



The Sparkplug



Newsletter of the Deep South Region A. A. C. A. Vol. 31 No. 3 March 1998

“Let the good times roll...”

Nine cars, some decked out with the traditional Mardi Gras colors of purple, green and gold, carrying 17 DSR members turned out to provide a little fun for the clients of the Albert P. Brewer Center on Friday, February 20th. Our club has been a part of the Center's Mardi Gras parade for a number of years.



Drivers and passengers were loaded down with throws for those lining the route, clients and employees alike. Restricted to only moonpies and beads as throws (due to the condition of the clients) doesn't hamper DSR folks. Beads of nearly every color and description and moonpies wrapped in plain, silver or gold flew through the air with relish as the parade-goers were showered with goodies.

Each year seems to bring one or two “new” DSRer's to the group along with other participants. This year there were two bands and floats galore!! What a nice feeling it is to see how much pleasure this little parade brings to the residents.

Motoring in this year's parade were **R. Cochran, 2 Fews, 2 Jones, 2 Lunsfords** with their granddaughter **Lindsey, 2 Paquets, 2 Reids, 2 Whighams, 2 Whites and 2 Youens**. Missing this year, probably the first time since the event began, was **Floyd Jordan** who had surgery four days prior.



Judging seminar big success

The weather was cooperative and the turnout for the DSR's judging seminar was good. Along with 18 members were members of the Antique Auto and Engine Club of Mississippi, the MOPAR club folks and two fellows all the way from Violet, LA. William Steele who has a '67 Chevelle, of which he is the original owner, and a friend who has a Mustang came over to participate.

The morning began with coffee and a few minutes to get acquainted with those that were new this time around. Handouts were provided and a discussion covering the areas of judging followed. A number of questions were posed and answered then the group moved outside to do a walk-around on several cars and comparisons of daily drivers versus show cars. Through this process, those in attendance were able to see things that they could do that would improve their own vehicles.

DSR members on hand were **2 Andersons, 1 Annis, 1 Bailey, 2 Burdeshaws, 2 Ebls, 1 Lunsford** with son, Mike, **1 Martin** (with not only his usual bag of peanuts but a bag of pretzels as well) **1 Musgrove, 1 Nelson, 2 Paquets, 1 Pugh, 1 Rowell, 1 Sloan and 1 Williamson**.

All the vehicles created quite a stir among passersby. A fellow and two young boys on bikes out for a ride stopped by and got a tour of the clubhouse; a fellow in a '56 Chevy was driving by, saw the crew out looking at the cars and stopped in to chat for a bit. Another couple in modern iron who like antique cars took advantage of finding something going on pulled in to visit also.

Things moved along so well that the gang opted to continue rather than break for lunch so all was concluded about 12:30 with folks on their way home. The only thing missing was **Jerry Finley**, who said he was doing a boat survey...in *West Palm Beach, FL*...that's tough work, Jerry !!!

Minutes

Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Meeting February 26, 1998

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Buddy Paquet. Lambert Mims gave the invocation in the absence of Chaplain Don Dillehay. The meeting was attended by 32 members.

Old Business: A corrected face plate was presented to John Reid, immediate Past President, for the plaque he received in December at the end of his Presidency. The original had been incorrectly engraved. A motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting was made by Joyce Francis and a second by Al White. Motion carried. Activities Coordinator Leah Musgrove presented the 10 couples that celebrated 50 or more years of marriage at the Valentine Breakfast with a five by seven framed photograph. Also receiving three by five framed photographs were the couples that helped put the affair together. The Breakfast was well attended with a total of 81. Hershel & Francis Whigham reported they have 28 signed up for the March 21 Tour.

