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Items of interest

- New DSR members
- A North Dakota story
- National news

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## Legislative Alert !!

### Two bills on burner for next session

By Buddy Paquet, Legislative Representative

**Head's up out there, car lovers.** There are two bills in the hopper that might affect you.

The first one is H.B. 16, which has been prefiled in the Alabama legislature for consideration the 2001 session that begins in February. This is a pro-hobbyist bill that will create a vehicle registration classification for street rods and provide for special license plates for these vehicles. The bill provides for the following:

- Defines a street rod as a vehicle produced by an American manufacturer prior to 1949 which has undergone some type of modernizing.
- Provides for distinctive license plates designed by the Dept. of Revenue in consultation with the NSRA. The plates would be inscribed with the words "Street Rod" and will be valid without renewal.
- Exempts street rods from some motor vehicle licensing requirements and from payment of a license tax for the privilege of operating the vehicle on public roads, as well as a property tax.
- Provides that street rods shall be used as a collector's item and not for general transportation purposes.

This bill strives to protect vehicle enthusiasts and collectors in Alabama. You are encouraged to contact your state legislator in support of this bill.

The Inoperable Vehicle Bill is rumored to be coming back as H.B. 53. It would allow a municipality to adopt procedures for removal of an inoperable motor vehicle on private property when the motor vehicle is deemed a "nuisance". The bill in part states:

- An inoperable vehicles is any motor vehicle that has remained on private property and in view of the general public for at least 30 days.
- Vehicles are deemed inoperable if one or more of its major components are missing or are not functional or otherwise constitutes a nuisance.
- Allows the municipality to dispose of the inoperable motor vehicle by sealed bid or auction.

What we know at this time makes this bill a "two-edged sword". This bill would make it difficult for hobbyists to work on collector vehicles on private property. It also demonstrates a lack of understanding of the vehicle hobby or the rights of hobbyists.

You are urged to let your legislator know that you are not in favor of this bill. If you need assistance in determining who your legislators are, you can contact the Alabama Legislature's General Information Line at (334) 242-7600.

**Note: By the next meeting, I hope to have a list current Alabama Senators and Representatives with both their home and Montgomery addresses.**

Sincere appreciation to SEMA (Specialty Market Equipment Assoc.) for supplying the above information in a timely manner.

## Keeping the pedal to the metal...

### The Steering Column

By Leah Musgrove



It seems like we just rang in the year 2000 and here we are into another year again! I appreciate everyone's encouragement in taking on the position of DSR President for 2001. Your suggestions and advice are welcome as we go through the year and I hope most of you can find time to participate in some of the events and activities. We have a great group of members and I believe we can find something to offer everyone. It can be a productive as well as fun year of outings, tours and fellowship.

The officers elected to help me this year will do a fine job of keeping all of you busy. I would like to thank those who have volunteered their time to serve the club in the coming months. It is sometimes not easy to handle all the duties of a job, but I know they are all up to the task. Please lend them your support as it is needed.

At our next meeting I will be asking for volunteers to field positions on committees I believe are necessary to keep the club running smoothly. I know I can count on you to volunteer to help out so be thinking of ways you might contribute. Until then, stick with those New Year's resolutions and I hope to see all of you at 7:30 P.M. on January 25.

### Thank you

*From the bottom of my newly "re-plumbed" heart, I want all of you to know how very much not only I, but Patt as well, appreciate your care and concern during my recent restoration. It was a surprise to both of us and really put us into a tailspin for the first few days.*

*One of the things that helped us get through was the phone calls, visits, flowers, baskets, cards and good wishes you sent our way. It will never be forgotten.*

*Buddy*

## Deep South Region Officers 2001



President.....	Leah Musgrove	633-9305
Vice President....	Eddie Anderson	649-3231
Secretary.....	Reecie Mims	479-2523
Treasurer.....	Carl Bailey	947-5262
Activities.....	Joyce Francis	342-3398
	Theresa Vaughan	639-0803
Editor.....	Patt Paquet	661-4009
Mem. at Large.....	Cecil Pugh	342-3404

### Appointees, Volunteers & Support Personnel

Chaplain .....	Lambert Mims	479-2523
SE Divisional Tour .....	(10/31-11/3/2001)	
Chairman .....	Charlie Froehlich	(601) 749-9935
Proofreader.....	Tracy Henderson	661-2818
Layout .....	Buddy Paquet	

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 located 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; AACA National dues are \$26. Views expressed in the Sparkplug are not necessarily those of the Region officers or AACA. Permission to copy is hereby granted provided source is disclosed and credit given to author. Some material maybe copyrighted and permission to use granted to this publication only. Contributions to the Sparkplug are welcome but the Editor reserves the right to edit material that may not be suitable for publication

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## A matter of record...

