

Sparkplug

NEWSLETTER OF THE
DEEP SOUTH REGION

A.A.C.A.



1997 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	John Reid	666-3761
VICE PRESIDENT:	Mike Williamson	473-3442
SECRETARY:	Greg McDonnell	476-7178
TREASURER:	Carl Bailey	947-5262
ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR:		
MEMBER AT LARGE:	Jim Martin	661-6133
		661-4009

Vol. 30 No. 7 July 1997 EDITOR: Patt Paquet

Annual Fourth of July Watermelon Fest Enjoyed by Members and Guests

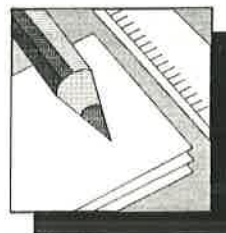
Picture it. You are a kid. It's late afternoon and you are bored. It's July hot, there is no one to play with. What to do? If you weren't a "city slicker", you go to the watermelon patch, walk down the dusty rows squishing the heated dirt between your bare toes thumping your way through the melons until you find just the right one. You pick it up and...plop!...drop it on the ground so it splits. You reach in the exact middle and pull out the heart of the melon, put it in your mouth and savor the sweetness. It is warm from the sun and the juice runs down your hands, arms and chin. The best ones are just the right shade of green with a few stripes, and maybe sorta white on the part that had been on the ground longest. They were round, not oblong, and not too big. Therefore, less waste when you leave that one to the swarms of gnats and flies attracted by your handiwork. You simply go on to find another and do the same thing again.

Well, those days are long past for most of us and now we relish air conditioning and cold melons. That's exactly what 39 DSR members, their families and guests did on Sunday afternoon, July 6. Seeing the number of watermelons spread on newspaper-covered tables in the clubhouse, it looked at first as if we had almost as many melons as people!

While DSR member **Ross Sloan** presented a short skit on "privy building", the icy delicacies were being cut. When the entertainment was concluded, everyone found just the slice they wanted and sat down to enjoy it while socializing with friends. It was nothing short of a Kodak moment.

It was a little over an hour before Mother Nature decided she had had all of this good time she could stand and decided it was time to rumble. The floor finishers were to be at the clubhouse on Monday so members pitched in to clear the meeting room of tables, chairs, etc. The kitchen was cleaned in record time and we all hopped in our cars just in time to keep from getting soaked.

Enjoying the outing were **2 Andersons, 2 Cammons, L. Collins, L. Crowds, 2 Ebls, 2 Fews, P. Francis, 2 Jarvises, R. Jones, 2 Kaesers, 2 Lunsfords, G. McDonnell, J. Martin, L. nelson, 2 Paquets, C. Pugh, 2 Reids, 2 Rowells, R. Sloan, 2 Wheltons, 2 Whites and 2 Youens.** Those of you who weren't there were missed but you missed out on a grand time.



Jot It Down

There are five Thursdays in this month but the DSR meeting is the **fourth** Thursday, **July 24**. It can slip up on you when the powers that be throw an extra Thursday in the month.

Minutes

Deep South Region A.A.C.A. June 26, 1997 Meeting

After the meeting was called to order by John Reid, President, the invocation was offered by Don Dillehay in the absence of Hershel Whigham, Chaplain. Recent eye surgery prevented Hershel's attendance. There were 34 members and two guests present.

Old Business: Having been tabled from the two previous meetings, the finishing of the floor in the new addition to the clubhouse was the first matter on John's agenda. After a brief discussion, one of the three bids to install tile flooring was accepted on a motion by Ed Lunsford with a second from Anna White. Motion carried. John continued to seek volunteers to build a bookcase for the clubhouse. All materials for this project will be paid for by the club.

A motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting as published in the newsletter was made by Al White. A second came from Joyce Francis, motion carried.

John thanked Larry Collins for coordinating the June 14 wedding transport and Larry happily turned the proceeds over to Carl Bailey, Treasurer.

New Business: The first order of new business was a proposal by Greg McDonnell, Secretary, regarding a very badly needed irrigation system for the planting area surrounding the AACCA/DSR sign in front of the clubhouse. After an explanation that all materials would be supplied at his cost and all labor would be donated, Bill Cox moved to accept the proposal. Joyce Francis seconded the motion, motion carried.

Following a review of the current financial report presented by Carl, Larry Collins moved to accept it as printed. A second came from Al White, motion carried.

