



The Sparkplug

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April 2026

Deep South Region of AACA Newsletter

Contact

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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 25th day of each month.

DSR Events

April

11 - ARC Spring Jubilee Car Show
9:00 am - ARC of Clarke County
501 Forest Ave.
Jackson, Alabama

23 - Monthly Meeting

6:00 pm
DSR Club House
951 Forrest Hill Dr.
Mobile, Alabama

25 - DSR Drive-In Movie Night

2:00 Until (Movie at Dark)
Faith Crossing
223 JC Parnell Road
Deer Park, Alabama

May

2 - Wings & Wheels

9:00 am
Roy E. Ray Airport
11317 Airport Road
Irvington, Alabama

**See page 3 for more details.
Visit www.deepsouth.aaca.com
for info on these and more events**

AACA Events

2026

April 9 - Southeastern Spring Nationals
Charlotte, North Carolina

**April 23 - Annual Grand Nationals/
Western Spring Nationals**
Las Vegas, Nevada

May 28 - Eastern Spring Nationals
Indiana, Pennsylvania

June 11 - Southeastern Fall Nationals
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

June 15 - Sentimental Tour
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

July 22 - Central Spring Nationals
Green Bay, Wisconsin

August 5 - Southeastern Divisional Tour
Flat Rock, North Carolina

August 19 - Annual Grand Nationals
Allentown, Pennsylvania

**Visit www.aaca.org
for more info**

This month's cover features Mac & Kathy McNamara's 1960 Ford Anglia. Submit a good, distant photo of your car to be featured.

Zeno's Corner

Hope everyone is doing well! The weather has been great for our outdoor activities for sure. I was able to attend the Chocolate Festival for the first time, and Rheba and I had a great time. I got to meet Mayor Cheriogotis and two of his children. He recognized us as the club across from the park and complimented us on how beautifully we keep the grounds. Have a wonderful Easter!

Regards, Zeno

Mobile Chocolate Festival - March 7

The DSR was well represented at this year's Mobile Chocolate Festival out at The Grounds. We enjoyed an absolutely beautiful day, along with lots of delicious goodies, all while helping to raise funds for Mobile's Penelope House. Zeno got to show off his ride to Mayor Spiro Cheriogotis and his daughters. Thanks to Angela Weaver for inviting us - and our friends at the SAE from South Alabama - to attend!

Visit the YouTube channel *Endless RVing* and click on the video titled, *Should We Buy This RV Lot -- We Need Your Advice! The Chocolate Festival and several of our cars are featured at the 6:30 mark.*



Tin Top Run - March 14

With at least a half dozen other car events going on in the region, we did not have a huge turnout for the Tin Top run, but those of us who went were in for a treat! It was one of those absolutely flawless Gulf Coast spring days, and the azaleas were showing out as we drove the scenic route along Mobile Bay. I had not been to the Tin Top since they opened the new restaurant right on the Bon Secour River, but what a view! The food was as great as the view, and I for one was sad to leave our shady perch on their beautiful back deck!



USA Car Show - March 15

Once again, the DSR showed up to support our college friends in the Society of Automotive Engineering club at South Alabama. I love how many different communities this show attracts - antiques, street rods, exotic supercars, motorcycles, and even tractors! Everyone comes out to support the SAE. With a new group of students at the wheel, they are raising funds and prepping their formula car for the national race against other universities. Pitted against major universities - with major budgets - like MIT, this plucky group managed to come in 3rd in the nation in a car built entirely by their fundraising efforts! We wish them luck in 2026 and look forward to hearing the results!



Upcoming Events



April 11 - ARC Spring Jubilee Cruisin' for a Cause Car Show - 9am-2pm. 501 Forest Ave., Jackson, AL. \$25 Pre-registration receives a t-shirt and goody bag. \$30 day of show. Bring your favorite four-legged friend to participate in the pet beauty pageant, peruse the plant sales just in time for Mother's Day, and enjoy great food, artwork, and music.

April 23 - DSR Monthly Meeting - The April meeting will be held at the DSR Club House, 951 Forrest Hill Dr., Mobile AL. 6pm for dinner followed by the meeting at 7.



April 25 - DSR Drive-In Movie Night - Join us at beautiful Faith Crossing, 223 JC Parnell Road, Deer Park, AL, for a cook out and movie night. More details to come on caravan times.