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### Minutes

#### Deep South Region, A.A.C.A. Meeting & Annual Christmas Dinner, December 9, 2000

The meeting was called to order by Buddy Paquet, Pres., shortly after completion of our annual Christmas Dinner. The business meeting was very short, the main item being the installation of officers. Officers elected and installed for the year 2001 are as follows: Leah Musgrove, President; Eddie Anderson, Vice President; Reecie Mims, Secretary; Carl Bailey, Treasurer, Patt Paquet, Editor; Activities Coordinators, Joyce Francis and Theresa Vaughan and Cecil Pugh, Member at Large.

Before Buddy passed the gavel to Leah Musgrove, our new President, he thanked everyone for the good work done during the year 2000 and presented plaques of appreciation.

One other item of business was the report by Ann Rowell on the purchase of the angel tree Christmas gifts. An offering was collected in the amount of \$108.00, which did not cover the cost. Melvin Neese made a motion, seconded by Hershel Whigham, to take out of the treasury the amount needed to make up the difference. Motion carried.

Leah passed out a questionnaire to be filled out and returned at next meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Reecie Mims*

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## The Automotive Bookshelf



The Official License Plate Book 2000 by Thomason C. Murray, published by Interstate Directory Publishing Co., Inc., Jericho, NY. This book is a complete identification resource, containing sample pictures of plates for cars, trucks and trailers from every state in the USA, Canada and Mexico. The first part of the book includes explanations for symbols on the plates then includes two pages for each state.

(The) Automobile by Barbara Ford Walker, published NY, 1987. This is one of a series of books about inventions that have changed our lives. Easy print, easy descriptions, yet interesting facts from campers to motor homes to clothing to all facets of the car and the changes it made in our lives.

The Complete Catalog of Harley Davidson by Tod Rufferty, published by Lowe B. Hould, 1997. Building motorcycles since 1903, Harley Davidson permitted this author to research this book by going into their records and using their details (specs, colors, production numbers). Superb color photographs.

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## New members profiled...in alpha order

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### **The Blair Family**

By Billy Blair

Marie and I married August something, 1987. We married in an old church in Rockford, AL. Her parents were the last couple to be married there but that was thirty-five years before us. We moved to South Carolina in 1988 and were transferred to Washington, DC in 1991. We didn't know we had so many friends and family until we moved to live in Northern Virginia. Everyone wanted us to take them touring in D.C. while they stayed with us. We moved to the Mobile area in 1998.

I am a Special Agent with the Bureau of ATF, and supervise the agents in the Southern Judicial District of Alabama. Marie is a Registered Nurse and Domestic Engineer. We have two boys, Ross and Daniel, ages eight and 11 respectively. We are blessed to have them.

We became interested in older cars several years ago when Marie's grandmother became ill. After her grandmother passed away, I told Marie I didn't want to offend anyone but I would like to purchase her grandmother's 60s model Cadillac which was in perfect condition. A man walked up to her grandmother's house one day and also wanted to buy the car. Her aunt didn't think he had any money so told him the price was \$3,000. Guess what? He had it in his pocket and so her aunt sold the car. I also asked for her grandfather's 1965 Dodge truck but it is still sitting in the yard. Marie's aunt had an auction and sold her house, property and early 70s garage-kept Delta 98. I told Marie to bid \$4,000 but she only went to \$3,700 and it sold for \$4K. I looked at a lot of tri-five Chevys and decided they are worth what a person agrees to pay. One day I traveled to Selma to look at two '55 Chevys and a body for a '56. The man wanted \$8,000 for the body alone. On my way back, I called a retired farmer near Robertsdale and took a look at his car. A couple of weeks later, Marie bought it for me for my Father's Day present. It has also become my anniversary and Christmas presents for years to come. We are enjoying the car more than I had imagined. We also enjoy hunting, fishing, gardening, reading and sports with the boys. Marie likes to gossip like most ladies, but like most men, I don't do that.

