

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

Vol. 30 No. 10 Oct. 1997 EDITOR: Patt Paquet 661-4009

Clubhouse Dedication Draws Near Record Attendance

Antique cars covered the grounds all around the building on Sept. 21 as members gathered on a lovely Sunday afternoon to complete what began several years ago. The meeting room was set up with two tables, each with a bouquet of red roses and a beautifully decorated cake commemorating the event. In front of those tables, another table held a graceful silver punch bowl. The DSR colors of red and white were used



Mrs. Lloyd (Lycyle) Crowdus and DSR President J. Reid

beginning with the table coverings of red with white lace overlays to the red napkins right on to most of the members in their red shirts. Everything looked absolutely grand!

John Reid, President, took the floor giving a brief speech outlining the purpose of the day and introduced the guests. After a few "Lloyd Stories" by members, he and Mrs. Lloyd (Lycyle) Crowdus unveiled the "Lloyd Crowdus Memorial Clubhouse" plaque which will be placed in the building honoring the man who had been so instrumental in the club's acquisition of the grounds and building. He was also the leader in DSR building the addition we have today. John Myer, an AACA

National Director, was one of the guest attending. He told the membership that DSR is one of only a very few Regions or Chapters fortunate enough to have a clubhouse as a permanent site for meetings. Mr. Myer also mentioned that a few years back the AACA Vice President of Regions at that time, Tom Reese, requested information on the clubhouse. He wanted to present it at the AACA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia since this was such a unique venture for a club to undertake.



DSR President J. Reid & AACA National Director John Myer

Ron Barnett, a past president of AACA and current National Director, was unable to attend. He sent a congratulatory letter and noted that he had met Lloyd in the past while on a tour in the area. Lloyd, along with several other DSR members, met him and took him to see the clubhouse. When he was a guest speaker at the April 1997 meeting, he said he was amazed at the changes which had been accomplished.

Following the formalities, the members enjoyed the refreshments and the opportunity to visit with old friends. They also took advantage of Mr. Myer being there to talk about AACA and ask questions. (Please see Dedication on Page 3)



Lloyd Crowdus Memorial Plaque and Shadowbox

Minutes

Deep South Region AACA Meeting Sept. 25, 1997

Chaplain, Hershel Whigham, delivered the invocation at the September 25, 1997 meeting following the call to order at 7:30 PM by John Reid, President. There were 35 members, with no guests, in attendance.

Old Business: John asked Vice President and Hooters Car Show Chairman, Mike Williamson, for an update. Mike gave a short recap of the progress in filling positions. Harold Rowell, Parking Committee Chairman, offered instructions to his committee. Tally Committee Chairman, Buddy Paquet, reported his committee was filled. Door prizes need to be brought to the October meeting according to Ann Rowell, Door Prize Committee Chairman of one. John noted that *Thats Racing* will make their \$500 contribution directly to UCP rather than to DSR which will be deducted from the net proceeds of the Hooters Show.

The minutes from the August meeting were accepted as printed on a motion by Anna White with a second from Al White. Motion carried. Editor, Patt Paquet, announced a contract had been negotiated with what formerly was South Alabama Business Machines on the club's copier. The contract is 25,000 copies for \$325. A written contract will be mailed for a signature. Nominating Committee Chairman, Jane Bruton, offered an update on where the committee and candidates currently stand. Anna raised the point of whether the club would fund the entree portion of the Thanksgiving Dinner scheduled for November 22 at the clubhouse. After a very brief discussion, Anna moved that this be done. Hershel Whigham offered a second. Motion carried. On a final note of old business, John stated the guest book and photo album relative to the clubhouse dedication will remain in the clubhouse on display. He also said that the children of Mr. Crowdus wish to donate and have planted a tree on the grounds in their father's memory.

New Business: John brought to the membership's attention upcoming displays and events. One event in particular, the Grand Bay Christmas Festival, was approved as an official club function to be coordinated by Lycyle Crowdus. The club will receive a donation for its participation.

