

# Sparkplug

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
DEEP SOUTH REGION

A.A.C.A.



Vol. 28 No. 2

EDITOR: Patt Paquet

661-4009

## 1995 OFFICERS

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

## The Tradition Lives On

**C**atfish and Senior Bowl Saturday...the third Saturday of each January. While some were attending the game other DSR members gathered at the Battleship on January 21 to make our annual trek to **David's Catfish Cabin** in Baldwin County to indulge ourselves in either crispy fried or broiled Continental style catfish. Personally not being a fan of broiled fish, I found the Continental to be exceptionally delicious. It has a topping of Cajun type spices which are not too hot but very tasty and makes you forget that it really is good for you!

Our Activities Coordinators, **Melvin and Betty Neese**, were parking cars of Senior Bowlers for the Lions Club while **Dene and Barbara Breland** were working in the concession stand for Davidson High School and could not be with us.

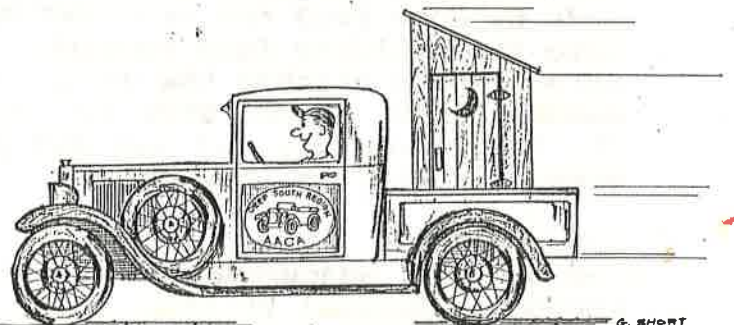
Attending the outing were 2 **Cammons**, 2 **Cochrans**, 2 **Crowduses**, 2 **DeCreases**, 2 **Dillehays**, 1 **Finley** and **Maree Roush**, 1 **Grimes** and **Eddie**, 1 **Hopkins**, 2 (Floyd) **Jordans**, 2 **Lunsfords**, 2 **Nettles** and their guests **Ernest** and **Charlotte Davis**, 2 **Paquets**, 2 **Whighams**, 2 **Whites** and 2 **Youens**. This was a grand total of 27 members and 4 guests!

After lunch some members took a side trip by the **Gallery Antique Mall** to walk off some of the calories and enjoy the displays.

## Construction Starts on Clubhouse

Phase II is becoming a reality for DSR this month with the work beginning on the building itself. The trusses and lumber were delivered on February 9. However, the City of Mobile in its infinite wisdom, could not find the paperwork which had been approved some months ago that would allow the permit to be issued that same day. The department which handles permits was in the process of moving into their new offices and would not be open again until Feb. 13. Unfortunately, we cannot proceed until the left hand figures out what the right hand is doing and we get the permit. **Hopefully** by the time you read this or come to the meeting on February 23, there will be visible signs of progress. There are some of you have wondered just what Phase II is. (The canopy and enclosure is actually "Phase II and a half") Soon you will be able to see it for yourself and it should be completed in time for our annual car show.

The Building Committee has done an outstanding job with this project.



**THE DSR MOVES A-HEAD!**

## MINUTES

### DEEP SOUTH REGION AACA GENERAL MEETING

The January 26, 1995, meeting of the DSR was called to order by Frank DeCrease, president, at 7:30. The invocation was given by Don Dillehay. There were 43 members present and two guests.

#### OLD BUSINESS

New members unanimously voted into the club were Artic and Anita Gibson.

The Building committee report was given by Robert Moore, chairman. The committee has accepted a bid for the completion of the canopy and enclosure for \$8950.

The November and December minutes were accepted as written in the newsletter on a motion from John Reid and second by Al White.

Francis Whigham, treasurer, asked that anyone who still owes dues for this year please pay them soon.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Frank DeCrease read a letter from Lambert Mims thanking members for their support. Frank announced that the calling committee will be chaired by Joan Lunsford. The refreshment committee will be chaired by Anna White and Geneva Cammon.

Brenda Reid announced that two wreaths on display were donated to be included in the 50/50 pot drawing. One will be given away at this meeting and one at the February meeting.

The treasurer's report was presented by Francis Whigham. The report was accepted on a motion from Buddy Paquet with a second from John Reid. Francis reported 71 paid members (41 families).

