bookmobile to talk. They did, indeed, have a conversation.

On Aug. 13, 2007 he wrote another letter and enclosed an early (1925) edition of a book by Christopher Morely, *Parnassus on Wheels*, originally published in 1917. The man states that in his opinion, it is the



Jim Henderson’s 1949 Chevrolet Bookmobile

literary “Godfather of the Bookmobile”. It deals with the development of the automobile making possible the widespread use of bookmobiles, or traveling libraries to extend the reach of literacy beyond its established urban base to a developing country hungry and

eager for knowledge, information and inspiration.

In the process of tracking down Jim and being exposed to the Antique Automobile Club of America through both the national and our local website, the man joined the AACA. I have chosen to not reveal the man’s identity in order preserve his privacy.

One thing I have not mentioned so far is that the vehicle is original. It has not been restored. The only things that have been done are what can be called “preventative maintenance”. It has received the AACA Historic Preservation of Original Features Award some time back. Perhaps this is one of the reasons it is a much coveted vehicle as you will see.

This man about whom this story is written is not the first who had a burning desire to own this particular bookmobile. The first was DSR’s 1995 president, Frank DeCrease would liked to have finagled it for his wife, Marge. She was one of the first to see it when it arrived in Mobile. It had served three counties in western North Carolina, her home state. She was very excited at seeing it with many of the books still on the shelves from when it was retired from service prior to being bought by Herbie’s Museum. (Concluded on Page 7)

Bookmobile concluded

Next was long-time AACA member and Past President, Ron Barnett who died recently. When he visited DSR a year or so after Jim acquired the vehicle, he did everything short of getting down on bended knee to buy it for his wife, Sally, a registered librarian. When he and Jim ran into each other at the Cleveland, Tennessee meet this past September, the first question he asked Jim was if he still had the bookmobile.

When DSR hosted the Southeastern Winter Meet in 2006, Jim's original car museum was the site of a Friday night fish fry. During the evening I saw AACA's Executive Director, Steve Moskowitz, ease Jim off to the side more than once to engage in what appeared to be intense conversation. Being Meet Chairman, I had too many things on my mind until a week or so after the meet to think about asking Jim what the huddles pertained to. But I did wonder. Later, when Jim told me Steve was interested in getting the vehicle for HQ and the Library & Research Center, I wasn't surprised. Nor was Steve when Jim told him it wasn't for sale. However, Jim said he was told he could leave it to AACA in his will. Knowing Jim, he'll probably outlive all of us, even the AACA.

I found it interesting that Reykjavik, Iceland has a rather up-to-date traveling library. But if you were to go to Venezuela, you would find reading material packed into a large wagon pulled by mules roaming the remote areas. The most fascinating discovery to me was in Kenya where the collection of books is loaded onto several dromedary camels to traverse the country. Just a little something to think about next time you are in need of a conversation starter.

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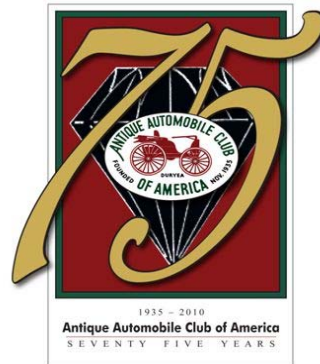
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Laugh a little

You know you are getting old when you think of yourself in the terms of a car; everything either dries up or it leaks.

From the editor...

There is a **HUGE** AACA event that will be taking place in just a little over 15 months from now. It is the Diamond Jubilee for our organization, a milestone to be



proud of. Save the dates of June 30-July 3, 2010 to go to Louisville, KY to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience. There will be the usual National Meet, tours and so much more.

The event is in the very capable hands of the AACA Kyana Region. These folks have so much know-how in putting on something like this. I promise they will

make it something you will never forget.

Closer to home, I am sure that I speak for Herb as well as myself when I say "thank you" to each of you that contributed in some way to the website and newsletter this past year. We are, without doubt, grateful to you and appreciative of your efforts to help us keep both the website and newsletter fresh and interesting. By doing so, you helped us win National Awards this past year. If everyone does something, together we can do it again in 2009.

In keeping with what has just been said, any of you taking part in one of the many shows and cruise-ins that will be on the calendar during the coming months, please remember that Herb and I cannot be at every event that takes place. We would appreciate your sending us your take on it, any other DSR members you saw there and sharing how much fun you had. We both love pictures and if you have a digital camera, you can do one of two things – transfer the pictures to a CD or put them on your computer hard drive and e-mail them to us. Actually, as long as you get them to either of us, we will make sure the other gets a copy. Both of us have computer programs to enhance the pictures so don't agonize about not being a professional photographer. We can usually take care of any problems.

Your help is also needed in another area when you go to these shows and cruise-ins. Our Mother's Day show is just around the corner and the need to get fliers out is crucial. Please contact Scott Henderson, Show Chairman, to get a supply to take with and a few to keep with you as you go about your daily routine. Who knows when you might get to hand one out?