Announcements: Russell Coker was the big winner of the big 50-50 pot! Patt announced she would accept and mail orders for the new AACA Cookbook. John congratulated Nell and Elven Few on their 47th wedding anniversary which will be September 26. Adjournment of the meeting came on a motion by Pat Francis at 8:15 PM with a second from Jerry Finley. Motion carried and members made a beeline to the kitchenette to consume the leftover cake from the dedication as well as Joyce and Pat Francis' delicious tuna fish sandwiches.

Respectfully submitted,



Dedication

The Dedication Committee deserves a big round of thanks for making this such a memorable event. Attending the festivities were **2 Andersons, 2 Annises, C. Bailey, J. Bell, 2 Brelands, 2 Bruntons, 2 Cammons, W. Coale, R. Coker, L. Collins, L. Crowdus, G. Demetropulos, 2 Ebls, G. Edwards, T. Faust, L. Faust, E. Few, J. Finley, P. Fontana, T. Ford, E. Grimes, 2 Harpers, B. Hedberg, 2 Jarvises, 2 (F) Jordans, 2 (L) Jordans, 2 Lunsfords, G. McDonnell, R. Moore, B. Musgrove, L. Nelson, 2 Nettles, 2 Paquets, C. Pugh, 2 Reids, 2 Rowells, 2 Wheltons, 2 Whighams, 2 Whites, M. Williamson and 2 Youens.** Also there were family members of both Lycyle and Lloyd along with other guests.

In the interest of history, some of our newer members may not know that the original portion of the clubhouse was a kindergarten building that had been abandoned and vandalized. It was located at Airport and University Boulevards prior to being moved to its present site in late 1984. Even though the building wasn't finished, the Jan. 24, 1985 meeting was held in it. Over the following months, members put forth physical labor, and in some cases their own money, to rework the restrooms, install a new ceiling, panel walls, build and hang cabinets, add a new heating and air condition unit and finally, put on a full-length porch. Later 15' x 36' concrete patio was added to the rear. The expense was covered by two huge rummage sales and other fund raising. As far as the addition is concerned, this was done on a "pay-as-we-go" three phase plan. This was accomplished over four years and concluded just this year.

The Sparkplug is non-profit and published for the information 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.

Guest Speaker for Oct. 23 Meeting

Charles Wood, President of the Japanese Garden Foundation, will present final renderings of plans for the conversion of the Kimbrough Fish Hatchery into an authentic Japanese garden. The old hatchery is located on eight acres of land behind the Garden Club of Mobile building, our neighbor across the street. It was built in the late 1930s and abandoned in the 1958. Hurricane Frederick further damaged the already overgrown area. The Foundation hopes to turn it into something that will rival Bellingrath Gardens according to an article in the Feb. 25, 1996 *Mobile Register*.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear what Mr. Woods has to say and see what just might one day be one of Mobile's biggest tourist attractions.

One Last Reminder....



If you did not bring your door prizes for the Hooters car show to the outing on Oct. 18, then you still have one more chance to get them turned in and have one less thing to think about on the day of the show. **Bring them to the Oct. 23 meeting** and give them to Ann Rowell, Door Prize Committee Chairperson.

Kudos to Two DSR Members

Jim Martin transported a bride and groom in his 1929 Ford Model A on Sept. 27 earning some \$\$\$ for our treasury. Not to be outdone, **Greg McDonnell**, picked up some cash for the club when he drove a newly-married couple in his 1966 Caddy convertible from the reception to the hotel on Oct. 12. Thanks, guys, for your help and dedication.

In Memoriam
LaVerne Barbee Hopkins

by Ernie Youens

This wonderful lady was born April 12, 1918 in Nettleton, MS and married Vernon T. Hopkins on December 26, 1937. They were together for 55 years until his death on January 30, 1993. They had three children; Jim, Judi and John. John died at the age of 28 in 1971. Those of us who were fortunate enough to know LaVerne knew her to be gentle, gracious and courageous. A truly fine Christian lady.

