



The Sparkplug

Vol. 59 No. 5
May 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

May

2 - Wings & Wheels

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

28 - Monthly Meeting

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

30 - Summer Library Kick-Off

10:00 am
Ben May Main Library, 701
Government St.
Mobile, Alabama

June

13 - Flag Day Cruise-In

4:00 pm
DSR Club House
951 Forrest Hill Dr.
Mobile, Alabama

See page 3 for more details.

AACA Events

2026

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

September 9 - Founders Tour (1932-2001)

Williamsburg, Virginia

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

This month's cover features Jim & Nancy Henderson's 1951 Packard Clipper. Submit a good, distant photo of your car to be featured.

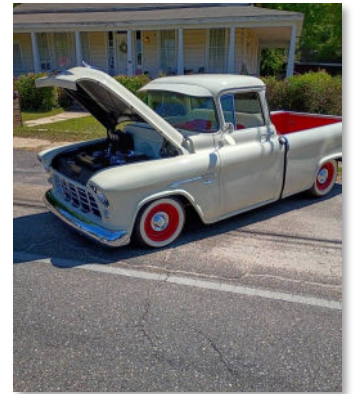
Zeno's Corner

Hope everyone is doing well. I wanted to mention one of our Lifetime members that left us in the last few days. I met Pat Paquet in 2009 a long with her husband Buddy. She was in charge of the Sparkplug newsletter, as well as President one year. Her and Buddy traveled all over the US with the AACA National Car Shows. They were Master Judges and taught Judging classes at each event. When I became President my first time she was there to help me in any capacity I needed. At a later date I'm going to put together a story on her and Buddy. We also lost a very dear friend and brother Robbie Haynes. Robbie and his mother Violet are members of our club. I've known Robert, Violet, and Robbie since the 1960's. Robert, Robbie's Dad, past some years back. We still both live in the same neighborhood today. I'm also going to do a follow up story on Robbie.

Regards, Zeno

ARCCC Spring Jubilee Car Show - April 11

Several DSR members headed to Jackson, Alabama, to support the ARC of Clarke County in their Spring Jubilee Car Show. It was an absolutely beautiful spring day filled with great food and fun. Everyone enjoyed the games, vendors, plant sale, and pet beauty competition. Harold Courtney took home the Mayor's Choice award, and Andy & Lisa Simmons grabbed several trophies including Best of Show!



Drive-In Movie - April 25



After the horrible storms cleared, it turned into a beautiful evening for our first ever drive-in movie night at Faith Crossing with Tibbie Baptist Church. The DSR threw a fabulous cookout, and dozens of families showed up to watch *The Love Bug*, an old favorite for sure, but I bet there were lots of kids who had never seen it!



Out & About



Andy & Lisa Simmons at the Strawberry Festival in Loxley, Alabama, April 11.



David & Kay Johnson at the Pharaoh's 2nd Saturday Cruise-In on April 11.



Dan Jacobsen with his new ride at Mopar Fest at the Battleship, April 25.

Upcoming Events



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! We are also invited to the luau Friday night at 6pm with food & Music!

May 28 - DSR Monthly Meeting - The May meeting will be held at the DSR Club House, 951 Forrest Hill Dr., Mobile AL. 6pm for dinner followed by the meeting at 7.



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 .

FEATURE STORY!

Check out this month's feature story, *It's A Generational Thing*, following 4 generations of love for one special Model A Ford.



I would love to tell the story of your car, so let's put our heads together and get the history of your car down in DSR history.

The Sparkplug

A monthly publication of the Deep South Region - AACA



It's a Generational Thing

By Debbie Bright

It was the summer of 1972 when my parents, Bill and Jeanie Dobbs, hooked up the trailer and headed up to north Alabama to pick up a Ford Model A. Needless to say, when they arrived, my mom was not impressed because it was in a field with a tree growing through the middle of it. Dad, however, could see the true potential of this car. They dragged it up on the trailer, tied the doors closed, and headed home. After countless hours of garage time after work and on weekends, the car's restoration was finished in 1979. The paint and the upholstery were the only two items my dad did not do himself.



The original family car - circa 1982.



Show inside Bel Air Mall.

The 1931 Model A Deluxe Roadster became an AACA National Junior Award winner, but being born in 1931, Dad had a special love for Model A's. He didn't build this car to be a trailer queen. He and Mom spent almost 30 years touring and enjoying just driving the car. In the early 1980's, they joined the Deep South Region AACA. They especially enjoyed the Mother's Day show that was held at the clubhouse each year.

