The Presidents Message:

Well, the New Year could have started out better. Our beloved Tigers and Saints didn’t do as well as we hoped for. Did you hear why Lee wasn’t given a chance to play? Here is the latest. Some players went to Miles and said they wanted Lee to play rather than Jefferson. They said Jefferson had been drinking and partying all week. Well, Miles being the one always open for suggestions (Ya, Right!) got ticked off and didn’t let Lee play. The players were ticked off so they got even by not playing 100%. Does this sound like a bunch of crap? This is why I rarely open any e-mails with attachments that have to do with jokes, politics or religion. I do enjoy seeing pictures of old cars and interesting car information. If you have a good joke, call me. I watch C-Span, read newspapers and magazines thus I can decide on whom to vote for. Maybe the Saints & LSU lost because I didn’t forward those e-mails to ten people within ten minutes. ENOUGH about that. Cenla, Contraband and Baton Rouge are working hard on our first three Tours. Be sure to register early. If you can’t attend, check out the Duster. We will TRY to post some pictures and let you know what you missed. Hope to see Y’all in Alexandria!

Joe Wright
In 2012 you have Things to do, places to go and people to see.

National

MARCH 15th-17th AACA Winter Meet in Melbourne, Fl.
APRIL 21st-22nd Spring Meet Hosted by the Hornet’s Nest Region at Charlotte Motor Speedway.
JUNE 21st-23rd AACA Central Division Spring meet Cedar Rapides, Iowa. To register, contact Terry & Andree Hoeman 402-563-1442. 6529 65th St. Columbus, NE 68601
AUGUST 1st-5th AACA Central Division Tour York, Nebraska.

Regional

* March 9th-11th Cenla Tour-Alexandria, Pineville area.
* April 13th-15th Contraband Tour Port Arthur, TX.
* May 4th-6th 45th Annual Louisiana Tour & General meeting – Baton Rouge.
* May 27th-29th Evangeline Tour/Rally
* = Points Earning Events.

At the Louisiana Tour we will have our General Membership meeting and Regional Executive Board meeting. The time and place will be announced later. If you have any business to bring up, please contact the Region President or your Chapter President so we can put it on our agenda.

Sign up for our Tours as early as possible. This makes planning for the tour easier. Most hotels have deadlines to get the best rates. Bring a young person to a tour. Get them interested in our hobby. REMEMBER!!! TOURS ARE FUN WHEN YOU COME.

We need your E-mail Address. Contact the Region Editor or Secretary with any E-mail, Phone, Address CHANGES or NEW listings Thanks!

Contact me if you want to receive the Duster by mail rather than E-mail. Thanks, Joe Wright/Editor. badmollycat@suddenlink.net or 337-474-0856.

Continue to Pray for:

Our troops and their families. Also remember the many Veterans that are in our Hospitals and those receiving care in our Veterans Homes.

Keep us informed if you have any prayer requests.
E-mail **your stories and other bits of information** to the region editor, Joe Wright at badmollycat@suddenlink.net so that we can get them published. Make us laugh, cry, reflect or learn something new.

**ARE YOU HAVING A BIRTHDAY? HAVE A HAPPY ONE!**

**REMEMBER** to check the expiration date on your driver’s license. Also **recheck** your license plate sticker and safety inspection stickers on **ALL** your vehicles.

**HELP US FIND THESE AUTOS NEW HOME!**

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<td>Contact: Chip Gant 985-781-1304</td>
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1964 Ford Thunderbird Coupe. 390 V8. Auto. White exterior, silver-blue interior. PS & AC. Carpeting and door panels replaced. Steel belted radials. AC compressor not original, but have original. 4-barrel carb replaced with 2-barrel for better mileage (have original). New radiator. Great touring car.

Larry Dilks, (337) 478-5418

**Region Members, post your auto related For Sales & Wanted ads here! E-mail them to the Editor.**

**Your 2012 Dues are do NOW! Pay your Chapter dues ASAP. Members at Large send your dues to the Region Secretary.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE!**

The CENLA TOUR is our **FIRST** tour and the second 2012 points earning event.