LaVerne was an active member of the Deep South Region and served on the club's Calling Committee as long as she was physically able. She also quietly assisted and advised her husband, who served as DSR's Chaplain for many years, in his writing of devotionals for the *Sparkplug*. Many of his articles were re-published in the national AACA newsletter, *Rummage Box*. He signed all of his articles "Ole Hop". She and "Hop" were on several DSR tours in their antique cars. LaVerne enjoyed the meetings and outings and her sense of humor never failed to make the best of things when it appeared that everything was about to go wrong.

Toward the end of last year, LaVerne was considering not renewing her memberships because of her failing health. She was unaware that the club had voted to make her the first person to receive a DSR life membership. When the honor was bestowed on her at the 1996 Christmas Party, she was speechless. But not for long. She said "Well, I guess I better pay my AACA dues now, hadn't I?"

A few years ago I saw a photograph taken of her in 1936 at her high school graduation. She was absolutely beautiful. And her beauty, both inside and out, remained with her during her entire lifetime.

LaVerne died September 26, 1997, after a hard fought battle with cancer. Because she had to have someone stay with her, Judi, her very devoted daughter, left her own family in California to spend the last six weeks of her mother's life with her. What a beautiful mother-daughter relationship.

We in the Deep South Region shall surely and sadly miss her.



Editor's Notes

Don't get too excited about all the color photos on the front page. It is a one-time only situation. I was able to work out a deal with Copy Max, a fairly new addition of service that is part of Office Max. This edition, with the clubhouse dedication, seemed the perfect time to let you see what they can do.

I see quite a few newsletters, in and out of AACA, that use color on a regular basis. I think we are fortunate to have our own copy machine since I hear some editors telling horror stories of getting ulcers from having to wait for "my brother-in-law's cousin's sister's youngest son" to run their copies for them when he can. We are ahead of the pack!

MBMC Club's Ninth Regional Show

The Mobile Bay Mustang Club held their ninth show Sept. 27 this year. They would liked to have had more than the 31 entries but with a date change from late April or early May to the end of September, that is not a bad number at all. It was held in Sam's Club parking lot with Sonic Drive-Ins as a sponsor.

I know there were some DSR members entered in the show but without specifics, I won't list names for fear of leaving someone out. I have been told that **Eddie Anderson** and **Jerry Finley** tied for a first place but I don't know in what class or division. Looks as if we will have to get that directly from the guys with the first place trophies.

“Crusin’ the Coast - Be There or Be Square”

It was advertised as “America’s Largest Block Party” with classic cars and cool music that we were all so attuned to during the 50s and 60s.

If you were there you saw almost any type of vehicle you wanted from antiques to classics to street rods to one that hadn’t hit the dealer’s showroom yet. This was the second year for the event which was held Oct. 9-12 and with the addition of some major sponsors and more advertising, registration nearly tripled. This year entries totaled 1,017 and nearly three times as many auto-related vendors. The oldest car was a 1914 Ford Speedster; the newest was a 1998 Corvette convertible direct from the factory.

The cruising route consisted of three venues including the J.L. Scott Marine Center in Biloxi, the Rice Pavilion in Gulfport and Old Town in Bay St. Louis. Each of the three had designated parking for registered vehicles and an adequate selection of food/drink concessions for everyone. One thing that was good to see was that although beer sales and consumption was brisk, there were no problems or “rowdies”. First-aid was available if needed and it was apparent the portable toilets were cleaned daily.

Workers in the Pre-Registration and On-Site Registration tents were constantly on top of things. Everything in the early stages had been done with computer and continued to be when you signed up on the spot. It went quickly and smoothly. Included in the registration packet were armbands allowing entrants to take advantage of meals and entertainment in the various casinos at lesser than usual amounts. You could even register for 1998 at a \$5 discount if you did so during the three days.

You might think that with the large number of entries plus the number of people that came just to cruise the route and look over the competition, so to speak, would create total chaos. Absolutely not. The fellows working the parking areas for cars that had registered did a fine job. Space was scarce by mid-afternoon on Saturday but the “parking police” and everyone being cooperative kept traffic moving.

