

Sparkplug

NEWSLETTER OF THE
DEEP SOUTH REGION

A.A.C.A.



Vol. 29 No. 1

EDITOR: Patt Paquet

661-4009

1996 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	John Reid	666-3761
VICE PRESIDENT:	Al White	344-2643
SECRETARY:	Greg McDonnell	476-7178
TREASURER:	Lucille Nettles	661-4202
ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR:	Buddy Paquet	661-4009
MEMBER AT LARGE	Jim Martin	661-6133

Take Me to Your Leader (s)!

New President is a "Do-er"

John Reid moved to Mobile, with his wife Brenda and daughter Christine, in 1973 while a member of the U. S. Coast Guard. They were transferred to Florida in 1978 but returned to Mobile in 1980. John was an aircraft maintenance officer and retired from the USCG in 1984 and remained in Mobile.

Always interested in cars, the decision to replace the family car came due. The question was: do we buy a new car or an older car and restore it? John chose a 1966 Mustang Fastback. His Mustang is essentially a 1990 model car as all the body, paint, suspension and drive train was restored in that year after purchasing it in 1989.

The success the restoration brought John to car shows. So many fine and interesting people were met at the shows that John & Brenda decided to get involved in car clubs. They joined the Mobile Bay Mustang Club and learned of DSR. After visiting at a DSR meeting they decided that DSR was also a club they wanted to be affiliated with.

A veteran of organizing car shows, John has brought the Camellia Classic and Hooters Open Car Shows to Mobile.

John now works for H. Koch (pronounced "Coke") & Sons Co. where he is the Eastern Regional manager. His work involves aerospace life support equipment and requires extensive travel both in the U.S. and overseas.

His non-car, non-work activities include photography, gardening, reading, cooking and trying to learn his new computer. Both he and Brenda are involved with Mardi Gras societies and will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary this year.

Vice President is a "Yes-Man"

Al White rarely ever says "No" when asked to help with anything DSR is doing. He makes time to help with displays and parades, work on and around the clubhouse, help with car shows; the list goes on and on. This is Al's second time to serve as DSR's vice president which automatically makes him chairman of the Building/Grounds Committee.

A native of Eldorado, Arkansas, he and his wife, Anna, are parents of one son and two daughters and have four grandchildren. They met when Anna was a high school senior and Al a freshman in college. They will be married 43 years in June. Al worked for Courtaulds as a Production Shift Manager for 25 years and retired in 1988 but he won't let Anna leave her job in the Athletic Department at the University of Mobile. They are members of the Mobile Bay Mustang Club and have been DSR members for over five years.

Restoring is Secretary's Hobby

Greg McDonnell enjoys making new things grow but his greatest pleasure comes from bringing old things back to life. His occupation as a landscape contractor/architect provides him with the outlet for starting a project from the beginning and his love of antiques allows him a means to bring life back to something old. His first "old" car was a '85 Olds but he recently acquired a 1966 Cadillac Eldorado convertible. Actually, neither of the cars needed much restoration, just some elbow grease and polish. He has discovered that having two cars can be a lot of fun but keeping both in top condition can be a lot of work.

(Continued on Page 3)

MINUTES

DEEP SOUTH REGION AACA GENERAL MEETING

The November 16, 1995, meeting of the DSR was called to order at 7:30 by Frank DeCrease, president. The meeting was held at the DSR clubhouse. The invocation was given by Don Dillehay.

OLD BUSINESS

*Frank DeCrease presented for membership Mike and Darlene Ebl. They were accepted into the club by acclamation.

*The slate of nominations for 1996 officers was read and there were no nominations from the floor. The slate was accepted by acclamation on a motion from Jane Bruton and second by Melvin Neese. New officers are: John Reid, president; Al White, vice president; Greg McDonnell, secretary; Lucille Nettles, treasurer; Patt Paquet, editor; Jim Martin, member at large; Jerry Finley, car show chair; and Buddy Paquet, activities coordinator.

*The October Minutes were accepted as printed on a motion from Margie DeCrease and second by Ernie Youens.