New Business: Buddy introduced our newest members, Lambert & Reecie Mims. Buddy announced an invitation by Mobile County for DSR to participate in County/City Day May 30, 1998. The time will be 12:00 to 5:30. Seven or eight antique cars are needed. Buddy also reminded everyone of the Judging Seminar March 14, 1998. It will be held at the clubhouse at 10:00 AM. Eddie Anderson is the 1998 May Car Show Chairman. He asked for volunteers for positions that have not yet been filled. A motion to approve the February Financial Report was made by George Demetropulos and a second by Hershel Whigham. Motion carried. Leah Musgrove announced DSR has been asked to participate in two weddings. The dates are March 21 and April 10. One car is needed for each, preferably 30's or 40's vintage. The club's April outing will be to Dauphin Island Sea Lab and lunch is tentatively planned at the Isle Dauphine Club. This outing is being coordinated by Bob Gechijian and W. G. Rhinehart. John and Sue Kaeser asked that DSR entertain suggestions for assisting the Reinhart family with expenses incurred in connection with their grandson's medical condition. The Reinharts are members of the Mobile Bay Mustang Club and are well known to DSR members.

Announcements: W. G. Rhinehart has pneumonia. Cecil Pugh is back in Mobile following back surgery in Dallas. The 50-50 Pot was won by Junie Jarvis. John Reid reminded the membership of the Camellia Classic Car Show April 4, 1998, at Bellingrath Gardens. Motion to adjourn was made at 8:00 PM by Al White and a second by Hershel Whigham. Motion carried. The members retreated to the kitchen for the Third Annual Chili Cookoff, coordinated by John and Brenda Reid. Going home with very unique trophies were First Place Eugenia Youens, Second Place Joyce Francis, and Third Place Ann Rowell. I'm sure every that participated had heartburn later.

Submitted by,

Ann Rowell

A rare find ?

By Carl Bailey

I got a telephone call the other day from a person that I have been acquainted with for some years. I never got to know him very well but we talked about antique cars~ my interest ~ and antique railroad items and one lungers~ his interest ~ when we would occasionally meet. His name is Joseph.

Joseph had something that he wanted to show me. He asked for directions to my house so that he could come over and draw me a map that I might find his place. He arrived at my house shortly thereafter and was so excited that he was practically beside himself. He drew a map for me and asked me when I would be coming over.

Later, when I got to his place I was met by his wife and a big dog but both were friendly. I was escorted to the house which was in the middle of approximately five acres. Joseph showed me a very nice one ton Ford truck and a lot of railroad mobilia and other antiques. "But," he explained, "this isn't what I want you to see." From the house we proceeded to an out building where when he opened the garage-type door, much to my surprise were two Pontiac Firebird convertibles. One was a green '67, 326 CID, auto, all power and the other was a red '69, 350 CID, four-speed. They are both very nice but the automatic transmission seals had gone bad from lack of use and the fluid was on the floor. The '69 had one dent on the left rear fender, not all that bad, where the garage door had fallen on it. The chrome and trim is almost perfect on both cars. The tops have been down for approximately fifteen years so needless to say they are likely to be bad. Joseph informed me he wants to trade one of the Firebirds for a restored Model T truck or any restored '20 - 30's truck.

Again, he stated, "But this isn't what I want to show you.," We walked on out further from the house to another building where I saw a VW Thing under the carport area but that wasn't it either. We went into the building where there sat an original unrestored 1927 Chevrolet fire engine. It is nice and

is complete except for a ladder. There are hoses, pumps, lights, a bell and wood spoke wheels; it is really neat. In the same building are about fifteen one lungers, some in really nice condition. We talked for hours about all his goodies.

Joseph was very excited about the fire engine, a new find for him but he is serious about getting an antique truck in the 1920-30 era so if any of you know of one let me know and I will put you in touch with him. I can't give you a phone number or address because he doesn't have either.

DSR History Books Delivered

You can pick up your copy of the DSR History Book, hot off the press~ well, maybe luke-warm~ at the March 26th meeting. Ernie will have them ready for Carl to hand out to those who have pre-paid for their copy. There are a few of both the color as well as the black and white available if you did not order in advance. They will have to be picked up rather than being mailed unless you want to pay the postage.

1998 Membership Rosters Ready

Thanks to all of you who got your dues in ahead of time, the DSR Membership Roster is finished and can also be picked up at the March 26th meeting. The editor hopes the typos are not nearly as numerous as last year.