Sunday was the BIG day when everyone who was there gathered at Rice Pavilion to see who the lucky winners of the prizes would be. There was a Grand Prize of \$5,000 and twenty cash prizes of \$500 each. Rumor has it that the biggie went home to Oklahoma and the smaller ones were spread out over the rest of the other 25 states represented.

This affair, which had its conception in the early summer of 1996, came at just the right time and place. Biloxi’s Boomtown Casino wanted to get some show cars in their parking lot to create a little something extra. No entry fees, no judging, no trophies; just folks with a common interest having a good time. After discussion with representatives the local car clubs, it became a monthly gathering. The casino gave dash plaques, T-shirts and two-for-one meal coupons to those who brought their cars. On the first night, a Casino management employee asked a car club rep “do you think something like what they do out in Vegas, *Hot August Nights*, would fly here on the Gulf Coast?” Crusin’ the Coast was born and fly it did.

The first year, which had 379 entries and a few vendors, had been quickly put together. A ten-member Board of Directors was formed to set policy, plan and implement a budget, handle the fund raising and tackle the unexpected when, and if, it arose. Having the big-time sponsors and advertising which began early in 1997, it has turned into something awesome. It is possible that next year there will be two more venues on Crusin’ the Coast strip. Ocean Springs and Long Beach have already made inquiries about being included.

Congratulations to all the participating car club’s members who have worked so hard for a solid year. They have shown true dedication and community spirit. You might be interested to know that DSR’s **Larry Burdeshaw** representing the Antique Auto and Engine Club of Mississippi and **Mike Ebl** representing the Mississippi Coast Mustang Club are on the Crusin’ the Coast Board of Directors.

Rah! Rah! Rah! Sis-Boom-Bah! THS Homecoming Parade

Autumn brings football and all the hoopla that goes with the games. Even though most of us are too old to play, or maybe even carry the water-bucket, we are still young enough to enjoy helping the younger generation with having a good time.



Theodore High School held their annual Homecoming Parade on Friday, Oct. 3 with some of DSR's members providing cars for students and dignitaries alike. It has been fun to see how "the times, they are a-changing". Thinking back to the days when our group did the same thing, we had the players, the bands, the cheerleaders. Have you ever thought about how funny we would look the teenagers today if they saw how we dressed then?

Assisting with vehicles this year were **R. Jones, E. Lunsford, 2 Paquets, A. White, 2 Youens** and DSR Friend Marien Brent in her Volkswagen convertible.



What's Happening with DSR Members?

The **Brutons** are on their annual trip to the mountains; this year they are vacationing in North Carolina. The **Gechijians** are motorhoming around in Tennessee. The **Few** and the **Jarvises** will be returning from their yearly pilgrimage to Carlisle and Hershey. The **Wheltons** will be spending a few days in South Carolina, Hilton Head no less!

Scott and Tracy Henderson made the **Jim Hendersons** grandparents again when Mallory Jordan Henderson arrived Oct. 6 weighing in at six pounds, nine ounces. Mom, Pop and baby are all doing fine plus brother Travis thinks she's "neat".

Bayview Ford Hosts "Show 'n Shine" to Celebrate Fifth Anniversary

You could buy a new vehicle, trade up a year or so, or get your present one serviced while you munched on popcorn or a hot dog and washed it down with a soft drink while listening to live music. Or you could walk around the parking lot and see what *real cars were like*.

The dealership invited anyone desiring to show off their antique, classic, custom or streetrod to their location in Daphne on Oct. 4. There was a nice group of vehicles with variety being the key word. DSR members who kicked back in their chairs and passed the time telling tall tales were **2 Andersons, 1 Finley, and 2 Paquets**. Out running the roads and visiting, sans cars, were **2 Bushes and 2 Rowells**.

Participants were given nice dash plaques commemorating the occasion and some very nice door prizes were handed out by the company.



Bumper Snickers & Other One-Liners

Pardon my driving....I'm reloading.

Honk if you love peace and quiet.

Cover me...I'm changing lanes

No radio...already stolen

I brake for no apparent reason.

The more people I meet, the more I like my dog.