### **The Hutchersons**

As related by Patty Hutcherson

Jerry is a Civil Structural Engineer and I work for him. We are both native Mobilians although Jerry lived in Houston while working for NASA. We've been married 11 years and have three daughters; Ava who is 10, Jamie age 8 and Erin is the baby at six years old.

Cars are of interest to myself as well as Jerry. He is a "Chevy guy" but I am a "Ford lady". That's why we have two of each, I guess. We each have hobbies other than the older vehicles though. Jerry enjoys sailing and we have a sailboat, the "Stormy Quest". That came with him when we married. I really enjoy sewing. Santa surprised me with a computer embroidery machine for Christmas. I was a Girl Scout growing up and loved it. In order to give something back to an organization that gave so much to me, I am in my fifth year as a Brownie Troup Leader. Jerry is involved also and goes each year on the Fall Camporee where he is one of the chief cooks for group. Maybe he can cook up some chili or something for the February cook-off we've heard about.

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### **The McFalls**

By Ernie Youens

Joe & Lara Beth joined DSR in November and we want to welcome them to the club. Joe works at Olin Chemical Co. in McIntosh, AL and Lara Beth is a Registered Nurse although at the present time she is a busy homemaker. They are both from Chattanooga, TN where they were life-long friends before marrying 18 years ago. They have two children, Lucas who is 15 and Kaycee, age nine.

They own a very nice 1961 Chevrolet pickup that Lara Beth's father bought new. When they acquired the pickup, her father drove it from Chattanooga to their home in Mobile. They live just a bit south of Langan Park, not too far from the clubhouse. Joe and his son went with the DSR members who participated in the "Toys for Tots" run in early December. They were called the night before and jumped right in for their first "official" outing. Let's hope they can continue to be involved.

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## More on new members

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### The Stewarts

As told by David Stewart

We had hoped to attend the Saturday lunch but something came up that sort of got in the way. You see, that was my official retirement date from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I was with the NRCS which helps farmers control erosion of croplands. This was actually my second retirement having spent 20 years with the USAF.

It was while I was in the Air Force that I met my future wife, Margarita. I was stationed in Bogota, Columbia and she was working at the US Embassy there. We were married in 1963 and are blessed to have five wonderful children. Our oldest, Angela, is married to an AF pilot and they live in California with their two sons. David, our next, is employed by MARC Enterprises here in Mobile. Yet another boy, Michael who also lives in Mobile with his wife, Karen, followed him. The youngest boy, Mark is a registered nurse at Providence Hospital and his wife, Khristie, is a teacher at St. Elmo. The youngest of our children, Jennifer, is a student at USA.

We enjoy our 1950 Chevrolet Styleline Delux 4 door sedan and hope to be able to join all of you in some of the club activities. I also have an interest in motorcycles. Margarita likes traveling and reading when she has time. She loves children and has been involved with Mom's Day Out at Our Saviour Church for over ten years.

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### The Whites

As told by Richard White

I suppose you could say we are involved with things that keep us moving. First, it was flying. When Sylvia and I first married 18 years ago, we both wanted to get our pilots license. To do that, you must get in a certain number of air hours in a given time. In order to do that, we flew freight anywhere and everywhere. Most of our flights were into New York, Canada and the Northwest. She is from Florida and with me being a native of Mobile, we thoroughly enjoyed all the sights those areas had to offer. Flying became my full time occupation. I retired from (Continued in next column)

Loyal American Insurance Company as a corporate pilot. I can tell you those Lear Jets are sweet flying machines.

Sylvia works for Mobile Infirmary 65 so I am the chief cook around our house. We are both heavily involved with the US Power Squadron. I am the treasurer for our district and serve on two National Committees. Sylvia on the National "bridge" and will step on up in the future.

We enjoy our '69 Vette and '73 Caddy and hope to be able to get in some driving with the club in the coming months. We are looking forward to meeting some of you at the January meeting.

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## Region President & First Gentleman attend Bush inauguration

"I plan to take DSR to high places this year, starting with the inauguration of the President of the United States," said Leah Musgrove as she and her husband, Bill, prepared to leave for New Orleans. They were to fly to Richmond, VA then drive to Fredricksburg where they will stay with family on Friday night. It is possible they will go to one of the many parties being held that evening.