Not only does it contain a listing of the members and their cars but also the By Laws which were revised this past year.

I must tell you that our good friends at CopyMax, a part of Office Max, ran all the inside pages with the club supplying only the paper. What a blessing that was considering the number of pages. I was there at 7:15 a.m. and out by 8:00 a.m.

An interesting letter

By Ed Franko

Bonnie and I are starting on a '56 Packard Caribbean and I had put an ad out for a few parts. The following letter, mailed January 5, 1998, was a response:

Dear Ed,

The wire wheel covers and windshield for your 1956 Caribbean convertible, both in excellent condition, are in my possession. I will sell these items to you for a total of \$325.00 which includes freight charges. Please send a cashier's check in my name. Upon receipt of said check I will ship the merchandise to you.

Sincerely,

Johnny R. Johnson

*Send cashier's check to: Johnny R. Johnson
46 1584 Stiles
3060 FM 3514
Beaumont TX 77705*

Boy, at first look, what a bargain - can't be true!!! Looking at the address (with no phone) it looked a little strange. Bonnie's next approach was to call information and try for a phone number. No good! But the operator did give her the number for the Beaumont police and post office.

Since it was a Saturday the decision was to call the police station. A female officer answered the phone. Bonnie told her, "This is a strange request, but we got this letter and we are suspicious of it. We wondered if you could shed some light on the issue." The officer said "read me the address." By the time Bonnie reached the third line, the officers was laughing. "That is the Federal Penitentiary. Do not send him any money!"

Yes, we did send a letter to the Warden. Can't help but wonder how many other people have heard from Johnny R. Johnson!!! Motto - always be real sure who you are mailing that check to!!!

Ed Franko is President of the Genesee Valley Antique Car Society and his wife, Bonnie is Editor of their newsletter *The Brass Lamp*. The above article appeared in their March 1998 issue. It certainly bears reprinting here!!

Editors finally meet

Following the 1997 AACA Annual Meeting, I decided to see what kind of newsletter those who received the Award of Excellence and a Master Editor Award published. I wrote each editor who had received that coveted piece of paper and ask if they would share with me one or two of their back issues. I included copies of the *Sparkplug* and ask them for ideas that would improve it.

What an enlightening experience it was as the copies from those who responded came in. I must say that about 80% did respond but only two or three actually took the time to offer any suggestions.

One of those who did was a fellow named Tom Cresap. He and his family live in Alaska and have for over 30 years. We immediately began an Internet E-mail exchange and when I learned he and his wife, Marcy, would be "outside" as they term it, issued them an invitation to contact us if they got to the South.

When Marcy flew to New Mexico to be with her parents, Tom flew to Florida to pick up a car trailer he had ordered and move Marcy's sister to New Mexico. To make a long story short, he called from Pensacola on his trip West and we met Tom and his sister-in-law, took them to see the clubhouse and then to lunch. It was a most enjoyable three hours that went far too quickly.

We talked non-stop. The Antique Auto Musers of Alaska had participated in a parade with a temperature of 5° below 0 just before Tom and Marcy left!! And I learned that the lead-in shots of "Northern Exposure" with the moose walking down the street is absolutely authentic. It is quite common, according to Tom, to see a female and her baby in your back yard munching contentedly.

They plan to be back in Eagle River, which is near Anchorage, by April 15th with Marcy's '66 Mustang which they found in September 1997 and has been stored in her parent's garage. As we said good-bye to Tom and Marcy's sister I thought...what if I had never written that letter? That was the best 32 cents I ever spent!

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Just for the ladies...