May 2 - Cruise-in & Fly-in at Roy E. Ray Airport - 9 am - Until. 11317 Airport Road, Irvington, Alabama. Food drink, and homemade ice cream will be available. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a spring day full of vintage planes and cars!



May 30 - Summer Library Kick-Off - 10:00 am - Noon Ben May Main Library, 701 Government St, Mobile, AL. The event will feature a mini touch-a-truck event and vintage car display. This will be a good chance to introduce our hobby to kids who have never been exposed, so be aware you will need to stick with your cars and teach them good car show etiquette.



June 13 - Flag Day Cruise-In - 4-6pm. Bring your lawn chairs for an evening cruise-in under the oaks on the beautiful grounds of the DSR

Clubhouse. Hamburgers & hotdogs will be provided. Bring your tattered American flags, and the members of the Marine Corps League will give them a proper retirement.

SAVE THE DATE!



October 4-11 - Cruisin' The Coast 30th Anniversary

October 24 - Wheels & Wings - 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Cruise-in and picnic on the grounds of the beautiful Roy Wilcox



AirPort. Free admission. Bring your lawn chairs. Address: 417 Hearn Dr. Chatom, Alabama. The aeronautical identifier is 5R1 .



A monthly publication of the Deep South Region - AACA



A Family Treasure - My 1929 Model A

By Tiffani Gant & Ray Harper

Ever since I was 8 years old, I've had my eye on one very special car – my grandparents' 1929 Model A. I still remember the first time I asked my grandfather, Ray Harper, if I could have it someday. I was just a kid then, but there was something about that pale yellow car, with its shiny chrome and the rumble seat in the back, that completely captured my imagination.



The first daylight it has seen in 20 years!

My grandparents' story with the Model A began in 1981. My grandfather had been looking for a Model A and finally found one he liked in Arkansas. However, after asking his friend Bill Dobbs, an expert in Model A's, to look at pictures of the car, Bill told him the car was not worth the asking price.

That very same night, he saw an ad in Hemming's Motor News that said simply, "Model A Ford for sale in South Alabama." My grandfather called the number in the ad and found that the car was in Atmore, only about an hour from Mobile. His contact said that the car had been stored for 20 years and that very few people even knew the car was in the building. He requested that my grandfather only look at the car if he was a serious buyer, as his 80-year-old mother did not want people looking if they were not really interested.

My Grandfather and Bill arranged to see the car, and when they arrived, they found the car walled inside a building! It was parked in the very back, and a wall had been built inches from the back bumper with only a small door to access the space. A woodworking shop operated in the front of the building for many years. After looking the car over, Bill told my grandfather he needed to buy that car. The owner agreed to my grandfather's offer on the car, but only if they would take down the exterior wall of the building to remove the car and then put the wall back up.



Katherine checking out the new car!



Katherine and Tiffani at about 2 years old.

The deal was struck, and my grandfather and Bill returned the next day with another car club friend, Lloyd Crowdus. The three men took down that wall, pulled out the car, rebuilt the wall, loaded the car on their trailer, and headed to Mobile – all in one day! Two tires on the car blew out on the way home just from jostling on the trailer. Bill told my grandfather that, even though the car had been parked for 20 years, they were going to drive it that afternoon.

They drove straight to Bill's house, and he had that car running in an hour and a half. They installed some old tires from Bill's shop, and they did indeed drive the car that same afternoon.

A Family Treasure - My 1929 Model A (cont'd.)



A later tour to Mendenhall after restoration.

The following Saturday, the DSR had a weekend tour scheduled to Mendenhall, Mississippi, – about 350 miles round trip. Bill assured my grandfather that he could drive the Model A on that trip. My grandfather was skeptical, but Bill said, “If you won’t drive it, then I will!” The two men glued up some holes in the top, just in case of rain, and my grandparents did make their very first tour in the Model A without any problems. After that trip, my grandfather began restoring the Model A, and it became the yellow beauty you know today.

Over the years, the Model A became more than just an old car to me – it became a symbol of family, tradition, and the simple joy of shared memories. Some of my fondest memories growing up were riding in the rumble seat during Christmas parades, bundled up in the cold, and waving at the crowd as my grandparents smiled proudly from the front seat.

When I turned 43, my grandfather signed the car over to me. It was one of the most meaningful gifts I have ever received. Every time I look at that Model A, I think of him and the many years of care and love that have been poured into it.