John opened a discussion regarding forthcoming activities. John asked the members if they desired to make the July 5 display at Big Lots in Saraland an official club activity. The membership was in agreement. A motion was made by Buddy Paquet with a second from Anna White that DSR accept their invitation. It was noted that a coordinator was needed and Elven Few accepted. He will contact members for their participation. A wedding transport request for August 2 had been received and Ed Lunsford offered to handle this event.

John asked the members if they wished to continue the annual Hooter's Car Show. This year it would be Oct. 25, 1997. Raymond Cochran moved for DSR to continue putting on this show with Mike Williamson seconding the motion. John asked for help and Mike immediately offered to co-chair the event. Much to Mike's surprise, John made Mike the chairman of the show. He graciously accepted this challenge.

Announcements: It was noted that Anna White had retired from The University of Mobile on June 25. It was also mentioned the July issue of *Southern Living* contained an article regarding Greg McDonnell's renovation of his home in midtown Mobile. Lycyle Crowdus won the 50-50 pot.

Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Buddy Paquet, Mike Williamson seconded. Motion carried. Adjournment came at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg McDonnell

Blueberry Festival & Car Show

By John Reid

When Jim Whelton, Brenda and I left at approximately 9:30 AM On July 21, we were wondering if we would get the rain we have grown so accustomed to with this show. Well, we didn't; all we got was hot. There were 119 great cars that entered to be judged. I think the temperature was 119 as well!

We were parked on the back side of the Jefferson Davis Community College in an area that we had not been located in before. This created just a small amount of confusion but it was quickly overcome and we parked and cleaning the vehicles.

The South Alabama Region AACA got together and completed their judging to start awarding the trophies at 3:00 PM -- almost on the dot! The show had some vehicles we haven't seen before and all of them were of top show quality.

DSR members showing their cars (and winning trophies) were **1 Bailey, 2 Cammons, 1 Grimes, 1 Martin, 1 Nelson, 2 Reids and 1 Whelton.** Attending without cars were **1 Cordell, 2 Lunsfords, 2 Neeses, 1 Pugh, 1 Whigham and 2 Whites.** Ed Grimes' son, Eddy, was there as well as the White's daughter, JoAnna.



More New Web Sites

If you are an old-car buff who is also into computers, here are two interesting places to visit. One is The Auto Restoration Home Page (<http://www.geocities.com/~autobuff>). According to *Classic Auto Restorer*, this one really delivers. A few dozen restorations are covered and the feature project is a 1925 Ford fire truck. *Old Cars Weekly* describes the Blackhawk Automotive Museum (www.blackhawkauto.org) as the "hobby's best kept secret". Another is Mac's Antique Auto Parts which can be reached at <http://www.macsautoparts.com>.

New Model A Club's First Outing

By Carl Bailey

Some participants met at the USS Alabama for a 8:00 AM departure up Highway 31 to Brewton for the Blueberry Festival and AACA Car Show. Jim Martin and his friend, George, Larry Nelson, Marien Brent and Lonnie and Frances Singleton left in four Model A's to meet the Carl Bailey vehicle with Joyce Vaughn riding shotgun in Bay Minette. We picked up the Fortners and the Greenes of Pensacola in Flomaton.

When we pulled off to make a minor carburetor adjustment on Jim's car and add some water to my radiator, Hershel Whigham and a friend stopped to see if we needed help. Due to Hershel's recent eye surgery, he couldn't take the Falcon. On the road again, a van sped past with Melvin Neese waving from the back seat.

The Model A Club cars were among the last of the arrivals with the exception of Ed Lunsford who should have received a "hard luck" trophy. The Jag's fuel pump gave out and he had to turn back but he and Joan made it to the show to see their son, Mike, win "Post-War Best of Show" with his Jag.

We saw our friend, Lawrence Moseley, with his '68 Chevy pickup along with other familiar cars and faces. It was a enjoyable day and a pleasant drive there and back with good friends, a good time and good food. I will give the car show and festival a 9+ and the blueberry cobbler topped with blueberry ice cream a 10.



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 and AACA national dues are \$24 single/\$26 joint. Views expressed in the Sparkplug are not necessarily those of the Region officers or AACA.

Big Lots

Display Nets Donation for Club

Thanks to some quick telephone work by Elven Few, the club had 11 cars displayed for a promo by the Saraland Big Lots store. Along with the vehicles was Uncle Joe's Petting Zoo for the kids (and some of us, too). We had the cars lined up directly in front of the store for the 10:00 AM starting time. Members took advantage of the sidewalk and canopy to arrange our chairs and answer questions about the cars from shoppers. The store furnished hot dogs, chips and soft drinks for participants when lunchtime came.

