

Sparkplug

NEWSLETTER OF THE
DEEP SOUTH REGION

A.A.C.A.



Vol. 29 No. 2

EDITOR: Patt Paquet

1996 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	John Reid	666-3761
VICE PRESIDENT:	Al White	344-2643
SECRETARY:	Greg McDonnell	476-7178
TREASURER:	Lucille Nettles	661-4202
ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR:	Buddy Paquet	661-4009
MEMBER AT LARGE	Jim Martin	661-6133
		661-4009

Members Enjoy First Outing of Year

DSR's January traditional journey to David's Catfish House in Baldwin County included a visit to the Malbis Memorial Church. This church, which is Greek Orthodox in faith, was built in memory of Jason Malbis, the founder of Malbis Plantation which is 12 miles from Mobile. It was dedicated January 3, 1965 and construction cost was more than \$1 million. Many parts of the church were prepared in Greece and shipped here. Vivid colors stream through the stained-glass windows and makes you feel you are inside a rainbow. The church seats 250 and is open nearly every day of the year until 5:00 PM. DSR member **George Demetropulos** explained some of the facets of the religion and the meaning of many of the mosaics.

Upon leaving the church, we stopped to see the new home of Gary & Tonya Whigham, the son and daughter-in-law of Hershel & Frances. After much "oohing" and "aahing" the group headed for lunch. Sitting down to indulge were **1 Bailey, 2 Cammons, 2 Carters, 1 Coker, 2 DeCreases, 1 Demetropulos, 2 Dillehays, 2 Fewes, 1 Howell** and daughter Valinda Ellis, **2 Jarvis, 2 Lunsfords, 2 McCrorys, 2 McCuskers, 1 McDonnell, 2 McLaneys** with Jason, Hope & Josh, **2 Neeses, 2 Paquets, 1 Reid, 2 Whighams** who had 2 guests as well as Gary & Tonya, **2 Whites** and Joanna, and **2 Youens** for a total of 37 members and 8 guests.

Some of our members were working at the Senior Bowl and had to miss our January trek but perhaps they will be able to join us another time. As the saying goes, "A good time was had by all."

Welcome to DSR's Newest Members

Mike and Darlene Ebl are avid old car buffs and own a 1965 Arcadian Blue Mustang. They are the original owners of the vehicle and their daughter, Michelle, drove it to high school just as her dad did when the car was new. They are still in the process of restoring it and according to Darlene there are two rear quarter panels, one hood and one driver's side door plus miscellaneous other parts in their spare bedroom.

Mike is manager of Litton Date Systems which develops hardware and software for ships. Darlene is a domestic engineer and enjoys sewing so much that she makes the color guard flags for the schools in the Ocean Springs area. They have been married 27 years and their daughter, Michelle, who is 19, attends Perkinson Junior College. When Mike isn't working on the car, he enjoys fishing. Darlene said if she had her very own dream car, it would be a 57-59 Skyliner hardtop convertible with a BIG motor. I asked each of them to describe the other in one word only. Darlene's reply regarding Mike was "devilish" but Mike said the only way to characterize Darlene was "loving".

They are members of the Gulf Coast Mustang Club of which Mike is the current president and also the Antique Automobile and Engine Club of Mississippi.

Editors Note: It is with a very red face that I apologize to the Ebls for this late welcome. It should have appeared in the December issue of the Sparkplug since they were voted in at our November meeting.

Minutes

Deep South Region A.A.C.A. January 28, 1996 Meeting

The first meeting of the DSR for the new year was called to order on Sunday, January 28, 1996 by John Reid, president. The meeting was postponed from Thursday, January 25, due to the death of Lloyd Crowdus, a past president. Forty members and four guests were present for the 1:10 PM meeting. Don Dillehay gave the invocation.

Old Business:

John Reid recapped events from the December meeting/Christmas party held at MGP. He mentioned the presentation of the building committee plaque and the checks from the Hooters show. Minutes from the past two meetings were accepted as printed by a motion from Hershel Whigham with a second from Becky Burdeshaw. Lucille Nettles, treasurer, distributed the December 1995 and January 1996 financial reports. The December report was accepted by a motion from Becky Burdeshaw with a second from Bill Cox. The January report passed by a motion from Hershel Whigham with a second from Becky Burdeshaw. Robert Moore presented the Building Committee report outlining the progress that has been made with the electrical work. He promises a big change in the addition by April.

