

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN DELTA REGION

THE SOUTHERN DELTA LADY

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009



SOUTHERN DELTA REGION FOUNDER
AND INAUGURAL CHAIRMAN GLEN W. LAZARO
WITH
CHUCK LACOSTE'S 1997 ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SPUR III

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

*Melvin & Rose Clark,
New Orleans, LA*

*Larry & Marilyn Conway,
Memphis, TN*

*Horace & Ina Gallagher,
Harvey, LA*

*Karl Gottfried, III,
Covington, LA*

*Robert O'Brien &
Stephen Curling,
River Ridge, LA*

*Randy Roberson,
Dubach, LA*

*Mark Wegman,
Roswell, GA*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SDR 30th Annual Show-off
New Iberia, LA
October 15-18, 2009

SDR Holiday Brunch
December 6, 2009
Ralph's on the Park,
New Orleans, LA

2010 Spring Tour
Nashville, TN to Natchez, MS
April 11-17, 2010

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The 2009 Annual Meet has come and gone. Hundreds of RROC members from around the United States and from several foreign countries came to New Orleans to experience first-hand the southern hospitality that our area is known for. I am truly sorry for all of our Southern Delta Region members who were unable to attend the festivities that were "right in our own backyard." Considering the immense amount of work that goes into planning and executing an event of this magnitude, we are not likely to see another Annual Meet so close to home anytime soon.

The Meet Chairs, Bill and Laura Borchert, are to be commended for all their hard work in bringing this event to New Orleans. The Borcherts were awarded the Annual Meet in 2005, and they have been hard at work ever since. This meet would not have been a success without the assistance of several other SDR members, including Cathie Mouton, who planned the spectacular awards banquet extravaganza, Dan Mouton for his work in readying our judging field on the Superdome floor, Brent Labatut who organized some of the historic home tours, Chuck LaCoste who secured the many New Orleans-themed items that went into the gift bags, Bob and Lydia Maureau for preparing many of the driving directions to event locations, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ramelli who opened

their beautiful St. Charles Ave. home for a tour, and nearly the entire Texas Region whose members were always ready to lend a hand and assist when and where needed. Many of our SDR members who attended the meet were generous with their time during the week, helping with such tasks as registration, seminar presentations, and the like.

This page has a new look due to the fact that the newly-enacted by-laws of the RROC no longer provide for directors from geographical regions. In lieu of the Regional Director's message previously on this page, I will relay updates from our three national directors who are also SDR members, Cathie Mouton, Sneed Adams, and Jason Coker.

The new 14-member RROC board was installed at the Annual Meet. The Board elected as President Gil Fuqua, VP Rick Barrett, Treasurer Dave Washburn, and Secretary Sneed Adams.

Rick Barrett resigned his position on the Board in August citing personal reasons and Jason Coker was elected by the Board to complete the vacated two year term. The Board will meet at a later date to elect a new VP and appoint a new Chair of the Activities Committee.

The Board has initiated several strategies to improve the revenue of the Club, includ-

ing increasing advertising sales in the Flying Lady and the distribution of branded merchandise to authorized Rolls-Royce and Bentley dealers. The Club has also undertaken a drive to increase advertisement sales in the forthcoming Members Directory.

The next Annual Meet is scheduled for Toronto, Ontario, Canada in July, 2010. The 2011 Annual Meet will be in Lake Tahoe, CA. The Board has also authorized National Tours for the Spring of 2010 along the Natchez Trace, through Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi, a 2010 Fall Tour in upstate New York, a 2011 Fall Tour in Oregon, and a 2011 Fall Tour in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. An Interregional Meet is being planned for Orlando, FL during February 2010.

The Club finished 2008 on a solid financial footing, with total assets of \$1.23 MM.

Southern Delta Region is fortunate to be so well-represented on our national board.

SDR activities have slowed during the summer months due to the Annual Meet, but our own Annual "Show-Off" will take place October 15-18 in New Iberia and Avery Island, Louisiana. Tony Simmons of the McIlhenny Co. will be our host. Look elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter for more detail.