Start the New Year out right by attending this tour.

Dust the old cars off, fill’em up and head for Alexandria. **Register Today!!**

**REMEMBER to ALWAYS Kiss me goodnight!**
Our 1951 Willys-Overland Station Wagon

In June of 2010, I was playing around with my computer looking at E-Bay. I was looking at a 1951 Willys Station Wagon that was being bid on out of Phoenix, AZ. My interest in the Willys was because that was the model car in which I learned to drive, and my wife Barbara and I dated in. Barbara came in the room and asked me what I was doing. After I told her, she said, “Why you don’t bid on the car?” I bid, and within 2 minutes I had won. She asked what had just happened, and I said to her, “You said to bid; you didn’t ask how much more time the bidding would be open”. Thus, we became the proud owners of a 1951 Willys-Overland Station Wagon.

We made the arrangement to have the car trucked to Metairie, and began to wait its’ arrival. When it arrived, it was driven around the back into the garage, and the restoration began.

Upon the initial inspection there were several surprises in store; the entire wiring of the car had been made-up using home grade wiring, junction boxes riveted to the metal, some Romex wire here and there, and even #10 extension cord wires to power the headlights. There was a massive trailer hitch, rear leaf spring boosters, numerous brackets and pipes to support some type of tent welded to the body, the heater was from some unknown car and the rims & tires were trailer14 inch. Surprisingly, and to our amazement, there was only one small rust spot visible on the left rear fender well.

The complete disassembly began, and the relationship with the vendors who sell parts for the Willys’ started being developed. After the disassembly, the removal of the body paint was done using Easy-Off Heavy Duty Oven cleaner, in lieu of using aircraft stripper. It loves the Sun, and just two applications brought the metal to being paint free. A Word of Caution: Oven cleaner is an acid, thus you must insure that you neutralize the work area with baking soda and water.

Not having the facilities, it was decided to take the Willys completely apart, except for the removal of the body from the frame. This process involved the using of Glad Bags for items that came off, and then tagging the bags. The garage looked like a retail store with about 80 glad bags hanging on hooks with writing on the front, only being meaningful to me. My wife had told our children, that should I die before reassembling the Willys, to sell the bags as car parts.

The body was painted inside and out, including under the hood and inside the fender wells. The paint color of the body (inside and outside) is 2008 Infinite Merlot Wine Pearl. The window trim moldings and wheels are 2009 Audi Iron Gray. The seat upholstery, interior panels, headliner, arm rests, and wind lace is black. The new interior floor wood strips are of varnished red oak. The chrome was all redone, the radiator rebuilt, the engine overhauled, the suspension front and rear reworked, the frame was cleaned and painted, and the drive shaft with it’s’ every blessed roller pin u-joints, was reworked, which was a big challenge and a story unto itself.

While installing new rear end bearings and seals, we believe the oil in the rear end was from 1951, because the foul odor from the oil stayed in the garage for over a week, and the color was the nastiest black gook that you can imagine. Then there was the old fuel in the gas tank which was on its’ way to becoming varnish, which was just another foul odor bestowed on the neighbors to enjoy during the Willys’ restoration.

The reassembly of all the parts that had been removed, bagged, and reworked was a task that was so ever time consuming. Most of the hobbyists could tell us all anything that we want to know about the workings of a Ford, MOPAR or Chevrolet, just don’t ask them about a Willys. Using a copy of the original parts manual, and the owner/service manual were the main salvation and sources of information. As you would expect, in some instances items had to be attempted to be installed two or three times, before they went on correctly.