Let's start this month off with some "Do you remembers"... You might date yourself but then again, memories are what sustain us through life. Remember little girls wearing big hairbows and pinafores, women wearing house dresses and aprons...finger waves...platform high heels with ankle straps...S & H green stamps, "Duz Does Everything" and margarine with a little ball of dye to color it...Banlon or Orlon cardigan sweaters worn buttoned down the back...getting your boyfriend's class ring and wrapping a mile of tape around it to hold it on your finger...pedal pushers, Capri pants, and girls wore only white underwear. How about the radio shows...Lorenzo Jones, Mary Noble, Backstage Wife and Stella Dallas...or the magazines...*Life*, *Collier's*, *Saturday Evening Post* and *Ladies Home Companion*. And dolls...there was Sparkle Plenty, Betsy McCall, Tiny Tears and the Toni doll. Any of you wear boy's Levis, low slung with a wide leather belt or saddle oxfords or penny loafers with bright new pennies tucked in the slot? Can you go back to when your ceiling light was controlled by a string or when the flooring was "linoleum" or your bed had slats???



Texas Potatoes Submitted by Sharon Moore

- 1 - 2# package frozen hash brown potatoes
 - 1/2 cup shredded onion
 - 8 oz. sour cream
 - 1 can Cream of Chicken Soup diluted
 - 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
 - 1 stick margarine melted
 - 1 round package of Ritz crackers crushed
- Salt and pepper to taste

Mix all ingredients except margarine and crackers. Pour into casserole dish. Mix crackers and margarine and spread of top of dish. Bake uncovered in 350° oven 1 hour or until done.

Trivia

The first record of pecans being sent to the North from Louisiana was in 1799 when Daniel Clark of New Orleans sent a box to Thomas Jefferson, then Vice President of the United States.

Helpful Hints From Miscellaneous Sources

- If soup or stew is too salty, add raw cut potatoes and discard once cooked and absorbed the salt.
 - Before measuring syrup or honey, spray spoon or container with non-stick cooking spray.
 - Keep a powder puff in the flour container to make easy work of dusting cake pans.
 - Rule to remember ~ left is loose, right is tight.
 - A metal jar lid or a couple of marbles in the bottom of a double boiler will rattle when water gets low and warn you to add more.
 - Silver will shine after a rub with damp baking soda on a soft cloth.
 - Rub salad oil on a grater before using.
- *****

Christmas Stars

Those wishing to make the decorations used at last year's Christmas party need to save 16 plastic rings from six-pack drink cans for each star. I will be happy to get together later in the year to teach you. All you need is a small stapler.

April outing to Dauphin Island

Scheduled for Saturday, April 11th, this will be an excellent short trip to give the vehicles some exercise. It is being coordinated by Bob and Linda Gechjian along with W.G. and Linda Rhinehart. At this time plans are to meet at the Theodore Oaks Shopping Center (next to Hardee's) and depart at 9:00 a.m. sharp. The slowest car will take the lead. We should arrive on Dauphin Island around 10:00 a.m. and will be met by Bob who will lead us to their home for coffee, sweet rolls and a potty break.

We will tour the Sea Lab and newly-opened Estuarium beginning at 11:00 a.m. It features local habitats of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, the Bay, the Barrier Islands and the Gulf of Mexico. Visual displays and interactive exhibitry promise fun for all ages.

You can see what it is like under the legs of the Middle Bay Lighthouse and in the largest tank, an ancient oyster reef. The Estuarium is scheduled to open March 21st and takes approximately one hour to go through. The cost is \$6 or only \$5 for Seniors (of which we are many!!).

After that it will be off to the Isle Dauphine Club for lunch. W.G. will need a head count a few days prior. There will be ample parking for the cars.

Following lunch we will adjourn to W.G. and Linda's home for dessert and coffee and to see his collection of cars. This is an excellent opportunity to invite friends to get acquainted with the DSR as well as bring along children or grandchildren.

We will say good-bye to our "Island" members and enjoy a leisurely drive home after a day of fun, food and fellowship. It is anticipated that we will be back in Mobile around 3:00 p.m.

Plans are still a little tentative but more information will be available at the March meeting. In case of rain...just drive the modern iron!



New winners in chili cook-off

DSR's third annual chili cook-off brought tasty offerings and maybe some heartburn to some. It also produced two new winners this year. After much sampling, discussion, more sampling, cooling of palates by liquid refreshment and even more taste-testing, the judging was held.