SEE YOU THERE!!!

SDR, THE EARLY YEARS

GLEN W. LAZARO, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Note: As we prepare to host the 30th Annual Southern Delta Region Show-Off this October, it seems appropriate to focus on the history of our region. Region Founder Glen Lazaro provides us with this look into the past, and we thank him for his efforts in starting this region and for this article.

- -Ed.

In 1975 my family moved into a new home in Algiers, Louisiana. On one of my frequent trips to the Ace Hardware store I passed a gentleman washing a Rolls-Royce. Oh my God what a magnificent car!! I slammed on the brakes and went over to introduce myself and ask if I could look at the car OR HELP HIM WASH IT. His name was Clyde Kimble, and 3 hours later I had a ride in his 1951 Silver Wraith (**WOF55**) and had made a good friend.

Clyde was a member of the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club, and a few weeks later asked me if I would like to attend a RROC meet in Salado Texas. So the GOOD PART OF THE STORY BEGINS.

Of course, I wanted to join the RROC but at that time you had to have a sponsor even if you HAD A CAR! And if you didn't have a proper motor car you had to be sponsored by a national officer or a regional chairman. Louisiana at that time was part of The South-West Region and their chairman was Everett Pauls. At the Salado meet I met Mr. Pauls, and for three days I was at his side, that is, when I could take my eyes off the 40 or 50 Rolls-Royces and Bentleys on display. On the last day he signed my application on the condition that I bring a Rolls-Royce or Bentley to the Salado meet next year.

So the search began! How do you find one? Ask other members, of course; check the newspaper and the local

dealer. After months I found a beautiful 1965 Bentley S3 (**B30JP**), the 5th to last S3 made, and it had a sun roof. After a few weeks of doing every favor I could for my better half I made the leap, and for the next 2 years I took it to the Salado meet, taking 3rd place the 1st year.

Two problems kept coming up. One was that a lot of the members had MORE THAN ONE CAR, and what was I to do about that?! There was no way to have TEXAS out-do LOUISIANA. Start hunting again. The second problem was all the gatherings for the SW Region were in Texas. Not a real bad thing because they were great meets and all the members were always wonderful, but we needed some things closer to home.

At the 1978 Salado meet I was able to bring another car, a 1957 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud I (**SDD252**). I was trying real hard to catch up with our friends in Texas, but some just had a LOT! I asked Mr. Pauls, still the regional chairman, if they would host some meets in Louisiana, and that I would be glad to sponsor one. He suggested that I think about a new region for Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

So now another saga begins. Starting a new region is serious business. I looked for assistance to National Vice-President of Regions, Roger Morrison, of Kansas, who was a delight to work with. Now that I had the OK from the National RROC and a list of the requirements for a official region, how to begin? My first action was to make a list of the Rolls-Royce & Bentley owners in the approved area. The RROC Directory and Register was the first place to start, and at that time, I was lucky enough to have

a Rolls-Royce and Bentley dealer in New Orleans, Sewell Cadillac, on Baronne Street. Larry Candle was their salesman, and he was happy to help. My list grew to 154 owners, which sounds like a lot, but which covered 3 states.

I next had to approach those car owners to ask them to join a new region with no name, no history, and all from someone they had never met. Thank goodness most REAL CAR PEOPLE love to share their cars, and it makes no difference if the cars or Bentleys or Buicks. Now for the hard part, getting the new members to help. We needed to fill the positions of Chairman, Treasurer, Activities, Membership, and Newsletter Editor. The biggest local help came from Fred Fabre, who became our first editor and held that position for many years. His drive and enthusiasm really kept things going full steam ahead.

Now what to name the region and the newsletter? I wanted it to be The Creole Region with the newsletter titled *The Creole Lady* with Spanish moss on her wings, but it was not to be. The Southern Delta Region and *The News Rolls On* was chosen. Even the new chairman-to-be can't get everything he wants. But as Martha Stewart says, "That's a good thing".