New Business:

Goals for his term as president of DSR were outlined by John Reid. Among them were utilization of the clubhouse more frequently and a bi-annual auto parts swap meet. After some discussion, the swap meet dates were tentatively set for April 20-21 and October 12-13, 1996. This was accepted by a motion from Ed Lunsford and a second from Robert Moore. The 1996 Membership Rosters were distributed. John brought up the idea of naming the clubhouse for Lloyd Crowdus. Ernie Youens provided some historical information concerning Lloyd's part in the acquisition of the clubhouse. Following a vote, it was passed that the clubhouse would be named The Lloyd Crowdus Memorial Clubhouse. The motion came from John Reid with a second from Hershel Whigham. Activities coordinator, Buddy Paquet, gave an update of events to be held in the coming months. Greg McDonnell, secretary, discussed the new planting he and his crew did around the clubhouse sign. Ads in the newsletter and the annual car show program were discussed by Patt Paquet, editor.

Announcements:

The 50-50 Pot was won by Lucille Nettles. A motion to adjourn came a 1:45 PM by John Reid with a second from Melvin Neese.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg McDonnell

Farewell, My Friend

By Ernie Youens

Thomas Lloyd Crowdus...or just Lloyd to most of us, was born in Morganfield, Kentucky on May 5, 1928. When he was just 11 years old, he found a dynamite cap at a road construction site and not knowing what it was, began to play with it. Unfortunately, it exploded and Lloyd lost an eye. This did not keep him from joining the Air Force which brought him to Mobile and Brookley Field. Here, he made friends that continued through his lifetime. After completing his military service, he returned to Kentucky and went to work for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Ironically, they transferred him back to Mobile where he made his home.

Lloyd was the father of one son and four daughters by his former marriage. He met Lycyle, a young widow, when he sold her an insurance policy. They married June 25, 1971. It was a very good marriage.

Lloyd had been interested in antique cars his entire life and in 1979 he found and bought his first one, a very nice 1941 Oldsmobile. He then joined the DSR and he and Lycyle went with us on our week-long annual tour in 1980, not long after he had heart surgery. They enjoyed it so much that they sold the Olds and bought a 1931 Model A Ford for future tours because the Olds was "too new".

His interest in the club prompted Lloyd to run for president in 1983. He won the election and was the only person to serve in that position for four terms; 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1988. During Lloyd's early DSR membership, we visited the Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Stone River Region AACA on a tour. They had their own clubhouse on leased city property. This caused Lloyd to press for our own DSR clubhouse. With his enthusiasm and salesmanship, we were able to lease the property and to eventually acquire the clubhouse which now stands there. We have a similar situation as the Stone River Region and even though the idea had the support of nearly all DSR members, it would not have been accomplished without Lloyd.

Lloyd and I, with our wives, shared many happy days, including a three-day tour in our Metropolitans, just the four of us. We left Mobile and drove to Panama City, Florida, where we spent the night. The next day, with the weather looking very uncertain, we headed north to Eufaula, Alabama where we planned to spend that night. The weather continued to deteriorate and before long, we were in a deluge. Lloyd & Lycyle's Met sprung leaks everywhere it could and all the towels that Lycyle had taken along (for what?...did she know something we didn't?) were soon soaked. We had hoped to arrive at our destination in mid-afternoon but it was early evening by the time we checked into our motel. Fortunately, everything turned out fine and the next day, we used all of the back roads to return to Mobile.

One of Lloyd's greatest pleasures was donning his red hat, putting the top down on his red '65 Mustang with the sparkling white interior and riding around town after retiring from Metropolitan Insurance Company June 1, 1988. He was a great good-will ambassador for DSR and AACA. He and Lycyle had gotten the Mustang April 3, 1990, and they both enjoyed driving it.

Lloyd died January 24, 1996 from complications of diabetes and heart disease at the age of 67 years. He was my personal dear friend and buddy. We are all going to miss his enthusiasm, his congenial support of the club, his jokes and his natural leadership. Lloyd was a very devout Christian, so we all know he is in a better place. He may even be able to look down and smile as we progress in the Deep South Region.

Condolences

The DSR membership extends sincere sympathy to the family of **Thomas Lloyd Crowdus**. Lloyd was an avid car collector and a great supporter of the old car hobby and our club. He will be sadly missed by not just his family and our membership but by friends all over the Southeast. I, as Editor, shall miss his phone calls regarding the Sparkplug which he read front to back.

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Roster Korreetshuns...Corrections

There were two glaring errors in the 1996 Membership Roster's first printing which have been rectified. If you picked up a copy at the January meeting please bring it to the February 22 meeting and get a corrected version. (My apologies to Ron & Sandra Bush as well as Charlie & Robbie Lyles.) Also change the Cordell's address to 9560 Spice Pond Road, Eight Mile, AL 36613-9573 with a new telephone number of 645-3422. This information came after the new ones were printed.