It was uncertain at press time exactly where Leah and Bill will be located for the official swearing in ceremony. The weather forecast calls for chilly temperatures most of the weekend and they are hoping to be included in one of the delegations that will be sheltered from the elements.

Mr. Musgrove stated that if the time frame had been more flexible, he would have been happy to have taken several of their antique autos so that Mr. & Mrs. Bush as well as other officials could have ridden, rather than having to walk.

Leah said their being included in this event was due to her mother, aunts and uncles and her grandparents past political ties.

Perhaps we can hear from both Leah and Bill at the January meeting some of the exciting details of this trip of a lifetime.

**Editor's Note: some of the above is virtual reality while some is "tongue in check".**

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## 'Be of good cheer' goes out the window when 'Dirty Santa' begins....

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Back in the days when DSR held its annual Christmas party at a local restaurant or some other such place, members brought Christmas ornaments to exchange or in later years a small gift relative to the person's gender. A number was put on the gift and after dinner a box containing matching numbers was passed among the sexes so they might draw lots for gifts. Very simple, very dignified and very appropriate for a group of antique car buffs. Being that we were in the public eye so to speak, decorum was the buzz word.

Then came the time when we were able to hold the party in the privacy of the DSR clubhouse. That's when things started to go downhill and get rowdy with the introduction of the "Dirty Santa" method of gift exchange. The editor remembers one year in particular, when two members nearly came to blows over an "Onion Blossom" kitchen gadget. That year was not one that would be rated "R" due to violence, but there were some close calls.

After the meal, the President awarded the Y2K Officers plaques to commemorate their dedication to the club and their duties. He then installed the 2001 Officers to the tune of likening their positions to parts of a car. The 2001 Officer are President, Leah Musgrove; Vice President, Eddie Anderson; Secretary, Reecie Mims; Treasurer, Carl Bailey; Activities, Joyce Francis and Theresa Vaughan, Editor, Patt Paquet; and Member at Large, Cecil Pugh. The new President, in her first official act, presented the outgoing Prez with a plaque in appreciation for his leadership during the past year.

With the niceties out of the way, the following members participated, in some cases with many threats of bodily harm, in the wacky game of Dirty Santa: **2 Andersons, C. Bailey, 2 Cammons, L. Crowdus, 2 Dillehays, G. Edwards, 2 Guenthers, 2 Lyles, 2 McFerrins, 2 Mims, 2 Musgroves, 2 Neeses, 2 Paquets, 2 Rowells, 2 Vaughans, 2 Whighams, A. White, and 2 Youens.**



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## Annual catfish run blows out winter's cobwebs

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Any beautiful sunny day on the Gulf Coast is a day to get the old cars out. We were extremely fortunate that Saturday, January 13, turned out to be just perfect for getting all the fluids moving and the flat spots off the tires. The previous two weeks had been unusually cold and nasty to the point lots of folks were complaining of "cabin fever".

The members who live in the northern and western areas gathered at the clubhouse at high noon to begin the run across Mobile Bay. Those who are residents of the opposite compass points proceeded directly to the lunch destination.

DSR's annual January catfish run to David's has been the traditional first outing of the year for a long time. It is a quaint restaurant with antiques scattered around the dining area and on the walls. Red checkered tablecloths round out the décor.



The food is delicious and the fact that it is piping hot when set in front of you doesn't hurt the establishment's reputation either.

Hershel Whigham offered a short blessing of the members and the food we were about to inhale. While those gathered around the tables waited to place their orders, they started out by dipping into the bowls of coleslaw and baskets of crackers already on the table. Many tall tales of what had happened since members had seen each other last were exchanged while waiting for the entrees to arrive. En-joying food and fellowship were **2 Andersons, C. Bailey, 2 Blairs with sons, G. Edwards, 2 Francisces, J. Henderson and grandson, 2 McFalls with children, 2 Musgroves with their son plus eight other guests, 2 Neeses, 2 Nettles, 2 Paquets, 2 Ratkeys, 2 Vaughans, 2 Whighams and 2 Youens.** Another guest was Marien Brent.

A fair amount of conversing went on in the parking lot afterwards. There were a few new vehicles which had been acquired to be looked over. It was nearing mid-afternoon by the time the old tin and modern iron alike took to the road for home. Another great day, another great memory.