Patt Paquet reported that ads are being sold for the newsletter to offset printing costs. Interested persons should contact Patt.

Activities Coordinator, Melvin Neese, reported on many upcoming activities. The specific dates will appear on the calendar in the newsletter. A Car Judging Seminar will be the March activity for the club on a motion from John Reid with a second from Tom Brown. Approval was unanimous. The seminar will be held at the clubhouse on March 5, 1995.

Jerry Finley, chairman, gave a brief report on the DSR Car Show to be held on May 13, 1995. Patt Paquet discussed the importance of selling ads for the program.

The Hooter's Car Show profits amounted to \$2152.97. A motion was made by John Reid and seconded by Melvin Neese to move that money into the building fund account. The motion carried.

Robert Moore thanked the group for participating in the Christmas Weddings that earned \$400 for the club.

The 50/50 pot (\$22.50) was won by Frank DeCrease and the holiday wreath was won by Anna White.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 on a motion by Buddy Paquet and second by Hershel Whigham.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jane Butler*

*For Women Only:  
A Warm Welcome  
to the Hobby*

by Stephanie Ragan

*Clutch Chatter, Tri County Region*

Editor's Disclaimer: (Provided by the author) The views expressed in this article are the writer's own and not necessarily those of the management of this newsletter.

As a relative newcomer myself, I have some observations and words of advice I would like to share with you wives who are new to the hobby of collecting antique and/or classic cars. To those of you who say, "Oh, we're not actually collecting-we're just going to have this one car," I respond with those perceptive words of the younger generation, "Yeah, right." That's what I thought, too. But there's this little word that's going to change all that: PARTS. There are parts that your car needs, and parts that it might need some day. There are parts that it doesn't need, but would be good for trading for parts that it might need. There are parts that it already has, but it needs better looking ones. At this point you might say, "We're not going to show this car. We just want to drive it." But I have found that to a man, every car is a 'show' car. You probably don't really care if the left rear ashtray is missing. How often are you likely a

to have a left rear passenger who smokes? But he cares. And he cares if all the hub-caps don't match, or the radio doesn't work, or the rearview mirror is incorrect (another word you're going to hear a lot). "I know it's got a perfectly good one-but it's incorrect for a '48." After all, even if your new pride and joy is not going into competition, his car buddies are going to be looking it over. So it is, in fact, going to be 'shown' and it's got to at least be respectable. Imagine his embarrassment if some total stranger at a car meet, glancing casually under the hood were to remark to him, "Hey guy, you know you got the wrong dipstick for that year?" Well, there is a never ending need (lust?) for parts, and they are frequently expensive and often hard to come by, as you will find out, the first time you are sent out into a mile-long flea market to turn up a **what's it** exactly like the one weighing twelve pounds and covered with grunge which you have been given to carry around in your purse for easy reference.

So if it hasn't already materialized, I would suggest that you prepare yourself for the imminent arrival of- The Parts Car. It is, of course, the only practical way to go. All the parts your car will ever need, packaged in a rusty heap that has been 'rescued' from a field where it has sat, axle deep in cow manure, for the last twenty years. Maybe, for some folks, it ends there, just like he promises. For us it

didn't work out that way. Three or four days after the parts car took its place (my place) in the garage, it started-the rubbing of the chin, the shaking of the head as he prowled around the soon-to-be-dismembered vehicle. "You know, Honey, I hate to say it, (not as much as I hate to hear it) but this darn car is just too good to part out. In some ways, it's better than our other one!" (Oh-----.) Yes, on the grounds that it would be a criminal act equal to the slaughter of the innocents, the plans for the removal of parts was abandoned and we ended up, in due time (about 48 hours) with another parts car-for our parts car. This was the one that was only going to be around for a couple of weeks 'til he could get all the stuff he needed off of it, and then it was definitely going to be hauled away.

Do you have any idea how much of a parts car is going to be salvaged? I didn't. The doors came off, the hood -"It's better than either of the others!" The back seat (for the springs), the rotten piece of smelly carpet in the trunk - (for the pattern)- anything that can be sold or traded or leaned against a tree. There was so much of that car sitting around after it was hauled away sixteen months later that I didn't even know it was gone. Our thoughtful neighbor lady actually came over one day to inquire if we knew that heavy metal trash pickup day was coming up. My husband was highly insulted.