DSR Car Show Set for May 11

Plans are coming together for our annual car show on Saturday before Mother's Day. **Jane Bruton** is registration chairman and will be looking for members to help her. I need all the help I can get with the ad program and if you don't call me, you can be sure I will be calling you.

Dear Friends,

Words are inadequate to express my thanks and appreciation for your cards, calls and visits when Lloyd passed away. Also I would like to thank those who drove their antique cars. The DSR will always hold a very special place in my heart.

Lycyle

Parade Rolls Despite Frigid Temp

The Tillman's Corner Tricksters Mardi Gras parade on Feb. 3 moved out on time and believe it or not, it was warmer moving even with the convertible tops down than it was standing around in the line-up. Assisting with this event were **2 Cox, 1 Lyles, 2 McLaneys, 1 Nelson** (driving the Shrine ClownMobile) **2 Paquets** and **1 White**. The folks lining the streets were fewer than usual but just as eager as ever for Moon Pies, beads, candy and cups.

"Moon Pie...Moon Pie"

The Isle Dauphine Mystic Society held their annual Mardi Gras parade on Dauphin Island Jan. 20 with **Charlie Lyles** representing DSR. They had contacted him in December before the January outing was scheduled which prevented him from joining us. Charlie is a dedicated member and felt he was committed to the parade rather than lunch.

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Greg McDonnell

'62 Thunderbird Destroyed by Fire

Many of you are acquainted with O.G. McDonald who lives in Gulf Breeze and has spent time and money lovingly restoring his white '62 T-Bird. Unfortunately, on Jan. 23 he lost his car and his garage to fire. According to his friend, Dale Brown, not even a wrench was salvageable. O.G. and his wife were not injured but will have to be out of the house for about 4 months while it is re-done. What can you say to someone in this circumstance?

Cars...Cars...and More Cars

See how many cars you can find below. They may be forward, backward, sideways or upside down.

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Congratulations to Chili Contest Winners

There were so many entries in the chili contest that someone thought to put a supply of Roloids on the table along with them. Trying to taste-test each one gave you an idea of how the circus fire-eater feels at the end of the show. It was all great fun and Marge DeCrease took first place followed closely by Al White in second and last, but not least, Russell Coker with third. The trophies were appropriate and unique, to say the least.

Members Under Restoration

LaVerne Hopkins was transferred to Hillhaven Convalescent Center as of Feb. 3 for a 21-day rehab program and hopes to go home Feb. 23.....Naomi McCrory had surgery on Jan. 29...Ernie Youens had a biopsy on March 8...Melvin Neese is having some medical problems...lots of members have been bitten by the "flu bug"...has anyone heard from Gavin and Gladys Edwards?

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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 7:30 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 \$24.00 single and \$26.00 joint. Views expressed in the Sparkplug are not necessarily those of the Region officers or AAC.

Remember When?

Ernie Youens

Ten years ago, February 1986, the recipe-of-the-month was a "repeater" for Jeanie Dobbs' Angel Biscuits. Jeannie Hepler, Activity Coordinator, had called for a "Ladies Night" each month on the first Friday at 7:00 PM with No Men Allowed! The new president, Ray Harper, had appointed Vernon Hopkins as Chaplain, Arline Eschete, Laura Faust, LaVerne Hopkins and Betty McLaney as the Calling Committee and Lloyd Crowdus to fill the new position of Publicity Chairman.

Plans were being formulated for the car show to be held on May 9-10 with Ray as chairman. A committee was formed and met on Feb. 12 to work on classes, a brochure and the banquet.

New members Lawrence & Lillian Moseley had been introduced at the January meeting and John C. Thomas along with Leon Schafer had joined the club. New members Gloria & Gerald Davis, who operated the Frame Shop & Gallery on Azalea Road had donated a frame for a painting for the clubhouse. Elven Few had had major surgery on his knee. Jan Hartman was looking forward to graduating from Jefferson Davis Junior College with a degree in nursing (Now she is head nurse in the operating room at the hospital in Bay Minette). Marien Brent had attained the level of Senior Master Judge with AACA. The *Sparkplug* had received the 1985 Award of Distinction. L & M Tire Company on Springhill Avenue advertised a 1951 Chevy club coupe for sale.

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Bob Gechijian

License Plate Display for Clubhouse

The work on acquiring two complete sets of license plates, one for the clubhouse and one to be sent to AACA headquarters is continuing, but somewhat slow now that the hard-to-find tags are what we are missing. If you can help with any of those below, please get in touch with Ross Sloan.