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## An old North Dakota story

by Charlie Froehlich

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Recently we have had the both depressing and enjoyable task of cleaning out my deceased mother's house and belongings. I say enjoyable in that we have found many interesting history items that we have either forgotten or never knew.

A neighbor lady, who was a very good friend of my mother during the last 35 years of her life, was Mrs. Olivia Rhoads. Mrs. Rhoads composed a 60-page booklet, primarily for family, titled *The Joy of My Recollections*. Mother had a copy of this booklet. Mrs. Rhoads was born about 1910 in North Dakota when the state was in early pioneer stages. She describes many interesting events that are hard to imagine in our current modern era. I have copied one of the here that may be of interest to our antique car group.

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The first automobiles — getting them started on a cold winter morning was a major operation, even to get these cars to sputter. Many a time our dad used a teakettle of hot water to get the car started in below-zero weather. We didn't have antifreeze, so water had to be put in the radiator. Then hot water was poured on the carburetor to heat up the engine head. Sometimes a spark plug was removed and gasoline poured in the spark plug hole. The hood of the car opened from each side and was a hinged affair held in place with spring-tension hooks.

The choke wire was located in front of the car, near the crank. We would hold out the choke when turning the crank (on the front of the car) to get it started. As the car was cranked it would "backfire" and kick backwards, often injuring one's fingers and wrists.

My dad, being used to driving horses for so many years, had quite a time when he bought his first Model T Ford. When driving the car, instead of putting his foot on the brake he would yell "WHOA, WHOA!". He forgot that he wasn't driving horses.

One time, Dad and Mr. Haibeck drove into the Haibeck's house because of not using the brakes. Haibeck did the same thing, saying, "WHOA, WHOA!" instead of braking. These men soon learned to drive nicely over country roads and trails. Next came the Model T Ford truck with cloth side-curtains, as we called them. It was much better and faster than driving a team to town. Now the trip could be made in one day.

And you thought it has been cold in Mobile??

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## Help Wanted



One of the military branches used to have a slogan that said something like "We're looking for a few good men". Well, your Editor is looking for either few good men, a few good women, or both, to help out with the *Sparkplug* this year. For the past seven years I have been able to carry the weight with occasional help from some members who would write up an event, proofread or help with stamping and mailing which was deeply appreciated.

The coming year, and especially the next few months, will be demanding for me with Buddy's recuperation and the tour. I would be grateful for any help you are willing to give me. It can be writing up an outing or show that you attend, penning an article on something of interest to the general membership or helping to assemble, fold, staple and stamp the final product. Another task to be done is producing the 2001 Membership Roster which everyone likes to get as soon after the first of the year as possible.

This year I can't handle the entire load, even with Buddy's help. Please think about what you can do and let's talk about it at our next meeting.



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## From the National scene....

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A new *Drivers Class* was approved by the Board of Directors at their October 2000 meeting. It is designed to promote the show and driving of non-modified vehicles and will be open to all non-modified vehicles 25 years and older that have not received a First Junior Award. A non-competitive class, it will not be judged but rather evaluated by a team of AACA judges as a driver vehicles.

This class should encourage younger persons and others to join AACA and show their non-modified vehicles. Recognition will include an AACA oval for mounting on the vehicle signifying it as a Driver Participation Vehicle. It will be presented, along with a 'Driver' tab, at the Awards Banquet along with all other awards. Each time the vehicle is shown and recertified, the owner will receive another tab. After receiving five tabs, a mounting board will be presented to the owner.

This class will not be included in the National Fall Meet at Hershey nor at the Annual Grand National Meet. A reduction of the usual \$17 entry fee will be offered to those registering a car in this class.

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Another change beginning this year will in the eligibility for Historical Preservation of Original Features (HPOF) vehicles. Starting with the first meet of 2001, vehicles in this category are required to be only 35 years old, rather than the previous 45. This class is also evaluated by a AACA judge team for certification/recertification.

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You will remember that a **Factory High Performance Class** was established beginning in 2000 which opened up a category for these fire-breathing cars of the 1960s and 1970s.

