



The Sparkplug

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July 2023

Deep South Region of AACA Newsletter

Contact

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Membership: Belinda Rooney
Refreshments: Rheba Chaudron
Editor / Publicity: Deana Landry
Activities - Leslie Sellers

Meetings are held at the Clubhouse on the 4th Thursday of each month. Refreshments begin at 6:00 pm, and the meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

DSR Dues are \$20, and AACA dues are \$45.

Newsletter Deadline on 1st day of each month.

DSR Events



July 14 - Collector Car Appreciation Day

The Club voted to forego an event for this date.

22 - Trip to Wellborn Musclegar Museum
7:00 am Departure

27 - DSR Monthly Meeting
6:00 pm Refreshments
7:00 pm Meeting
DSR Clubhouse, Mobile, AL

See page 3 for more details.

Visit www.deepsouth.aaca.com for info on these and more events happening in our area.

AACA Events

July 5-8 - AACA Central Spring Nationals
Waterloo, Indiana

July 16 - AACA Founder's Tour
Ontario & Quebec, Canada

July 16 - AACA Special Eastern Nationals
Norwich, New York

August 10 - AACA Grand Nationals
Bettendorf, Iowa

August 16—AACA Vintage Tour
Aroostook County, Maine

Visit www.aaca.org for more info

This month's cover cars are Leslie & Janice Sellers' 1966 Ford Mustang & 1998 Chevrolet Camaro Convertible. Photograph by John Bright. Submit a good, distant photo of your car to be featured.

Zeno's Corner

At the time of these thoughts I'm in Memphis, Tennessee, with The Great Race in full swing. We've been on this road trip since June 22nd - Jim & Mallory Henderson, Jack Fruin and myself. It's been a lot of fun but staying busy to reach each stop. Hopefully y'all have enjoyed some of the many pictures being sent on FB.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Fourth of July and hope to see you soon.

Best Regards,
~Zeno

Flag Day Cruise-In - June 14

FADED GLORY?

I think not! Most of us are aware that the right thing to do when our American flag has reached the end of its service is to retire it properly, but then the question becomes, what exactly is the proper way to retire a flag in a dignified and respectful process? Well, let's give some thought to a few of the reasons why we even honor it in the first place.

What does it mean when we pledge our allegiance to the flag? Not only are we pledging our honor and respect to the symbol of our liberty and justice, but also to unlimited opportunity, hope and national pride. It serves as a symbol that binds us together, our entire country and its citizens, as one united nation under God.

It is also the embodiment of our national history, not just emotion and sentiment, but an innate understanding and appreciation for the years of sacrifice that many men and women have made to establish and keep our country free, none of which are unimportant. It represents our patriotism to the country that we love and in essence it becomes a living thing, so proper retirement somehow gives it a soul.

We all learned early on that the stars and stripes represent the 13 original colonies and the 50 states, but did you know that the colors have significance also? Red represents bravery and valor or bloodshed, white represents purity and innocence, and blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice. I am ashamed to admit, or maybe I've lived in a vacuum, but I didn't know this or perhaps just never thought about it. Americans tend to take things for granted sometimes. We have had it very good for a very long time. But I digress.



I was also not aware that in 1923 a standard set of civilian rules was created for honoring our flag and establishing how it was to be treated, although it has changed through the years. And that there are many myths about the flag that add a lot of mystery to the equation. For instance, if the flag touches the ground, it must immediately be retired. That is true only if it is soiled, torn, or otherwise made imperfect. Funny how man tends to make up stories to make things have more significance or larger than life. I know I can remember struggling to put up flags, risking life and limb to keep it off the ground, and if it did accidentally touch the ground thinking "now what am I going to do with it?" That is not to say that my respect for this beautiful banner is lessened in any way, just to say that we sometimes make things more difficult than they must be.



And regarding the stars and stripes on our flag, I did not know that according to those who study Vexillology (the study of flags! Who knew?), the entire area of a flag has different named elements, such as the Canton, which is any quarter of the flag, usually the top left corner representing a position of honor, such as the area of the American flag that contains our stars. Then there is the Charge or the field of the flag, also a position of honor which is divided into the Fly and the Hoist, to name a few. I could go on, but I am sure you're more interested in hearing what the Deep South Region AACA did to honor Flag Day!

Flag Day Cruise-In - Continued

Well, we had a celebration, of course! We invited as many folks as wanted to come, we brought our vintage cars, and we feasted in our usual fashion with the quintessential American cookout style meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, and BBQ pork sandwiches! And, oh yes, don't forget the homemade ice cream provided to us by Eiland Creamery! But most importantly, we invited our local, FM Talk 106.5 radio celebrity, Tom Claxton, along with the Marine Corp Color Guard to officiate the retirement process of our Clubhouse flag.

It was time, so we took advantage of the national observance of Flag Day to do it. It was a very moving experience and I saw a few tears being ever so discreetly wiped away. Mine included. Not so much in the pomp and circumstance, if you will, but the raw emotion that comes along with patriotism and love for one's country. The participation of the Color Guard also made it especially meaningful in reference to the importance of the flag.



