

Sparkplug

NEWSLETTER OF THE
DEEP SOUTH REGION

A.A.C.A.



Vol. 28 No. 12

EDITOR: Patt Paquet

661-4009

1995 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Frank DeCrease	666-9393
VICE PRESIDENT:	Brenda Reid	666-3761
SECRETARY:	Jane Bruton	666-4150
TREASURER:	Frances Whigham	626-4255
ACTIVITY COORDINATORS:	Melvin & Betty Neese	649-3038
MEMBER AT LARGE	Raymond Cochran	626-5744

DSR Gives Thanks

There was an abundance of food and fellowship at the November 18 outing at the clubhouse when members gathered for our first DSR Thanksgiving meal. **Al and Anna White** coordinated this outing and you got into the spirit from the moment you walked in and found all the tables decorated with fall arrangements.

The 33 members who enjoyed the afternoon were **1 Coker, 1 Collins, 1 (Geneva) Cammon, 2 Coxs, 2 Crowdus, 2 DeCreases, 2 Dillehays, 2 Francis, 1 Hopkins, 1 Howell, 2 Jarvis (plus Ann's sister, Jessie), 2 McCrorys, 1 McDonnell, 2 (Dale) McLaneys, 2 Neeses, 2 Nettles, 2 Paquets, 2 Reids, 1 Sloan, 2 Whites and 2 Youens.**

Obviously all of us were famished and the food was gone in short order. As a matter of fact, a few folks came a little late and had to literally scrape the bottom of the bowls and pans. This is the only time in anyone's memory that there wasn't food left over.

Springdale Mall Christmas Parade

The first Christmas parade of the holiday season was held by Springdale Mall on Nov. 18 and DSR members participating were **1 DeCrease, 2 (Floyd) Jordans, 1 McDonnell, 2 (Dale) McLaneys, 1 Neese, 2 Nettles, 1 Paquet, 1 Reid, 1 White and 1 Youens.** Unfortunately, long-time members, **Lloyd & Lyle Crowdus** were not there but we look forward to having them back next year. Lloyd was instrumental in getting us in this event.

Cold Temps for Christmas Party

It was like stepping into a deep freeze when members headed out for our annual Christmas Party on Dec. 9 at Mobile Greyhound Park but the minute you stepped into the VIP Sports Room you were warmed by holiday atmosphere. The tables were beautifully set and decorations made by members were everywhere.

There were 42 members and 3 guests present for the dinner and installation of the 1996 officers. There were awards presented to the 1995 officers and committee chairmen by Frank DeCrease, the out-going president. After our new president, John Reid, was installed, he presented a plaque to Frank in appreciation of his work over the past year. He also had a check in the amount of \$1,000 representing proceeds from the Hooters car show to be presented to United Cerebral Palsy. Unfortunately, the UCP representative was unable to attend and the presentation will be made at a later date.

Tillman's Corner Christmas Parade

It has been billed as the second largest Christmas parade in the state and the roadways were lined with spectatorson Dec. 2 when **1 DeCrease, 1 Finley, 2 Grimes (Ed & Eddie), 2 Harpers, 1 Henderson, 1 Lyles, 1 McDonnell, 2 McLaneys 2 Nettles 2 Paquets and 1 White** helped the TCACC this year. This year's route was shorter than in the past which was appreciated by the old-car drivers. Sorry to say that the **Crowdus'** were not there.

MINUTES

DEEP SOUTH REGION AACA GENERAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the DSR was held at the Mobile Greyhound Park on December 9, 1995. After dinner was served, the meeting was called to order by Frank DeCrease, president. The invocation was given by Don Dillehay.

*Brenda Reid gave the Angel Tree Report. She was able to purchase bicycles for our angels with the \$150 allotted for the children. The hat was passed and money was collected to more than offset the expenses for the childrens' gifts.

*There were numerous "Thank you/Appreciation" awards handed out to members who worked for the club this past year.