Most everyone availed themselves to some of the bargains the store had that day. They probably sold enough to DSR members cover the donation they made to the club. And speaking of donations, not only did we receive a nice one, but a top-of-the-line Charmglow gas grill as well. It can be used for our DSR car show raffle next year or any number of other things. It would be great to install it permanently at the clubhouse, but we run the risk of it being vandalized with the number of folks who seem to think our grounds are part of the park across the street.

Helping out on Saturday, July 5, were **2 Andersons, 2 Cammons, L. Collins, 2 Fews, 2 Jarvises, J. Kaeser, 2 Lunsfords, 2 Paquets, 2 Reids, A. White and E. Youens.** Thanks to Elven for volunteering to organize the display.



Congratulations to **Anna White** who retired from the University of Mobile on July 25, 1997. She had been with the school's Athletic Department for 11 years. Anna said one of her most enjoyable experiences was working with the exchange students who attended the University.



Historical Highlights

1910 Cadillac

Body Style: Gentleman's Roadster
Cost: \$1,600 **Horsepower: 30**
Cylinders: 4
Maker: Cadillac Motor Car Co.
Detroit, Michigan

The Cadillac Company was organized in 1902, the first production model being the Model A in 1903. Successful from the beginning, the A was a typical American car of the time. It featured a one-cylinder, 6 h.p., 98.2 cubic inch water-jacketed engine located under the seat, chain-drive to the rear wheels, and a wheelbase of 73 inches. The two seater cost \$750 and speed was about 25 mph. It sold well, some 2,000 the first year.

Cadillac owes its greatness to Henry M. Leland, better known for the Lincoln. He was 62 when he went with Cadillac in 1904. Once there, and with a free hand, he insisted upon and enforced the rule of absolute interchangeability of parts. Cadillac won the DeWitt Trophy in 1908 and again in 1912--this time with the electric self-starter and system that went with it...a six-volt motor that produced a momentary surge of 24 volts, sufficient to turn over a cold engine. At this point, women being freed from the necessity of cranking, joined the men as drivers--a revolution at that time.

In 1909, William C. Durant added Cadillac to his new combine, General Motors. Leland remained in charge, continuing to build some eight thousand cars yearly. Black ink on the ledger books was the rule and the situation in this area has never changed.

In 1914, Cadillac introduced its V-8, dropped the fours, and standardized on this power-plant. No sixes were ever built by the firm. The V-8 changed very little until 1927, but did increase in horsepower. For their time, these cars ran easily, smoothly, topped out at a speed of 70 and were forerunners of the types of Cadillac owners want and buy today.

During the 90 plus years of its existence, Cadillac has established itself as a standard of the world. It consistently outsells all competitors in the high-priced field. Quality materials, luxury of appointments, rigid manufacturing and inspection controls all combine to place it second to none. Today, Cadillac features the largest passenger car engine existent to power its current models.

Towrope Etiquette

by Madame Manners

Utilizing the full extent of the connections at their disposal and sparing every expense, the South Alabama British Car Club engaged the services of Madame Manners, that ivy-covered arbiter of all that is automotively proper.

Since towropes have been a topic that appeared in the club's newsletter rather frequently lately, they decided to ask for Madame Manners' views of the subject. Herewith, Madame Manners towrope etiquette:

* When requesting the aid of a fellow motorist, keep in mind the towrope should be provided by the tow-ee. Not having your own in a time of need is akin to "bumming" a cigarette then asking for a light to go with it.

* The said towrope should be just that...a rope or a strap of some non-metallic material that will not mark the tower-er's vehicle.

* While the tow is underway, be constantly aware of the dangers of "taillight hypnosis", euphemistically known as "head in rectal cavity", although Madame Manners has little regard for such euphemisms. Rear ending your tow-er will not advance the cause of club fellowship. However, non-participants will find much mirth in relating the story to others.

* Madame Manners is asked quite often about the propriety of wearing a paper bag over one's head as the tow-ee. Madam Manners urges the pilot of the towed vehicle to hold the head high and take the medicine with a stiff upper lip. As for the unlucky passenger, such headgear is considered proper, especially if the conveyance is a roadster.