The next thing was to have a meet. In 1980 the new Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit was introduced, and the local dealer sponsored a get-together at Nottoway Plantation for our first gathering and to show their new model. It was a wonderful gathering, with about thirty Rolls-Royces and Bentleys in attendance.

Now we were ready for our first formal meet. Later that same year it was held in Gulfport Mississippi and we

called it a "Show-Off". We wanted to keep everything a little low-key, judging the cars, of course, but our purpose was to help our members upgrade their cars, not to intimidate them. Instead of a "Best of Show" award, we had all present vote on the "Most Popular Car". The region was now on a roll, and after my term as regional chairman was over, Harry Fox of Bastrop, Louisiana took over, and things kept getting better and better. The Southern Delta Region has now grown to the point where it has hosted two national business meetings, two national tours (*and another in 2010, Ed.*), over 100 local meets, and now, the 2009 Annual Meet! Well done, members!!!

Of all the gatherings the Southern Delta Region has had, my favorite was always the Christmas party. To come to the party, members had to meet three requirements: First, dress code was

tuxedos for the gentlemen, and evening gowns for the ladies. Second, drive your Rolls-Royce or Bentley, and third, bring gifts for a local children's home. The first year, we delivered a van full of Christmas goodies for the children and did so for many years thereafter.

It was a delightful adventure for me to be a part of this wonderful club and region but it was really a team effort to get it started and to keep it going. Others responsible for the founding of the Southern Delta Region were Roger Morrison, VP of Regions RROC; Fred Fabre, our 1st newsletter editor; Richard Norem, our Treasurer for many years; Robert and Roberta Martin of Houston, Texas for helping with membership and always bringing one of their beautiful cars to our meets; Bob and Gaye Diaz and their fabulous 1967 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow Coupe (CRX1771), my personal favorite car,

which they bring to every meet. Bob later served the region as Chairman, and Gerard and Anthony Hebert, at Hebert Automotive. If it weren't for these two, the majority of the cars in this region would not be running. Gerard has sponsored more members to the RROC and this region than anyone else.

There are many others that have helped to start and keep this region going and I'm sorry if I left you out--- Oh my God I forgot my wife Sylvia!! I'm so sorry! You were and are my rock during the adventure. (Even though she drove a Mercedes)

I'll close this little tale with a bit of advice. DRIVE YOUR CAR! The best part of having them is the feeling you get when you get a thumbs-up from a stranger on the road. Lastly, keep it a CAR CLUB, not a PEOPLE CLUB!

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ANNUAL MEET WRAP-UP

Brent Labatut, Southern Delta Region Secretary, New Roads, Louisiana

'Where do I begin', ----the first stanza from the song from Love Story. Also, Love conquers a multitude of sins. (Yes, it can be a sinful amount of money to keep the old RR in service) but the love for that hunk of metal molded ever so beautifully and adorned with the choicest of hides for one's seating pleasure and all the wood paneling with the most beautiful grains and finishes, then with a shiny sculpture of the Flying Lady catching the oncoming wind as the car proceeds - well it's all so intoxicating, and reverences the creative spirit of man. If you need to be more intoxicated, well many of the cars as we know, come with custom bars and crystal decanters

and glasses, and some with vases to hold flowers - it's all about knowing how to stack the cards to eke out whatever pleasures can be contrived or formulated to make the journey to wherever you are going memorable. We all know the phrase, "It is not so much the goal or endpoint that is so valuable. It's what you experience or become along the way."