First local show of season put on by Christ United Methodist Church

By Dick Cashdollar

The lucky streak of good weather days continued to hold for the CHMC Car Club again this year, as Saturday, March 7th was a picture-perfect day for an outside event. In spite of substantial competition from other major events being held simultaneously, like the Boat Show and the Chili Cook-Off, a record crowd of about 170 registered vehicles showed up for the first show of the 2009 season.

They just kept coming and coming...I think even the CUMC club was surprised at the largest-ever turnout. KSJ broadcast live from the lot, which helped draw a large crowd of non-participating spectators as well. Both the Mobile County Sheriff's Dept. and the U. S. Coast Guard also added to the event with large displays of law enforcement and military hardware. Also the Mobile Fire Rescue Dept. had their antique fire truck all polished up for the hundreds who enjoyed the show to inspect.

Several major changes were incorporated into the show this year – some good and some not so good. On the good side, the judging categories were much better than for past shows, insuring that participants (mostly) were competing with similar vehicles. There are still problems in the classes of the *true* antiques, and those which have been either converted to hot rods or into “resto-mods”. In my way of thinking – hot rods and resto-mods should be in different classes from authentic, unmodified true antique vehicles. On the not-so-good side, they used the “5 ball” judging system. This uses the show participants as judges. When you register, you draw five numbered balls from a bucket. Each ball contains the letter designation for one category of vehicles (you could not judge your own category). The participant/judge then had to roam the grounds and

vote for their favorite in each of their five classes. When the completed tally sheet was returned to the registration booth, the participant/judge was given the dash plaque for the show. This proved to be a cumbersome process with many not bothering to complete the task. Also – there were some categories listed that ended up with no registered vehicles in them. Judges didn't know this – which resulted in lots of wasted time looking for cars to judge that weren't there. I hope they keep looking for a better system for next year.

DSR did well in the show, earning the \$100 check for the club with the most participants. Both John Pendergrass's Packard and my Model A won second place plaques in different categories.

Judging from the number of fliers being distributed during the show, there will be a number of new car events this spring in addition to the traditional shows. This looks like a busy spring for car events – a happy thought. I just hope all the events are as lucky weather-wise as the CUMC car club show was.



Cashdollar 1928 Model A



Pendergrass 1937 Packard

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Some of us are never too old to look good, even topless

By Tee Bird

Listen up all you sweet young, and maybe not so young, things out there. I want you to know that in this day and age, there is no excuse for not looking good. Botox, collagen, paint, wax, whatever it takes.

My name is Tee (short for "Thunder") Bird. The first name comes from the fact when I entered the world, it was on what is commonly referred to as a "dark and stormy night" in Atlanta, Georgia 52 years ago. Auto building plants run 24/7 you know.

I moved around the country some but a few years ago, I found a place I really like and now call home. It is very cushy and I am extremely well cared for. I had a bit of wear and tear on me when I arrived but my owner soon took care of that. As a matter of fact, I have just been in what you humans would call a total body spa but in old car lingo, it's called a full restoration. Oh, so nice!

A telephone call came around the 10th of this month to see if my owner/DSR member who wishes to remain anonymous, had a car that would fill a request for some pictures. I wasn't quite through with my beauty treatment but close enough that I got the job. Actually, the word "job" is rather a poor choice because what I did was far from work. In my opinion, it was more like having fun because who doesn't love compliments and admiration?

Let me tell you about how I spent St. Patrick's day. My "handler", a cute young fellow whose name is Paul Botta, was entrusted by his employer who is my owner to take us to Dauphin Island where I would be part of what is called in the trade a "photo shoot". We arrived about 10:30 a.m. and he took me off the trailer. I was really glad because sitting behind the dunes in the sun was much warmer than riding along in the wind.

He positioned me where the photographer, Toni Riales, directed him to and soon I was being oohed and aahed over by some really good-looking young female models. They loved my robins-egg blue color and all of my shiny chrome. They didn't see my dark blue contrasting top because I dropped it before they

came on the scene. Soon Toni had "the girls" in place and started taking pictures. All I heard was "click, click, click", so fast it was like a whirring sound. She kept telling the models to look up, look down, move this, move that, smile, pout...all sorts of things to get them to give her the looks she wanted. They did; without any chill bumps showing while clad in teeeny, weeeeny swimsuits and sitting in the cool wind. Hey, this is work, not play, for them.

There was lots of arranging and re-arranging on the part of the models but all I had to do was sit still and continue to look good. I was amazed at how much

energy it takes for something like this. The photog (as I heard her called at one point) started out taking pictures from the top of her SUV in order to get the models and me from a unique angle. Her assistant and Lawren, the young woman who had put in the request for me, helped by holding round, gold and silver metallic disks to reflect sunlight onto the

models to provide light exactly where it was needed. Then came shots from the front and back, the drivers and passenger sides shots. As Toni continued shooting pictures, she needed elevation for some of these and without a ladder, there was a moment of quandary. My quick-thinking handler came to the rescue by putting "tiny Toni" on his shoulders and moving around as she needed. Now is that not the height of being a gentleman? No pun intended, of course.