*Melvin Neese, activities coordinator, presented four Parades for club outings. The members voted to participate in the Nov/Dec Parades on a motion from Anna White and second from John Reid.

*Robert Moore reported that only 24 people turned in the "Clubhouse Expansion Survey Form". The information was discussed and a motion was made by Shelby Bruton and seconded by Melvin Neese that the building committee and executive committee will firm up details of how the clubhouse interior will be finished. The motion carried.

*The Hooter's Show report was given by John Reid. The show made a net profit of \$2558 plus the \$1000 sponsor money from Hooter's. A motion was made by Ernie Youens with second by Robert Moore to donate \$1000 to United Cerebral Palsy. It was also noted that 130 pounds of food was collected for the Bay Area Food Bank.

NEW BUSINESS

*Frank DeCrease asked for input on whether the club wishes to sponsor a child from the Angel Tree this year. On a motion from Brenda Reid with second from Buddy Paquet, the club voted to sponsor two children (for approximate cost of \$150). Donations will be collected at the December meeting to pay for the children's gifts. Brenda Reid volunteered to select the children from the Angel Tree and purchase the gifts.

*A copy of the November treasurer's report was distributed. On a motion from John Reid with second from Ross Sloan, the group voted to move \$2558.60 from the car show account into the building fund account.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The 50/50 pot was won by Frank DeCrease.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM on a motion by Buddy Paquet and second by Melvin Neese.

Respectfully submitted,



(Secretary continued from Page 1)

Restoring seems to come naturally to Greg and since purchasing an older home on Glenwood Street in 1989, he has spent a good part of his time working on it. Moving walls, installing a modern kitchen and updating bathrooms has been slow work. Finding beautiful hardwood floors hidden under an old covering was a big plus but speaking with the now-elderly woman who lived in the house as a child and discovering some of the home's "secrets" was a highlight for Greg.

Greg is a native Mobilian, a graduate of Murphy High School and an extremely enthusiastic DSR member. He joined the club last May after having participated (and worked) in the car show. I asked what his pet peeve is and was told "people who try to collect unemployment unfairly". When I asked what was the happiest day he ever had was, he said "The day I drove into Mobile with my "Caddy" on the trailer".

Handling \$ Comes Naturally to Treasurer

Lucille Nettles has been responsible for other people's money for longer than she cares to remember. She worked 11 years as a "temp" and 23 years as a permanent employee with the Mobile County License Commissioner's Office. Lucille is beginning her fifth year as church auditor for St. Mark's United Methodist Church as well as serving as the Ladies Circle Chairman and is a past president of the United Methodist Women.

A native of Peterman, Alabama, she and her husband, Cecil, moved to Mobile in 1952. He retired from Johnson Chevrolet after 20 years but continues to work on cars in his garage at home which has an old cast-iron wood stove to keep his coffee hot. They have three children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Lucille and Cecil joined DSR in 1983 after going on the summer tour to Tennessee with a group of members. She said that particular trip was more fun than any other she has ever taken. The Nettles have served as Activities Coordinators for DSR in the past and are now back active members after illness has kept them "down" for awhile.

Activities Coordinator Plans Busy Year for DSR

Buddy Paquet says he has two things in mind for members this year. One, an outing will be planned each month for those who wish to participate and second, he would like to utilize the clubhouse as often as possible. "We have such a good place, let's use it", he said. The first thing on the agenda at the clubhouse is an "Italian Day" on a Saturday in February.

Having served as DSR President 1993 and 1994 as well as Car Show Chairman during those same two years, Buddy is looking forward to working in a different position. He is our current legislative representative for DSR to AACA. Becoming more involved with AACA through participating and judging in national shows has been something he has enjoyed the past two years.

His first antique car is his 1955 Ford purchased in 1985 from a classmate and he is the second owner of the car. Working on cars is first on his hobby list and second is using the computer. Buddy retired in 1993 from the Mobile County Sheriff's Department after 30 years plus one month.

Words Hard to Find for Editor

I'm not sure if "re-elected" is the proper term for me serving as Editor in 1996. I think I just asked for it because I enjoy it so much. It's not always easy, but it's always fun! I get to keep up with what all of you are doing and what's going on with other clubs as well. I have absolutely no background for writing. I worked 20-plus years for a local surgeon in a variety of positions before finally retiring last January. That is why I say words are sometimes hard for me to find.