By the way, you don't really want to know what lives in parts cars, especially in the depths of the scruffy seats. I will just mention that my husband once tried to convince me that the reason the entire floor of a certain car was rusted away was because of mouse urine. Yeah, right. He thinks I'll believe anything. We did find enough tiny skeletons to construct a family tree going back countless generations, and in one of our parts cars we even found a large family alive and thriving, with new babies and a well-stocked larder of nuts and seeds. Also a very long shedded snake skin, which is why I'm not going to sit in that car no matter what he does to it. The back seat containing the rodent home place was taken outside and left near the woodpile to encourage relocation.

Now there's something else you should know about parts. As a species, they may start in the garage but they don't stay there, or even in the basement if you happen to have one. Some of them are too valuable. You never know when someone might break into your basement and steal that set of new old stock head gaskets or the really cherry tail-light assembly, and besides he just plain likes to look at them during commercials. That's why the rebuilt water pump is on the coffee table and the crankshaft is resting across the arms of the newly upholstered reading chair. There has been an item sitting on the side of the sink in our powder room for the last six

months. A recent inquiry brought the following information. It's a '41 Cadillac slyfon, and that is not a typing error. Just before Easter, I finally came to terms with it. I found an artificial zinnia of a coppery color that just matched, and stuck it in the middle of it where there is a little hole, possibly for just such a purpose. My husband approved, and seemed pleased that I was finally appreciating the ornamental value of these things.

You should also know about the new library you may have already started to acquire. The books will include everything that has ever been written about your particular brand of car, including histories of the company, every collection of photographs of all cars of the same vintage as your car, and railroad timetables that happen to have been printed in- get this!- the exact same year that your car came off the assembly line! There will be new magazine subscriptions, some of them costing more than your mid-winter heating bill, and for God's sake don't set a glass down on the cover of one. And of course there is Hemmings (cross yourself). It's the one in the plain brown wrapper that replaces your husband's face for the first several days after it arrives. It will often be found by the telephone with little pieces of paper sticking out of it. That's another thing. Your telephone bill is definitely going to go up. The phone rings one evening and your husband, the one who never

answers the phone once he's settled in front of the TV, makes a dash for it, explaining "That will be the guy in Kalamazoo I called earlier about a '51 clutch disk." Or Albuquerque or Trinidad. And antique car buffs are not bound by traditional mores regarding appropriate hours to call one another. When you grope for the phone ringing beside your bed at half past midnight, the guy in New Jersey is not really going to understand why you sound so testy when he knows your husband has been waiting anxiously for the information on whether the rocker panels he has for sale are the correct ones for your car.

Lastly, I'd like to mention money. You are about to get your priorities straightened out for you. Any money spent on old cars is not money gone. It is an investment. Unlike what you squander on food, clothing, travel (unless it's to a car show, but that's a whole 'nother column) and the beauty salon. You will constantly be reminded of "what these cars are going for at the big shows," and you will be read to from ads from Hemmings- and you had probably better not say something smart like "That's what they're asking but do you know if that's what they're getting?" Be prepared, when you come home with a terrific bargain of which you are justly proud, something frivolous like, say, a second-hand vacuum cleaner, to have your news greeted with a look of sad re-

proach and something like "What you paid for that would have bought us an authentic license plate holder so we could have had the car on the road by Christmas."

I hope all of this forewarning doesn't sound too negative, because the antique car hobby is really a lot of fun. You meet nice people, your husband will have more friends than he has ever had before, especially when he is parting

out a particularly popular model or has lucked into a deal for an outhouse full of the remaining mildewed but original boxes from a car dealership that went bust in the forties, you'll go on neat tours and really thrill to the sight of a long line of these grand old automobiles slowly pulling out on the road, chrome gleaming in the sun. (That's when it's all worth it!), and you'll really learn a lot of interesting stuff.

So just keep your mind open, your sense of humor finely honed, and your money in a secret Swiss bank account (just in case someone gets sick), and you're going to love the world of antique cars.

Postscript:

The husband's name has intentionally been deleted from the article because he might be embarrassed and kill me. Right, Dennis?