You must remember that this part of the contest is highly technical and not for the wishy-washy person that can't make up his or her mind. Naturally, the secret of exactly how it is conducted cannot be revealed here for fear that those other than club members who were in attendance and might read this newsletter would tell how it is done.

When the dust settled, trophies were awarded to **Eugenia Youens** for first place, **Joyce Francis** received a second and last, but not least, **Ann Rowell** took third. They walked away with colorful and unique remembrances which were ceramic bowls filled with red chili peppers and perched atop a stand on a marble base. Congratulations to the winners (and the judges !!).

Refreshments for meetings

Just a reminder that this year our telephone committee callers and the people on their lists are taking turns furnishing refreshments for the monthly meetings. **April** belongs to **Joyce Francis** and her group; **Geneva Cammon** and her members are responsible for **May**; in **August** it will be **Nell Few** and her "callees".

At this point the open months are **June**, **July**, **September**, **October** and **November**. Committee persons who have not yet picked a month are **Betty Cordell**, **Wilma Jones**, **Joan Lunsford** and **Betty Neese** as well as **myself**. If I am in error on any of the above please let me know and I will make corrections. The four listed above may feel free to take their choice and I will take the one month that is left.

AACA 1997 Annual Report

The year closed with a total membership of 56,241 and the Junior Membership grew to 148 members. There were 4,088 vehicles judged at the nine meets held during the year by 2,559 judges.

The AACA Internet Website came fully of age in 1997 with approximately 45,000 visitors. AACA ended the year with 405 Regions and Chapters, essentially the same as the previous year.

The Legislative Committee established an infrastructure of leaders in all areas of the country which have had good success in communicating in a timely fashion responding to local and state issues.

The Library & Research Center had a busy year. A major contribution was received from the Benny Bootle estate, a portion of which will be used to obtain a color copier of the quality need for operations. It will greatly enhance making color information available for members.

The AACA Museum received a very generous donation from the Wm. J. Cammack Supporting Organization. Included are three Tucker automobiles along with substantial memorabilia relating the Tucker vehicles. At year end, the Museum had 31 donated vehicles of which several are on display at National Headquarters.

1998 AACA National Activities

Annual Meeting	Feb. 6-7	Philadelphia, PA
SE Winter Meet	Feb. 26-28	St. Petersburg, FL
SE Spring Meet	Apr. 17-18	Montgomery, AL
SE Divisional Tour	Apr. 20-22	Arab, AL
Western Spring Meet	May 14-16	San Diego, CA
Eastern Division Tour	May 2-23	Lexington Park, MD
Founders Tour	May 24-20	San Francisco, CA
Central Spring Meet	June 11-13	Topeka, KA
Eastern Spring Meet	June 18-20	Salisbury, MD
Annual Grand National	July 9-11	Cherry Hill, NJ
Reliability Tour	Aug. 2-7	Dayton, OH
Eastern Special Meet	Aug. 20-22	Amherst, NY
Western Fall Meet	Sept. 3-5	Cheyenne, WY
SE Fall Meet	Sept. 10-12	Oak Ridge, TN
Central Division Tour	Sept. 17-19	NE Oklahoma
Central Fall Meet	Sept. 24-26	Whittington, IL
Eastern Fall Meet	Oct. 7-10	Hershey, PA

Southeastern Winter Meet

Held on The Pier ~ and it is just that, a pier which extends into Tampa Bay with 20 unique shops and five different eateries ~ this first meet of the year had 375 registered. It was hosted by the Florida West Coast Region whose members could not control the weather which turned nasty with a storm blowing in about noon time on show day but they surely did try to make certain you had a good time. A "Red Sails in the Sunset" social held on Friday evening on



the fourth floor of one of the Pier's buildings offered a relaxing time with friends. If you had the time, you could visit the *H.M.S. Bounty* which was docked at the Pier or the Florida International Museum which was featuring the Titanic Exhibit.