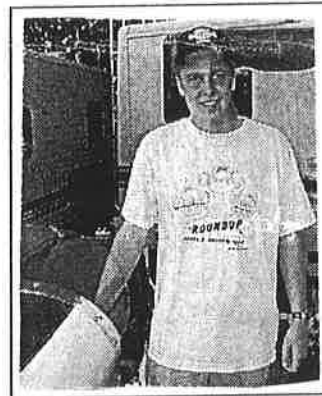
The ad on page 32 in the Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> issue of *Old Cars Weekly* states AACA is speaking a whole new language, a language filled with words like Hemi, Cuda, Judge, Cobra, Talladega, Firebird, Hurst and 442.

This is just another example of AACA continuing to move forward into the new millennium.

Douglas Drake, AACA Executive Vice President and Chairman of Youth Programs, announced that AACA has a new membership category that was also approved at the previously mentioned Board of Directors meeting. It is a special membership for students ages 16 through 25. Any interested person in that age range can become a full voting member of AACA as well as receive the *Antique Automobile* magazine for only \$12 per year. All that is required is a completed application form, a copy of the student ID badge and the \$12 fee. Upon reaching the age of 25 or graduation, which ever occurs first, then the normal membership dues rate applies.

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### Meet the first Student Member of AACA: B. J. Miller



B. J. is a senior at a Hamilton, Ohio high School. He is active in the Ohio Valley Region of the Model A Club of America and the Noken T's of northern Kentucky. His interests are in Model As and Ts engines which he rebuilds in his Dad's shop.

He is a seasoned Hershey-goer, this past October having been his fourth year. He says what enjoys most about this event is finding old accessories for Model T Speedsters; especially at a price he can't refuse (cheap ~ his word). However, he also tells that Hershey is not only about finding parts, etc., but about meeting new people and old friends. His Grandfather started going to Hershey in its second year and his Dad went along with him the third year. Now that B. J.'s grandfather is unable to go, B. J. goes along with his dad.

AACA's first student member states that Hershey is unexplainable; that he's even heard it referred to as religion. The only way to understand is experience it for yourself.



Jim & Nancy Henderson  
P.O. Box 190610  
Mobile, AL 36619-0610

Deep South Region  
Antique Automobile Club of America  
4963 Freeway Lane  
Mobile, AL 36619-1716

## Important Dates 2001

- Jan. 25 DSR Meeting in clubhouse 7:30 P.M.
- Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb. 22 DSR Meeting in clubhouse 7:30 P.M. following annual Cook-off
- Feb. 27 Mardi Gras Day
- Mar. 8-11 *AACA Winter Meet in Punta Gorda, FL*
- Mar. 10 ABWA Coastal Classic Car Show ~ Ft. Walton Beach, FL
- Mar. 17 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ALAGA Car Show ~ Lake Eufala, AL
- Mar. 22 DSR Meeting in clubhouse
- Mar. 23-25 MCA National Show
- Apr. 7 Multi-club picnic

Have forgotten to pay your dues? You can take care of this at the meeting or mail to Carl Bailey. Local : \$15 or combo - \$41. For National and local is \$41. neon orange dot on newsletter means you

Apr. 7  
Apr. 21  
May 3-5

sheet will be available at the January meeting for you to list your choice on.  
Don't miss out on having a nice meal without any fuss prior to the business meeting. The time is yet to be determined but look for it to be in the six o'clock range.  
If you are one of those who don't like to drive at night, why not call another member in your general area and ask for a ride? Helping each other out is just one of the things we do.

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## DSR Cook-off coming next month

February is one of the months members really look forward to. That's when the cooks in the club show off their skills. Those who don't compete do the "taste testing" to determine the three winners.

Chili, soup, stew or whatever cold-weather comfort food is your specialty can garner you one of the coveted trophies.

If you don't choose to enter the contest and be a "taster" then you should plan to bring some type of side dish that will be a good accompaniment to the entrees or perhaps a dessert. The club provides all the paper products and beverages.

## DSR member involved in auto accident

Many of you are acquainted with Maudie McCrory. As she was leaving the address on County Road 27 near Daphne on December 8<sup>th</sup> she collided with another vehicle. She was admitted to the hospital and later transferred to Mercy Medical to complete her recovery. She was to be discharged from there on January 12. She and Henry are now living in Loxley and their new address is: 27110 Cabinet Shop Road, Loxley, AL 36551. No doubt a card would help brighten the day of a very nice person.