*Frank DeCrease presided over the installation of the officers for 1996. New officers are: John Reid, president; Al White, vice president; Greg McDonnell, secretary; Lucille Nettles, treasurer; Patt Paquet, editor; Jim Martin, member at large; Jerry Finley, car show chair; and Buddy Paquet, activities coordinator.

*After receiving the gavel of office from Frank, John Reid made the presentations for the Hooter's Car Show. Mr. Scott Fisher represented Hooter's and made a presentation of \$2558 to the club. A separate presentation was made of the \$1000 sponsor money from Hooter's to the club.

*John announced that the donation of \$1000 to United Cerebral Palsy would be made. The UCP representative was not able to attend the meeting.

*All other business will be handled at the January meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*John asked that we hold a Chili Cook-Off at the January meeting. Bring your favorite Chili ready to serve and we will vote on the "Best of the Show".

*Buddy Paquet, Activities Coordinator, announced several events coming up the next few months. An evening of Italian Cuisine will start the year off. Watch for more in the Sparkplug.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned and everyone bundled up to go out into the COLD NIGHT!

Respectfully submitted,



DSR Members Scatter Far and Wide to Help With Christmas Parades

Loxley, Alabama held its Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 2., with **Carl Bailey** driving his "new" old car and he also helped out in Robertsdale, Alabama on Dec. 9 with the same vehicle. (Look for more on his other "toy" on another page.)

It was bad news for the Citronelle group who were forced to cancel due to rain on Dec. 9 but when **1 McDonnell, 2 Paquets** and **1 White** left the Power Company in Saraland to go up there, all was well. We were within the Police Jurisdiction before the skies sprung a leak and by the time **2 Neeses** arrived it was a steady drizzle so we all just came home.

Bernie & Geneva Cammon were in the Dec. 9 Saraland, Alabama parade and **Charlie Lyles** took his "T-bucket" along with his "boom box" playing Christmas carols down to Dauphin Island on the same date.

Weather was not a factor for the Irvington folks and **2 DeCreases, 1 Francis, 1 Lyles, 2 (Dale) McLaneys (also Jason & Jacob in the Met), 2 Paquets, 1 White** and **2 Youens** motored along. We were all invited to Sammy & Emma Francis' house afterward for refreshments and a visit. This has become an annual treat by the Francis' and one we always enjoy. Thanks alot, you two!

Just one more "good guy" story...

What do you do when the newsletter has to go out a week early; it has to be copied, folded, stamped and mailed and you are going out of town? To the rescue came "good guy for November" **Melvin Neese**. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the Sparkplug had to be done earlier than usual and we were headed for the national show in Panama City. Melvin took care of everything and all I had to do was put the address labels on! That's a good friend and good club member!

DSR members wish to extend our sincere condolences to **Nancy Henderson** on the death of her father, Mr. Gordon Jordan, Nov. 23 in Augusta, Georgia. The family had requested in lieu of flowers memorials be made to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 402 Aumond Rd., Augusta, GA 30909 in the name of Gordon and Bertie Jordan.

When **Bernie Cammon** read that Cecil and Lucille Nettles had been married 55 years in November he said he didn't think anyone had been married longer than he and **Geneva**. **They will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on Dec. 24.** It is good to see that love prevails and endures.

Looking ahead to 1996...

The **January outing** will be on the 20th and the information for it is on a separate sheet with this newsletter. Please read it carefully and respond.

The **regular monthly meeting will be Jan. 25** at 7:30 PM. An **Executive Board meeting** has been called by DSR President, John Reid for **6:30 PM** so plan accordingly.