After about an hour and a half, as things were winding down for my part in this, I overheard Lawren telling a bystander they had started out earlier in the morning on the east end of the Island near the ferry dock. They would now be taking a lunch break and finish up during the afternoon. Toni said they would take in the neighborhood of 600-700 pictures but only about 10-12 would actually be used in the feature.

If you get a copy of the May issue of *Mobile Bay* magazine, you can see me in all my glory. If you look as good at age 52 as I do, hey, go flaunt it!



Me with my trustworthy handler, Paul Botta

Meet Chris Ritter, the new AACA Librarian

Chris comes to AACA from the Wyomissing Public Library, where he was the Director since 2004. With a degree in History from Bloomsburg University and a Master of Library Science (MLS) earned at the University of Pittsburgh, he is well qualified to shepherd our world class AACA Library and Research Center.

He brings a great deal of enthusiasm to the job and is extremely excited to be taking over the reins from retiring librarian Kim (Miller) Gardner. Over the last 29 years Kim has certainly "set the bar high" with her extraordinary commitment, service and contribution to AACA. Chris eagerly accepts the positions' challenge going forward. Kim is very pleased to be leaving her "life's work" in Chris' capable hands and expects the library will continue to flourish under his leadership.



Chris also serves as a board member of the Golden Age Air Museum in Bethel, Pennsylvania where he pilots its authentic, open cockpit, 1929 WACO GXE biplane. Proud owner of a 1946 Cessna 140, his current project entails building a single-seat plane.



So, there's another great reason to drive that beautiful antique vehicle to Hershey... to stop in your National Headquarters and the Library & Research. You can meet Chris and visit with us.

Remember the AACA Library & Research Center during your next (or current) project. We will do everything we can to track down that manual, advertisement, or anything else you need! Read on to see how we can help.

The AACA Library & Research Center receives a broad range of research requests on a daily basis. Some days are spent identifying cars in photographs, or tracking down owner's and service manuals. To highlight the broad range of information requests that we receive, the following two examples are just some of the information that is stored at the library.

A gentleman who is restoring a 1928 Chrysler LeBaron emailed a request for information on Watson Stabilators, specifically cutaway drawings and information on how stabilators work. After examining our online catalog, literature boxes, and accessory folders, we were able to provide just what he needed in the form of brochures, including a cutaway drawing & a description entitled "How Stabilators Work".

Another recent request revolved around a Jumbo auxiliary transmission for a Model T Ford. In this situation the requestor wanted any parts numbers, pictures, diagrams, advertisements, or specifications that we may have. The library was able to produce copies of a parts list, catalogs, and several advertisements.

The Antique Motorcycle Club of America recently delivered its literature to the AACA Library & Research Center. Our Librarians sure have their work cut out!

There is more to the AACA Library and Research Center collection than the listings reflect in our online catalog. In addition to the online catalog material currently listed, there is a vast collection of periodicals, color chips, service manuals, and plenty more that is not cataloged electronically.

We always welcome the opportunity to greet and assist members of our AACA Family!



Deep South Region, AACA General Membership Meeting, February 2009

President Steve Goren called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance after a chili and soup supper. The invocation had been given prior to the meal.

Old Business: President and Vice President had no old business. Secretary Cathy Goren asked for a motion to approve the January minutes as published in the newsletter. A motion by Nancy Thoms, that was second by Herb Thoms was approved by the membership. Treasurer Tracy Metclaf reported we lost several members who had not renewed their dues but also gained some new ones for a net loss of only two so far for the new year. Activity Coordinators had no new business. The Editor and Member-at-Large were absent.

New Business: A report was made on a meeting held by Walt Fuller, Kevin Crowell, Steve Goren and Scott Henderson about the Mother's Day Car Show. Progress is being made, but volunteers are needed, particularly for registering cars. It has been decided that money will go through the Treasurer only. As for ground prep for the show, Walt has contacted the person who cuts the grass on the clubhouse property with regard to doing it just before the show. A food vendor is needed and members were asked to submit names of anyone interested. President Goren is proposing a new category for the show and anyone with questions about it can see him after the meeting. Secretary – no new business. The Treasurer provided the current financial report, a motion was made by John Pendergrass and seconded by Frieda Dylewski to accept, motion approved by the membership. Lycyle Crowds reported for the Activities Coordinators that the Mobile Museum of Art is requesting two cars from the 1930s for a Norman Rockwell exhibit on March 5th. She mad a motion the request be approved as a club function, it was seconded by Ross Sloan and approved. She also brought up a adult "sock hop" for the Beverly Burton Scholarship Trust on May 7th which needs cars from the 1950-60s. Herb Thoms moved to make it an official club function, second by Ross Sloan and motion was approved. Webmaster Herb Thoms encouraged our members to support other shows and cruise-ins. He reminded members that he posts as many flyers about other shows as he can on the DSR website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Cathy Goren, Secretary





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