<u>Need</u>	<u>Number</u>
1960	1
1944	1
1943	Windshield Sticker
1941	1
1940	1
1939	2
1936	1
1935	2
1934	1
1930	2
1928	2
1925	2
1924	1
1923	2
1922	2
1921	1
1920-1912	2 of each year

Old Car Finds New Home

A 1931 Model A Roadster with a rumble seat is now sitting in **Gus Vergos'** garage after arriving in Mobile in Feb. 2. He found the vehicle in Naples, Florida and he and George Demetropulos drove down and brought it back on George's new trailer. The body, top and wheels are beige and the fenders are black. The previous owner had the car for ten years but it is in mint condition. Wanda said all Gus had to do was clean it up after the trip and it's ready to drive!

For Sale: 1927 Chrysler 4-door sedan, 1928 Chevrolet Roadster 2-door Convertible, 1929 Ford Model A 2-door sedan. Contact Gus Vergos (334) 432-1779 for more information and prices.

Runaway Truck Ramps Do Save Lives

Howard V. Scotland, Jr., 1995 AACA Safety Chairman

As you drive around this large and varied country of ours how many times have you ventured into the mountains and seen those long, gravel runaway truck ramps? To those of us who live in mountainous parts of the country they are familiar life savers. They save the lives of over-the-road truckers and sometimes save our lives by giving out-of-control trucks a place to safely leave the road rather than driving over or into our cars.

But have you ever wondered, are they ever used? Do they really work? The answer is an emphatic YES.

Along I-70 in the area around the Eisenhower Tunnell and Vail Pass in Colorado, there are 4 runaway truck ramps built between 1978 and 1980. In the ensuing sixteen years there have been 490 times when these four ramps were used, or an average of one incident every twelve days. Just west of Denver on the last long downhill leading out of the Rocky Mountains is the Mount Vernon Canyon escape ramp, built in 1979 at a cost of nearly \$1 million. It has been used 95 times.

There are others located on US highways and State roads which also get considerable use, although the traffic on these roads is substantially less than on the intestates. The escape ramp on old US 40 east of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, has been used 92 times since it was completed in 1976. US 160 through Wolf Creek Pass, immortalized in a trucking ballad of some years ago has two ramps. Usage, 41 times.

Back in the eastern United States, southbound on I-24 between Nashville and Chattanooga there is a ramp which this writer saw put to use while traveling to the 1994 Founders Tour in Georgia. Just as we arrived on the scene, a semi had come to a stop, axle deep, in the loose gravel. As we slowly drove by I observed the driver

and his right seat companion frozen in their seats with a look of stark terror on their faces. Yes Virginia, runaway truck ramps do work.

Now for some thoughts for you flat landers who have never seen, much less heard of, runaway truck ramps. The following incidents are from published reports, and although humorous, are actual happenings.

Four wheel drive fanatics frequently try to test their vehicles in the deep sea of pea gravel. The invariable lose, have to be towed out, and receive a ticket. They should also be taken to see a psychiatrist. Other errant users seem to consider the ramps as a natural part of the highway system put there for their pleasure.

Some people have told the state patrol that they were there "to use the restroom" or "to look at a map". There was an incident where two elderly ladies pulled into the ramp, set up a table behind their car and proceeded to have a picnic. They were probably related to the driver who was on a ramp "to gather herbs". Recently it has become necessary in some areas to erect lightly constructed barricades at the entrance to the ramps to "keep out the tourists". The truckers now that these obstructions are meant to be drive through.

So now you know more than you probably ever wanted to know about Runaway Truck Ramps.

(The above article is from the April 1995 Rummage Box.)



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IMPORTANT DATES

- 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. 3** Judging Seminar in Clubhouse beginning at 1:00 PM
- Mar. 8-10** DSR Tour to Starkville & Columbus, MS (Further discussion at February meeting)
- Mar. 15-16** 14th Annual Car & Motorcycle Show-Panhandle Cruisers-Pensacola, FL
Robert Edmonson (904)623-0667
- Mar. 16** Azalea City Classic Chevy Club's Open Car Show-Evelyn Swift (334)675-7875
- Mar. 23** 34th Annual Old South Antique Auto Club Show-Fort Conde-Mobile, AL
- Mar. 29-31** 17th Annual National Mustang Show-University Mall-Pensacola, FL
Donnie (904)455-6588
- Mar. 30** First MOPARS at the Battleship-Contact Larry Jordan (334)653-5154
- April:**
- Apr. 12-13** AACA Central Division National Spring Meet-Dallas, TX (See AA Magazine)
- Apr. 13** 3rd Annual Camellia Classic @ Bellinger Gardens - John Reid (334)3761
- Apr. 13** Strawberry Classic Car Show-Ponchatoula, LA Sid Starkey (504)294-3809
- Apr. 20:** 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

Deep South Region
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Ernie & Eugenia Youens
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FEB. 96