If you think you can make good **chili** then the **January meeting** is your time to show off. We will have a taste-test to determine the winner who will receive a trophy commemorating their achievement. Get out your favorite chili recipe and make a crockpot full in order to make sure everyone gets to taste yours and vote. If you have any questions, give me a call (661-4009)

Plans are being made for an "Italian Day" at the clubhouse on a Saturday in **February**. We are looking for someone to make lasagna and spaghetti sauce. Also on the menu will be green salad (bring your own salad dressing) and garlic bread along with soft drinks and maybe a very light dessert. We already have one volunteer for lasagna and another for spaghetti sauce. More discussion on this at the January meeting. So plan to have lunch at the "DSR Bistro" and maybe learn to say "Mama Mia" correctly!

'31 Model A Gets a New Lease on Life

November 18, 1995 a Model A came back to life.

The story began on April 14, 1981 in Bay Minette, Alabama. That is when and where I purchased the Model A. I drove the Model A home to Robertsdale, and my father-in-law drove my 1946 Dodge 1/2 ton pickup with some bumper parts, axle bells, a differential and a few other extra Model A parts.

When I started to disassembling the Model A a few months later I found it to be in worse condition than I had thought when I bought it

I removed, tagged, stored and made notes for months. The front of the right running board had been brazed to the right front fender so it had to be cut off with a burning torch, as many of the bolts had to be cut off also.

Upon removing the body from the frame I learned that that the car had been wrecked. The frame was broken in two places. The left rear back plate and radius rod were from an early 1928 Model A. These was replaced by parts found at a local junk yard.

The engine, which I traced by serial number and found it to be a 1928 engine, was hauled to Birmingham in the '46 Dodge 1/2 ton pickup, to Jim Marlars shop to be overhauled.

The work started with just the frame laying out in the back yard. From there many parts had to be sandblasted, primed and painted.

When it came time for some body work to be done the work process stalled for a while. The fenders were so bad that I was going to put fiberglass fenders on the car. A friend and good bodyman/painter told that he could fix the fenders. A deal was worked out with him, Jerry Henley of Foley, and a trailer full of parts was hauled to his shop from my place; two bodies, fenders, hood, splash apron, doors and many other miscellaneous items. After eighteen months or so of beating, welding, sanding, sandblasting and I don't what all, some primer and paint began to appear.

(Continued in next column)

The running gear was towed to Jerry's shop and some serious assembly began. There a few delays from time to time in order that I might obtain parts etc.

The tentative date to bring the Model A back to Robertsdale finally came and I was very excited. Gas was put in the tank; the oil & radiator were checked, the battery was connected. The big moment was at hand. The spark set, the throttle adjusted, the choke rod pulled out, the starter pushed and **WALAH!!** She fired up. I drove it around the shop a few times and then hit the road.

I have driven the Model A in two Christmas parades in December and have had no problems with overheating or the clutch. I am so happy that the Model A has come back to life.

I drove the '46 Dodge in the Summerdale Christmas parade but I drive the Model A every time I can think of an excuse. The Hot Springs trip made my day but the resurrection of the Model A made my year, 1995.

By Carl Bailey

Buying ?? Selling?? Searching??

For Sale: 1963 Rambler 2-dr HT in good condition and restorable 1966 Rambler SW. Contact Mrs. Martha Brown (334)866-7091

For Sale: 1928 Chevy Roadster, 1929 Model A 2-dr Sedan, 1927 Chrysler 4-dr Sedan. Contact Gus Vergos (334)432-1779

For Sale: 16' open dovetail trailer with hydraulic surge brakes and stoneguard on front. Also 1966 Mustang trunk mat new in box from JJ's Mustang. Contact Buddy Paquet (334)661-4009

For Sale: 1922 Model T 1-ton truck. Contact Larry Nelson (334)344-2395

Members Under Restoration

Many of you know that **LaVerne Hopkins** had surgery on Nov. 27. She went home from the hospital on Dec. 7 only to be re-admitted to Mobile Infirmary on Dec. 13 with complications. She is in Room 2112 but not able to have visitors or telephone calls yet.

Another long-time member, **Elven Few**, is continuing to have a foot problem and is back in a cast again until Jan. 8. He has been plagued with this since September and is ready to have it over and get back in the swing of things again.