Work is for those who don't know how to fish.

Forget about World Peace, think about turn signals.

I get exercise enough just pushing my luck.

Laugh alone and the world thinks you're an idiot.

Historical Highlights



1913 Hudson

Style: Touring Cylinders: 4
 Model: "37" Wheelbase: 9' 10"
 Maker: Hudson Motor Car Co.
 Detroit, MI

One of the founders of Hudson, Roy Chapin, began his career as photographer and odd-jobs man for Ransom E. Olds. In 1909, along with Howard Coffin, an engineer, and W. S. Hudson, Detroit department store magnate, he formed the Hudson motor Car Company. Stock subscriptions and cash came to a total of something like \$75,000.

The first model had a four-cylinder engine, stark open body and gas headlights. The 1910 Hudson "20" was more refined and sold extremely well. In 1912 the Model "33" four-cylinder Torpedo appeared and the six-cylinder model "54" Phaeton followed. Sales were slow as shown by the figures of 4,107 for 1910 to 7,199 for 1914. In 1916 Hudson hit the jackpot when it brought out its greatest name, the Super Six. In 1921 a Super Six won the Pikes Peak Race--the same year the company came along with the large seven-passenger Phaeton boasting a high-compression engine. Sales became brisk as the car was a performer of above average for those days.

Hudson turned to closed cars and became a pioneer in this field - these were called "coaches". In the early 1920s the Super Six Sedan, a car built on squarish lines had manually controlled radiator shutters, drum headlights, a Boyce motometer, and demountable rims. A permanent sun visor was attached to a sloping windshield and could be opened for ventilation.

Hudson also built the low-priced Essex, a remarkable value at \$945. These came originally with four-cylinders, later six. These cars greatly increased company sales and profits, event though the cost of the Exxex was reduced from \$1,000 in 1924 to \$765 in 1926. Regardless of its fine reputation for speed, power, endurance and reliability, Hudson lost ground to the big makers, and in the 1950s, after losing its identity altogether, vanished from the scene. (As noted previously, source and author of above are unknown. However, the Editor wishes to thank whomever he or she may be.)

Polo at the Point

Chukkers...ladies dressed to the nines in fancy hats...tents decorated with fall flowers and Remington-style centerpieces...tailgaters setting up tables graced with Tiffany sterling...divot stomping...women in flapper gowns and pearl ropes. What do all of these things have in common? It was Point Clear Charities tenth annual gala.

Ten years ago a girl whose mother had died of cancer, a brother who played polo and a friend who captained the local polo team and a charity in search of a benefit joined forces. This year an estimated \$120,000 was raised which will primarily benefit cancer research at the University of South Alabama.

This was the second year for DSR to participate in the annual October function. Members provided cars for dignitaries and sponsors who rode in the parade around the field prior to the match beginning.

Afterward, the cars were parked for the crowd to admire while those furnishing them sat under a tent having a late lunch and visiting. Braving the wind and off-and-on rain showers during the day to assist organizers were **L. Crowdus, J. Finley, Ed Grimes, Eddy Grimes, 2 Lunsfords, 2 Paquets, 2 Reids, 2 Rowells and 2 Youens**. And if you don't know what a "chukker" is, that is a period of play in a polo match.



What the "technical support staff" of the *Sparkplug*, and you all know who that is, was **not** doing this month with all the lay-out work and graphics in this issue! He missed a few of his afternoon naps!!

Ho! Ho! Ho! It's Christmas Party Time

Susie Anderson, coordinator of the 1997 DSR Christmas Party, has some advance news for you. The party will be held in the clubhouse Dec. 12 with a social time beginning at 6:30 PM. Dinner, which will be catered, will be served at 7:15 PM. The cost will be \$7.50 per person or \$15 per couple.



Everyone enjoyed "Dirty Santa" so much last year that it will be played again this year. **Each person** will be responsible for a reasonably priced gift, something you would like to receive, gender-related. In other words, males bring a man's gift and women bring a lady's gift. And please, no gag gifts. A reservation form with a reply date will be included in the November newsletter which will come out Nov. 13.