To provide some creature comforts, we made our own wiring harness, using 40 amp relays for control of almost everything, which is powered by a 75 Amp alternator. The A/C system uses a remote under body condenser, with all of the A/C controls neatly hidden from sight inside the glove box.
The biggest problems that occurred were caused from the use of aftermarket items that were made in Japan/China. These parts were close to fitting, but a car restoration is not a game of horseshoes. Just to name a few: the brake shoes were too wide, the brake drums had extra metal in the inside, the clutch plate was too thick not allowing the clutch to fully release, a new expensive mechanical advance distributor would come apart with the engine running, and the replacement small chrome pieces were thin and of an inferior quality of chrome.

Naturally, there are many things that went bad or gave me problems, as well as numerous things that went right. A good example was trying to find a source for the required GL-1 Mineral Gear Oil SAE 80 for the transmission and overdrive. I am not addressing them, and just happy the ordeal is over.

My thanks go to my friends for helping me, (as I am definitely an amateur hobbyist), Warren Ferlandy, Larry Larmei, Ernest “Frenchy” LeBlanc, Malcolm Fontenette, and especially Gil Whittaker, whenever they were called upon. Then there is the thanks to my wife Barbara of 54 years, for her being so ever understanding in listening to the problems when I would be frustrated trying to disassemble or reassemble something, or trying to find a part for the car, and verbally venting on her about my dilemma, with as we call “Da Willys”.

It is now time to put our 1951 Willys-Overland Station Wagon on the road, let it earn its’ rock chips gracefully, while we proudly enjoy the fruits of our 14 months of labor.

Charlie & Barbara Maher

Off to the paint shop June 2010                                      “Da Willys” June 2011

Two of the several photos submitted.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LOUISIANA!! “We are 200 years young”. 200 years ago, on April 30th 1812, Louisiana was the 18th State admitted to the Union.

Indiana was next on December 11th 1816. Do you know which state was the FIRST state admitted? Find the answer on the address page.
**CENLA Chapter AACA Winter Tour**

*March 09, 10 & 11, 2012*

*Alexandria, Pineville, LA.*

**Headquarters:**

**Theme:** Patriotism

**Best Western Inn & Suites  2720 North MacArthur Drive**

*Alexandria, Louisiana 71303  (318) 445-5530 Ext: 175/1-888-338-2008  Fax: (318) 445-3956*

**Room Rates:** $69.00 for Singles, plus tax, and $79.00, plus tax for Doubles. You must make your reservation no later than February 25, 2012, to receive this rate.

**Reservations:** Please call 318-445-5530 – Ext 175/1-888-338-2008 and request the Old Car Club. AACA group, for this Special Rate.

**Friday: March 9:**

- **Registration:** 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM, Hotel Lobby/Hospitality Room, Hearty Snacks will be provided.
- **Friday Tour:** 1:30 PM – We will lining up at 1:30 PM and departing the Best Western parking lot at 1:40 PM. We travel South on LA 165/71 to Bayou Rapides Road. Turn Right on Bayou Rapides Road and travel to 3601, The Kent Plantation House. If time permits we will tour the Old England Air force Base, it is now the Alexandria International Airport. We will return to the Best Western Inn & Suites for relaxing.

**Friday Night Hospitality:** The Cash Bar is not open during the weekend. However, the Cajun Landing, next door will have a Cash Bar and it will be open. We will gather in the Magnolia room at 6:30 PM for some “Griping and Grinning”.

Dinner (Buffet style) will be at 7:00 PM. Door Prizes will be presented after Dinner.

**Saturday March 10:**

- **Hot Breakfast for Hotel Guest, 7:00 AM – 10:00 AM.**
- **Saturday Tour:** We will depart the Best Western at 09:30 AM and drive to Long Leaf, Louisiana and tour the Southern Forest Heritage Museum. For nearly 80 years the Sawmill provided a livelihood for hundreds of families. The Commissary is one of the buildings remaining from a once thriving Company Town. This store serves as the Museum Entrance, Gift Shop and Interpretive Exhibit space. Let’s enjoy the history. A Map will be provided. The tour will continue as we travel to Pineville, LA. to tour the Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum, located at Camp Beauregard. Listen to some of the stories of some of our great hero’s i.e. General’s Bradley, Eisenhower, Marshall, Patton and a host of others. Lunch will be between 12:00 and 1:00 PM. (Bring your chairs, just in case) After the Tour, you can “Shop till you Drop” in Pineville or return to the Best Western for some leisure time.