Although **Lloyd Crowdus** recovered nicely from his October cataract surgery he has been unable to participate lately due to his legs giving him trouble.

Tech Tips

You just purchased the rolling treasure of your dreams (in you eyes only, your wife thinks otherwise). You have towed it home in one piece and as it sits in the driveway, you realize that you can't see most of it for the dirt, grease, mud, years of accumulation of road tar, etc. A steam cleaner is ideal, but a little dangerous, cumbersome to move or rent plus you need diesel fuel, soap, water, electricity and a big mess will follow.

The other day, for the first time, I used a 3800 PSI pressure washer. AWESOME - nothing can resist the pressure. Even old paint comes off. The chassis shines where old dry grease came off. It does not use a large amount of water and different tips come with it to adapt to different jobs. One important warning however. It reminded me of the first time I fired a BAR standing up--the recoil will spin you around or knock you down unless you are totally ready for it and it can be dangerous for bystanders. Wear eye protection, gloves, a long sleeved shirt and be ready for a shower. But it works! Everything gets spotlessly clean or blown away. A sandblasting attachment will make it eat all the paint (no dust) but let me remind you that when you pull the trigger, it reacts violently.

Pierre Fontana

Early/On-Time Dues Payments

Congratulations to the following members who have sent in their dues. If your name is not on the list (as of 12/20) please help our out-going & in-coming Treasurers by sending it before Dec. 31.

Bailey	Jarvis
Bowden	Jordan, D.R.
Breland	Little
Brisendine	Lowe
Bruton	Lunsford
Burdeshaw	Lyles
Bush	McCrorry
Cammon	McCusker
Carter	McDonnell
Cochran	McLaney, D.
Coker	McLaney, T.
Collins	Martin
Cordell	Moore
Cox	Neese
Crowdus	Nelson
DeCrease	Nettles
Demetropulos	Paquet
Dillehay	Polk
Ebl	Reid
Faust, H.	Rowell
Faust, L.	Sloan
Finley	Vergos
Fontana	Vines
Ford	Vinson
Froehlich	Whigham
Gechijian	White
Grimes	Whiting
Hedberg	Whitworth
Henderson	Wright
Hopkins	Youens
Howell	

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 7:30 PM in the clubhouse at 951 Forest Hill Dr. Membership in the Antique Automobile Club of America is required to be a member of this region. Annual local dues are \$15 and AACA national dues are \$24 single/\$26 joint. Views expressed in the Sparkplug are not necessarily those of the Region officers or AACA.

Congress Poised to Support Vehicle Scrappage with Massive Funding

Auto hobbyists should be keeping a close eye on a bill now in Congress called the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995. As harmless and boring as it may sound, it could prove to be a landmark in determining the future of vehicle scrappage programs in this country.

Otherwise known as Senate Bill S440, it has developed into a significant piece of legislation, dealing with a broad range of such volatile and high-profile issues as the national speed limit, seat belt laws and even the so-called "intelligent" transportation systems. Equally important, but less well publicized, are certain provisions in the bill that could drastically alter the direction of vehicle scrappage or "cash for clunkers" programs--for better or for worse.

It is a good-news-bad-news story for older car enthusiasts. The bad news is that the bill would authorize the use of federal highway funds for programs that are "likely to contribute to the attainment of a national ambient air quality standard". Thus, if the bill becomes law, Congress could conceivably appropriate federal funds to finance state-operated old car crushing schemes.

That probably is not as remote as we might like to believe. The Highway Users Federation, a major supporter of that provision in the bill, is already actively pressing for an appropriation of \$1 billion for that purpose. At \$700 each (the going price for a "clunker" to be crushed for emissions credits), that translates to the destruction of nearly *1.5 million* vintage autos.

The good news--and it is very good news, indeed--is found in another section of the bill. There it would direct the Environmental Protection Agency to report to Congress on the effectiveness of "accelerated vehicle retirement" programs. In other words, the entire concept would come under Congressional scrutiny, and EPA would, for the first time, be forced to publicly justify vehicle scrappage programs as a viable strategy in achieving air quality.