Are You a Safe Driver ?

by Larry Nelson

Most people think they are safe drivers. But the truth is that most of us don't know, or don't practice regularly, the key concepts of defensive driving. I am on the road at least four days each week and am constantly amazed at what I see happen. Defensive driving means looking out for your-self and the other person as well. There are some accident-causing circumstances that you should be aware of: (1) Your vehicle's condition (2) Traffic and road situations (3) Weather (4) Light (5) Your condition as a driver. The first one is reasonably easy to take care of; in other words, maintain your vehicle. The second is common sense; don't tailgate, don't pass unless you can see far ahead enough to do it comfortably and if you are being passed, slow down to give the other driver extra room needed. Number three requires a bit more concentration. Drive only at a speed safe for existing road conditions, use wipers, lights and defroster as needed, avoid puddles and above

all, expect the unexpected. Light does not mean just wearing sun-glasses in daytime. Nighttime can add extra hazards. First, be sure all of the lights on your vehicle work properly. Turn on lights anytime you feel you need to see the road better or you need to be seen. Don't forget to use low beams and keep your windshield clean. Be especially careful of unlit curves. If you have trouble, get off the road completely and use flashers, flares or signs. Finally, condition number five. Don't attempt to drink and drive...it's a killer. Some medications, even cold remedies, can cause your reactions to be slower than normal. Watching the road for long periods can cause eye strain and can also be hypnotizing. It's a good idea to take a break every few hours. Get out and walk around; have some coffee or cold water, limber up your arms and legs. You'll be more alert--and safer!

Important Notice

The ByLaws Committee is in the process of reviewing same and those changes submitted to date. If YOU have changes you want to have presented, contact Chairman, Jim Martin (661-6133 or E-Mail Deer4Jim @ AOL.com) Cecil Pugh (342-3404) or Carl Bailey (334/947-5262 or FAX 334/947-7925) . The changes should be in written form as you wish them to read. The **deadline** for submitting changes is **Nov. 5**. They will appear as an tear-out insert of the November newsletter which will be mailed Nov. 13 to conform with the present Article X, Section 2.

Buying?? Selling?? Searching??

For Sale: 1941 Cadillac 4-dr allegedly originally owned by Ernest F. Ladd. 1934 Ford 5-window coupe 95% restored. Stored in closed garage, prices negotiable- Phillip Wilson (334) 675-6368

For Sale: 1956 Buick Special Riveria 4-dr hardtop. Exterior seafoam green with light green interior, V-8 automatic, approximately 60K miles, new tires, A/C. Peggy Owens (334) 602-0257

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IMPORTANT DATES

1997

- Oct. 23 DSR Meeting at 7:30 PM in Clubhouse
- Oct. 25 4th Annual Hooters Open Car Show to benefit United Cerebral Palsy and Bay Area Food Bank
39 classes with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places trophies in each class -Info (334) 666-3761
- Oct. 31 BOO! Halloween
- Nov. 1 15th Annual Antique Car Show & Southwest Alabama Forestry Festival - Jackson, AL
Contact Sara Smith (334) 246-4182 or Barbara Pulliam (334) 457-2339
- Nov. 1 Henderson's Family Fun Day at the Farm for the MPD, DSR & MBMC-You should have received
an invitation in the mail before now-If not contact Cheri at 661-8315
- Nov. 1 7th Annual British Car Festival - Bellingrath Gardens - Mobile, AL
Contact Jack Ross (334) 344-2471 or Mike Thomason (334) 343-0726
- Nov. 11 Veteran's Day
- Nov. 20 ****DSR Meeting in Clubhouse****Note date change due to Thanksgiving holiday
This is the annual election of officers - no guests please
- Nov. 23 DSR Thanksgiving Get-Together in Clubhouse coordinated by Al & Anna White
- Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 6 Grand Bay Christmas Festival-Donation to club will be made-Lycyle Crowdus coordinating
- Dec. 12 DSR Christmas Party in Clubhouse-Preliminary information in this newsletter
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day

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