At its inception, the color guard was originally formed because of a regiment's need for a central point of reference and to help keep their formation, the loss of which could cause the unit to break up since the battlefield was often a confused, dusty and smokey place. Using colored banners or flags emblazoned with battle honors, fulfilled that need and marked the location of the commanding officer. The flags were treated with reverence, and because of their importance, guards of experience or elite soldiers were adopted to protect their "colors" from being captured which meant defeat.



While the military no longer needs flags and banners to find their regiments during a battle, the color guards remain a formal and time-honored tradition. Through the ages it has become more of a ceremonial affiliation often serving at different functions to honor our flag and nation.

And this is where Tom Claxton, Commandant of the P.L. Wilson Detachment of the Marine Corps League of Mobile came in. They performed a moving ceremony in which we honored the flag with the Pledge of Allegiance, and a beautiful rendition of God Bless America was sung by Jani Bryant. As our folded, tattered flag was placed on the fire, the distinctive bugle melody "Taps" was flawlessly played by Betty Beady. It truly was quite moving.

So, it goes without saying, we had a lovely, patriotic, and first ever, Deep South Region Flag Day ceremony. One that I think will go down in our history books and will certainly bear repeating in the future!

May God Bless America, today and always!

Article Contributed by Belinda Rooney

Flag Day Cruise-In - Continued



Ladies' Corner

More Women Are Getting Behind the Wheel of Vintage Cars

As a woman who spent her childhood immersed in the world of antique cars, it was only natural for my love to continue. However, statistics now show that more women than ever are becoming involved in the world of antique cars, and they aren't just tagging along with their husbands!



I worked registration at Cruisin' the Coast in 2022, and I was floored at the number of individual women who came to Cruisin' in their own cars! I was thrilled to see it, of course, as this hobby has brought so many benefits to me personally - confidence, a sense of independence, an understanding of the past, and life-long friendships.

Take a minute to Google the article below which appeared in *Motor Biscuit* in 2021. While we have also discussed how to bring in younger members, the article notes that "Hagerty's recent survey found that the insurance company's number of female policyholders grew by roughly 30% from 2010-2020. And to those saying that the younger generation isn't interested in cars, you might want to think again. That same survey noted that the biggest policyholder increases were among Gen X (41-56 years old) and millennials (24-40 years old)."

I am curious about the ladies of the DSR. How did you get involved? Do you have your own car? How many of us know how to drive a Model A or T? I know I don't! Send me a note on the club email, and tell me your "old car" story! ~Deana

[More Women Are Getting Behind the Wheel of Vintage Cars \(motorbiscuit.com\)](http://motorbiscuit.com)

Upcoming Events

July 22 - Trip to Wellborn Musclegar Museum

The Dixie Wings Motorcycle Club has invited us along on their trip to the Wellborn Musclegar Museum, 124 Broad St. in Alexander City, Alabama. We will depart from the Pilot Truck Stop, 6109 US-43, Satsuma at 7:00 am SHARP. This is Exit 19 on I-65. We will enjoy lunch at Firetruck BBQ. Contact Bill Brown at (251) 605-2011 or wildman45@bellsouth.net if you plan to attend, so he can give the restaurant a head count.



August - No Event Scheduled

Perhaps a clubhouse potluck picnic complete with homemade ice cream? Call Leslie Sellers at 251-232-9434 and submit your ideas for a day tour, evening cruise or dinner outing.



Deep South Region AACA presents

14th Annual

Shirley Looney

Memorial Car Show

UPDATE!!!

- ◆ We sent out almost 200 registration forms to last year's participants. We did this to counteract the announcement that the show had been canceled. We already have 5 cars pre-registered!
- ◆ We have booked Mike Badonsky of Mike's American Muscle Cars who will help with advertising, entertainment, and will act as MC the day of the show.
- ◆ We already have our first major sponsor for the show. Gene Looney secured a sponsorship from O'Reilly's Auto Parts.
- ◆ We will have sponsorship forms available online and in the clubhouse. If you know an individual or business who would like to make a monetary donation, please pick up a form. Donations are tax deductible.
- ◆ Forms to solicit donations for door prizes, goody bags, etc. will be available at a later date.

Don't Forget!

Contact John Bright at 251-454-6298 for appointments to have professional photos taken of your cars! John took the beautiful photo of Leslie and Janice's cars on this month's cover.

The Sparkplug

A monthly publication of the Deep South Region - AACA



Meeting Minutes

Date: June 22, 2023

Location: DSR Club House, 951 Forest Hill Dr., Mobile, AL 36618

Meeting Facilitator: VP, David Rooney

Secretary: Janice Sellers

I Call to Order

The June 22, 2023, meeting was called to order by VP, David. David asked Rheba to say the prayer, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and welcomed members and guests

II Unfinished/Old Business

Debbie - gave the Financial Report. She stated that no club monies were spent for Flag Day except drinks, all food was donated by club members. She said she needs to meet with the Financial Committee and make some decisions regarding our CD. Debbie said that there will be a separate bank account setup for the Shirley Looney Show which is required by AACA in order to keep expenses/assets easier to reconcile. Debbie said that yellow reflector paint will be added to the driveway in the next few weeks per Walt Fuller. She also commented that there was a sign-up sheet for anyone who would like to purchase a magnetic sign for their car. She said the new signs look great and the signs at the entrance were donated. The new sign showcases Jim Henderson's car which is the oldest known car in the club, a 1911 Speedster. Debbie asked if anyone knew of someone who has been sick, had a death, etc., to please notify Kathy McNamara, the Sunshine person.