The bill would require EPA to address several specific questions in it's report to Congress, such as the certainty of

(continued in next column)

emissions reductions claimed by these programs, the variations in emission levels of the vehicles purchased to replace those that are retired and the equity impact of these programs on the used car market. Interestingly, all of these are issues that could have been lifted directly from the page of any auto hobbyist literature of the subject over the past few years. That has aroused our curiosity to know just where this section of the bill originated. Have we somewhere, somehow, found a friend in Congress? There is reason to hope.

Of course, none of this is a done deal at this point. S440 passed the Senate of June 22, and was sent to the house for consideration. There it is sure to be referred to committee, most likely the Surface Transportation Subcommittee of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Considering the known opposition among House Republicans to many of the bill's other provisions, the committee is expected to make major changes, if not re-write it altogether.

Whether the scrappage funding and EPA reporting provisions survive this process is anybody's guess. But we still have a chance in influence the outcome--if we act quickly. We should be contacting our senators and representatives right now, telling them we're opposed to the federal funding of state scrappage programs allowed under Section 114 of the bill, and that we fully support the EPA reporting required under Section 155. You can also contact the chairman of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee, Rep. Thomas Petri.

You can reach him at:

Surface Transportation Subcommittee
B-370A, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1305
Phone: (202)225-6715 Fax (202)225-4623

The above article was copied from the December 1995 issue of the *Falcon News*, Editor-Kathy Lerner. The information was provided by: The Council of Vehicle Associations (COVA); 10400 Roberts Road; Palos Hills, IL 60465 Phone (708)598-7070 Fax (708) 598-4888

IMPORTANT DATES

1996

January:

Jan. 20: DSR Outing (See separate memo with newsletter)

Jan. 25: DSR Meeting in Clubhouse 7:30 PM

February:

Feb. ?? DSR Italian Dinner at the "DSR Bistro"-Discussion at January Meeting

Feb. 17: Red Snapper Festival Open Car Show - Roger Falk (334)981-4323

Feb. 20: Mardi Gras

Feb. 22: DSR Meeting in Clubhouse 7:30 PM

March:

Mar. 2 Coastal Classic Car Show-Fort Walton Beach, FL-Days: (904)243-9511

Mar. 23: 34th Annual Old South Antique Auto Club Show-Fort Conde-Mobile, AL

April:

Apr. 13: 3rd Annual Camellia Classic @ Bellingrath Gardens - John Reid (334)3761

Apr. 23: 11th Annual Gold Cup Antique Car Race-Panama City Florida

May:

May 11: 13th Annual Deep South Region Car Show-Clubhouse-Mobile, AL -Jerry Finley
(334)479-1358

A note from Santa...?

"All night long - soot in the chimneys, smelly socks, cross dogs, shot at, mistaken for a stork, driving all night in the snow, darn near got killed by a 747 and Mrs. Claus is mad 'cause I got home late.

And that ain't all...

Donner and Blitzen and Rudolph must have got into some green hay before we left. You should see my suit. The elves won't clean up the sleigh unless I pay them double time.

I'm so sick of cookies and milk I could barf. I wonder if anyone ever thought of a good, hot "Tom and Jerry"?

Spent so much time on that cold seat in the sleigh that my prostate is acting up. But lifting that sack so many times has my hemorrhoids so sore I don't even notice the prostate much.

Went through a shower near the Montana line...hit a cold front just outside K.C. and froze to the stinking seat. Found out I must be allergic to pine needles since I itch all over.

I think next year I'll just hire the Easter Bunny with those long-lasting batteries to take on this job."

(Copied from the Panhandle A's Model A Ford Club (Panama City, FL) newsletter - Editor: Laurel Sand)

A very Merry Christmas and happy and prosperous New Year to everyone from the *Sparkplug* staff.

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