One of the highlights of my life was Buddy and I being host-parents for foreign exchange students. We have had three boys, the last of whom left in 1989. We are still in touch will all of them and talk with each of them at least monthly.

If there is something special you would like to see in the *Sparkplug*, let me know and I will try to run it for you.

Patt Paquet

Member at Large...Not "Large Member"

Jim Martin seems to confuse the terminology of his new position. He continually refers to himself as the "Large Member" which, as all of you know, is not true. However, I suppose if you were to consider his excitement about being a member of DSR, then maybe he could be considered a large member.

Originally from Texarkana, Arkansas, Jim is employed by Wood Protection Products, Inc., and sells wood preserving chemicals to related industries. His area includes Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama. He and his wife, Judy, who works for the school board as a librarian at Mertz School, have been married 36 years and have two daughters. When their youngest daughter, Laurie, began planning her wedding in early 1994, she asked if her father would drive the bride and groom from the church to the reception in his 1929 Ford. This led to "Why not transport the entire wedding party in antique autos?" and Jim and Laurie came to a meeting and, as they say, the rest is history.

Jim and his family have a "get-away" place in Arkansas fondly called "Camp Oleo" but you will have to have him explain the unusual name for it. He enjoys his antique car but also likes deer hunting, reading when time permits and is just getting into using his computer for fun.



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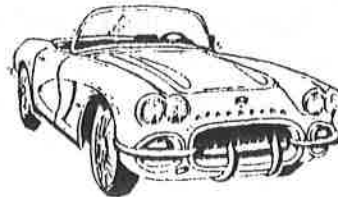
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Bob Gechjian

Put Safety First

I recently came across an article printed in "Things You Auto Know" some years ago by Bob Bilier that I think warrants a second look.

Two very common items were discovered to be potentially hazardous in the garage and workshop. One is disposable cigarette lighters and the other is contact lenses.

There was case where an arc was accidentally struck with an electric welder while the mask was not in place. The victim was wearing contact lenses and the flash of the high current arc resulted in the fusion of the contact lenses and the corneas of the eyes. The result was a total loss of eyesight. Whenever arc welding is going on, make sure the welder and the others in the shop are not wearing contact lenses.

Disposable cigarette lighters are seemingly harmless unless they are used to occasionally light a propane or acetylene torch. An open flame or a piece of weld spatter can perforate the plastic lighter casing. The explosion is capable of the same force as three sticks of dynamite.

Many potential dangers lurk in the garage and workshop. All members should put forth an extra effort to be sure their work environment is safe for themselves and others.

Murrell Smith, AACA Safety Chairman (1992)

Editor's Note: The above is from the Rummage Box

Remember When?

By Ernie Youens

Ten years ago, January 1986, we were putting a recipe-of-the-month and a "mystery photo" of the month in the *Sparkplug*. You found out at the monthly meeting who the person in the photo was or you had to wait until the next issue.

The new officers were President, Ray Harper; Vice President, Guy Short; Secretary, Barbara Short; Treasurer, Katherine Harper; Activities Coordinators, Dave & Jeannie Hepler; Member at Large, Don Hartman and I was Editor. Gosh! The only ones that are still members are Ray & Katherine but how many of you remember the others?

DSR had participated in the Irvington Christmas parade on Dec. 21 and afterward were treated to "on the house" coffee and dessert at members O.D. & Mickey Dickerson's restaurant. On Dec. 27 members Oliver & Thelma George had given a party for us at their home across the Bay.

National AACA dues were \$15 single/\$19 joint...Sammy & Emma Francis joined DSR...Cecil & Lucille Nettles had just acquired their blue and white '58 Met...Laura Faust had donated a large box of ball-point pens inscribed with "Deep South Region Antique Car Club" to be sold 50 cents each/or 3 for \$1.00 to help boost the treasury...the clubhouse was completely paid for and re-zoned from R-1 to B-1. Ray Harper was to receive his 25-year service award from RCA in Melbourne, Florida on Jan 14...a chili supper was planned just prior to the meeting on Jan. 23 and the first outing for 1986 was scheduled for Feb. 21-23 at Jerry & Linda Page's home in Catahoula, Mississippi.