This seems a good place to remind you that it is not necessary to enter a vehicle to attend a National Meet or the Judging School that is held on Friday prior to the Saturday show day. In order to go to the other activities such as the Friday night social or the Saturday Awards Banquet you must complete and return a Meet Request however.

The Southeastern Spring Meet will be held in Montgomery on April 18th. This is an ideal opportunity to see what National Meets are all about. You can drive up, see all of the vehicles which are on the field by 11 AM and remain until 3 PM and be back in Mobile by dinnertime! The show site is in downtown next to the Civic Center. To reach it from I-65, take Exit 172 (Herron St. which changes name to become Bibb St.); go 0.2 miles to Molton Street. Turn left on Molton and you will see the Embassy Suites Hotel. The show site is at the rear of the hotel and will be filled with vehicles of every description.



President: Buddy Paquet 661-4009
 Vice President: Jim Whelton 661-5756
 Secretary: Ann Rowell 661-2700
 Treasurer: Carl Bailey (334) 947-5262
 Activities: Leah Musgrove 633-9305
 Editor: Patt Paquet 661-4009
 Member at Large: Cecil Pugh 342-3404

The Sparkplug is non-profit and published monthly 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 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 individual and \$26 joint. Views expressed in the Sparkplug are not necessarily those of the Region officers or AACA.

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Contributions to the *Sparkplug* are welcome and encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit material that may not be suitable for publication.



Please recycle this newsletter to a friend

15th Annual DSR Car Show

According to Chairman Eddie Anderson, plans for our show on May 9, 1998 are progressing well. The first registration has been received. Eddie is a busy guy right now between work, Coastal Ford sending him to school and overseeing the show. There are still some vacancies on the various committees where help is needed. Most of these will be on the day of the show so if you are willing to contribute a few hours of your time, see him at the March 26th club meeting to volunteer.

Deep South Region members would like to extend our condolences to Joan Guenther on the death of her mother, Mrs. Evelyn Frisch, who died March 1, 1998 after a short illness. A memorial contribution was made to the Alzheimer's Research and Treatment Center in lieu of flowers. The Guenthers, who joined DSR in January, live in Hendersonville, Tennessee.



Raffle tickets ready for distribution

Ed and Joan Lunsford have agreed to handle, for the umpteenth year, the raffle held in conjunction with the car show. They will have an envelope with your name on it at the same meeting mentioned above. This year the prizes are : **First ~ 2 tickets for the Winston 500 race at Talladega, AL on Oct. 11, 1998; Second ~ \$150 cash; Third ~ a 40,000 BTU gas grill with side burner.** The purchase of one ticket entitles the buyer to be eligible for a chance at all three prizes. When you sell a ticket, please write your name on the back of the stub to facilitate getting the prize to the winner if they are not present which is not required.

Buying??? Selling??? Searching???

For Sale: 1965 Chevy Impala 2-dr Sport with 327 CID; 1951 Ford Truck stake body, 38K miles; 1959 Jaguar 4-dr Sedan; 1966 Mercedes 230 SL plus other antique English and German imports. All located in Marianna, Florida. For more information contact Robert Moore (334) 344-1720 after 6:30 P.M.

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MARCH 1998

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

Calendar

- Mar. 26 DSR Meeting in Clubhouse 7:30 P.M.
- Mar. 28 Old South Antique Car Club's 36th Annual Show at Fort Conde
- Mar. 26-29 1998 Gulf Coast Nationals - Pensacola, FL - Contact Donnie Carlisle (334)961-1411
- Apr. 4 MBMC's Camellia Classic at Bellingrath Gardens
- Apr. 4 Strawberry Classic XV - Hammond, LA - Contact John (504)386-3914
- Apr. 4 Miracle Strip Region AACA's Gold Cup Race from Panama City to Apalachicola
- Apr. 11 DSR April Outing ~ Dauphin Island Sea Lab & Estuarium followed by lung
- Apr. 17-18 AACA Southeastern Division National Spring Meet-Montgomery, AL

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