Deana - said that she had sent out approximately 200 registration forms to participants of the Shirley Looney show in past years. She did send a message letting them know that the show has not been cancelled. She is working on Corporate Sponsor forms and will have them ready soon. Deana also said that Mr. Gene Looney has acquired a sponsorship from O'Reilly's Auto Parts for the show. The Shirley Looney Show helps raise money for underprivileged children that can't afford sports equipment. The profits will be split between DSR and the Shirley Looney/Adam Looney Memorial Fund.

III New Business

Guests Speaker – Tommy Davis, was introduced by Leslie. He is a local Car Dealer in the Mobile area. He is planning Dealer's Auto Auction's First Annual Classic Car Sale, 3030 McVay Dr. N., Mobile, AL 36606, on September 30, 2023, Saturday – 10:00 a.m. He is expecting to have between 100 - 200 cars. There will be a Preview on Friday, September 29th from 5 - 9 p.m. Mr. Davis would like for our members to participate in this sale and provide some drivers as well. He explained the fees and how the sale will be conducted. He passed out flyers with the info about the auction. He is hoping that this will be either an annual or semi-annual event every year. Tommy said public can go to DAA.com Mobile and view the cars that will be sold. He said you don't have to be a dealer to purchase/sale. There will be a Cruise In prior to the auction that will be announced at a future date. Tommy stated that Mr. David Andrews, owner of DAA, has auctions and car dealerships in 17 locations around the country and Mobile will be the 5th with Classic Car auction.

IV Activities/Events Schedule

Leslie – Thanked John Bright who planned the Flag Day event and all those who had a hand in making it a great success. John in turn thanked all those who helped him to make it a big success. Leslie and John both expressed that they would like to see us do this as an annual event. Thanks also to Sgt. Claxton and the Marine Corp Color Guard for leading the ceremony.

June 21 – July 04, 2023, The Great Race, St. Augustine, FL, to Colorado Springs, CO. Team Henderson: Mallory Henderson - navigator, Jack Fruin - driver, Jim Henderson and Zeno Chaudron – Support Team. And they are off! We will be rooting you on from Mobile!

June 22, 2023, Saturday, 7:00 a.m. Wellborn Muscle Car Museum, 124 Broad St., Alexander City, AL (205 miles, we will make a pit/gas stop in Greenville), Exit 19/I65/43 Pilot Truck Stop to meet with Dixie Wings Motorcycle group, lunch to follow at Bucks, LLC.

July 14, 2023, Friday, National Collectors Car Appreciation. Leslie led a discussion and it was decided to skip this event this year. Motion made by Ray Harper and seconded by Barbara Money. It unanimously passed.

September 22 & 23, 2023, Friday and Saturday, University of South Alabama 60th Anniversary and Homecoming event. Mr. Nick Lawkis, Director of Governmental Affairs contacted Janice Sellers. He would like to have our club members participate in this event. They would like for us to provide 1950's and 1960's cars for the Homecoming celebration and provide a convertible for President and Mrs. Jo Bonner to ride in during the parade on Saturday, the 23rd. We are planning for him to come and be our guest speaker at our July meeting and explain a little more about this event. After more information we will vote whether to make this a club event.

October 1 - 8, 2023, Cruisin' the Coast (CTC), D'Iberville, MS, Club Event. Need Volunteers.

October 21, 2023, Saturday, Tibbie Trade Days, Tibbie, AL

November 11, 2023, Saturday, Double Gates 1st Annual Charity Car Show, Veteran's Day, The Lodge at Double Gates, 850 Frank Boykin Dr., McIntosh, AL 36553, starting at 8:30 a.m.

March 30, 2024, Saturday, The Shirley Looney 14th Anniversary Car Show, DSR Club House, 951 Forest Hill Dr., Mobile, AL 36618. Tommy Davis offered a venue for this show at DAA if we should outgrow our property.

Vii Other

Ray – Explained about CTC as some of our new members are not familiar with this event and what the procedures are. He said we still need volunteers.

David – introduced Mr. Gene Looney to the club members.

Tommy Davis – stated that they make donations to different entities/charities or families in need. They will consider helping with that if we have a particular charity that we would like to contribute to. David commented that we would be happy to work with them. David also discussed a little about corporate sponsors.

Debbie – thanked Kathy McNamara on doing a good job as Sunshine Chairperson.

50/50 was won by Ms. Violet Haynes \$31.

The meeting was adjourned.



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2423 Hwy 31 South
Bay Minette, AL
251-937-8842

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KITCHEN & BATH**
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MILLWORK PLANT
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