Worth Knowing About

There is a Collector's Edition of *Life* magazine on the newsstand which is devoted to 100 years of the Automobile in America. It begins with the birth of the motor car and goes to what the future may be. Filled with black and white as well as color photographs, it is available until Feb. 19, 1996.



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More Members Pay Dues

After the last newsletter was published, five more members have paid their dues. They are **Bell, Carver, Few, Hunt and Jordan (F)**. We are sorry to be losing several of our members (Martha Brown, O.P. & Nina Brown, the Campbells, the Dowlings, the Francises, the Gibsons and the Kotises) due to a variety of reasons. Some of them plan to re-join next year when work and other activities allow more time. As of this time, we have only one member who we anticipate renewing that has not paid dues.

Members Under Restoration

As most of you know, **LaVerne Hopkins** was re-admitted to Mobile Infirmary on Dec. 14 and had more surgery Dec. 28. She had **another operation** on Jan. 19 and as of 11:00 AM is out of surgery and doing well. Hopefully, she will be in a regular room by Monday, Jan. 22. Let's remember this very special lady with a "card shower" to let her know we are thinking of her. The address P.O. Box 2144 Mobile, AL 36652.

When you next see **Melvin Neese**, don't slap him on the back in greeting. He broke a rib on the right side while in Dallas at a swap meet.

Elven Few is out of his cast. If his foot continues to heal everything will be OK but if not, the doctor has told him he would need surgery.

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Your Help is Needed

DSR has been invited to participate in the Tillman's Corner Mardi Gras parade on Feb. 3 and the Brewer Center's parade of Feb. 16. We will discuss both events at the Jan. 25 meeting and give you the line-up times. Remember, these parades are not just for convertibles; we want as many members to participate as possible.



Just a Reminder.....Bring a crockpot with your favorite chili to the January meeting. After everyone does a "taste test" of each entry, a winner will be selected and a trophy will be presented to the lucky cook.

"Mama Mia...it's Italian"

On Saturday, Feb. 17, members are invited to sample some of DSR's finest Italian cuisine. The doors will open at 11:00 AM and dining will begin at 12:30 PM. There will be lasagna, spaghetti, the fixin's for green salad, (bring your own salad dressing), garlic bread, soft drinks, and a light dessert. As of this time we have 2 people willing to show off their culinary skills and are looking for more. We will discuss this in detail at the Jan. 25 meeting and I will have a sign-up sheet.

Buddy Paquet

"Mini-Tour" Scheduled in March

Plans are not complete at this time for a weekend tour to Starkville and Columbus, Mississippi, but will be finalized soon. We will leave March 8 and return on March 10. We will drive up on Friday, at road speeds acceptable to the oldest car, via one route and return on Sunday by a different route. Saturday will be spent touring Waverly plantation home (cost is \$5.00 per person) in Columbus, the C.C. Clark Memorial Coca Cola Archives Room (free) with displays of more than 2,300 items, the Templeton Music Museum (free) which houses ragtime phonographic instruments, music boxes and player pianos and organs. Hopefully, we will get to visit the Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum (will be opened on Saturday just for us and a donation of \$1.00 per person would be appreciated) which is in a restored GM&O Railroad Depot and if time permits take a driving tour of the Greensboro Historic District of 30 Victorian homes.

Hotel rooms have not been reserved yet but will be kept as reasonable as possible. It will depend on how many of you plan to go as to where we stay. Printed menus from several area restaurants should arrive soon. The Activities Coordinator and your Editor plan to go to Starkville a few days after the meeting to check everything out. If you are interested in going, you can get more information at the Jan. 25 meeting. This should be a fun weekend.

...the last "good guy" story?

About the middle of last year, **Buddy Paquet** had the disk with the 1995 DSR Membership Roster in our computer trying something. Unfortunately, it didn't work and all the information was wiped out. In late December/early January, he has re-typed the entire roster, including the DSR history and Bylaws. This was a lot of work for someone whose hands are more accustomed to working on car engines than using a keyboard and our 1996 Roster is ready to print when all DSR dues are paid.