**Saturday Banquet:** Cash Bar – Cajun Landing: Open 6:30 PM - Wear your Patriotic Colors We will gather in the Magnolia Room at 6:30 PM for Dinner (Buffet style) at 7:00 PM. The Awards Ceremony, Raffle and 50/50 Drawing will be after dinner.

**Sunday: March 10:**

- **7:00 AM-10:00 AM Breakfast for Hotel guests. Depart at your Leisure.**

CENLA Old Car Club extends our Thanks to you for spending your time with us. We will see you down the road.

**CENLA Old Car Club Winter Tour Registration Form. Clip & Mail**

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Registration Deadline: February 25, 2012  Total amt. included

Make check payable to the CENLA Old Car Club (Mail To) Judy McClaran

141 Wildwood Dr.  Pineville, LA. 71360-4567

Call Mitch Mitchell (337-239-4931)/Judy McClaran (318-640-0485) if you have any questions.
Contraband Chapter
Thirty Sixth Annual Spring Tour
April 13th-15th 2012
50’s SOCK HOP

HEADQUARTERS: Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Port Arthur TX... 3115 Central Mall Dr.
Ph. # 409-853-4114. Located at Hwy 69-96-287 in Port Arthur. Central Mall is located right behind the
Hotel. The Hotel is 100% Smoke Free. Hot Breakfast from 6AM-10AM. Room rates are Regular
Double Queen and Regular King --$97.75 King Suite--$103.50
Tour rates with tax and everything included. Registration rates cut off April 1st 2012. Parking behind
hotel for trailers.
FRIDAY APRIL 13th. Registration from 10:30 AM to 1 PM. Finger food & snacks will be served in
meeting room.
FRIDAY EARLY BIRD TOUR: Depart hotel 1 PM to visit Museum of the Gulf Coast.
FRIDAY NIGHT HOSPITALITY: At Larry’s French Market & Cajun Restaurant. Buffet and live band
starts at 5 PM. All of the festivities will continue until 10 PM.
SATURDAY MORNING: Complimentary Hot breakfast 6 AM- 10 AM. Registration 8:30-9:30. Depart
the Hotel at 9:30 to Port Neches Park where we will participate in the Cajun Jam and Car Show. There
will be plenty of music and good food.
SATURDAY NIGHT: 50”s Banquet and Sock Hop at 6 PM. We will travel to the Banquet Hall which
is only 2.6 miles from the Hotel. There you will be entertained by Live celebrities from the 50”s, fine
food prepared by our own personal chef, door prizes, raffle prizes and a whole lot of fellowship.
SUNDAY MORNING: Complimentary Breakfast, Then we will all depart for our home town with fond
memories and renewed friendships.
NOTE: It has been a long time since Louisiana has gone to Texas and joined together in fellowship, so
come renew old friendships as well as make new ones. Ladies wear your Poodle Skirts and your Saddle
Oxfords, Men wear your long sideburns and Blue Swede Shoes. Don’t hold back on your 50 outfit.

Detach and mail before April 1, 2012. Checks payable to Contraband Chapter AACA, Mail registration
to: James V. Stratton, 2448 W Armand St, Lake Charles, La, 70611, Phone Number 337 855-3664.