* At all costs, avoid the temptation to pass the tow-er, even on the long downhill stretches. While this action may appear amusing to the tow-ee, it will only cause distress to the tow[er and possibly lead to "tail wagging the dog" syndrome for both parties.

* Once safely at your destination, Madame Manners considers it poor form to request assistance

of the tow-er in pushing the stricken vehicle, especially up steep driveways. The tow-ee should engage other help for this task, like disinterested teenagers who could likely use the exercise.

* The expression of gratitude is left entirely to the discretion of the tow-ee. The tow-ee should bear in mind that the tow-er may exercise certain prerogatives, i.e. ribbing, jest and general character attacks. The tow-ee is cautioned to weigh gratuity options carefully.

* Madame Manners has asked readers to be assured that her personal Mini has never been on a towrope, but has on occasion been picked up and carried to safety by gentlemen in morning coats and bowlers. Such panache! *By Rodney McDonald*

Copied from the SABCC newsletter, Vol. 4. Nos. 7 & 8



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Help Needed for Aug. 2 Wedding Transport

Ed Lunsford is seeking eight older model vehicles for the event noted above. Line-up will be 1:45 PM at the church on Sage Avenue. The wedding party will be driven to the Bakery Cafe on Dauphin Street downtown and dropped off. You will be tied up for about one to one and one-half hours. The club has already received a deposit to guarantee our services and the balance of the contribution will be made the day of the wedding. If you can and will help out with this please call Ed at 661-8636 before he has to call you.

EEKS! Leaks!

What do all those drips and puddles on your garage floor mean? Here are some clues that will help you diagnose your car's fluid leaks.

- Black or brown slippery substance under the engine? It's probably oil. A drip or two isn't serious, but more than a quarter cup deserves action. A good mechanic will check the valve-cover gasket before looking elsewhere.
- Water-like liquid under the front of the car? This is usually condensation from the air conditioning system. It's normal.
- Green or yellow puddles under the engine? Could be either radiator coolant or antifreeze. Check the coolant level immediately. Coolant leaks can come from the radiator, heater hoses, water pump shaft seal or an internal leak.
- Red or pink oily fluid under the center of a rear wheel drive car? This is probably from the transmission. If there's more than a teaspoon, have a mechanic check it out.
- Red or pink fluid under the driver's side toward the front bumper? The colors vary by car but the location is the same. It's probably power steering fluid but it could also be brake fluid. Power steering fluid will stay oily when you wash it with water. Brake fluid will wash away. It's a good idea to have a professional check it out for you if you are not proficient in this area.
- Brake fluid leaks? The first sign of trouble may be the brake warning light, a low brake pedal or the car's pulling to one side when braking. Either check it yourself at once or have it done.
- Pink or clear, strong-smelling liquid? Probably gasoline, especially if it's in the vicinity of gas line connections. Any fluid leak is dangerous and demands immediate attention.

Copied from *Friend to Friend*, Vol. 11 No. 1, a publication of the Bankers Life and Casualty Company



Car Show Progressing Well

Show Chairman, Mike Williamson reports he feels very confident that by no later than August, all the committee chairs will be filled. As you can see from the list below, help is still needed: Can you??? Will you??? Most tasks require only a few hours so you would have time to shine up your flivver and still join in the fun of working the show.

Pre-Registration:	John Reid
On-Site Registration:	Patt Paquet
Head Judge:	Jerry Finley
Parking:	Harold Rowell
Tally:	Buddy Paquet
Door Prizes:	_____
Peoples Choice:	_____
50/50 Pot:	_____

W.G. Rhinehart has graciously offered to bring his motorhome for those doing paperwork. If it's hot, cold or raining, those folks will have it made!

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Bob Gechjian

FOR ALL THOSE BORN BEFORE 1947

We are the survivors!! Consider the changes we have witnessed! We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball-point pens. Even before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes...and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first then lived together. How quaint can you be? In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of". Bunnies were small rabbits and not Volkswagons. Designer jeans were scheming girls named "Jean" and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during lent and outer space was the back of the theater. We were before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were before day-care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electronic typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and guys wearing earrings. For us, timesharing meant togetherness--not computers or condominiums. A chip was a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word.

Back then, "Made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. Pizza, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of, we hit the scene where there were 5 & 10 cent stores where you bought things for a nickel and a dime. For one nickel, you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards; you could buy a new Chevy coupe for \$600...but who could afford one? A pity too, because gas was 11 cents a gallon.