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

For Sale: 1958 T-Bird, black & white w/ big block engine and price may include parts car. Contact Randy Osborne (334)679-1527

For Sale: 1964 1/2 Mustang Convertible, 6 cyl, automatic. Contact Elaine Parnell (334)342-7852

For Sale: 1960 Chevy Apache 10 Pickup, 235 engine. Runs good, needs small amount of body work, has new tires & new transmission. Contact Roy O'Kelley (334)456-3730 after 5 PM

For Sale: 1961 Met Convertible, standard tranny Contact Floyd Jordan (334)649-2703

Car Trivia

1. What make of automobile had transmission buttons in the center of the steering wheel?
2. How many speeds did Chevrolet's Powerglide transmission have in 1951?
3. What 1967 convertible car had a hinged rear window?
4. What car brand of 1938 is credited with starting the trend to coil-spring rear suspension?
5. Who built the engine for the curved dash Olds, organized Cadillac, and after walking out at Cadillac, organized the Lincoln Car Company?
6. What 1955 car brand had L-head engines called "Super Hurricane"?

(See bottom of next column for answers)

1996 Judging Seminar Coming Soon

You many not want to be a judge at a car show but you would like to know what they look at, right? The opportunity for you to find out this and more is yours when the DSR hosts it's second judging seminar Sunday, March 3, 1996.

It will be held at the clubhouse, beginning at 1:00 PM , and will be moderated by Jerry Finley, Buddy Paquet and John Reid. They will cover consistency in judging a car and the different types of judging methods. Writers are one of the most important parts of the judging team and their role will be discussed also. Following this will be a "hands-on" session with participants being formed into teams and going through the actual judging process on cars.

It is important that the female gender understand this is not for men only; there are a number of women who judge at shows. Last year we had almost as many women as men at the seminar and some of the best questions were asked by women.

This event is not just a DSR function, it is open to members of all car clubs and any visitors who might be interested in attending. AACA, Mustang and the 100 point system of judging will give you an idea of what goes on out on the show field. Plan to drive your antique/classic car, you may want it to be used for the participants to practice on.

GARDEN
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Answers to Car Trivia

1 Edsel 2 Two 3 Mustang 4 Buick
5 Henry Leland 6 Willys

IMPORTANT DATES

January:

Jan. 25: DSR Meeting in Clubhouse 7:30 PM

February:

Feb. 3 Tillman's Corner Mardi Gras Parade

Feb. 16 Brewer Center's Mardi Gras Parade

Feb. 17 Italian Dinner at the "DSR Bistro" (Discussion at January Meeting)

Feb. 17: Red Snapper Festival Open Car Show - Roger Falk (334)981-4323

Feb. 22: DSR Meeting in Clubhouse 7:30 PM

March:

Mar. 2 Coastal Classic Car Show-Fort Walton Beach, FL-Days: (904)243-9511

Mar. 3 Judging Seminar in Clubhouse beginning at 1:00 PM

Mar. 8-10 DSR Tour to Starkville & Columbus, MS (Discussion at January Meeting)

Jan. 16 Azalea City Classic Chevy Club's Open Car Show-Evelyn Swift (334)675-7875

Mar. 23: 34th Annual Old South Antique Auto Club Show-Fort Conde-Mobile, AL

April:

Apr. 13: 3rd Annual Camellia Classic @ Bellingrath Gardens - John Reid (334)3761

Apr. 23: 11th Annual Gold Cup Antique Car Race-Panama City Florida

May:

May 11: 13th Annual Deep South Region Car Show-Clubhouse-Mobile, AL -Jerry Finley
(334)479-1358

Deep South Region

Antique Automobile Club of America

4963 Freeway Lane

Mobile, AL 36619-1716

News Flash: DSR member **Ross Sloan's** book, *The Ross Sloan Life Insurance Buyers Guide*, is available and you can get your autographed advance copy from him at the Jan. 25 meeting.

Ernie & Eugenia Youens
625 Second Avenue
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JAN. 96