As Dad's health began to decline, they made plans to pass his three vehicles on to their three daughters. Being the oldest, I got first choice, and there was no question as to which car I wanted. After Dad passed in 2006, my husband John and I began a complete, frame-off restoration. While the car was mechanically sound, after 30 years of touring, it was time to restore Dad's dream. Ronnie Goldman of Stonewall, Mississippi, who had traveled many miles on tour with my folks, brought the car back to its former glory. In 2019, it once again received an AACA first place Junior Award.



Bill Dobbs as Santa with Jennifer (Lexi's Mom) at the Tillman's Corner Christmas Parade.



Getaway Car for Mom & Dad's 50th.



Towing the pop-up camper to Paul B. Johnson.

It's a Generational Thing (cont'd.)



Ronnie Goldman & Dave Hepler checking the progress.

Because we, too, love to drive these beautiful old cars, we also have a second Model A. It's a 1929 Phaeton, but that is a story for another day. John is also finishing the restoration of a 1927 Model T touring car named Tallulah B, and we just recently purchase a 1931 Model A Depot Wagon named Woodreaux – yes, we name all our cars. This way, we can enjoy this wonderful hobby and all the friends we've made while still preserving my dad's baby! Now the 4th generation is getting ready to enjoy and preserve this beautiful piece of history.

Although my dad is probably not happy with me, we choose to only drive the car occasionally, as our goal is to pass it down to our granddaughter, Lexi. Dad actually carried Lexi's parents from their wedding reception in the rumble seat. I suspect, when the time comes, it will carry Lexi and her spouse also. She will quickly tell you that it is her car! She just turned 19, so learning to drive a stick shift is high on her agenda.



Lexi and her Model A at Brookside Chapel.



The Old Car Festival 2022 at the Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Michigan.



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.

Cherold Rhodes

Roy E Ray ANNUAL FLY-IN

May 2, 2026

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***Bring chairs,
drinks, snacks, and
please remember to
pick up your trash.
No one should
touch the airplanes.**

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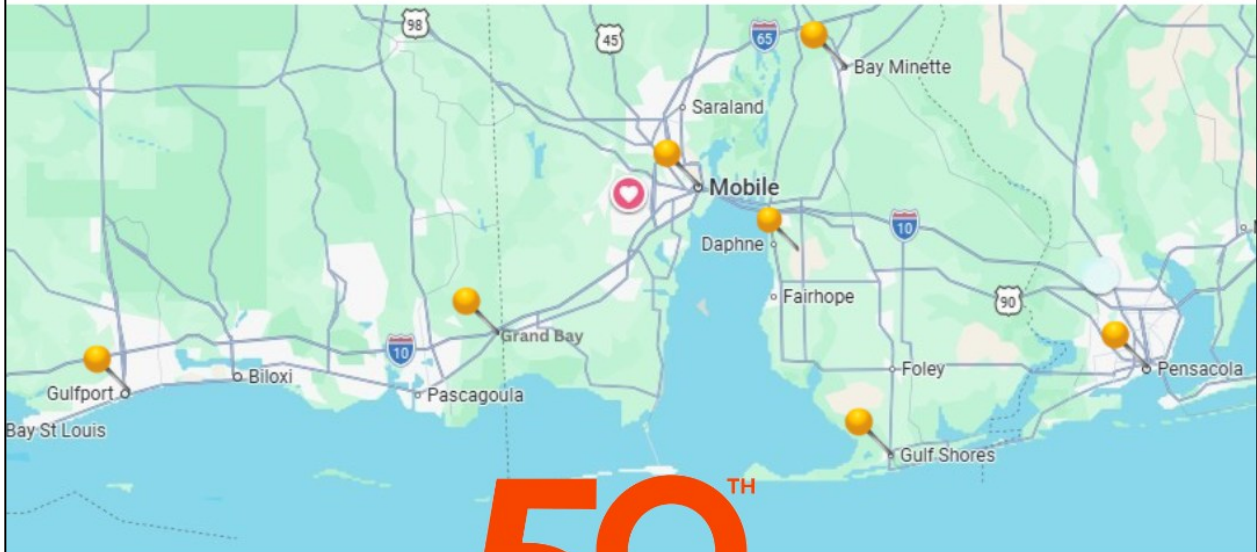
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