The "Big Easy" or the "City that Care Forgot", I am not so sure that those are the best titles for New Orleans in reference to the 58th Annual RROC meet held June 15-21 in this marvelous southern city I am proud to call home. No, it is not easy to host a meet

with all those spectacular cars that cost as much as some peoples' homes and all the various things that go along with putting on a meet. BUT, we all - those involved with putting on the meet - did it for Love. In a world filled with urban sprawl and the mundane and regular things we need to have and sustain life, well this event and everything associated with it, was a 180 degree turn from the regular and mundane. As I heard someone say at a lovely and sumptuous dinner at Broussard's Restaurant in the French Quarter, "A Rolls-Royce is not merely an appliance, like any old mass-produced or compact car that gets you from point A to point B, or a toaster or



Top Row, (L), Brent Labatut test-drives the Bentley Flying Spur; (R) SDR member and National Director Jason Coker and wife, Ashley Coker;

Middle Row, (L), David and Sharon Galvan, (R), David Green

(Annual Meet Wrap-up Continued)

washing machine to get us through the day, a Rolls-Royce is Art." Our cars are truly works of art and art in motion. Society needs Rolls-Royce as a benchmark for beauty and grace, just like a talented musician, or painter, or architect, or doctor or whatever - we all need benchmarks to know where we are going from where we have come.

(Take a deep breath)---The breakfast runs around the city in the morning hours, the choice venues for one's dining pleasure, the sights of our antebellum and historic homes, the teasing of our already highly tuned sense of aesthetics in our fine antique shops, cruising the mighty Mississippi on one of our paddle wheelers while listening to

the sound of our native Jazz while enjoying each others' company as we gathered from all parts of the United States and different and far reaching parts of the globe, AND, AND then lining up all those beautiful vehicles to join in a motorcade escort where the streets were lined with people pointing and gasping as we made our way into the Louisiana Superdome for a day of judging with the culmination of a black tie Mardi Gras Ball themed Tiffany styled dinner party in center court featuring a parade of the award winning cars, along with a petite Mardi Gras parade with our own King and Queen and court of Carnival while dining on choice fare from the land and sea - well who can ask for anything more? It was all breathtaking, memorable, and a fun time.

We all know of the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) and its peacock logo, and how colorful and eye catching a peacock can be, especially when it stops and displays its tail feathers. Well, we were all like southern peacocks that day roaming the grounds of a great southern plantation showing our fine spread of feathers (our cars and clothes and décor) and although we are not a logo, we were certainly colorful and NBC (Nothing but Cool) to boot, especially in the air conditioned indoor arena of the Louisiana Superdome. On this particular date it wasn't the Sugar Bowl, but it was a sweet event and it was SUPER. A super time in the Superdome and a date to remember.

SCENES FROM THE MEET

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRENT LABATUT, SNEED ADAMS, ANNE ADAMS, KELLY KYLE



THIS PAGE: (L), Don Knobler and Brent Labatut; (R) RROC President Gil Fuqua

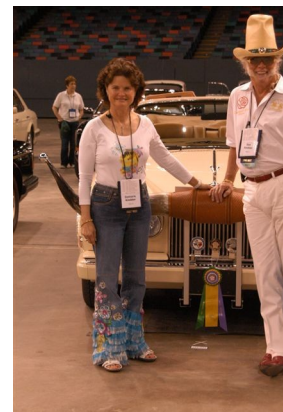
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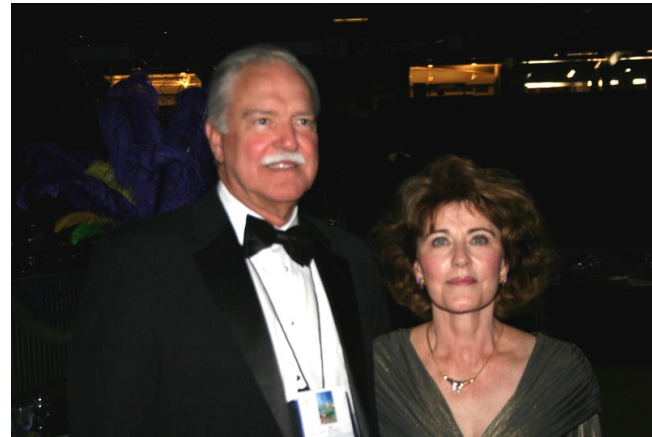
Top Row, (L), RROC Executive Director Director Tim Younes and Bill Borchert; (R) Brad Norris, Dennis and Kittye Norris.