In our day, grass was mowed, not smoked; Coke was a cold drink and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a grandma's lullaby and

aids were helpers in the principal's office. We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely not before the sex change. We made do with what we had and we were the last generation that was so dumb to think you needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today. But we survived. What better reason to celebrate !

Editor's Note: The copy of the above was left on my briefcase at a meeting and I do not know the source it was copied from but thanks to the author and whomever submitted it. Many of us can relate to its content.

Did You Know???

The inventor of the windshield wiper was a woman. Mary Anderson came up with the idea in 1902 after noticing that a streetcar motorman had to keep his side windows open on a rainy day in order to see the road ahead. In 1903 she was awarded a 17-year patent for a hand-operated wiper that moved in the familiar fan pattern. T'was her only invention. In spite of the practicality of her idea, some time went by before wipers became popular. Automatic ones were first featured on some cars in 1910. Not until 1916, however, did they become standard equipment on American cars.



FEEL FREE TO RECYCLE

Please pass this newsletter on to a friend who is not a member of AACADSR along with an application for both. If you don't have applications, call me and I will be happy to furnish them to you. Don't forget about Junior Membership, too!

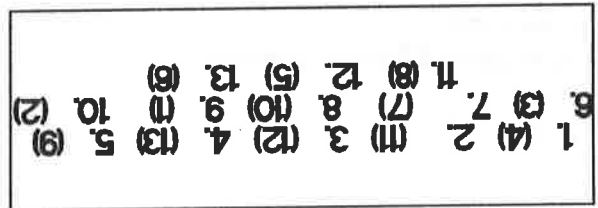
Auto Trivia

How well do you know your automobiles and automotive history? Match the answers in the right column with the questions in the left.


1. Mercury's mid-fifties glasstop was known as the _____.
2. What major and unusual body feature did the Kaiser-Darrin, Chevrolet Corvette and the Studebaker Avanti share?
3. Packard first offered "air conditioning" in _____.
4. Who was the first president to ride to his inauguration in an automobile?
5. In 1905, which auto maker offered a cast aluminum body?
6. What model name did both Cadillac and DeSoto use in the 1950s?
7. Chevrolet's sporty two-door wagon of the mid-fifties was the _____.
8. Which brand of gasoline used the winged horse Pegasus as its symbol?
9. What year did Ford introduce the Fairlane?
10. Pontiac's model that shared its name with a salt flat famous for speed trials was the _____.
11. What automobile was produced by the J. Stevens Arms Co., a Massachusetts gun manufacturer?
12. What was the last model year for Chrysler's 426 Hemi and 440 Six Pack?
13. *Cars and Parts* magazine was first published in what year?

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. 1955 | 7. Nomad |
| 2. Bonneville | 8. Stevens-Duryea |
| 3. Seville | 9. Pierce-Arrow |
| 4. Sun Valley | 10. Mobil |
| 5. 1971 | 11. Fiberglass body |
| 6. 1957 | 12. 1940 |

13. Warren G. Harding
(March 4, 1921 in a Packard Twin Six)



The above question/answers are excerpted from the "Auto Trivia" in the June and July issues of *Cars and Parts*.



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IMPORTANT DATES

1997

- July 24 DSR Meeting at 7:30 PM in clubhouse
July 26-27 Noccalula Falls Car Show-Gadsden, AL - Joan Clements (205) 547-7143
- Aug. 8-10 The Big Easy Summer Slam Fest - Lafreniere Park - Metairie, LA
Info - (504)394-6975
- Aug. 17-23 AAECM's 28th Annual Edgewater Mall Antique Show open to vehicles 20 years
or older. Space is limited, register early. (601)392-4374
- Aug. 23 West Florida Region AACA's Annual Seville Square Show - Todd Chappell
(904)436-7610
- Aug. 28 DSR Meeting at 7:30 PM in clubhouse
Sept. 1 52nd Annual Labor Day Celebration & Car Show @ Greater Gulf States Fairgrounds
Info-Gayle Rhinehart (334)661-4635. If no answer, leave message
- Sept. 6 Emerald Cost Car Show - Open show with 60 classes - Ft. Walton Beach HS
Info - (904) 862-6656
- Sept. 25 DSR Meeting at 7:30 PM in clubhouse
Sept. 27 4th Annual MOPAR ONLY Show at Dalgo's Chrysler - Pascagoula, MS
Info - Don (601)872-0378

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