Name of Driver________________________________________$50.00
Name of Passenger________________________________________$45.00
Address________________________________________________Total $
City_________________________State___________________Zip________
Phone Number_________________________Cell Phone____________________
Email_________________________AACA #__________________________
Chapter_________________________
Year/Make/Model of Car__________________________________________
Name of Insurance Co,__________________________________________
Chapter Officers & Editors 2012

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E-mails are for AACA stuff ONLY. Ask before you put an E-mail on your forward list.
45th ANNUAL LOUISIANA REGION AACA TOUR
HOSTED by the BATON ROUGE CHAPTER
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION of the STATE OF LOUISIANA 1812-2012
May 4 - 6, 2012

HEADQUARTERS: Towne Place Suites by Marriott, 2823 S. Outfitters Dr., Gonzales, LA 70737. Take the LA-30 exit, exit 177, off of I-10. Stay in the 2 left turn lanes. Turn left onto Cabela’s Parkway then take the first left onto S. Outfitters Drive. This brand new hotel has one and two bedroom suites. Most rooms have a sofa bed. Each room has a fully equipped kitchen with separate living and sleeping areas. Free hot breakfast, free Wi-Fi, pool, exercise room, guest laundry and many other amenities. Special AACA rate is $99 plus tax for studio king or studio double queen. Two bedrooms, two bath suite rate is $119 plus tax. After April 20, 2012 cut-off date these rates will be honored based on availability. For reservations call (225) 450-3400 or 1-888-236-2427. View hotel at www.marriott.com.

FRIDAY, May 4: Registration from 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This will be a “Lost in the Fifties” themed weekend.
FRIDAY TOUR: Depart hotel at 12:30 p.m. to tour historic and fabulous Bocage Plantation. Bocage Plantation has only been opened to the public since 2010. At Bocage we will be served a full lunch catered by Cashio’s Catering. You can view Bocage Plantation at www.bocageplantation.com. After you leave Bocage you will have time for shopping at Tanger Outlet Mall and Cabela’s.
FRIDAY NIGHT HOSPITALITY: We will have a 50’s themed dinner at Frank’s Cypress Hall. At Cypress Hall we will have a large screen drive-in movie for your entertainment.

SATURDAY MORNING, May 5: Complimentary hot breakfast at the hotel. Depart hotel for a tour of St. James Parish. Included will be a visit to a perique tobacco processing plant. Perique tobacco has been called the greatest mystery crop in the world and no wonder. For reasons unknown the particular flavor and character of perique can only be acquired on a small triangle of St. James Parish land, less than 3 miles by 10 miles. Unlike other tobaccos, perique is fermented in whiskey barrels and placed under pressure with huge jackscrews. From there we will go to St. Michael’s Catholic Church built by slave labor in 1833. There will be a living history performance inside the church and cemetery. The actors will be portraying characters from our past 200 years as a state. You are encouraged to come dressed in costume of your favorite era or person in the 200 year history of our state. We will have a full day mixing fun with history. You will be educated and entertained. Lunch will be served at this location.
SATURDAY BANQUET: We return to Frank’s Cypress Hall for an opulent buffet and sock hop. You are encouraged to dress in 50’s attire. Dance the night away on the expansive dance floor to our favorite DJ, Homer (not Simpson) Thornton’s music.

SUNDAY, May 6: Complimentary breakfast in the hotel. Depart for your hometown with fond memories of a wonderful time with friends and recollections of the past 200 years.

Detach and mail by April 25, 2012. Make checks payable to BRAACA. Mail registration to:
Vivian Crawford, 11968 Morganfield Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70818
Phone (225)261-1556, Email gvcrawford@bellsouth.net

Name of Driver__________________________________________________________ $70
Passengers: ___________________________________________________________ each ______ $65
Address: ________________________________________________________________ Total $________
City: __________________ State ___ Zip ______ Phone Number _________________
Email: _________________________________________________________________ Cell Number________
Year/Make/Model of car: _________________________ AACA#________________
AACA Chapter______________________________Name of Insurance Co.________________
Louisiana Region
“The DUSTER”
Joe Wright-Editor
3708 Yale St.
Lake Charles, La. 70607

Happy Valentine’s Day

The Antique Automobile Club (AACA) and the Louisiana Region is dedicated to the Preservation and Restoration of Antique Automobiles

Answer: Delaware 12/7/1787

“THANK YOU” to all who serve and have served. May God Bless you all!