Second Row, (L), Barry and Kathie Atkisson, (R) Bob and Lydia Maureau on a tour.

Third Row, (L) Richard Branyan in his Silver Wraith, (R) Robert Ramelli and his Phantom I

Last Row, (L-R) Hal Caudell and Cathie Mouton in Cathie's R-R styled golf-cart; Lydia Maureau strikes a pose beside a Phantom III; John Sweney; Damaris and Don Knobler





SDR members enjoy the many activities of the New Orleans Annual Meet.

Top Row, (L), Meet chairs Laura and Bill Borchert, (R) Robert and Rebecca Ramelli

Second Row, (L), Dan and Cathie Mouton, (C) SDR founder Glen Lazaro, (R) Carolyn Sheridan demonstrates the versatility of the Cathie-Mouton-designed banquet centerpieces.

Bottom Row, (L) Bob and Lydia Maureau, (C) Damaris and Don Knobler, (R) Sneed Adams receives the Rolls-Royce of America award from RROC Chief Judge John Rich.



Top Row, (L), John and Evie Grubb, Sneed and Anne Adams, (R) 1911 Silver Ghost
Second Row, (L), Bill and Laura Borchert's 1929 20 HP, (C) Mermie Karger's 1913 Silver Ghost 2442

May 9, 2009 SDR Outing to Vancleave, Mississippi
Benefit for Pebble Bluff Creek Volunteer Fire Department



SDR Board Members and Officers

Chairman, R. Kelly Kyle
rkellykyle@flyinglawyer.com

•

Immediate Past Chairman,
 Bill Borchert bill@billborchert.com

•

Secretary, Brent Labatut
brentlabatut@yahoo.com

•

Awards Chairman, Cathie Mouton
tpsturbo@aol.com

•

Publications Chairman and Treasurer,
 Bob Maureau 504.246.4326

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Chief Judge, Dan Mouton
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Activities Coordinator,
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*Canada**Europe***UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

Your registration form for the 30th annual Southern Delta Region Show-Off is being mailed with this edition of your newsletter. Don't miss out on this insider's tour of Avery Island, Louisiana, home of the McIlhenny Company, makers of world-famous Tabasco® Brand Pepper Sauce. McIlhenny Company Executive Vice-President Tony Simmons will be our host.

While not an official Southern Delta Region event, the Renaissance European Car Fest will take place the weekend following Show-Off in Ridgeland, Mississippi. This free event will feature Rolls-Royce, Bentley, Mercedes, Ferrari, and other exotic European marques. A flyer for this event has also been included with your newsletter.

We'll wrap up our social year on Dec. 6 with our Holiday Brunch at Ralph's on the Park in New Orleans. This special event is limited to the first 28 members and guests to respond. Cost will be \$50 per person. To reserve your spot, send your check made payable to the Southern Delta Region to Chuck LaCoste at 4162 Hwy. 56, Houma, LA 70363. If you reserve spots and cannot attend, your seats will go to the next person on the list.

Looking ahead into 2010, members of our region will have the opportunity to participate in a national tour practically without having to leave home. Kelly Kyle and Hal Caudell are hard at work organizing the Spring Tour that will traverse the length of the Natchez Trace from near Nashville, Tennessee to Natchez, Mississippi. Mark your

calendars now for April 11-17, 2010. Tour registration will open shortly after January 1, 2010, and participation is expected to be robust. The tour will stop in Muscle Shoals, Alabama; Tupelo and Oxford, Mississippi, and Jackson, Mississippi, before its close in Natchez. This 440-mile-long tour on the slow-paced two-lane Natchez Trace will visit many scenic and historical sites along the way. If you've never participated in a national tour, you are especially invited to attend this tour and enjoy the company of RROC members from across the country who share your interest in fine automobiles and cross-country touring.

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Join the Members of the Southern Delta Region
in New Iberia and Avery Island, Louisiana for the
30th Annual Show-Off
October 15-18, 2009