## BUYING??? SELLING??? SEARCHING???

**1940 Chevrolet** Business Coupe, all original, newly painted in late '94. Contact Orville Carter after 6:00 pm. (334) 675-2836 (Mobile, AL)

**1957 Chevrolet** 210, 2-door, 6 cylinder automatic, 43K actual miles, have Class A title, original key & owners manual, 2-tone green. Asking \$9,500 OBO. Cecil or Pat Weber (334) 943-6338 (Gulf Shores)

**1963 Ford** Fairlane 260 cid 4-door, original with rebuilt engine, maroon in color. Linda Dutruch (334) 675-1245 (Mobile, AL)

**1965 Ford** Falcon 289 2-door HT, automatic, radio, needs interior. Doug Benefield (334) 661-5796 (Mobile, AL)

**1967 Chevrolet** Chevelle 10 bolt rear end (complete),

steering column for same, manual shift. Mike Herndon (334) 456-4800 days, after 3 pm 452-0907 (Mobile, AL)

**1968 Ford** GT 390, Royal Brown, PO Box 174 Sunflower, AL 36581 Asking \$1,200. (No phone number given, pictures sent which will be at the club meeting.)

**1973 Mercury** Cougar XR7, 351 Cleveland engine, automatic C-4 Transmission, yellow-gold original paint, 3 yr old white vinyl top in great condition, like new Kelly steel radial tires, clean original leather bucket seats, complete service history, one owner. \$4,500 Nick McShea III (334)456-7835 or 457-3196 (Chickasaw, AL)

**1977 Corvette** 350 cid HT, gold in color with stripes,

spoiler on back. John Surgeon (334)649-4661 (Mobile, AL)

**1977 Oldsmobile** Toronado, 64K original miles, very clean, loaded. (Elderly lady's car) Ray Johnson (334) 633-2929 (Mobile, AL)



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 Drive. Membership in the Antique Automobile Club of America is required to be a member of this region. Annual local dues are \$15.00 and AACA national dues are \$20.00 single/\$24.00 joint. Views expressed in the Sparkplug are not necessarily those of the Region officers or AACA.



## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to **Artic and Anita Gibson** who joined DSR in January. Both are now retired and are enjoying all the things they wanted to do for so long. **Artic** is retired from his own business which was Artic Air & Electric; Anita is retired from AmSouth Bank. They have been married for 41 years and are discovering the joy of travel. The two of them have just recently returned from a 7 day South Caribbean cruise and Anita is looking at brochures for another. They are looking for their "dream car" which is a ??? Their address is P. O. Box 68, Theodore, Al 36582 Telephone 973-0016 They will be on Hershel Whigham's calling list. When you see them at the meeting, let them know how glad we are to have them in our club.



### Lights Should Be Bright

To see, and to be seen, is the key to stay out of trouble. Dim lights are usually NOT wiring related. The problem lies in the return route, grounds. Corrosion, loose fixtures, too good of a paint job before re-assembly, etc. A simple cure is "STAR" washers, inside or outside. They bite through the paint/rust and into fresh metal. Locate them from chassis to body to fenders to brackets to light fixtures, etc....like a chain of command.

Bulbs can be purchased with different candle power, "Halogen" or "Xenon". Bulbs can be adapted, they are much brighter and use less voltage.

Diodes can be introduced to make some bulbs do two jobs, such as brake lights and turn indicators without modifying the existing harness. Antique, old or whatever, it needs help to survive in our modern traffic or you are a liability. Extra lights can be unobtrusive or a part of what you have or can be "clamp on" which you can remove for a show.

Pierre Fontana

## REQUIRING MAINTENANCE

**Frank Sturges** had triple bypass surgery on Jan. 13 and is recuperating at home and doing well.

**Henry McCrory** had triple bypass surgery on Jan. 14 and is also at home getting better.

**"Hub" Cordell** was discharged Feb. 14 from Mobile Infirmiry after having been admitted on Feb. 2 for pneumonia. After almost 2 weeks of being in the hospital, he is grateful to be home!

**Lloyd Crowdus** is in Providence Hospital (Room 633) as of Feb. 14 having been admitted on Feb. 10.


**LaVerne Hopkins** is home after her check up in New Orleans and is "A-OK".

**Jerry Finley** was severely bitten by the "flu-bug" and is just now beginning to mend.


**Mickey Cox** has been having a difficult time with allergies after her recent heart surgery.

**Don Dillehay** had cataract surgery on Feb. 9. Look for the Chaplain's column next month.

**B. L. Cammon** has been ill for the past three weeks or so with what was diagnosed as "walking pneumonia".



**Orville and Anne Carter** are getting moved into their new home this month. The telephone number is the same but the new address is **3801 Traveler Drive Saraland, AL 36571**.