One day, I hope to share the same joy with my own grandchildren – to give them rides in the rumble seat during Christmas parades, just like my grandparents did for me. The Model A may be nearly a century old, but for me it will always be a timeless reminder of family, tradition, and the memories that keep rolling on.



Ray handing off the bill of sale to Tiffani - September 5, 2025.

The CCARC Foundation presents the 26th Annual

.SPRING.
Jubilee
The CCARC Foundation

Saturday, April 11th
9am-2pm
501 Forest Avenue
Jackson, AL 36545



Cruising for a Cause Car Show



Canines on Parade Dog Show



Arts & Crafts Vendors



Silent Auction



Bingo

Cake Walk

Food Vendors



Children's Inflatables (\$7 armbands)

Live Entertainment



A fun event for the whole family!

Free Admission!

251-246-3000





Thank you for agreeing to join us for the Summer Library Celebration Kickoff Party at the Ben May Main Library on Saturday, May 31!

We ask for everyone to be in place to start at 10:00 a.m. and plan to stay through noon. The Ben May Main Library opens at 9:00 a.m., but someone will be here as early as 8:00 a.m. if you want to begin setting up earlier. We will provide a snack area for our volunteers and special guests.

We will have plenty of parking by the guard shack on Washington Avenue by the Ben May Main Library. Please check in at the registration table located by the Washington Avenue entrance.

We are excited about this event and want to extend our sincere appreciation for your help!

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at crhodes@mplonline.org or 251-340-1521.

List of information to answer vendor questions:

The Ben May Main Library opens at 9:00. The event starts at 10:00.

Parking will be in the Washington Avenue parking lot by the guard shack.

The event will be outside and inside the library, weather permitting.

We expect 500 - 1200 people at the event. The event is for all ages of the family.

Touch-a-Truck parking will be on the Scott Street Side of the building.

Bubbles, sidewalk chalk, & Touch-a-Truck overflow will be on the front plaza off Government Street.

In the event of rain, we will move everything inside and use the second floor.

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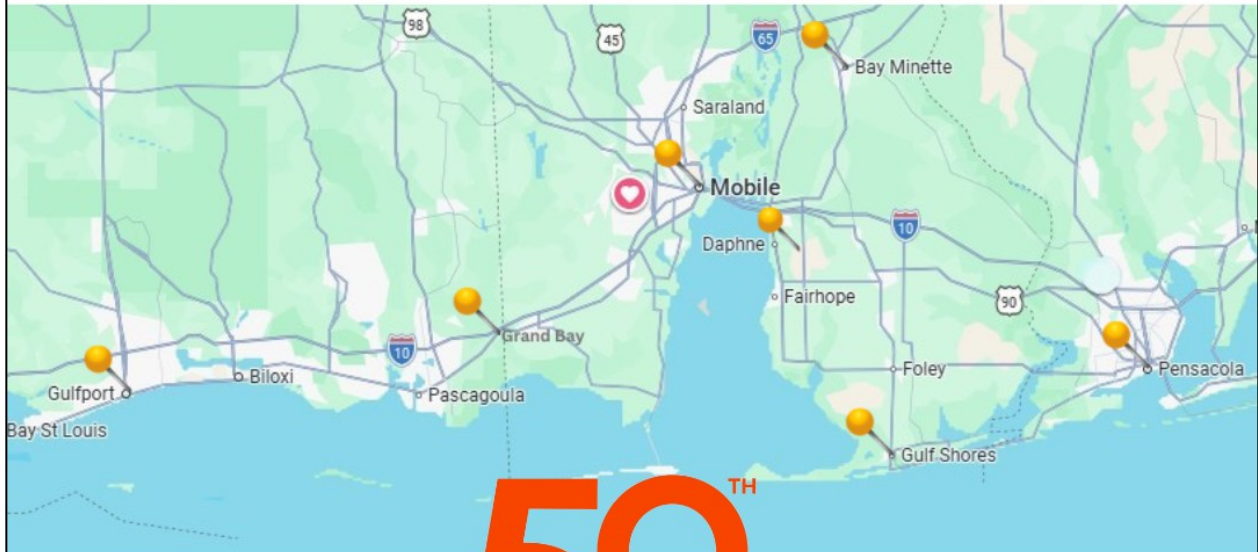
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