**C**ongratulations to DSR's own pilot, **Ross Sloan**, who recently passed his aviation instrument exam with a 80+ score. Even though this is not a required test, it is one of the toughest exams that pilots take. In approximately 6 months Ross will take his commercial pilot examination.

Youth is when we look for greener pastures, old age is when we can hardly mow the one we've got.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### February:

- Feb. 23rd: DSR Meeting in the clubhouse at 7:30 pm  
Feb. 24th: Brewer Center Mardi Gras Parade (You will have been called on this one )  
Feb. 25th: 3rd Annual Corvette Club Swap Meet-7100 Bellingrath Rd. 9:00am - 3:00pm  
For more information call Tommy Miller at (334)653-6228/661-1822  
Feb. 25th: Tillman's Corner Mardi Gras Parade Melvin & Betty Neese Coordinating DSR Autos  
in the Parade  
Feb. 25th: Red Snapper Festival Orange Beach, AL Ron Glass (334) 981-6295 or  
Roger Falk (334) 981-4323 P.O. Box 1253 Orange Beach, AL 36561

### March:

- March 3- 5th: The Page Outing Hwy 43, Catahoula, MS. Linda Page (601) 255-7384  
March 4th: Coastal Classic Car Show-Ft. Walton Beach, FL-Registration 8:00-11:00  
For more info call (904)244-1360 Days or (904)863-2212 Evenings  
March 5th: Car Judging Seminar Hosted by DSR Sunday 1:00 PM John Reid, 666-3761 Jerry  
Finley 479-1358 or Buddy Paquet 661-4009  
March 18th: 13th Annual Panhandler Cruisers Car Show-University Mall-Pensacola  
Registration opens at 3:00 pm on Friday 3/17/95 and entrants can cruise at 6:30 pm with  
the local club. On Saturday registration from 8:00-12:00 noon. For more information  
call Gerald Nixon at (904)477-4455  
March 19th: Azalea City Classic Chevy Club 6th Annual Spring Car Show "Back home at the  
What-A-Burger" on Hiway 90 in Mobile, AL Call E. Swift (334)675-7875  
March 25th: 33rd Annual Old South Antique & Classic Car Show-Ft Conde in Mobile, AL. For more  
information call (334) 457-2339  
March 23rd: DSR Meeting in the clubhouse at 7:30 pm

### April:

- April 8th: 2nd Annual Camellia Classic Car Show hosted by Mobile Bay Mustang Club and  
Bellingrath Gardens. Call John Reid for more information at (334)666-3761  
April 8-10th: 10th Annual Gold Cup Antique Car Race-Registrations will be limited so make your  
reservations early. Call (904)871-4077  
April 22nd: 2nd Annual Edgewater Mall-Coast Mustang Show-MUSTANGS ONLY  
Call John at (601)388-5256  
April 27th: DSR Meeting in the clubhouse at 7:30 PM  
April 27-30th: 23rd Annual Pate Swap Meet-Hiway 337 Fort Worth Texas-Call (713)649-0922  
April 29th: 3rd Annual Panhandle British Beach Bash and Car Show, Pensacola, FL. Info  
Panhandle British Car Assoc. 2323 Copter Road , Pemsacola, Fl 32514

### MAY:

- May 5-7: Louisiana Tour, Houma, LA Sponsored by Slidell and Crescent City Chapters  
A.A.C.A Info; Penny Jones, P.O. Box 73870, Metairie, LA 70033, PH (504) 833-6172  
May 13th: 12th Annual Deep South Region Car Show at DSR clubhouse & grounds  
Call Jerry Finley at (334)479-1358 or Al White at (334)344-2643  
May 25th: DSR Meeting in the clubhouse at 7:30 PM  
May 26-28th: 17th Annual Gulf Coast Antique Auto Show Info Larry Burdeshaw (601) 392-4374  
Peter Harris (601) 832-7710 Lisa Sanders (601) 872-2577

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Ernie & Eugenia Youens  
625 Second Aye.  
Saraland, AL 36571

**An X in the box**



**means your dues  
are not yet paid!!**

**THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!**

*FEB. 95*